

The Panther

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'It is hate speech'

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Photo courtesy of Arri Caviness

The 1915 film "The Birth of a Nation" is widely credited with inspiring the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the early 20th century. On March 29, first-year film production graduate student Arri Caviness tweeted at Chapman's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, calling for a poster for the film to be removed from Marion Knott Studios. It took the school's Twitter five days to respond, and there are no immediate plans to take the poster down.



MIA FORTUNATO Staff Photographer

A University of South Carolina student was allegedly murdered by a man she thought was her Uber driver. For some Chapman students, feeling uneasy in a rideshare is nothing new.

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CASSIDY KEOLA Photo Editor

Chapman's men's lacrosse team has beaten Concordia University Irvine and the University of California, Los Angeles in the past week. The team aims for the national championship.

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Students advocate to remove of controversial film poster from Dodge



Panther Archives

"The Birth of a Nation' is a racist film, it is a racist poster, it is hate speech. There is absolutely no way around it," said Arri Caviness, a first-year graduate student, who posted a photo of her and other students by the poster on Twitter, asking that the poster be taken down. Dodge College tweeted back, but some students believe that the controversial poster is not being taken seriously.

Satvi Sunkara | Staff Writer

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

Arri Caviness, a first-year film production graduate student, decided to draw attention to the poster.

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

It took the school five days to respond on Twitter.

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

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

The film was "astounding in its time" and furthered filmmaking technique, according to "The Parade's Gone By..." a book by film historian

Kevin Brownlow. It was the first time that "dramatic close-ups, tracking shots, and other expressive camera movements" were introduced.

"These so-called merits do not erase the simple fact that this film is undeniably racist," Caviness said. "A film that dehumanizes black people, celebrates lynching and is, in no small part, responsible for the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, is not worthy of our praise."

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

Phumi Morare, a film production major and one of the students in the posted picture, responded to Dodge's tweet that same day.

Morare's tweet thanked Dodge College for its response and said that students had already talked to Dodge staff.

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

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

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

Bob Bassett, dean of Dodge College, declined to provide a statement to *The Panther* unless it was published in full.

In a phone interview, President Daniele Struppa said that while he has not seen the film, its induction

into the Library of Congress' National Film Registry means it's "not just any movie."

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

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

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

Wachtel and his "BlacKkKlansman" cowriter, David Rabinowitz, attended a screening of the film at Dodge March 7. "I'll admit it was a little uncomfortable seeing this poster on

campus the same day we did a Q&A for blackkkklansman (sic)," Wachtel wrote in his retweet.

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

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

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

"I understand that they have it up because of its significance in film history, but it's put up without context to how ridiculous and racist it is," Gibson said. "It would make more sense in a museum or in a textbook, or at the very least, with a disclaimer about it."

Caviness and Gibson are part of a group of students who have been coordinating efforts to have the poster removed. They have had discussions with Dodge faculty members and are drafting an open letter to Bassett.

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

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

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

“
This poster is a daily reminder of the casual, violent racism that ... remains commonplace to this day.

”
- Arri Caviness, first-year film production graduate student

150 attend event aimed at fighting sexual violence

Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

In an act of solidarity for survivors of sexual assault and interpersonal violence, about 150 students and faculty walked from the Fish Interfaith Center around Chapman's campus April 2, candles in hand.

The walk was the culmination of the annual "Take Back The Night," hosted by Chapman's Creating A Rape-Free Environment for Students (C.A.R.E.S.) organization.

"Interpersonal violence affects all of us: it changes people forever," said Dani Smith, Chapman's rape crisis counselor and coordinator for C.A.R.E.S. during the event. "It is a crime that few people talk about."

Smith has participated every "Take Back The Night" since it first took place on Chapman's campus in 1998, she said. She has had an integral role in Chapman's approach toward campus sexual assault, writing the university's first-ever sexual misconduct policy in 1997.

Smith wrote and compiled the program for the event, sharing a testimony from a Chapman student and survivor of sexual assault.

"One Chapman student put it like this," she said. "I share my experience to let you know that it is not your fault. Your experience must have been overwhelming, but you have nothing to be ashamed of."

The event's attendees included students, faculty, survivors and allies. Chris Costa, a senior psychol-



CASSIDY KEOLA Photo Editor

Students and faculty walked from Fish Interfaith Center around Chapman's campus April 2, holding candles as an act of solidarity for sexual assault survivors.

ogy major and once-president of Phi Kappa Tau, told The Panther that he has attended "Take Back The Night" all four years of his college career.

