Tweeting for change

Generation Z speaks out, and it’s time for us to listen

The power of Carol Jue

Although the University Program Board canceled its annual drag show last year, students still find ways to keep the drag culture alive.

DIARIO PACHOTE Staff Photographer
Beyond Human: the future of artificial intelligence

Panelists discussed the relationship between emotion and artificial intelligence, and how humans and robots are changing with the expansion of technology at the “Beyond Human: Emotion and AI” event Feb. 13. The panel answered questions about human influence on artificial intelligence and how it impacts society.

“I think the two biggest fears people have surrounding technology is invasion of privacy and lack of autonomy,” said Jack Kirby, an undeclared student. “Technology is becoming a lot more personal.”

During the event, panelists discussed how the rise of artificial intelligence in daily life can bring up ethical dilemmas, like those shown in “Westworld” and the film “Ex Machina.”

While health and science fields are the ones usually impacted by artificial intelligence – according to the study by The Economist – some professors discussed how it could impact literature and the arts and humanities.

“Nothing android can replace the real thing,” Blaylock said about the role of artificial intelligence in writing poetry and novels. Anna Leahy, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, presented two poems at the start of the night. She believed that artificial intelligence needs the humanities, rather than the other way around.

The growth of artificial intelligence should foster a concurrent rise in the value of the arts and humanities, Leahy said. “Interdisciplinary thinking and breadth may become more valuable because a machine is more adept at specialization and more adept at classifying than creating.”

With big names such as Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking warning people about the threat of artificial intelligence, tensions are increasing.

“I think the two biggest fears people have surrounding technology is invasion of privacy and lack of autonomy,” said Jack Kirby, an undeclared student. “Technology is becoming a lot more personal.”

Through a machine’s algorithms like Alexa’s or Google Home’s, they begin to know what you do, and what you like and what you purchase among other things. In that vein, people think machines and technology are taking over our jobs and will eventually control our lives.

“Everyone’s worried that, once (artificial intelligence) has advanced enough, something like SkyNet (from ‘The Terminator’) will emerge and destroy us. But if there’s a way to put a failsafe program or reasoning into the (artificial intelligence), then I think (artificial intelligence) would be safe to progress.”

Following the increasing trend of technological advancements, Dodge College of Film and Media Arts recently announced the addition of a virtual reality/ augmented reality minor in the fall semester.

Chapman College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences led the panel by asking questions submitted by Wilkinson students.

One of the reasons people build (artificial intelligence) is to interact with it,” Gratch said during the event. “They create a stereotype of not real emotion, but of how emotion should be.”

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SGA calls for clubs to be more self-sustainable

Allocations Committee wants student organizations to raise more outside finding

Jack Eckert | Staff Writer

It’s understandable that student allocate money to student organizations. Chapman Radio, The Panther and among the University Program Board, every year, student fees are divided raised, I would advocate that student clubs to raise money on their own. However, Harris said that the point is not for student organizations to have to seek outside funding, but that he wants to see more initiative from clubs to raise money on their own. “Obviously, if insufficient funds are raised, I would advocate that student government till that gap,” Harris said. Every year, student fees are divided among the University Program Board, Chapman Radio, The Panther and student government, which votes to allocate money to student organizations. It’s understandable that student organizations need funding for larger events, like APSA’s annual Asian Pacific Islander celebration, which is set to be held April 19, said Corey Snyder, student government’s director of finance. “It’s a great event. Hundreds of people come to it every year and we’ve funded it for at least the past seven years,” Snyder said. “We always want to help any student organization as much as possible, whether it is helping them secure outside funding or giving them that funding directly.” APSA President Dustin Liu said the organization is pursuing outside funding from donations for the event, in addition to what it has received from student government. “We are hoping to get to around $2,000 from outside funding and donations, but this is dependent on the amount of donations we receive,” he said. For organizations to receive funding, the request goes through the Allocations Committee, which is made up of four voting senators. If the request is for more than $1,000, it’s forwarded for a full senate vote, Snyder said. Jasmin Sani contributed to this report.

New Tech Hub offers technological assistance

Lexi Freund | Staff Writer

Chapman’s $56,590 Tech Hub is officially open for business. The brand-new hub, located in DeMille 104, is a place for faculty to learn how to use technology in the classroom and to provide students with technological help.

“What I really wanted was a place to train faculty on using the technology before they have to go in and teach with it,” said Helen Norris, Chapman’s chief information officer. The hub was paid for by the Information Systems and Technology’s annual budget and the Tech Hub was pitched and sponsored by Norris, said Harold Hewitt, executive vice president and chief operating officer. The hub’s Genius Corner, which helps students and faculty solve technical problems, is located by the entrance. The genius corner will be staffed by technicians from Chapman’s service desk who will offer consultation and support for any device, whether owned by Chapman or a student. The support will be offered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

“People are coming here with a need,” said Jana Remy, director of educational technology, at the hub’s grand opening Feb. 15. “We can help that need with technology.”

An interactive whiteboard paired with a projector is one of the most notable technologies that the Tech Hub tests for classroom use. When drawn on, the whiteboard saves what has been drawn electronically so teachers can share their presentation with students after the lecture.

“I think these new technologies in class will be very helpful for people who have learning disabilities and require more learning experience,” said Rachel Kelly, a freshman and theatre performance major.

