

# The Panther

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## 'Deadliest fraternity' to return to Chapman



*News, Page 2*

WikiCommons

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, dubbed the 'deadliest fraternity' in the U.S. by Bloomberg in 2013, is set return to Chapman after a four-year suspension. An Instagram account appearing to be associated with Chapman's chapter shows photos of partially dressed women, some with the fraternity's letters on their bare buttocks.



MAX WEIRAUCH **Staff Photographer**

Larry Elder, a sometimes controversial conservative speaker, spoke at Chapman Feb. 12 about race, liberal-leaning academia and left-wing media. About 150 people attended the sold-out event.

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JACK CLENDENING **Staff Photographer**

Dan Krikorian, the assistant basketball coach, balances his music career and teaching Chapman classes with the sport.

**Sports, Page 11**

## SAE drug and alcohol-related deaths since 2005

Information from Bloomberg, the Los Angeles Times and The Oracle



EMMA REITH Art Director

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity will return to Chapman after a four-year hiatus. The chapter was suspended in 2014 after an investigation. SAE has more deaths associated with it than any other fraternity in the country, according to a Bloomberg investigation. The most recent was in January at the neighboring University of California, Irvine.

## Instagram appearing to belong to SAE shows partially nude women

*The controversial Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, which was suspended from Chapman in 2014, is set to return this semester.*

**Rebecca Glaser** | Editor-in-Chief  
**Lou Vanhecke** | News Editor

An Instagram account appearing to be associated with Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE), an often-controversial fraternity that will return to campus this year after a four-year suspension, shows partially dressed women, some with the fraternity's letters drawn on their bare buttocks, men consuming alcohol and one man wearing a sombrero with the fraternity's letters on his neck.

SAE, which was dubbed the "deadliest fraternity" by Bloomberg in 2013, has already taken steps to reestablish Chapman's chapter by tabling at the university's fraternity rush kickoff Feb. 10, according to sources familiar with the event. The first pledge class will be hand-picked by members of SAE's national office, said Chris Hutchison, assistant dean of students.

When asked about the Instagram account and Chapman's former SAE chapter, Hutchison said that any concerns will be taken up with the national office.

"(The account is) indicative of everything that we have to do to be mindful," he said.

Members of the national office will be at Chapman to meet interested students, Hutchison said of the recolonization process, which is scheduled to take place the week of March 10.

Brad Cohen, the former national president of SAE, is a Chapman donor who established the Greek Leadership Scholarship on campus spoke with university administrators about the chapter's return.

In an email to *The Panther*, University President Daniele Struppa said that both he and Dean of Students Jerry Price have met with Cohen about the chapter recolonizing at

Chapman, and said the decision to bring the chapter back was made based on commitments made by and at the fraternity, though he did not specify what those commitments were.

"I am personally looking forward to witnessing SAE's chapter leading by example and to their being part of our Chapman community," Struppa wrote in the email.

SAE, founded in 1856, states in its creed that the fraternity's goal is to create "the true gentleman," but has earned the moniker "Sexual Assault Expected" and has been in the midst of controversy on multiple campuses for issues ranging from sexual misconduct and underage drinking to hazing-related injuries and deaths. One unnamed student said that his hazing experience was comparable to that of a spy being tortured for information, according to *The Atlantic*.

“**There is a potential for SAE to cast a shadow on the whole collection of fraternities that we have here.**”

**- Griffie Albaugh, senior history major**

There have been at least nine reported deaths related to SAE nationwide since 2006, according to a 2013 Bloomberg investigation, and as recently as Jan. 12, an 18-year-old SAE pledge at the University of California, Irvine was pronounced dead after an off-campus SAE party. The chapter

was suspended, and the student's family suspects that his death was alcohol-related, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

In 2015, a video surfaced of men in the Oklahoma University's SAE chapter chanting about lynching and using a racial slur. The university later said that the members had learned the chant at a national SAE leadership conference, according to *The Washington Post*.

The Confederate flag was a fixture in the Oklahoma State University SAE house from 1987 until 2015, according to *Buzzfeed News*. It was not until the 2015 video surfaced that the flag was taken down, according to the university's student newspaper.

In recent years, the national fraternity has made changes to its operations, including eliminating pledging – the process through which new members are initiated – in 2014, a decision that Cohen was at the forefront of, according to *Business Insider*. In June 2018, the fraternity banned hard alcohol at SAE facilities and chapter events, including those hosted by the national fraternity.

Johnny Sao, SAE's director of communications, said in a Feb. 14 statement to *The Panther* that the fraternity's national headquarters is "excited to re-establish a group at the University of Chapman [sic] with members who serve as contributing leaders on campus."

SAE was eligible to return to campus in fall 2018, but wasn't approved because Chapman "wasn't ready" to have the chapter back, said Jerry Price, Chapman's dean of students.

"Just like when we suspend a student and they come back, we want them to be successful," Price said. "Sigma Alpha Epsilon has done their time and we want them to be successful on campus."

The process of bringing SAE back to Chapman was through the Dean of Students' office, Hutchison said.

"The Greek life staff have been involved in conversations in various points, and we've known over the years that SAE has wanted to return," Hutchison said.

In 2014, Chapman's SAE chapter was put on probation after an undisclosed ruling by Student Conduct. In an interview shortly after the decision, DeAnn Yocum-Gaffney, associate dean of students, told *The Panther* that a joint investigation into SAE and Chapman's Delta Gamma sorority was triggered by an anonymous report.

That "anonymous report" pertained to "an unspecified series of events over the course of about a week" in spring 2014, Gaffney said.

"Every frat has a problem on some campus," Price said. "SAE will have to be responsible for their actions at Chapman. They were part of our Greek family for many years. If they come back and have problems, a third invitation on campus might not be extended to them."

SAE was one of the subjects of the 2015 documentary "The Hunting Ground," which took an in-depth look at sexual assaults and their cover-ups on college campuses across the U.S.

"There is often a pack mentality within fraternities, and a lack of maturity and wisdom to not behave badly," Amy Ziering, the producer of the film, told *The Panther*. "There is also the element of social bonding, which I think accelerates misogyny."

The fraternity was also featured in journalist John Hechinger's book "True Gentlemen: The Broken Pledge of America's Fraternities," which uses SAE as an example of the negatives of college fraternity culture, according to its Amazon description.

Griffie Albaugh, a senior history major at Chapman who has been researching SAE as part of her thesis for a year and a half, called the fraternity's reputation "disgusting."

"I'd like to think that we have respectful, upstanding men on our campus, but I think the organization's behavior and their failure to operate under the values that they claim to operate under creates this harsh discrepancy," Albaugh said. "There is a potential for (SAE) to cast a shadow on the whole collection of fraternities that we have here."

## Orange County prosecutors misrepresented 'rape videos,' attorneys say

*The lawyers for Grant Robicheaux and Cerissa Riley, a Newport Beach couple accused of sexually assaulting multiple people, say that videos cited by prosecutors do not show evidence of rape.*

**Rebecca Glaser** | Editor-in-Chief  
**Lou Vanhecke** | News Editor

Attorneys for Grant Robicheaux and Chapman alumna Cerissa Riley allege in court documents filed Jan. 23 that videos used as evidence in the case against the pair, who are accused of drugging and sexually assaulting multiple women, were not thoroughly reviewed by prosecutors.