"My mom is a survivor, so is my best friend," Costa said. "Unfortunately, this happens often. Men need to show up to events like these and listen."

About 12 members of Phi Kappa Tau attended the event during Costa's freshman year, he said. This year, about 30 were in attendance.

"Sexual assault is something we talk about outside of the mandatory times. When I was president of Phi Kappa Tau, it was one thing that I

really cared about," he said. "Dani (Smith) is incredible – for her, the school and for the speakers, we make a point of coming every year."

The evening was comprised of the retelling of students' experiences with sexual violence and performances were made by student vocalist Cassandra Thibeault and student a cappella group Simply Vocale.

Simply Vocale sang "Kinder," originally performed by female vocal group Copper Wimmin. Simply Vocale president Erica Marfo told The Panther that performing at the event two years in a row is an "honor."

"Each year, we find new mean-

ing," she said. "(Kinder) talks about deciding to let go of demons, of all the pain and deciding to be happy, which we thought fit the purpose of the evening."

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

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

At one point during the program, audience members were told to close their eyes.

"Think of four women you know," said Connor Kennedy, a junior C.A.R.E.S. member, at the event. "Statistically, one of them will be a victim of sexual assault in their lifetime. If you think of five college women you know, one of them has been sexually assaulted already, or will be before they leave Chapman."

Audience members opened their eyes. Sabrina Dworkin, a junior public relations and advertising major and C.A.R.E.S. member, took the podium.

"These aren't statistics, these are people," she said. "How can we remain silent?"

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Black Student Union to remain active despite low attendance

Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"There is not a strong presence of black faculty on campus, there is a gap in that demographic," she said,

noting that while the club has had an adviser in the past, it has been operating without one since spring 2018. About 1.4 percent of Chapman's faculty is black.

An adviser would help facilitate administrative discussions, a role that BSU executive board members are now filling themselves. Administrators like Dean of Students Jerry Price work to fix problems that arise within BSU, Conde said, but the limited numbers of black students on campus is a consistent challenge.

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

Price acknowledged that Chapman's lack of black faculty is an "obvious setback."

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

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

"We don't have a lot of numbers to start with, but the numbers will not get better without a club like this."

Some members of BSU did not comment after the meeting.



CASSIDY KEOLA Photo Editor

Naidine Conde, president of Black Student Union (BSU), told The Panther that "it is not our job as students to pinpoint the problems of diversity" on Chapman's campus.

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

The closed meeting had more underclassmen present than

upperclassmen, Conde said, a ratio that she believes is promising.

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

'Pick your gun': Conservative organization tables in Piazza

Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

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

"I'm pro choice (sic)," the sign read. "Pick your gun."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wyatt Logan, a Turning Point USA field representative who is helping establish the club on Chapman's campus, told The Panther that the club's goal is to foster conversation. Logan is not a Chapman student or graduate.

"It's not about guns; it's about people and morality," he said.

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

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

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

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

"If (a student) is not willing to



OLIVIA HARDEN Features Editor

National conservative organization Turning Point USA featured a pro-Second Amendment message while tabling April 2. But the club is not registered with student organizations and did not schedule to table in the Attallah Piazza, Dean of Students Jerry Price said.

approach the table, that's their own fault," Logan said, adding that it is up to students to learn about topics like the Second Amendment and free speech.

Price said Chapman's administration works to encourage students to value free speech, but to focus on "the speech that is being

said," rather than whether students have the right to say it.

"Unless a speech is a threat, or pervasive and harassing an individual, or is preventing someone from exercising their right to speak, then we're going to permit it," Price said.



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After woman allegedly murdered by fake Uber, students are cautious

Jade Yang | Staff Writer

A student from the University of South Carolina got into a car she believed to be her Uber after spending a night out with friends March 29. Her body was discovered the next day by turkey hunters 65 miles away from her pickup point.

Last year, a Chapman student who was returning in a Lyft back to the residence halls, allegedly woke up at their drop-off point to find the driver fondling him or her.

While transportation applications such as Lyft and Uber can be efficient options for traveling, the safety of these options has become a concern.

Audrey Gaitley, a freshman psychology major, has experienced multiple strange encounters. One incident involved her getting into an Uber she called that made her get out because she slammed the door too hard. But before she could call a new one, another car appeared. The driver knew her name and said he was her Uber. Gaitley thought it was suspicious, but didn't say anything – because the driver did know her name.