The hub is also equipped with the Cisco Spark, an interactive board that allows for video conferencing, meaning that a guest lecturer from any location can be brought into the classroom.

Andrew Lyon, the dean of the Schmid College of Science and Technology, said that he’s a “low-tech” professor.

“Why would someone like me come in and be proud that Chapman has something like this?” Lyon said at the event. “I am an individual who has resisted all educational technologies throughout my entire career, largely because I never had the space to work out the kinks.”
‘Dreamer’ forced to turn down a dream scholarship

Olivia Harden | Assistant News Editor

Leslie Martinez was a sophomore at Orange High School when she realized what it meant to not have a Social Security number. She was unfazed by her undocumented status until it got in the way of her becoming a surgeon. “It didn’t really mean much until high school, when I realized how many opportunities I would have to miss,” Martinez said. “I realized I was going to have to work a lot harder than my peers to be successful and be the person I wanted to be.”

Martinez was selected for the Simon STEM program during the 2014-15 school year, which could have granted her a full scholarship to Chapman. But because of her undocumented status, she had to forfeit the award. She was one week away from getting her Social Security number.

“Chapman didn’t keep track of the number of students who are DACA recipients, there are several resources on campus available for undocumented students. “We have a group of staff and faculty who are trying to get the word out,” Price said. “Sometimes we learn that, because work is hard to come by for undocumented students, we can help with short-term financial assistance.”

Students seeking help because of their undocumented status can seek assistance from a committee member from the Forum for Undocumented Students and can visit its resource page.

It’s easy being green: sustainability practices at Chapman

Rebecca Maehara | Staff Writer

College students produce a lot of trash.

“A typical college student creates about 640 pounds of solid waste every year, including 320 pounds of paper and 500 disposable cups, according to a Boston College study on sustainability. Chapman strives to promote a "sustainable future" by incorporating eco-friendly policies, educational programs and community development into its daily operations, according to its Sustainability Policy.

From Feb. 26 - March 2, Chapman is hosting “Try It Week,” when students are encouraged to partake in personal challenges, such as “Motion Monday” or “Waste Free Friday”, when students bring their own reusable mug and silverware to campus. But there are already sustainable efforts in place at Chapman that some believe are underutilized.

Some of these efforts include a bike voucher program – which gives Chapman students and faculty $350 toward a new bike if they give up their parking permits for two years – the Davis Community Garden, 17 water bottle refill stations throughout campus, a compost bin in Argyros Forum and LED lighting with motion sensors.

“Chapman students are good about carrying around a reusable water bottle, but other commodities – such as the university’s light, paper or water conservation efforts – are rarely taken advantage of,” said Jenny Gritton, a junior environmental science and policy major.

“Students often just dump anything into any bin without thinking about it, especially if the correct bin is full.”

Some students believe certain programs such as the bike voucher program and the community garden – are not used enough. Gigi Vujovich, a junior for environmental science and policy major, believes that the bike voucher program is “poorly advertised,” since she found out about it by word of mouth. Mackenzie Crigger, Chapman’s sustainability and energy coordinator, oversees many of Chapman’s sustainability programs. She said that the bike program is “fully utilized,” as more people typically apply for the vouchers than the program can give. One of the biggest challenges of encouraging sustainable lifestyles on a college campus is the student turnover rate, Crigger said.

“We have new students all the time, so we are constantly going back to square one to educate folks about basic things, like recycling and knowing that they can apply for a bike voucher,” Crigger said. “Advertising and marketing for sustainability programs (at Chapman) has gotten better, but we still have a long way to go. For some people, it is an instance of not knowing of the program or (the activity) being perceived as inconvenient.”

Despite existing sustainability practices, some students believe that Chapman could do more to increase its environmental efficacy. Vujovich hopes that specific issues – like the university’s investment in fossil fuels and inefficient landscaping strategies – will be addressed. She believes that xeriscaping, a landscape technique that uses irrigation practices and requires little water, will conserve water resources.

Gritton would like to see a change in student transportation habits, as Chapman is a commuter campus, which promotes a single driver culture. “It makes an effort to bike or carpool with their housemates. Everyone spends so much time complaining about finding parking, and I bet that at least half of these students live less than two miles away from campus and could easily bike,” Gritton said.

Some students hope that Chapman will make the switch to xeriscaping, an irrigation-efficient and low-water landscaping technique.
It all started with some butt-plumping cream.

Jessica Carroll hadn’t wanted to become a YouTube star, but when she posed a video that tested new Kylie Jenner-endorsed cream – which promised butt enlargement – her online presence grew almost overnight. Within two weeks, 3 million people had viewed her video to learn the results (spoiler alert: Carroll’s butt actually shrank).

But it wasn’t the first time in front of the camera for Carroll, a ‘13 television and broadcast journalism alumna who competed in this season of “The Bachelor.”

“I grew up interviewing my dolls,” Carroll told The Panther. “My goal is always to learn and grow through other people, but also to be that go-to girl where people feel like they can ask me anything and I will just give them my honest and raw opinions.”

Before her one-night stint on “The Bachelor,” Arie Luyendyk Jr. sent her home during the first rose ceremony. Carroll navigated through entertainment journalism, working at E! News and Entertainment Tonight while at Chapman, and spending most of her career at L.A. Live and Hollyscoop. She now works at Home Shopping Network as a style expert and just shot a Visa commercial for the Super Bowl.