In September 2018, then-Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said at a press conference that the videos were potential evidence that depicted thousands of victims, an assertion that the pair's lawyers say is not supported by videographic evidence.

"These words, however false and unsupported they were, represented dog whistles to a headline-thirsty media and public," according to the attorneys, who say that Rackauckas used the case as political leverage in his reelection campaign against cur-

rent District Attorney Todd Spitzer.

Robicheaux and Riley were caught in the crosshairs of the "political war," the attorneys said.

The lawyers requested to be granted a court order that would allow them to obtain records of communication about the videos from the DA's office, its forensic lab and the Newport Beach Police Department, according to the documents.

Robicheaux is facing 17 felony counts, and Riley, a 2011 Chapman alumna, is facing 13 felony accounts, according to an October 2018 complaint.

The couple was initially charged with sexually assaulting at least two Orange County women in September 2018. New accusations against Riley and Robicheaux emerged three days later, with at least five additional people accusing the couple of drugging and sexually assaulting them.

Robicheaux, a 38-year-old Newport Beach surgeon, was named "Bachelor of the Year" by Orange Coast magazine in 2013. He is alleged to have first sexually assaulted a woman in September 2009, with Riley alleged to have first joined him in assaulting a woman in March 2015. The couple is charged with continuing similar crimes through 2017.

The bail for the two has been set at \$3 million each, according to the amended complaint.

The fourth victim who came forward accused Robicheaux and Riley of sexually assaulting her after she met them at a Newport Beach bar in October 2016. She alleges that she awoke while being assaulted and screamed for help until a neighbor



PAUL BERSEBACH for the Orange County Register

Grant Robicheaux sits with girlfriend Cerissa Riley, who is a Chapman alumna, in court Oct. 17. The pair's lawyers say that prosecutors misrepresented videos entered into evidence.

called the police, according to the DA's office.

Robicheaux and Riley were arrested in September 2018 on charges that include rape by use of drugs and oral copulation by anesthesia or a controlled substance, according to court documents. Robicheaux was charged with two counts of possession of an assault weapon. The two were also charged with possession of psilocybin, which is commonly known as mushrooms, as well as ecstasy, cocaine, and GHB, often referred to as the "date rape" drug, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Riley graduated from Chapman in January 2011 with a degree in dance, according to the Registrar's Office.

Nancy Dickson-Lewis, the former chair of the dance department, wrote in a February 12 email to The Panther that she rarely spoke to Riley outside of class and that she "never seemed happy."

"I was entirely surprised when I read about her in the news, partly because I couldn't imagine someone as physically small as her being part of a crime that involved intimidating others," Dickson-Lewis said.

Pamela Ezell, Chapman's assistant vice president of communication, declined to comment.

*Carolina Valencia contributed to this report.*

## Almost 100 students relocated after Chapman Grand flooding

**Jade Yang** | Staff Writer

Sophomore health science major Katie Cha was hanging out with a friend in her Chapman Grand apartment Jan. 11 when loud screeching filled the room.

"All of a sudden, the fire alarms went off and we rushed out, (thinking) it was some kind of drill," Cha said.

That evening brought displacement and damage to students living at the \$150 million Anaheim apartment complex that Chapman purchased in fall 2017. Students whose living spaces were affected were relocated to other available Chapman Grand apartments and nearby Chapman housing, including Panther Village.

Students made their way out of the apartment building, and as residents evacuated their rooms, they quickly realized it was much more than that, Cha said. Water had started to pool in the hallways and was seeping into the apartments, she said.

"(Our friends) saw water building up. We knew something was actually wrong," Cha said.

Cha said that Public Safety instructed students to remain outside of the building for several hours without much explanation. Little did the students who lived there know, 61 rooms would soon be evacuated.

On the evening of Jan. 11, Dean of Students Jerry Price emailed students saying that a hot water main had broken above the fourth floor of the complex.

The main break, the email said, created major flooding down through



CASSIDY KEOLA Photo Editor

Reserved parking spaces for construction workers through May 31 at Chapman Grand has caused some displaced students to believe they may not move back in before the end of the semester. A main break at the complex caused flooding through four floors.

the first floor and set off a building-wide fire alarm.

"Rooms deemed safe and unaffected will be accessible effective in the next hour, once staff have completed a full assessment," Price wrote.

But more than a month later, some students say they are still displaced. While Chapman has provided temporary housing in Panther Village and in unaffected Chapman Grand apartments, said Jamie Ceman, vice president of strategic marketing and communications, some students remain upset.

"I would've rather (the office of Residence Life) say, 'You need

to move out all your things. You realistically won't be able to move back for the rest of the semester,'" Cha said.

A statement provided to The Panther from Ceman provided details of the flooding's damage and says that impacted students were relocated. Dave Sundby, director of Residence Life, declined to comment further on the incident.

Cha's apartment was one of the least affected, she said, and she and her roommates still don't know when they'll be able to move in. Cha doesn't think it'll happen within the semester.

"They reserved parking spots for the construction workers from

January to May," Cha said.

In addition to the reserved spots, there is a temporary unit in the parking lot holding damaged furniture.

"It takes up a whole side of the parking lot, making parking harder," she said.

Chapman's Residence Life put a process in place to "consider reimbursement of damage to personal property," according to a university statement provided to The Panther.

Some weren't prepared for the extent of the damage.

"My roommates and I got an email saying, 'You just need to take a few days' worth of living,'" said Cha. "Fast-forward to two weeks later, we're still displaced, and I'd been wearing the same two pairs of pants for two weeks." Cha was later allowed back into her apartment to retrieve her clothing.

"Chapman Residence Life and the construction workers at Chapman Grand were really accommodating about letting us back into the apartment when we needed, but it was just kind of a hassle," she said. "The temporary apartment I was given in Panther Village was really bad. It smelled like smoke and there were dead spiders and cobwebs everywhere."

While Chapman offered to supply a cleaning crew to clean her Panther Village apartment, Cha is staying in her former roommate's temporary Chapman Grand apartment until construction is completed.

# Larry Elder speaks to audience of 150 at Chapman



Photos by MAX WEIRAUCH Staff Photographer

Larry Elder, a prominent conservative speaker and radio show host, spoke to an audience of around 150 students and community members Feb. 12 about his opinion on racism and its impact on society and politics.

**Lou Vanhecke** | News Editor

Twelve rows of arm-to-arm seats in Argyros Forum were filled with about 150 Chapman students, members of the Orange community and Chapman Republicans members as conservative radio-show host and political commentator Larry Elder shared his thoughts on liberal-leaning academia, the impacts of left-wing media and race in America.

The sold-out Feb. 12 talk was promoted as a discussion on socialism and Donald Trump's presidency, but it focused largely on Elder's opinions on racism and its impacts on society and politics.