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

Gaitley also remembers riding in

an Uber with a hat-obsessed driver.

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

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

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

Uncomfortable and negative Uber experiences can easily have profound effects on a student's daily life, said Dean of Students Jerry Price.

"I hear about (driver assault incidents) maybe once or twice a year here (at Chapman)," Price said. "One student who has an incident that we would, on a scale of 10, call an eight, may in a few days or weeks get over it. Someone else who has one that's a two or three may still bother them months later. It's really difficult to know."

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

"My goal for Chapman students, whether it's Uber or their personal



Photo illustration by MIA FORTUNATO Staff Photographer

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

safety, is to not be complacent and have a neighborhood watch mentality. If there's five Public Safety officers on duty driving around and walking, that's 10 eyes looking out for everybody," he said. "If every Chapman student, faculty, and staff looks, sees, says something or calls in anything suspicious, that's 10,000 eyes."

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

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

In efforts to promote safety, Uber sent out an email to its users after Samantha Josephson's murder, informing them to, "Check your ride, every time" by looking at the license plate number, the car make and model and the driver's photo.

Twins and siblings talk campus life and being together at Chapman

Sierra DeWalt | Staff Writer

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

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

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

"It has made (college) easier for us," Hannah Schmidt said. "Leaving for college was very scary, but we were very lucky in the sense that both of us would be there together."

While having each other as a support system works for the Schmidts, not all twins share this sentiment. Alexa Faber, a freshman art history major, chose to attend a different university than her twin sister Krista, who studies biomedical engineering at Santiago Canyon College in Orange, California.

"Because we are twins, we have done everything together," Alexa Faber said. "Splitting up for college gives us the opportunity to have new experiences and have different friends."

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

"Chapman would not be a good fit because of her major: engineering," Alexa Faber said. "Although Chapman has many resources that (she) would love to take advantage of, a school that offers a better program for engineering



CASSIDY KEOLA Photo Editor

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

is a better fit for her."

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

"I was so excited when she decided to apply to Chapman, and I definitely wanted her to come here," said Franchesca Fangary, a screenwriting and public relations and advertising double major. "We're not always at

the same places, but we do try to grab lunch together at least once a week."

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

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

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

"It's more of a mental aspect for me

because she's always started dating the guys before me, so I kind of (think), 'Why don't they like me? I'm just as cool as she is. I'm just as pretty as she is; we look the same,'" Hannah Schmidt said.

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

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

REVIEW

Eilish brings new meaning to mainstream music



Jasmin Sani | Managing Editor

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

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

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

those with Invisalign, including me, have.

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

I don’t believe Eilish tries to be an edgy attention-seeker. She’s genuinely passionate about her music and has a compelling, thought-provoking visual presentation to match. She sticks to her roots and follows the haunting, somber themes she established in her first 2016 single, “Six Feet Under.”

Eilish continues to surprise me with songs like “listen before i go” and “i love you,” not because they are sad and depressing, but because they are relatable and authentic. The melancholy is hard to listen to; it draws you to the lyrics that reflect and mimic feelings of hopelessness and raw emotion. But they are real, and they are honest.

Give her entire album a listen before saying things like, “She’s so overrated,” “Where’s the talent in



Wiki Commons

Billie Eilish’s first album “WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO” was recently released on March 29 and features 14 tracks.

talking to a mic?” or my personal favorite, “She has to cut herself before she can even write a decent song.”

Everyone has an extreme, polarized opinion on Eilish; you either love or hate her. There’s no in-between.

And I totally get that.

With things like Twitter’s stan culture commodifying the idea that being sad is cool or something to strive for, I don’t blame those who don’t like Eilish. I also have a love-hate relationship with her

fan base. But the fault shouldn’t be placed on Eilish for making music; it should be on the young teenagers exposed to it who hyperbolize her already artistically exaggerated, dark imagery.

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

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The one downside to springtime



Maura Kate Mitchelson
Opinions Editor

Ah, springtime. The days are longer, the sun is (usually) shining, the flowers are blooming and ... no one has any motivation left.

Students and professors alike walk around campus with their heads down and a dazed look in their eyes. It seems like every person I

know has been having an “off” week for the past few weeks. I’ve seen Snapchat stories of people just shaking their heads and finsta posts describing procrastination habits and breakdowns.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But for now, I’ve gotten on Instagram so many times while trying to write this that my phone is dying – I need to take a minute or two so I can gather up the strength to walk over to my charger and plug it in.