On “The Bachelor,” Carroll is probably most known as the woman whose father, who passed away from prostate cancer in 2012, had met Luyendyk years earlier. Now, she travels the world with her mom to encourage entrepreneurs “to treat their health like they treat their business.”

A: How did Chapman set you up for success?

Q: Tell me a little more about the other girls who didn’t get a rose that first night.

A: We’ve created this platform called the Rosé Girls. We went in looking for one kind of love, and I left with a friendship of love. We talk every day, all day long. Our group chat is lit. If anyone is feeling down, these girls will be like, ‘No, you’re gorgeous,’ or ‘Maybe just change the top and keep the shoes.’ We do a podcast on Sundays, and on Wednesdays, I do a sit-down interview with another inspirational guest and we just talk about how they overcame a challenge, whether it was a heartbreak or a business challenge. And then we cheers with rosé and they talk about how they grew from it.

Q: Is there anything you wish you had or hadn’t done during your night on “The Bachelor”?

A: Going into it, I was not going to open up that much on the first night (and talk about my dad). I went into it thinking that I was going to get a rose, many roses, to be honest. He made me feel comfortable and so I was like, ‘I’m just gonna open up and tell him.’ I don’t know if maybe I was more of my spunky, spontaneous, quirky self, maybe I would have gotten a rose. But I really think that everything happens for a reason, and the opportunity (allowed me) to meet the Rosé Girls and check the box on the whole reality show thing.

Q: Do you think that you and Arie would have had a connection if you had stayed?

A: Watching the season unfold, I am just happy I got out when I did. You’re in this environment when your only focus is this one man. Your goal is to make him happy. It’s a game. But now, looking back, I’m not sure if we would have even really connected. Going into it, the reason why I knew it was a sign was because my dad had met Arie before. (Arie) is a very simple man and I kind of like someone with a little more spunk. I normally go for the bad boys.

Q: Why do you think he sent you home?

A: Maybe it was too much too soon. Maybe he thought, ‘This is someone who is still daddy’s little girl and is still sad over the loss of her father.’ I am the person I am today because of my father and I do talk about him a lot. I just think that, when I first meet people, maybe that shouldn’t be the first conversation. I should just let them get to know me and then reveal it.

I was nervous for the first episode to air because I didn’t know how they were going to paint me. You are filmed the whole night long and it was the longest night of my life. I got there at around 8 or 9 p.m. and I didn’t leave until 8 or 9 the next morning. And then the girls who left, we all got on a bus, and then we got stuck in L.A. traffic. I just wanted to get out of there. But I was happy that (the producers) shared my whole story and got out the message about my dad. It can be pretty easy to paint people as crazy.

Q: How much producer intervention is there?

A: Maybe it’s just me because I’m always on camera – obviously you see guys running around the house carrying these huge cameras – but when you’re there, and you’re just talking to either the girls or Arie, you kind of forget that there are cameras.

It was freezing that night. It was so cute – Arie took off his jacket and put it around my shoulders. We started to talk just briefly and then the producers were like, ‘Cut! Hold up! Interference with the mic! He has to put the jacket back on.’ The producers are there. They can’t force you to say something or do something, so it really is all real.

Q: Does anything happen that we don’t know about on that first night?

A: They don’t pump you with alcohol. That is actually not true. I was holding a drink, but it was so cold that I was honestly drinking hot water and coffee because I didn’t want to feel asleep. But they monitor how many drinks you have. They don’t walk around and fill up your glasses.

Q: If you got approached to go on “Bachelor in Paradise,” would you?

A: I asked that a lot. I think it’s a checked box for me. I enjoy being part of Bachelor Nation and I’ve met other great contestants. I go to all the Bachelor Nation events now, so I definitely want to stay involved.

I think the only reason why I got sent home was probably because the Rosé Girls. This is the first time in Bachelor Nation that they’ve ever had girls who left the first night keep in touch, so I think that’s why they keep us around.

Q: What’s next for you in the dating world?

A: I tried the dating show, that failed miserably, so now I am on a dating app. Now that I am a single, I had never been on a dating app before, so I filmed this YouTube video creating my profile with this sex dating expert and she actually gave me some great tips. I haven’t gone on one date yet but I am open to it. Since I’ve been back from ‘The Bachelor,’ I haven’t really wanted to date.

Read the full interview on thepantheronline.com

Photos by BONNIE CASH

Photo Editor
Traffic hacks

- Use the Waze app
- Listen to podcasts or audio books
- Carpool

Making the best of the world’s worst traffic

Leslie Song | Assistant Features Editor

Although Monday is often the most dreaded day of the week, for Kristen Fernandez, that day is Friday. After a day of classes, Fernandez has to sit through an hour of standstill traffic just to get home.

“It’s exhausting, and I have to try not to fall asleep,” Fernandez said.

This year, Los Angeles was named the area with the worst traffic congestion for the sixth straight year. In 2017, drivers spent 102 hours in traffic during peak hours, according to INRIX, a company that specializes in transportation analytics. However, students who drive to and from LA for school or work learn to navigate around the effects of traffic congestion.

“I usually try to turn my music up loud and snack (on food) or chew gum. If I’m with my boyfriend, I’ll listen to podcasts,” Fernandez said.