Although Elder told *The Panther* in an interview prior to the event that he does not believe racism is a "major problem in the United States," some in attendance found the event's focus in contrast with its marketing.

"One of the things I find fascinating when we talk about Black Lives Matter is why these so-called leaders just don't say this: 'Comply, you won't die,'" Elder said at the event. "These kids are not complying and (deadly situations) are escalating."

Arianna Ngnomire, vice president of student government and former Black Student Union president, was one of the estimated 150 audience members.

"For someone who thinks that racism isn't a big issue, well, that's all he talked about," she said.

During a Q&A portion toward the end of the event, Ngnomire was one of six people who asked Elder a question.

She asked for his advice on how to bring communities of differing politics and backgrounds together. "Interracial marriage," he said.

Ngnomire said she ended the night with more questions than answers.

"I'm concerned with how Elder answered my question, and I recommend that he take a look at intersectionality, and what can encourage and discourage success in America," she said.

In 2001, ABC News quoted Elder, an often controversial figure, as saying that the consequences of racism should be treated as a "personal responsibility." After joining the radio team at KABC Orange County in 2011, Elder became known as a commentator on both national and local politics, establishing himself as a critic of

then-President Barack Obama and other prominent Democrats.

Elder challenged the audience throughout the evening at one point exclaiming, "Name one!" when talking about unarmed white men killed by police.

"You can name the high-profile black people who were killed, Eric Garner, Freddy Gray, Michael Brown in Ferguson," Elder said. "You can name the black high-profile cases, but I defy you to name one unarmed white guy who got killed. Most people can't."

Elder, citing *The Washington Post*, argued that of the 1,000 people killed in one year at the hands of police, 500 were white, 250 were black and most were wielding a knife or gun.

Nearly 1,000 people were killed by police in 2018, 54 percent of whom were armed, according to the *Washington Post* statistics that Elder referenced.

"That's why they were killed," he said. "And then Trayvon Martin. 'Hands up, don't shoot' was a damn lie. His hands weren't up, he did not say 'Don't shoot.'"

The phrase is actually thought to have been said by 18-year-old Michael Brown before he was shot in 2014 by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, though a St. Louis grand jury couldn't confirm those accounts, according to *The Washington Post*.

About 25 minutes into the 40-minute lecture, Elder brought up Donald Trump, his candidacy and his administration.

"When Trump decided to run, there were 17 candidates, and he was my 20th choice," Elder said, a remark that drew laughs from the audience.

When Trump was a candidate, Elder thought Trump "wouldn't be able to take the heat," he said.

"And then I watched the speech," Elder said. "He talked about Mexicans and rapists and this, that and the other. It was sloppy language, of course he didn't mean that they're all rapists. But I knew the left was going to take that and hammer him with it, and they did."

People occasionally call into Elder's radio show and tell Elder he's "defending a racist," he said.

"I always say, do me favor and tell me the No. 1 racist thing Donald Trump has ever done or said, and we'll go from there," he said.

Chapman Republicans president Thomas Roche introduced Elder to the crowd after thanking all those in



One student who attended the event Feb. 12 wore an embroidered yarmulke featuring Donald Trump's campaign tagline, "Make America Great Again."

attendance – the audience included President Daniele Struppa and Dean of Students Jerry Price. Two Public Safety officers were present, as well as Sergeant Phil McMullin from Orange's police department.

"I want to thank President Struppa for supporting free speech," Roche said. "I've always wanted to bring a speaker to campus, and Mr. Elder is someone I've always wanted to invite."

Roche was met with applause, which erupted as Elder took the podium.

Bringing Elder to campus was a feat that was "difficult to accomplish," Roche told *The Panther*.

"There have been certain people who work for Chapman – I won't specify as to whom – who have made it difficult to make this event happen. I am very glad that it was successful," Roche said.

Of the students in attendance, some were members of Chapman Republicans. Others like junior Jared Mel and sophomore Clint Hurdle, both business administration majors, came to the event as part of a class requirement.

"I had no idea who Larry Elder was until about 10 minutes ago," Mel said before the event.

Elder was surrounded by students and fans after the event concluded, with many taking pictures and thanking him for coming to campus.

“  
**For someone who thinks that racism isn't a big issue, well, that's all he talked about.**

”  
**- Arianna Ngnomire, student government vice president**



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# Rate My Professors chili pepper faces heat

Olivia Harden | Features Editor  
Sierra DeWalt | Staff Writer

The chili pepper has lost its sizzle. Rate My Professors, a website students often use to help them choose professors and classes, removed its controversial “hot or not” scale in June 2018 after it received backlash from professors on Twitter. This rating, indicated by a chili pepper cartoon, measured a professor’s physical attractiveness, not the teaching methods used in the course.

“I think it’s funny, but I don’t think it would be the first thing I think about regarding my college classes,” said Lauren Sieberg, a freshman creative writing major.

The scale was removed in June of last year, after several teachers began to protest against the website and demanded its removal, according to USA Today. Many professors thought it was sexist and that it took away from female professors’ credibility.

BethAnn McLaughlin, a neurology professor at Vanderbilt University tweeted in June 2018, that the scale was “obnoxious” and that “life is hard enough for female professors.” Two days after her tweet – which has almost 3,000 retweets and 15,000 likes – Rate My Professors’ Twitter account responded.

“@McLNeuro The chili pepper rating is meant to reflect a dynamic/exciting teaching style. But, your point is well taken and we’ve removed all chili pepper references from the Rate My Professors site,” the website’s account tweeted June 28.

Rate My Professors also published a “hottest professors of the year” list until 2017. Junior computer science

major Abby Tan has used the website, but has only ever looked at the scale as a joke, she said.

“I never took it seriously. It was more of a fun feature where I could tell my friends how attractive my professor was and I would use it as evidence to prove that I wasn’t the only one,” she said.

English professor Eileen Jankowski believes the website is not a worthwhile tool for students. In her experience, the comments can be biased.

“It seems as though students who are unhappy are more likely to post or rate,” she said.

Jankowski, who has a 4.5 “overall quality” rating on Rate My Professors, added that employees don’t get to choose their bosses or supervisors in the real world.