EDITORIAL



Illustrated by Gaby Fantone

History doesn’t excuse racism

The Panther Editorial Board

Taking down a poster featuring a film that glorifies the Confederacy shouldn’t be a difficult decision to make. But it seems like the administration at Chapman’s Dodge College of Film and Media Arts is having trouble.

“The Birth of a Nation” is a 1915 movie that many consider to be a cinematic masterpiece in terms of technical achievement. But most people now see it for what it really is: propaganda for the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). The film, which depicted the hate group as the saviors of the post-Civil War South, is thought to have helped propel the KKK’s resurgence after William Joseph Simmons, a preacher from Georgia became obsessed with the film.

Historical significance is not an excuse for proudly displaying imagery of a film so closely tied to racism and oppression. It’s like having a Confederate flag bumper sticker or a town proudly displaying a statue of Robert E. Lee: You can argue that it’s just a sticker or just a statue. But for many, it represents years of pain, suffering and inequality.

The New Yorker film writer Richard Brody went as far as to say the worst thing about the film, which showed actors in blackface and depicted racist stereotypes and lynching, is “how good it is.” This apologist reaction disguised as an appreciation for film history is unacceptable. Praising the movie’s “grand and enduring aesthetic” and “profoundly human moments” while ignoring its archaic and disturbing portrayals of black people is insulting to the black community.

“A film that dehumanizes black people, celebrated lynching, and is, in no small part, responsible for the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, is not worthy of our praise,” Arri Caviness, a Chap-

man student who tweeted about the poster and posed in a photo with five other Dodge students, told The Panther.

It took Dodge College’s Twitter account five days to respond to the tweet, and its administration declined to provide a statement to The Panther unless we published it in full.

In a phone interview with The Panther, President Daniele Struppa said that while he has not seen the film, its induction into the Library of Congress’ National Film Registry means it’s “not just any movie.”

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

Few people have the privilege – or even the outright ignorance – to look at a poster celebrating racism and hate groups and only see a sign of advancement in film. For a university like Chapman, which purports to strive for diversity, someone should have known better than to put and keep this poster up.

In the 2018 movie “BlacKkKlansman,” members of the KKK are shown eating popcorn and cheering while the film played in the background.

Removing the poster shouldn’t fall in a gray area. It shouldn’t require deliberation. Black students have expressed their discomfort and unease with the poster – and Oscar-winning “BlacKkKlansman” cowriter, who spoke at a Dodge screening of the film March 7, tweeted that seeing the poster that day was “a little uncomfortable.”

So Dodge, what are you waiting for?

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What I don't like about casual dating



Lou Vanhecke, news editor

I have been single for about eight months now. If I'm being completely honest, I love it. There's no moody man waiting for me to pay attention to him, or enacting a 1950s housewife policy and

guilting me into cooking his breakfast, lunch and dinner. Right after my breakup,

I realized that the beauty of being single is that I can do anything I want.

Well, mostly. I come and go when I please and I don't have anyone I have to be constantly in communication with. But there is one thing I've noticed. The men I have been involved with here and there in my post-breakup bender have all had

one thing in common: neediness.

Full disclosure: I am a fiercely independent person. And every man that I've had conversations with or gotten involved with has latched onto the idea of "needing" me.

With my job and school commitments, I am incredibly busy. I'm a terrible texter, I take forever to respond and at times, cannot seem to come up with the simplest reply. In the last couple months, I have seen my phone blow up with message after message from whatever guy I was involved with at the time, I couldn't help but feel like my world had been invaded.

I was talking with a friend about the dating app Hinge, one of the latest trends in millennial hookup culture. She turned to me and said something horrifically poignant.

"Do you ever think that men 'pretend' to be needy but are actually just trying to assert control?" she asked. I was a bit taken aback at first, but then the truth of her statement hit me.

Over the course of my dating life, I've been involved in flings and casual flirting; I have been in committed relationships, toxic relationships and one-sided situations. The relationships I've had in my life have varied significantly, but they have all consisted of that needy, controlling behavior. It was only when this was pointed out to me that I acknowledged it for the first time.

There have been times in my life where the

idea of someone needing me has been desirable. But with age, I have come to realize that what we require from someone else's presence and actions are often things we can't provide for ourselves.