Fernandez, a junior strategic and corporate communications major and a spring transfer student, commutes from Torrance to Orange every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for class. However, for two of those days, Fernandez drives with her boyfriend, which allows her to use the carpool lane and expedite her travel time.

Even in the carpool lane, Fernandez expects to sit in traffic for at least 40 minutes on the drive home from Chapman, and 45-50 minutes when she is alone. On the way to school, Fernandez tries to leave herself an hour and a half to arrive and find parking, she said.

The opportunity for connections and community has reassured Fernandez’s decision to attend Chapman, despite the long drive, she said.

Jade Boren, a senior English major, also makes sacrifices to drive to her dream internship, TooFab.com, a sister site to TMZ, which is located near Marina Del Rey in L.A.

“I was terrified to drive (in L.A.) but I really wanted this internship,” Boren said. “The danger of the longer commute is that it makes you go on your phone more because (cars are) not moving. I’ve been seeing more fender benders because (people are on) their phones.”

Boren, a Hawaii native, was not used to the heavy L.A. traffic. After a traumatizing merging experience driving on the 1-5 freeway for the first time with a friend, Boren swore off driving on expressways and decided to take side roads instead.

“I got tired (of doing that), so I threw myself on the 405 (Freeway) one morning and I’ve been doing that for three weeks,” Boren said.

Though everything she heard about L.A. traffic was mostly true, being in a block of halted cars wasn’t quite what she imagined, she said.

“The traffic is mostly boring. You sit there for 30 minutes and then your soul dies. I had an audio book and that helped. Or I’ll listen to Spotify,” Boren said.

To arrive at her internship on time, Boren wakes up at 4:20 a.m. and is on the road by 5 a.m., she said. “(Traffic) is a mixture of some people driving like maniacs really fast, and it’s scaring off people who aren’t confident and who go really slow and are braking a lot,” Boren said. “When people start driving too quick, it slows everyone down.”

With Los Angeles topping the charts for heaviest traffic six years in a row, students are finding ways to stay alert during rush hour commutes.

“Not so much crazy, it’s just crazy boring. You sit there for 30 minutes and then your soul dies,” said Maddy Kline, a marketing communications major and Chapman’s Queer Pride month in April. The host of the event will be finalized by spring break, Wilson said.

UPB drag show won’t go on, but performers will

Jade Michaels | Staff Writer

Nikki Reifler was bored with the monotony of her daily life when he stumbled upon an art form that would add a new flair to his world. Reifler adopted the name Palimpsest Quey, and his drag persona was born.

Student by day, aspiring performer by night, Reifler has created a brand for himself in the world of drag. But it’s not always easy to accommodate the demands of both lifestyles.

“I am always planning to (legitimately) perform, but being a film student at the same time does not allow much time to get out. I have so much homework prepared, but for now, I’m a digital entity in films and photo shoots,” said Reifler, a sophomore creative producing major.

For Chapman queens and supporters, a campus drag show is an opportunity to immerse themselves in that world. This is why, in 2012, the University Program Board put on an annual drag show that showcased drag kings and queens based out of Los Angeles to educate students about drag culture. The show was held in Angus Forum for five years, but it was canceled in 2017.

“The chair and exec board at the (2017) show decided not to do the event, because the 2016 drag show was not as successful as it had been in previous years,” said Maddy Chang, cross-cultural and advertising major Max Chang, are disappointed that the tradition was given up on instead of improved.

“It was my favorite show that UPB hosts of the year,” Chang said. “Drag is important to me because it has created a network of friends that are validating and supportive of each other through their mutual love of the show.”

However, the University Program Board plans to work with some student organizations to collaborate on a drag show this semester in the Cross-Cultural Center to kick off Chapman’s Queer Pride month in April. The host of the event will be finalized by spring break, Wilson said.

“The UPB drag show ran for five years before its cancellation in 2017.”

The UPB drag show ran for five years before its cancellation in 2017.
"Black Panther" is perfect fit for Black History Month

Olivia Harden | Assistant News Editor

"Black Panther" lived up to its hype of possibly being the best movie of the year. Directed by Marvel’s first African-American director, Ryan Coogler, the film nabbed $75.8 million dollars domestically on its opening day, according to CNN. “Black Panther” goes beyond its genre as a superhero movie to create role models for children. It’s a movie you can’t help but take your kid to see. And scheduling the release of the movie during Black History Month has given Black people everywhere something to get excited about. The almost entirely Black cast challenged the lack of diversity in Hollywood that has previously led to hashtags like #OscarsSoWhite.
The plot begins with the rest of the world thinking Wakanda is a “third-world” country in Africa, but Wakanda is actually an afro-futuristic society in possession of the strongest metal in the world, Vibranium. After the death of the last king, the new heir prince T’Challa (Chadwick Boseman) is challenged by Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) for his place as King of Wakanda. As the Black Panther, Boseman promotes peace, philanthropy and love as T’Challa decides whether to use Wakanda’s resources to help the world. He is the kind of superhero that little Black boys need.
The other all-stars in the cast – like Angela Bassett, who plays the queen and T’Challa’s mother, and Lupita Nyong’o, who plays Wakandan princess Nakia – carry the movie brilliantly. Even though this is a Marvel movie, the choices made by both the cast and crew deliver commentary on culture by giving power to black characters and female crew members. Costume designer Ruth E. Carter, who also worked on movies like “Malcolm X” and “Selma,” is a giant in her field. The costumes were based on actual dress wear from real African tribes.
The triangles on the Black Panther suit represent “the sacred geometry of Africa,” according to Carter. The brightly colored costumes make Wakanda look like a place of happiness and joy. The setting is beautiful with lush green trees and vivid sunsets. Not only is the beauty of the movie visually entertaining, but it is also great exposure to African culture.
While the plot focuses on the struggle between the men, this movie gives power to the women of the society. T’Challa’s tribe has all-female soldiers who are strong and smart woman who fight with Vibranium spears. The image of a strong female warrior has a lot of impact for little girls. But the actress who stole the show is Letitia Wright, who plays Shuri, T’Challa’s sister and the technical engineer of Wakanda.
A young Black girl interested in the STEM field who has great sarcastic one-liners is a powerful role model for children.
If you’re interested in the typical fast-paced superhero movie, you’ll enjoy Black Panther, but the underlying messages about how much power Black people can yield will speak to viewers everywhere. The call message of unity and love, as well as the importance of representation, will allow even those movies like these absolutely necessary.