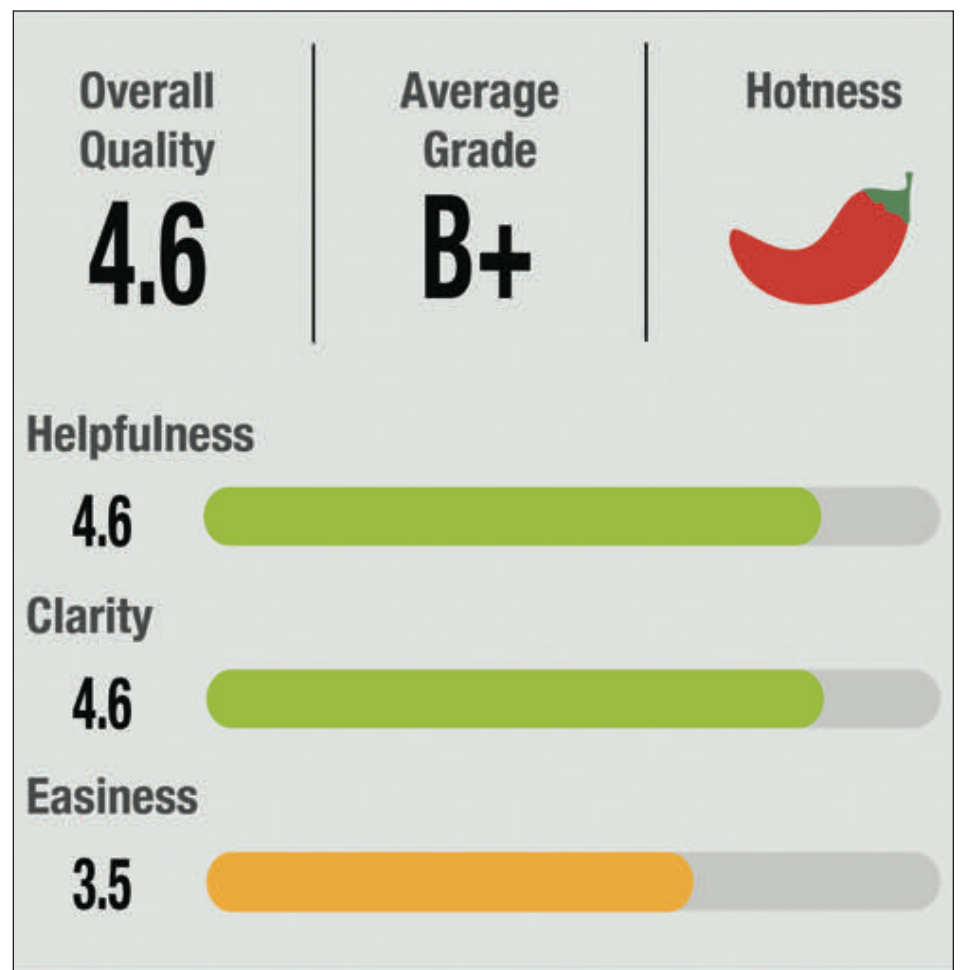
“You have to adjust to different teaching styles and recognize that people have different personalities,” she said.

Junior television writing and production major Elise Fitzsimmons has used the site to try to figure out how difficult the course is, but never the attractiveness of her professors.

“I think they took it off because it made the site look childish and gossipy instead of informative,” she said.

Ariana Bucio, a sophomore business administration major, agrees that the “hot or not” rating is unnecessary. Rate My Professors has ratings of other criteria – like “overall quality,” “level of difficulty” and “would take again,” so the website doesn’t need to say how attractive the professors are, Bucio said.

Senior English major Courtney



Graphic by EMMA REITH Art Director

Rate My Professors, a website students often use to help them choose instructors, has removed its controversial chili pepper “hotness” rating after backlash from some professors.

Cummings agrees the scale shouldn’t have been taken seriously, as it undermines the skills a professor has. Cummings believes that while many students may take the chili pepper scale as a joke, there might be some unintended consequences.

“It doesn’t seem harmful unless

people really start dragging on professors or being derogatory,” Cummings said. “I don’t like the idea of female professors being objectified that way, so I wouldn’t like that on male professors either. Either way, it seems like the best idea is to take it off, because who actually cares?”

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# Chapman alumnus gets Academy Award nod for 'Green Book'

Mitali Shukla | Staff Writer

When 1991 Chapman alumnus Patrick Don Vito woke up at 5 a.m. with his wife to watch the Academy Award nominations Jan. 22, he didn't expect to receive one. But he did, for editing the film "Green Book." Don Vito was shocked.

"We saw I was nominated and we started screaming and jumping up and down," Don Vito said.

"Green Book" is a comedy-drama based on true events that tell the story of a friendship between jazz pianist Don Shirley, played by Mahershala Ali, and Italian-American bouncer Tony Vallelonga, played by Viggo Mortensen, as they completed Shirley's 1962 concert tour through America's southern states.

"It's a story about an odd couple: a piano player and his bodyguard," Don Vito said. "An unlikely friendship between two people with the backdrop of racism."

Don Vito graduated from Chapman with a communication studies major and an emphasis in film and television production. During school, Don Vito tried directing, camerawork and more, which helped him discover his passion for film.

After receiving his undergraduate degree, Don Vito got an internship at "The Trials of Rosie O'Neill," a CBS drama, through Chapman and went from project to project in the field of editing. After starting out as an apprentice editor and assistant editor, he got involved in "Green Book" through his relationship with director Peter Farrelly, after working with him on an unaired comedy pilot.

"I like editing, I like that aspect of storytelling," Don Vito said. "I get to control my own destiny in the editing



IMDb

Patrick Don Vito, the editor of "Green Book" and a Chapman alumnus, is nominated for the 91st Academy Awards, which will air Feb. 24.

room. I help retell the story, reorder the scenes and tell it a different way."

From 1991 to today, the technology of film editing has changed. The editing system that Don Vito used at Chapman is no longer in use, said Bob Bassett, dean of Dodge College of Film and Media Arts.

"Technology always changes; (film is) about the process and how to

handle the story. (At Chapman, we) learned how to write a good story or rewrite a good story," Don Vito said.

When asked about an influential figure who inspired him to pursue a career in film, Don Vito said his older brother, Nicholas Don Vito, attended Chapman and also pursued film, graduating in 1987. Don Vito's brother is now also an editor, working

in reality and commercial productions rather than film.

"I would help him with his projects (at Chapman), and I was just a high school student," Don Vito said. "(Film) is a hard business to get into ... You have to know what you want to do and focus on how to get there. Work hard and show people what you can do."

## REVIEW

# Why you shouldn't be 'ghostin' Ariana Grande's new album

Kate Hoover | Social Media Manager

"Tonight truly is a blessed night." That was the ominous text I received from my friend on a rather boring Thursday evening. Were Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie back together? Was The Office coming back for a 10th season with Steve Carell? Was President Donald Trump impeached? It was quickly followed with a second text: "In 15 minutes we will finally have access to 'thank u, next.'"

That was better news than anything I could've ever hoped for.

"Thank u, next," the fifth studio album from Ariana Grande, was released on Spotify Feb. 8. Less than six months after her previous, disappointingly mediocre-at-best album "Sweetener," Grande cranked out a 12-track album, and every single song is a bop. I'm in a happy relationship and I still find myself blasting "break up with your girlfriend, i'm bored" in the car (If you're reading this Josh, please don't break up with me, it's just a really good song).

But "thank u, next" is problematic. The problem doesn't lie within the music, though, it's with the artist herself. For reasons that are beyond me, Grande is arguably one of the most hated women in the country. Her hair is too long. Her voice is high and whiny. She's a diva. She's to blame for Mac Miller's death. She got engaged and later broke up with Pete Davidson as a publicity stunt, and she led him to threaten to

commit suicide. And now, she's being condemned for creating an album that draws inspiration from her recent experiences.