I think that the act of "needing" another person says a lot about the holes and gray spaces in our relationships with ourselves. I haven't seriously dated anyone in a while, but when I do, I hope that they don't "need" me. I hope that they are a whole person, that they can be an individual and that we can be two whole people together. The idea that someone's stability relies on another person is a little scary to me. I wish I had realized that sooner.

When I broke up with the only serious boyfriend I have ever had, I was met with not an ounce of sadness, but a sense of relief. When I finally got the chance to sit down with him over coffee five months after we had broken up, he said, "I never realized how much of my own identity came from you."

And it's true – my presence in his life was fulfilling areas in his personality that he had yet to come to terms with. That's OK, and I'm sure that we all grow by relying on other people throughout our lives. But you should take the steps to love yourself before you love someone else.

Here's why Chapman needs its Black Student Union



Olivia Harden, features editor

The Black population at Chapman University makes up about 1.7 percent of students, with little growth in the four years that I've been here. I wasn't aware of how much that would impact me until I arrived at Chapman in 2015.

The then-president and vice president of Chapman's Black

Student Union (BSU), Summer Blair and Aspen Spellman, sent an email announcing that the club was scheduled to meet at 10 p.m. in Argyros Forum 206C. It was there that I would find my family. It was there I would find a home.

So when I received another email April 1, saying that BSU might cease to exist next year due to low

attendance, a myriad of emotions came over me. The first was shock. Where would Black students go when they feel like they don't belong? Some of my closest relationships at Chapman started at BSU. There's a special sense of community I always feel when I walk into a BSU meeting. It's comforting to start the week off with a group of people who understand exactly what you're going through. We often talk about serious topics, but ultimately, it's seeing friendly faces that recharge me for the week.

I have to admit, after my four years of involvement in the club – including holding several positions on the executive board – I became somewhat of an infrequently attending member this year. Senior year is such a busy time and BSU just wasn't a priority. Part of me felt responsible for the decline in attendance.

But the truth is, I was conflicted. I felt angry. BSU has been on Chapman's campus for more than 50 years, according to The Orange County Register. Why should we allow that legacy to die? I have firsthand experience, so I understand that running a club like the BSU is a difficult task. But how selfish are we if we don't give Black students, especially freshmen, a place to call home?

This club has had such an impact and influence on my Chapman experience. On New Year's Day 2016, I cut off all my hair after years of going to

salons and getting Brazilian blowouts to tame my curls. Growing my afro out for the last three years probably wouldn't have happened if I hadn't met some of the strong Black women who dragged me to BSU every week, rain or shine.

If BSU ceased to exist at Chapman, in essence, so would the Black population. I already know students who have left Chapman because people come here and begin to feel like they don't belong, or that Chapman is too apathetic about racial issues.

When BSU met April 1 to discuss the future of the club, it was by no means the greatest turnout I've ever seen, but it was comforting to see that some people really do care about the future of this club. I'm happy to see that it will be in good hands next year.

The truth is, it's not the responsibility of Black students to keep other Black students at Chapman. BSU is something we created as a means of survival, and while the work may be mentally and emotionally difficult at times, it is important that our legacy lives on.

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

Don't wish away your college experience



Rebecca Glaser, editor-in-chief

I'm graduating in about a month and a half. Soon, I'll walk off this campus and won't come back, leaving behind what's effectively become my world for the past four years. College is a weirdly formative time. You strut onto campus at 18 thinking that you know just about

everything there is to know about the world – and over the next eight semesters, you learn that, well, you don't.

Life as a college student involves a weird mixture

of growing into what I like to call a "certified adult," while remaining acutely aware of your place on the

“

Soon, I'll walk off this campus and won't come back, leaving behind what's effectively become my world for the past four years.

”

totem pole (hint: it's low). I pay my bills and have two jobs – but I still sometimes call my uncle in a moderate panic if my car is making a weird noise.

I'm not afraid to start my adult journey, move away, get an apartment in a new city and start fresh. Still, I can't help but feel like everything is going a little ... fast. It's weird for me to think about the fact that after May 19, I'll probably never again wait 30 minutes for a Starbucks drink in Beckman

Hall, never again sit under the sun in the Attallah Piazza in springtime and never again grab a green exam book from the gift shop an hour before a final (Although I'm pretty thrilled about that last one).

There's a lot I looked forward to about growing up. I anxiously counted down my milestones: learning to drive, being able to vote, having my first legal drink. I wished away seconds, minutes, months and years, counting down on the calendar until graduation. But I never really planned for what I'd do when I arrived at what I was counting down to.