Jacob Hutchinson | Sports Editor

Lonzo Ball’s debut mixtape, “Born 2 Ball,” was released Feb. 15.

Not born 2 rap

Lonzo Ball’s debut mixtape, “Born 2 Ball,” was released Feb. 15. In Los Angeles Lakers point guard Lonzo Ball’s first mixtape, “Born 2 Ball,” he raps, “I am a man of many talents.” Rapping is not one of those talents.
The mixtape, which dropped Feb. 15, is exactly as corny as the title suggests. As a project, it’s similar to his jump shot: awkward, defective and occasionally successful. It’s unconvincingly long at 17 tracks and while the run time is only 53 minutes, it feels like a marathon to listen to.
Like everything attached to the Big Baller Brand, it lacks substance. But if the goal of the mixtape is to have people listen to it, then it’s probably successful solely because of the Ball family hype machine.
The first song, “Grind Mode,” is tolerable, despite being lyrically abnormal, thanks to its captivating, bass-heavy beat. It stands in stark contrast to the video and accompanying song “Zo2,” which are masturbatory and self-congratulating in the same way his father LaVar is whenever he opens his mouth.
“Zo2,” the third song on the mixtape, is a glorified advertisement for Ball’s signature shoe, the Zo2, which costs $495 and resides on a website with syntax errors and peculiarities that suggest it was designed by LaVar Ball himself. In most cases, the title of each song makes it far too easy to guess what the content will be. It’s like a middle schooler’s first attempt at poetry. If the title is “I like candy,” it’s not too difficult to guess what the poem is about.
Once the novelty of the first few songs wears off, the reality of the mixtape quickly sets in, and it’s atrocious.
The mixtape is agonizingly repetitive and lacks creativity. Songs like “Get Off“ sound like they used a free SoundCloud beat. Nearly every song starts with a semi-catchy intro before Ball raps a verse entirely of triplets. It feels like he listened to Future for the first time and thought, “Hey, I can do that.”
It doesn’t help that Ball features his friend Kenneth Paige—who has a whispery, Chris Brown wannabe voice—six times on the mixtape. It’s not clever or audibly pleasing. The mixtape is dominated by Ball’s obsession with a few key subjects: diamonds (or ice), money, women and of course, Big Baller Brand.
By my count, diamonds or ice are referenced 44 times, women (not including his mother) 84 times, Big Baller Brand at least 96 and money 176.
To be fair to Ball, he does rap about his work ethic and family, but when the overwhelming majority of the mixtape is about other superficial topics—rapped in the exact same rhyme scheme—it’s not redeeming. Songs like "Gotta Get It" are so repetitive they might as well be elevator music. Meanwhile, lines like “Pass me the ball and I’ll shoot it in ‘Zo2” are comically bad. You almost expect Ball to describe how he game of basketball is played in the following lines.
My favorite song on the album is “LaVr,” the one song in which Ball doesn’t rap about himself. It’s mostly introspective and honest, except when he randomly drops the line, “Zo2, buy the shoe, and the sandals,” as if he can’t shake the urge to ruin an honest song with some product placement.
Unfortunately, in “LaVr,” he also raps, “I don’t always do right, sometimes I turn left.” It’s a line that would be clever only if it was rapped by a preschool student who just learned that left and right are opposites.
It’s worth remembering that Ball is only 19 and this is his first mixtape. The lines, “I’ll call him hate, that’s my pops though… Yellin’ he the devil, but yet you the one who sold your soul,” in “LaVr” demonstrate a self-awareness that will probably be sorely missed if Ball decides to seriously pursue rapping.
Ball’s low-pitched voice and decent technical ability to rap suggest that he’s capable of more than this project.
Unfortunately, the cardinal sin of this mixtape is that it’s boring. It’s not something you expect to be substantive, just like you don’t expect Migos to rap about complex social issues. But Migos is entertaining. It’s fun to listen to. This part-rap, part-product placement monstrosity, is not.

Research

IMDb.com

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Lonzo Ball's debut mixtape, "Born 2 Ball," was released Feb. 15.

‘Black Panther’ is perfect fit for Black History Month

Olivia Harden | Assistant News Editor

“Black Panther” lived up to its hype of possibly being the best movie of the year.