Grande has been through more in the last two years than most of us have in our entire lives: a bombing at her Manchester Arena concert in May 2017 that left 22 people dead and 59 wounded, trying to support ex-boyfriend Mac Miller with his addiction – then dealing with his drug overdose and death in September 2018 – and a failed engagement to Pete Davidson. In a tearful December 2018 Billboard's Women in Music event speech, Grande said, "This has been one of the best years of my career and the worst of my life."

Here's the thing. Everyone deals with trauma and healing in different ways, and Grande's way of dealing with hers is valid. She has every right to produce a song like "thank u, next." She's acknowledging and appreciating her past relationships and moving on from them. Yes, "7 rings" – which includes lyrics like, "Whoever said money can't solve your problems, must not have had enough money to solve 'em" – flaunts her elitism. But everyone loves "Glamorous" by Fergie, "Started From the Bottom" by Drake and "Material Girl" by Madonna. So why can't Grande sing about her poppin' lip gloss and matching diamond rings that she bought for her friends?

Music listeners have every right to like an artist's music and dislike the artist that creates it. I, too, find



IMDb

Ariana Grande's fifth studio album "thank u, next" was released Feb. 8. The album is No. 1 in the U.S. this week.

myself struggling with this concept as my beloved Kanye West continues with his Twitter tirades. But Grande and "thank u, next" deserve credit where credit is due: She's an extraordinary singer and songwriter (skip to the last minute of "imagine," the first song on the album, to hear her Mariah Carey-contending whistle tones and you'll see what I mean).

Each song on "thank u, next" is

phenomenal on its own, but together, they create an album of true musical, lyrical and artistic talent. Listeners can cry over lost lovers with the song "ghostin," then reinforce their self-worth with "NASA." "Thank u, next" is an extremely versatile and catchy album, and it's a blessed time listening to it.



## 21 Savage and the dangers of ICE



Maura Kate Mitchelson  
Opinions Editor

Two weeks ago, rapper 21 Savage was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). 21 Savage, born as Sheyaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, is an Atlanta-based rapper who rose to stardom in 2015. His arrest revealed that 21 Savage is not an Atlanta native, but rather, a British citizen. Born

in England, the artist moved to the U.S. at the age of 7 and, except for a month-long visit to the United Kingdom in 2005 for his uncle's funeral, has remained here.

When I first heard the news, I was shocked and confused. I love 21 Savage and had never given a thought to his citizenship status. Just two days before his arrest, he released the music video for his song "a lot," in which he criticizes ICE's practice of detaining children at the border. The rapper's visa expired in 2006, but he wasn't detained until he called out the government in 2019. How could this timing be a coincidence? In my opinion, it's beyond suspicious.

I believe that ICE is trying to make an example of 21 Savage. They are trying to send the message that no matter how successful you are, no one is safe from their reach. The arrest of 21 Savage is a scare tactic for the rest of the country. ICE wants to remind the nation that no one is untouchable, not even a Grammy nominated millionaire.

According to Savage's immigration lawyer, the government has known the rapper's address and citizenship status since he applied for a U-visa in 2017. In an interview with "Good Morning America" on Feb. 15, 21 Savage said that when the ICE officers arrested him, he heard them say: "We got Savage."

According to CNN, last year ICE had an average of over 42,000 people in custody each day. Many of these people were hardworking individuals who put their lives and safety on the line to come to America in search of a better life, not unlike 21 Savage's mother, Heather Abraham-Joseph, who came to the U.S. following her divorce from his father. His story of growing up in America but still not being considered an American is the same as countless children and adults detained everyday by ICE.

Like many other people detained by ICE, 21 Savage is an American in every way but the paperwork. He's a loving father of three with deep roots in the Atlanta community. He recently started a program to promote financial literacy among teens and vowed to set an example by saving money instead of spending it on expensive jewelry.

But unlike most of detainees, 21 Savage has rapper Jay-Z paying for his legal fees and a supportive fanbase behind him. Too many others are ripped from their families and lives that they have built here in the "land of opportunity."

While 21 Savage was released on \$100,000 bail Feb. 12, thousands of other detainees are not able to pay theirs. With the backing of the entire hip-hop community and the financial resources of Jay-Z, 21 Savage spent just nine days in ICE custody, while ICE detains immigrant children who are separated from their parents, for an average, of 100 to 240 days, according to the National Immigrant Justice Center. Many of these children are detained for the same reason as 21 Savage, an overstayed visa.

As a fan, I'm elated to hear that 21 Savage is no longer in custody, but we must never forget that thousands of others remain there. The inhumane treatment of those who came to America for a better life must stop.

21 Savage has matured greatly since his days of running with gangs and selling drugs. He's a changed man who puts his resources and time toward helping others. Since being released from custody, the rapper has continued to make amends by turning himself in on Feb. 15 for an outstanding warrant from 2016 concerning a gig at which he didn't perform, even though he was paid.

If it takes 21 Savage being arrested for you to care about the actions of ICE, then at least you care now.

### EDITORIAL



Illustrated by Gaby Fantone

## Proceed with caution, SAE

The Panther Editorial Board

Could one bad apple ruin the bunch? That's the question we have for the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity. Dubbed as the nation's "deadliest fraternity" by Bloomberg in 2013, SAE has had chapters banned or suspended from campuses for several reasons – from sexual misconduct to underage drinking. Most recently, an 18-year-old SAE pledge at the University of California, Irvine was pronounced dead on January 12 after an off-campus SAE party.

In 2015, a video surfaced of SAE men at Oklahoma University chanting about lynching and using a racial slur. The university later said that the members had learned the chant at a national SAE leadership conference, according to The Washington Post.

Simply put, SAE doesn't cast fraternity life in the best light.

Sometime in the fraternity's 163-year run, it was given the nickname "Sexual Assault Expected, an epithet that was featured in the 2015 documentary "The Hunting Ground," which takes an in-depth look at sexual assaults and cover-ups on college campuses across the U.S.

And now, SAE is coming back to our campus. In 2014, Chapman's chapter was suspended for four years after a "series of events" that remains ambiguous following countless rumors.

"Every frat has a problem on some campus," Jerry Price, dean of students, told The Panther. "SAE will have to be responsible for their actions at Chapman."

An Instagram appearing to belong to Chapman's old SAE chapter shows partially dressed women, some with the fraternity's letters drawn on their bare backs, a man consuming a pitcher of beer

and one man wearing a sombrero with the fraternity's letters on his neck. We know that the men featured on this Instagram (@chapmansae) don't represent the fraternity as a whole, but it's concerning that this is what's publicly associated with SAE's time at Chapman.

Greek Life at Chapman can be a mixed bag. Last semester, the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity was put on probation after its date party in October 2018, and the Phi Delta Theta fraternity was investigated in the same month after reports of spiked drinks – though no evidence was found to support the claims.

It's worth noting that overall, Chapman's Greek Life hasn't had many scandals, and our fraternities and sororities have generally good reputation and it's been four years since SAE's suspension, so very few, if any, of the men who were members then are still on campus. This could be fresh start for Chapman's chapter – it's up to the new members to embrace that opportunity.