We're told over and over again that life goes by fast. Adults warn us that we'll be moved out, graduated and starting a 9 to 5 job in the blink of an eye. But we roll our eyes, thinking, "There's no way it could possibly go that fast." It does.

The funny thing is, you probably won't believe me until you're a month away from graduating yourself. You'll roll your eyes at this column just like I did at every Instagram post from a senior who "can't believe how fast college has gone!"

I don't believe that college is the "best four years of your life," as many people will wistfully claim. But it is important. What you learn here doesn't always come from a book – but it'll stay with you forever.

With two games left in season, men's lacrosse beats Concordia, UCLA



CASSIDY KEOLA Photo Editor

The Chapman men's lacrosse team has a record of 11-2, with two games left in its regular season. The team is ranked No. 1 in the north for the Southwestern Lacrosse Conference.

Kavya Maran | Staff Writer

Chapman's lacrosse team tore onto its home ground at Wilson Field March 31, ready to defeat the team's long-standing rivals, the Concordia University Irvine Eagles. Fueled by the crowd of friends and fans cheering on from the stands, the Panthers were "fired up" in the locker room and ready to play, said junior Wiley Bonham, an attacker on the team and business administration major.

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

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

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

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

"Those two losses really humbled us and brought perspective to this year,"

Phillips said. "It made us come together as a team."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phillips also said he is most excited to play one of the team's biggest rivals April 14: University of California, Santa Barbara. In preparation for the playoffs and the last few games of the season, Smith said the team practices for two hours daily, which the team's head coach, Dallas Hartley, calls "high tempo."



CASSIDY KEOLA Photo Editor

The men's lacrosse team beat the University of California, Los Angeles 18-3 on April 7 game.

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

- **George McGuirk, sophomore lacrosse attacker**

The team runs different plays, does push-ups, jogs intermittently, discusses strategies with the coaches and cheers one another on from the sidelines. The team commits plays to memory by writing them down and works one-on-one with a trainer.

"We do a little bit more so that when we get on the field, we're prepared and we're able to make the most of that two-hour period," Phillips said.

For the playoffs, Smith is staying focused.

"The only team that can beat us is ourselves," Smith said.

Setting goals to score them: Zahn closes out lacrosse career

Luca Evans | Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zahn came into her senior year with a specific goal – to make 100 goals before she walks at graduation. With 94 in her Chapman career coming into a March 23 victory over the University



GABRIELLA ANDERSON Staff Photographer

Senior Danielle Zahn has played in all of the women's lacrosse 11 games so far this season. She has 28 ground balls and a shooting percentage this season of 55.1 percent.

of Redlands, she scored seven goals to tie the single-game school record – not only reaching 100, but adding one more for good measure.

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

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

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

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

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

Kirkpatrick said.

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

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

An 'amazing' addiction: Senior baseball pitcher talks lifting, fitness

Nathanyal Leyba | Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

So far in his career, Collins has pitched an average of 41.4 innings per season, with an average of 33.25 strikeouts and an average of 7.05 strikeouts every nine innings. Collins never al-



Photo courtesy of Larry Newman

Senior pitcher Mason Collins has an average of 8.88 strikeouts per inning, up from a 7.05 average last season. Collins has played in nine games this season.

lows the lows of games to bring down his attitude, he said.

"I feel great up on the mound. I love starting and getting into a rhythm as I go deeper into the game," Collins said. "It's an awesome feeling to develop that rhythm and to have the confidence and support of your team."

But an aspect of Collins' life no one tends to hear about is his passion for fitness and baseball-specific workouts.

"I do a lot of mobility and movement work that preps my body to be in any

position that I put it in, injury-free. Everything has a purpose and is backed by science," Collins said. "I love the moves that are super weird and very hard."

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

"We both want to get that extra rep or move quicker through agility drills. It translates onto the field too," Peck said. "I strike out 10 in the first game

and Mason will do everything he can to strike out 11 in the next game."

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

"It's one addiction that people support; it's an amazing one to have," Collins said. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity (fitness) has given me to make it a huge part of my life."

Chapman's hockey team is 0-10, but aspirations are still high

Pri Jain | Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

Reid said when he played for Chapman's hockey team in 2016, there was much more fan support, which made the game more entertaining for the players and the university.

Freshman center Harrison Lowe

said he also advocates for working to engage Chapman students in the hockey games.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Panther Archives

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

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