Directed by Marvel’s first African-American director, Ryan Coogler, the film nabbed $75.8 million dollars domestically on its opening day, according to CNN. “Black Panther” goes beyond its genre as a superhero movie to create role models for children. It’s a movie you can’t help but take your kid to see. And scheduling the release of the movie during Black History Month has given Black people everywhere something to get excited about. The almost entirely Black cast challenged the lack of diversity in Hollywood that has previously led to hashtags like #OscarsSoWhite.
The plot begins with the rest of the world thinking Wakanda is a “third-world” country in Africa, but Wakanda is actually an afro-futuristic society in possession of the strongest metal in the world, Vibranium. After the death of the last king, the new heir prince T’Challa (Chadwick Boseman) is challenged by Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) for his place as King of Wakanda. As the Black Panther, Boseman promotes peace, philanthropy and love as T’Challa decides whether to use Wakanda’s resources to help the world. He is the kind of superhero that little Black boys need.
The other all-stars in the cast – like Angela Bassett, who plays the queen and T’Challa’s mother, and Lupita Nyong’o, who plays Wakandan princess Nakia – carry the movie brilliantly. Even though this is a Marvel movie, the choices made by both the cast and crew deliver commentary on culture by giving power to black characters and female crew members. Costume designer Ruth E. Carter, who also worked on movies like “Malcolm X” and “Selma,” is a giant in her field. The costumes were based on actual dress wear from real African tribes.
The triangles on the Black Panther suit represent “the sacred geometry of Africa,” according to Carter. The brightly colored costumes make Wakanda look like a place of happiness and joy. The setting is beautiful with lush green trees and vivid sunsets. Not only is the beauty of the movie visually entertaining, but it is also great exposure to African culture.
While the plot focuses on the struggle between the men, this movie gives power to the women of the society. T’Challa’s tribe has all-female soldiers who are strong and smart woman who fight with Vibranium spears. The image of a strong female warrior has a lot of impact for little girls. But the actress who stole the show is Letitia Wright, who plays Shuri, T’Challa’s sister and the technical engineer of Wakanda.
A young Black girl interested in the STEM field who has great sarcastic one-liners is a powerful role model for children.
If you’re interested in the typical fast-paced superhero movie, you’ll enjoy Black Panther, but the underlying messages about how much power Black people can yield will speak to viewers everywhere. The call message of unity and love, as well as the importance of representation, will allow even those movies like these absolutely necessary.
A plea for peace after Parkland

I grew up in the era of mass shootings. Wednesday afternoon in class on Feb. 14, I looked up and saw the person in front of me checking Facebook. He pulled up an article that said “Florida school shooting” and I barely blinked. I looked back at my notes and continued writing.

We are the ones who were taught to turn off the lights in our classroom, lock the door and hide behind desks if there was a shooter on campus. We were the ones who attended all-school assemblies that explained protocol if an active shooter approached – walk, don’t run, in an orderly line led by your teacher. I remember a teacher saying that, if someone ever attacked us, we all had to take off our shoes and throw them at the shooter.

Our grandparents were shown black and white footage instructing them how to “duck and cover” from nuclear bombs. Bert the Turtle showed them how to hide under their flimsy wooden desks. Their parents probably bought a survival kit in case they ever had to hide out in a bunker.

The modern-day version is much more real and likely. Mass shootings, defined as four or more people shot in the same general time and place, happen so often many of us are numb to the violence. So far this year there have already been 7,045 gun-related deaths and injuries and 31 mass shootings, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

I thought about what it would be like to and to lose someone I love from gun violence. In December, my sister’s high school received a tip about a possible shooting that would happen the next day at school. She called me to ask if she should stay home. After her math test we decided to go to her morning class because “the shooter would probably come in the day anyway.”

This is the way we think. We have grown up with senseless violence and have become accustomed to the all-day news coverage of talking heads blaming mental health, underpreparedness or bad parenting. In a few weeks, the tweets from politicians asking for “thoughts and prayers” for the victims and their families will slow and come to a halt. We will all forget about it – until the next one.

Once in a while, a Democrat or two will plead for a gun control law to be passed, and maybe C-SPAN will cover an ineffectively filibuster with a politician pouting on a podium asking for change. But that usually dissipates and with it goes any chance of improvement in the state of our country. For those who support the NRA or politicians who are funded by the NRA, for those who believe that more guns in the hands of “good guys” will solve this crisis, please picture this.

A classroom is full of terrorized teens on the floor. Some are crying next to a wounded or dead classmate. Others are pale and quiet in shock. Phones ring unanswered beside bodies of innocent people who don’t want your thoughts and prayers.

It’s time to listen to young voices

Seventeen people were murdered on Feb. 14 when a shooter opened fire on his former high school. It happened on the other side of the country, but it’s far from the first mass shooting of this academic year, and it hits close to home for those affected by the Las Vegas shooting that injured 500 people, including one Chapman student, who was shot in the face in October.

With every mass shooting, a similar process of grieving and questioning politics takes place. Politicians offer their thoughts and prayers, and liberals call for reform and gun restrictions. And then the public moves on to the next topic after about a week of debate. It’s not news that some lawmakers turn a blind eye to these shootings; it’s news that a new generation is finding a voice and taking a stand. This time, something is different: the kids.