SAE has made some positive changes, including eliminating pledging – the process through which new members are initiated – and banning hard alcohol at SAE facilities and chapter events, though the SAE pledge who died in Irvine is thought by his family to have died from alcohol poisoning.

A fraternity is only as good as the men who are in it. SAE doesn't have an ideal track record, and even after reforming its pledging process and attitude toward alcohol, five chapters were banned from campuses across the U.S. in 2018 for various reasons. We want to believe that this fraternity's time at Chapman won't include dangerous drinking behavior, alleged sexual misconduct and racist chants, but only time will tell.

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## I agree with Larry Elder, sort of



Arianna Ngnomire, senior screen acting major

While writing this, I'm listening to the "Black History Salute" Spotify playlist, and rocking my favorite African continent sweatshirt. I love being an activist, I'm just that type of girl. But I'm a walking contradiction. Both African and American. Anti-capitalist and a regular Amazon user. Depending on who you talk to, I'm either captivatingly inspirational, or

increasingly standoffish.

I say all of this because I want you to understand the duality of my discourse before continuing on. If you are looking for an article that fully denounces or fully supports Larry Elder, this is not the one.

About a week prior to Chapman Republican's (Larry Elder) event, I was with one of my best friends who I met through Chapman's Black Student Union, when I saw a poster for the event. Since both of us are interested in politics I thought, "Let's go to that."

Fast-forward a couple of days, a photo of the same flier I had taken interest in was on my Facebook feed. Shockingly, comments mentioned that Elder has participated in anti-black rhetoric. I was appalled when reading the comment section.

"How did I miss this?" I thought.

After some preliminary research on Elder, I attended the event. During his speech and Q&A session, there were two major points that I agreed with, and two major points that I disagreed with, although I could list more.

I agree with Elder that single-parent families can negatively impact a child's development and security. Elder said on Feb. 12 that in 1965, 25 percent of black children were raised without a father – and now, that number has reached nearly 66 percent, according to the Annie E. Capay Foundation. He also shared statistics that showed how children are more prone to crime without a second parent present, according to the National Center for Fathering.

I agree that single-parent families have a much more difficult time than families who can rely on two means of support and unfortunately, I know this firsthand. Here's where I disagree: Elder thinks that the solution is simply encouraging spouses to stay married.

The incarceration rate, which has tripled since 1960 in America, according to the Hamilton Project, is a more realistic root cause of fathers' abandonment. For more information on the prison industrial complex, I suggest reading "The New Jim Crow" written by Michelle Alexander, or watching the 2016 documentary 13th, which focus on the disproportionate incarceration of African-Americans and is available on Netflix.

I also agree with Elder that the money for education should follow the child, not the school. Elder said Feb. 12 that his former high school currently has only 3 percent its of students reading at the appropriate grade level. Many of the families in his former inner-city neighborhood cannot afford to send their children to other schools, he said, and he believes President Donald Trump has a plan for giving vouchers to inner city students that would allow the students to use tax money to pay for tuition at public charter schools,

private schools and religious schools.

Elder and I both agree that money for school spending should follow the individual child – but admittedly, this was a new idea that was presented to me and I haven't done my fair share of research.

While Elder made valid points, I also disagree with him on the idea that education makes students more liberal. At the event, Elder spoke to a group of parents, donors, Board of Trustees members and predominantly students who are in the pursuit of education – many of whom were Republicans. Elder believes that the Democratic Party is pushing free tuition in an effort to breed more liberal-minded people.

If you want conservative representation on college campuses, I suggest turning to the conservatives who can speak intelligently without hate, like Elder did, and encouraging them to reach out to universities. To attempt to control education, something I consider a basic human, right for because of a fear of the opposite party.

I also disagree with Elder's view of race as no longer being a major issue in the U.S. The Civil Rights movement and the many leaders who came after did wonderful work dispelling blatant Jim Crow racism. But we've just begun to scratch the surface on what Elder himself described as "polite" racism.

This polite racism is what prevents black people from being able to obtain a job without putting forth extraneous amounts of effort – similar to what Elder's father had to do – and it's something that still happens today, contrary to his idea that race isn't a major U.S. problem.

Polite racism is the promise of gentrifying neighborhoods in predominantly black and brown areas, while rent skyrocketing and wages stay the same. Polite racism doesn't look like "We don't hire niggers," as Elder said in his talk, it looks like "We don't have clean water."

## Working at a summer camp is the best thing I've done



Adriana DiVecchia, senior dance and integrated education studies major

During my freshman year of college, I applied to work at a sleepaway camp in Maine somewhat impulsively. I went home to Virginia for winter break, and while I enjoyed getting to visit my family and friends, I found myself feeling bored toward the end of the two weeks. I quickly realized that I needed to find something to fill my time for the upcoming summer so I didn't end up just sitting around and watching TV for two and a half months.

Then, I remembered: A friend of mine had told me about a camp that she'd worked at for a few years. On a whim, I decided to submit an application. I was hired.

While excited for the new adventure, I never could have guessed how life-changing my "impulsive" decision would be. At the beginning of camp, the directors told all of the staff that camp would be the hardest job we would ever love, and they were right.

It's difficult to put into words the experiences you have working at a summer camp. Sure, it involves hair-braiding, card games, campfires and an abundance of songs about moose that you can never quite get out of your head, but it's also so much more. Camp is a place where campers and counselors alike can be 100 percent themselves.

In many ways, camp is its own world. It's a world where people texting is replaced with people talking face-to-face. High-fives and hugs are commonplace, and you can feel a sense of joy in the air because every person is so happy to be where they are. Many campers use the term "10 for two" – which means that they get through 10 months out of the year just to experience two months at camp. I can see how this saying might seem crazy to people who've never experienced the joys of this experience firsthand, but those of us who have wholeheartedly understand how special that short period of time is.

While the final week of camp is one full of laughs, fun and excitement to return home to family and friends, it also carries a hint of sadness, as everyone realizes that the trouble with summer is that it has to come to an

end.

It was departure day of my first summer as a counselor when I began to recognize the impact my time there had on me. Saying goodbye to campers and staff who had turned into family was one of the most difficult things I've ever had to do. Even as I returned to camp for a second and then third summer, the goodbyes never got easier. The classic Winnie the Pooh quote, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard," comes to mind.

Working at camp has given me invaluable leadership, communication and problem-solving skills – but it's also made me a better human being. It's given me some of my best friends and connections throughout the U.S. and the world. But I think the most incredible thing that camp has given me, year after year, is the opportunity to make a difference each day. Even the smallest moments at camp can have a profound impact on both the children and the staff.

As the years have gone on, camp feels less like a job and more like a part of my life. I can't imagine where I'd be today had I not made the fateful decision to apply for what I thought would be a one-time summer job.

If you've ever considered working at any kind of camp for a summer, do it. The experiences you have and the connections you make will change your life for the better if you let them – I promise.

## Why Juan Guaido is the rightful president of Venezuela



Juan Bustillo, senior screenwriting and political science major

Jan. 23 was an emotional day for me and millions of other Venezuelans. It was the day when the dictatorship of former Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was declared illegitimate by the National Assembly of Venezuela and Juan Guaido was sworn in as the new president, with a promise to end Venezuela's 20-year long collapse.

Of course, things are never that easy. With control over the military, Maduro refuses to vacate his seat, despite more than 40 countries

recognizing Guaido as president. The ensuing debate over which of the two is the legitimate president, however, has been marred by disinformation, propaganda and flat-out lies that threaten to keep the Venezuelan people in chains.

Most of this comes from both the right- and left-wing in the U.S., neither of which have even feigned an attempt to actually delve into the humanitarian crisis with intentions other than scoring empty political points

against their ideological opposites.

For starters, both sides continue to call Guaido a "self-declared" president. This is a lie. As president of the National Assembly, Guaido became interim president through article 233 of Venezuela's constitution on Jan. 23. Due to the fact that the May 2018 elections Maduro "won" are known to have been fraudulent and patently illegitimate, in violation of the constitution, he has no claim to a second term.

Though Maduro's supporters dispute this, they fail to account for how banning opposition parties, imprisoning political opponents, censoring speech and press, bribing poor citizens with food and organizing the election through an illegal legislature constitutes a legitimate victory. It's clear that Guaido is Venezuela's rightful leader and is not "self-declared."

Conservatives have capitalized on Venezuela's nightmare to oppose American progressivism, claiming that Bernie Sanders-style policies will turn the U.S. into Venezuela. They lazily take former Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez's "socialism for the 21st century" programs and populist rhetoric, equate those ideas with his rampant corruption and authoritarianism, and completely eschew the burden of nuance. As economist Paul Krugman wrote: "Anyone who tries to use Venezuela as a cudgel in U.S. political debate doesn't deserve to be part of that debate."

The left's misinformation is more complex, most of it coming from the Chavista mouthpiece, Telesur. It blames the country's situation on U.S. imperialism, portraying the Chavista regime as well-intentioned victims of foreign intervention. Its strategy is to blame everything on the big, bad, oil-hungry American empire.

Usually, I'll admit, if oil is in the picture, the U.S. is

likely the villain: 1953 Iran and 2003 Iraq come to mind as examples. What makes Venezuela unique, however, is that the U.S. never lost access to Venezuelan oil.

That being said, if this does turn into a military intervention, people should oppose it. Additionally, U.S. sanctions against Venezuela aim to cripple the illegal financial assets of government kleptocrats, not the Venezuelan people. This makes the devastation of Venezuela the responsibility of the Chavista regime alone.

The disinformation campaign continues with the notion that Guaido is a U.S. puppet. While this fits Washington's historical strategy in Latin America, two factors make this different. Firstly there's no evidence. Unless the U.S. somehow wrote Chavez's constitution and forced Guaido to follow it, its only role has been to recognize him as president.

The second is that Maduro himself is a puppet of Russia, Turkey, Cuba, Iran and China. These countries are propping him up through various means, whether it's through oil or weapons sales, and have greatly, albeit discreetly, violated the sovereignty of Venezuela using the open, welcoming arms of the regime. Even taking at face value the fictitious idea that Guaido is a puppet, Maduro is five times worse. Supporting the dictatorship is not a repudiation of imperialism – it's an endorsement.

There's a clear binary between supporting Guaido or Maduro with no room in the middle. That's because this moment presents us with one choice: to side with the Venezuelan people in their struggle for freedom or to oppose them. Using propagandistic lies against the rightful president, Guaido, only ensures the continuation of the nightmare Venezuelans are living.

## 'I shot for the stars': Transfer student looks ahead at senior season

Mallika Sinha | Staff Writer

Softball and film production are an unlikely combination, but senior Hope Ballard found a way to fuse together both of those passions at Chapman.

Ballard came from a sports-oriented family, she said.

"No one in my family has ever pursued a career in film production or anything like that ... so I'm kind of really the pioneer, my family trailblazer," Ballard said.

Ballard, a broadcast journalism and documentary major, created a six-minute documentary last semester, profiling senior Kylie Perez, a diabetic softball player from the University of California, Los Angeles. Perez is a Type 1 diabetic collegiate athlete.

Although this piece was just a project for class, Ballard said her experience working with Perez was incomparable.

"It's something that I'll never forget and I'm super proud of the film," Ballard said.

Sophomore broadcast journalism and documentary major Erin Coogan said Ballard's work ethic for film and softball is evident and will serve to her benefit down the road.

"(Her involvement) really shows in her academic endeavors," Coogan said. "Her sheer passion is going to make her successful."

Ballard is from Denver, Colorado, and transferred from Santa Barbara City College, where she played softball. Last spring, she graduated from the community college and



MIA FORTUNATO Staff Photographer

Junior Hope Ballard transferred to Chapman University in spring of 2018, coming from Santa Barbara City College. Ballard, a broadcast journalism and documentary major, is from Denver, Colorado.

officially transferred to Chapman.

"I shot for the stars and then I ended up getting accepted to Dodge (College of Film and Media Arts)," Ballard said.

This season will be Ballard's second with the Chapman softball team. Transferring to Chapman was hard because she was taken out of her comfort zone in Santa Barbara, she said and she had to fight for a starting

spot on the softball team as a new upperclassman.

"I really had to earn the respect of my teammates, because I recognize that a lot of them had been there several years before me," Ballard said.

Though Ballard has just recently joined Chapman's team, she has played the sport since she was 4 years old – where she played on an all-boys baseball team.

After she graduates, Ballard said she hopes to work on sports-related documentaries – whether that be an internship with ESPN or a different sports center.

For now, Ballard feels like she's at her prime.

"I've never been better and I'm excited for my senior season," Ballard said. "I'm ready to finish off with a bang and give it all I got."

### ADVERTISEMENT

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## From hoops to humming: Coach balances music, basketball

Luca Evans | Staff Writer

Some may only know Dan Krikorian as an assistant basketball coach for the Chapman Panthers. But, the fingers he uses to point at players during warm-up drills are the same that he uses to pluck at the strings of his guitar.

Krikorian's interest in music is not a newfound passion. Releasing five albums since his debut "Oxford Street" in 2008, Krikorian has songs on streaming and purchase on iTunes and Spotify. He has toured throughout Germany and the Netherlands, and according to his website, has amassed a following in both the United States and Europe.

Despite the team knowing about his musical interests, Krikorian is known primarily on Chapman's campus as an assistant coach and a professor of two leadership classes at Chapman's Fowler School of Law, senior point guard Reed Nakakihara said.

"If you know Coach Dan, you wouldn't really expect that (musical) side from him," Nakakihara said. "I think (his music is) just really good. You can tell that it's something he's really passionate about."

Krikorian discovered his love for music while he was a junior student at Chapman himself, he said he simply "stumbled into" the passion.

"I took an intro to guitar class at Chapman, and I fell in love with the guitar," Krikorian said. "Once I graduated I started to play ... one thing led to another and I've been at it for 10 years."