Survivors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where the shooting took place, are begging for change. In the past week, students have tweeted, written articles and addressed President Donald Trump on television.

These students are calling for policy change and holding their politicians accountable in a way that most adults never have. Carly Novell, a 17-year-old survivor of the shooting, tweeted, “It was about guns. You weren’t there, you don’t know how it felt. Guns give these disgusting people the ability to kill other human beings.”

“Our generation won’t stand for this,” wrote Cameron Kasky, a 17-year-old junior who also survived the Feb. 14 shooting, in a CNN article Friday.

Kasky blamed both Democrats and Republicans for their lack of action and argued that we need to vote out the politicians who are “in the back pockets of the National Rifle Association.”

“Please do it for me. Do it for my fellow classmates. We can’t vote, but you can, so make it count,” Kasky wrote.
After Parkland shooting, provide Public Safety with training and guns

Jack Eckert, junior screenwriting major

The logical action after the Valentine’s Day slaughter in Parkland, Florida, would be sweeping gun control, such as the assault weapon ban, as is currently in place in New York, which effectively enforces back-breaking rounds and large-capacity magazines. But an even greater step would be to provide Public Safety with funding and extra hours to train a select number of personnel to arrive on scene. Having trained and armed officers on campus ensures maximum safety. However, your best hope is to shelter in place and wait for police to act quickly. If you haven’t already, take time to ask your parents to take a step back and let you solve it. Along the way, we also gain insight into how we can improve our services for all students.

Daniel Espiritu, sophomore political science major

The rally’s sheer size was enough to shock the Chapman faculty and staff. The rally seems to have almost disappeared since then. I must admit, the Muslim ban: one year later

Just over a year has passed since the Donald Trump administration issued the executive order that is commonly known as the Muslim ban, which effectively tried to stop all immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries. People all across the country, from taxi drivers to college students, protested against this executive order to support the Islamic community. One of these uprisings occurred on Chapman’s campus, where more than 400 students participated in the rally against xenophobia. Chapman students stood together and held signs; some expressed anger against Trump and other shared messages of love. The rally’s sheer size was enough to shock the campus. Hundreds of students took the time to attend.

I tend to a student-organized rally in reaction to a discriminatory executive order that had been issued a mere five days prior. For many, including myself, the rally indicated that Chapman students would take personal responsibility in the fight for social injustice. Yet, the vigor and energy that fueled the rally seems to have almost disappeared since then. It’s not like this country hasn’t had a reason to protest. Whether it was the Federal Communications Commission’s repeal of net neutrality that threatens our freedom of speech, the shrinking of monuments in Utah where indigenous communities will suffer a loss of their histories, or Trump’s failure to provide support after the hurricane in Puerto Rico, there have been several occasions to take action. The humanity of marginalized communities has eroded, the security of our environment has been damaged, and the strength of our individual rights and civil liberties has weakened. So what explains the lack of interest? It’s fair to say that balancing being a college student while working one or more jobs can make it difficult to be as involved in the fight for justice. But it’s better to complement your education than by applying what you learn in the classroom to the real world. As students, we should challenge our perceptions of the world, expand our understanding and question the things we take for granted. Is this the same idea behind activism and social justice?

Jerry Price, dean of students

Most parents call for excellent reasons; they ask your parents to take a step back and let you solve your own problem. Chapman faculty and staff want to see you succeed, and if there is something standing in your way, we want to understand what that is and help you resolve it. Along the way, we also gain insight into how we can improve our services for all students. Reason 4: The belief that we will take your problem more seriously if your parent calls is a myth. You and your education matter to us. If you feel that there is a problem, we need no further corroboration from your parent or anyone else. In fact, we take the problem more seriously when you call yourself, because it is only when we hear from you directly that we can determine the extent of the problem.

The lead to Reason 3: It is much faster and more effective to hear directly from you.

Trying to solve problems with secondhand information is simply inefficient. Information often gets lost in the translation from parent to parent, and we might have questions that your parent cannot answer. In the end, we ultimately must contact you directly anyway, so it makes more sense if we just start there.

Reason 2: You learn important skills by addressing and resolving these dilemmas yourself. I am not being cheesy here – contacting us when you have a concern can really help you develop important lifelong skills. Learning to identify, articulate and ultimately solve a problem is an excellent way to develop critical thinking skills. Each time you successfully resolve a problem, you gain greater confidence that you can tackle the next one. Even if your Chapman problem is on a smaller scale, the skills you use to solve it are the same ones you will need to face big challenges in your personal and professional life. A second skill is less obvious but no less important – learning how to objectively assess your situation and then maturely assert your needs is an invaluable skill that will serve you well with employers, colleagues, friends and family. And the No. 1 Reason: It’s your education.

I regularly ask that, for many (but certainly not all) of you, your parents provide substantial financial support for your degree. That certainly is a significant factor, but it does not change the fact that it will be your name on the diploma. As a result, you need to take full ownership of your Chapman experience. You should decide which problems are your problem. You should decide when to enlist help from others and when you want to handle it on your own.