During the basketball off-season

and summer, Krikorian is focused on creating music. While he puts music secondary to basketball season, Nakakihara said Krikorian has talked to the team about his music.

"He's constantly thinking of lyrics and thinking of his songs," Nakakihara said. "Just hearing that from him was cool, just to know that ... he has a very busy day, but at the same time, he's making time for his hobby and music."

Krikorian said that while making music can serve as a stress reliever, he simply likes to do it because of his dedication to the art.

"I just genuinely love creating and writing, and there's just something about making music ... everything is done with purpose," he said. "It's really special to create stuff."

Krikorian said his musical style is a blend of folk, pop and rock, especially in his latest album "Grandeur," a 16-song project released in January 2019. Krikorian said his music is compared to a "John Mayer meets the Lumineers."

Members of the basketball team, in addition to Krikorian's 232 monthly Spotify listeners, enjoy his music, which Nakakihara describes as "soothing" and something he listens to while he studies.

While Krikorian said he intends to continue creating music, he doesn't plan to leave Chapman anytime soon.

"My heart and all my career has been fully invested in Chapman and coaching," Krikorian said. "Our basketball program is an unbelievable program and I'm hoping that they keep me around."



JACK CLENDENING Staff Photographer

Assistant basketball coach Dan Krikorian has released five albums in his career. His debut album "Oxford Street" came out in 2008 and his most recent album "Grandeur" was released in January 2019.

## Journalist Jemele Hill speaks at Chapman

Nathanyal Leyba | Staff Writer

Sports journalist Jemele Hill came to Jeff Pearlman's sports journalism class at Chapman to discuss her "impressive, cool and funky" career. Those are Pearlman's words, which is one way to describe her experience working for Michigan State University's newspaper, ESPN and The Atlantic.

Hill compared journalism to the comic book hero, Batman.

"It's not the hero you need, it's the hero you deserve ... It's a thankless job, to some extent," Hill said to the class. "You have to be willing to plow through some things you may not want to do."

Hill said she has relocated to three different areas in the past year – Connecticut, Washington, D.C., and California. Hill said this is just part of the lifestyle. But what she isn't used to is facing a controversy of her own.

Hill recently came under fire after her since-deleted tweet Feb. 5 that read, "Nah, she gotta yell: GETCHO HAND OUT MY POCKET." This was in response to Showtime's Desus Nice's tweet wanting Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) to yell "Whose mans is this?" during President Donald Trump's State of the Union speech.

Many called Hill's tweet a reference



CASSIDY KEOLA Photo Editor

Jemele Hill is a sports journalist, currently working for The Atlantic as a staff writer. In 2018, Hill was named national journalist of the year by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), according to NABJ's website.

to the Malcolm X assassination because the same phrase was yelled seconds before the activist was shot in the chest in 1965. When asked about her thoughts before, during and after the tweet, she looked down, smiled and took a deep breath.

"Given some absurd elements of the State of the Union, at that point, I think I was mostly in a joking mode," Hill told The Panther. "When I tweeted it, I thought nothing of it at all. It was up for hours; it was up for basically a day before there was any reaction."

Hill said she realizes many took offense to the tweet, but she didn't want for her words to be misconstrued.

"You don't do (journalism) with the idea of becoming rich or famous, because it's likely not going to happen,"

Hill said to the class. "You do it because you believe in something truthful and deeper ... You almost have to commit to being in something bigger than yourselves."

Hill said she played sports growing up and followed her favorite teams through the news. When she started high school, she realized she could combine her interests.

"I loved to tell stories and I was curious. Journalism seemed to check all the boxes for things I enjoyed," Hill told The Panther.

She received an academic scholarship to Michigan State University, where she worked for the sports section in The State News, her college newspaper.

"I did not get into the profession to necessarily cover (wrestling, volleyball

and softball), but the beauty of when you're thrown into those situations is you end up learning things about sports you probably wouldn't come into contact with (otherwise)," Hill said.

After graduating from college in 1997, Hill worked at the Raleigh News & Observer in North Carolina, but eventually moved to the Detroit Free Press in 1999, covering Michigan State University basketball and football. In November 2006, she joined ESPN where she began her sportscasting career. Since October 2018, Hill has worked for The Atlantic as a sports writer.

"The nature of the profession is to disrupt ... to hold people accountable. It's your job to ask those questions," Hill said.

# Childhood coach inspires golfer to join Chapman team

Kavya Maran | Staff Writer

For junior Brent Bjorndahl, his most treasured childhood memories involve playing golf with his father in Palm Springs, California. They would always play the same 18 holes every year on his birthday at the Desert Princess Country Club, Bjorndahl said.

These early father-son golf outings served as Bjorndahl's introduction to the sport. With time, his interest in golf deepened and at 10 years old, Bjorndahl, an Orange County native, started practicing and taking lessons at Tustin Ranch Golf Club.

His instructor at the club was Ming Lao, who is now the head coach of the men's and women's golf team at Chapman.

During Bjorndahl's junior year of high school, he started talking with Lao about pursuing golf in college. Lao was already coaching golf at Chapman, so he encouraged Bjorndahl to apply.

For Bjorndahl, that "was a really big incentive" to go to Chapman.

"I've been around Brent and guiding him since he was 10 years old," Lao said. "It's been a long journey."

Now a junior at Chapman, Bjorndahl juggles six classes, an on-campus job as an assistant to Sheryl Bourgeois, executive vice president of University Advancement and a hectic golf schedule, crediting Lao.

"Ming has done a really good job letting guys have their freedom and do their thing. The team is also very academic oriented," Bjorndahl said. "If you have a big test or a project due and you need to miss something, you can



JACK CLENDENING Staff Photographer

Junior Brent Bjorndahl began golfing as a child with his father. When he joined the Tustin Ranch Golf Club at 10 years old, he was coached by Ming Lao, the current Chapman golf head coach.

I never have to worry about my grades being in jeopardy."

Throughout Lao's years coaching him, Bjorndahl went from initially scoring in the 90s to scoring in the 70s or 60s. He was also named a Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Scholar Athlete in both his freshman and sophomore years at Chapman.

But being on the golf team has proved to be challenging at times, Bjorndahl said.

In a recent dual round match against California Lutheran University Feb. 12 at the Tierra Rejada Golf Club in Ventura County, Bjorndahl lost. Bjorndahl came in seventh place out of 17 at seven over par. Despite that, the team came back with a second place position at the Industry Hills Golf Club, playing a quad match Feb. 15 against Whittier College, Pomona-Pitzer College and University of La Verne. The team placed second.

Bjorndahl said joining the team was a

learning curve for him. He used to get nervous before big matches, he said. Now, he makes time to practice, which helps him feel prepared.

Lao, proud of Bjorndahl, says his success comes from his work ethic. Bjorndahl is one of the hardest-working golfers on the team Lao said.

"The best players work the hardest. You need to out-work everyone else in order to be great," Lao said. "Brent is the perfect example of a great teammate."

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