Most importantly, you should be the one to articulate the resolution you feel is most appropriate. Faculty and staff at Chapman find it rewarding to help a student resolve a problem, but let’s make sure it’s the best resolution. The only way for us to know that for certain is for you to talk with us directly.
Snubbed for first by a coin toss

Television scheduling can be a tricky undertaking these days, especially in Division III. That’s why basketball coaches don’t like deciding tiebreakers with a literal coin flip. The thing is, some coin tosses don’t mean much. The opening coin toss in an NESCAC game just means who gets to call the coin flip with the ball or which end a team starts at. But a coin toss to decide who gets the No. 1 seed in the playoffs? That’s a different story.

Basketball is a game where home court advantage means everything. In Chapman and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps’ (CMS) two games this season, both home teams won. Allowing a coin to provide a considerable advantage in the championship game is to say, “We can’t think of a better way to do this, so let’s just flip a coin.”

The Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCACP) does have two tiebreakers before resorting to a coin toss. It first looks at head-to-head matchups before looking at results against other teams in order of record. But when two teams, like Chapman and CMS, have identical conference records, there is no third tiebreaker.

“I think they need to do a different way, like pairwise differential or something,” said women’s basketball head coach Carol Jue. The conference could take points scored, points allowed or point differential into account. The logic behind not using points scored or allowed as a tiebreaker is that it rewards running up the score and doesn’t really mean anything in terms of which team is more deserving of winning the conference. In theory, it rewards style of play rather than quality of play.

But Jue has a point. Considering point differential is a more logical tiebreaker than a coin toss. Sure, it rewards scoring, but it rewards defense too. It’s not ideal, but it’s undeniably blowing your own team out, that should count for something.

Had point differential been used as the third tiebreaker, Chapman would have been the No. 1 seed, scoring 252 points more than it allowed, compared to CMS’s 181.

Just imagine you work nearly every single day in practice. Running, sweating, maybe even vomiting from exertion.

You win every single conference game. You’ve got the 18th longest winning streak in Division III basketball. And then you lose for the first time in nearly two months.

You feel like you’re the better team. You know you’re the better team. But now it’s out of your hands, and into those of conference executive director Jennifer Dubow, who flips the coin.

She goes to a private location with Jue and CMS head coach Kristen Drye to flip the coin. The coaches return, and suddenly, you’re the No. 2 seed. If Dubow had thrown the coin just a little bit higher, maybe you’d be the No. 1 seed. Now, that hope is gone.

In front of the first game of the tournament, you’re coming right back to CMS’s Roberts Pavilion in two weeks.

“I became a better person playing with a coach that was a little more conservative and then in the last quarter, we had like 14 stops in a row,” Jue said. “I said, ‘Well, we played like that in the first three quarters, the game would have absolutely been different.’”

Chapman will host the University of La Verne at home Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in the first round of the conference playoffs.
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Rough, tough and territorial

Head coach
Carol Jue leads with compassion and an attitude

Jacob Hutchinson | Sports Editor

As Carol Jue steps off the court after her team’s 148 straight win, she’s flooded with attention. The head coach of the women’s basketball team, unmissable in her six-inch black stilettos and hot pink dress, suddenly becomes an elusive celebrity. Players, coaches, family, children and a reporter all vie for her attention.

After more than two hours of yelling and praising her team to a 27-point win, Jue makes time for everyone. It’s this patience and care for others that, 15 years and 300-plus wins into Jue’s Chapman tenure, have endeared her to so many people.

“Half the people in the stands are there for her,” said Jennifer Lieu, one of Jue’s assistant coaches. Jue was born in Hong Kong, China, but her parents immigrated to California when she was 3 months old. She grew up in East Los Angeles, where she said the atmosphere forced her to be defensive.

“You better be able to hold your own,” Jue said. “I was rough, I was tough. I had to learn how to be very territorial.”

To this day, Jue plays on a legendary club basketball team, Impertials Purple, which dominated Japanese-American basketball leagues in the 1970s and 80s.

As a player, Jue has a reputation for being physical – using all her fouls, drawing charges and setting blocks like a boss.

Players say that intensity is Jue’s defining characteristic as a coach. Her teams press fervently on defense, take charges and pass the ball unsafely.

Jue, who was the first Chinese-American basketball coach in NCAA history, has a tough love coaching style.

Senior forward Irma Munoz said that Jue has always been her harshest critic – something she needed as a 12-year-old athlete.

“You better be able to hold your own,” Jue said. “I might miss the yelling just a little bit.”

Jue has an open-door policy – players can approach her with any issues they have – basketball-related or personal. Jue has coached players during difficult times, advised players on job searches, and even drove Munoz to a dentist appointment.

On game day, it’s much easier to hear it, but she’s there and she tells it like it is. Munoz said. "She’s very compassionate, giving, definitely the mother figure," said Terry Boesel, Chapman’s athletic director. "She’s a hard worker, she’s prepared. She cares about (her players)."

Lieu – who teaches a self-defense class with Jue – has known Jue since Lies was 13.

When Lieu – an eight-time national champion swimmer at the University of California, San Diego – was inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame in October 2016, Jue helped organize a group of 50 people to travel to San Diego and support her.

"(She’s) very compassionate, giving, definitely the mother figure," Lieu said. "She’s very willing to take care of everyone."

Off the court, Jue speaks with hints of sarcasm and an evident tranquility. She has a wisdom about the nature of people and the world, offhandedly recounting endless vignettes with a sense of nuance and self-awareness.

But when she needs to, Jue transforms without notice.

“Can you guys turn that (music) down?” she yells while smiling to her players, warming up before a practice. “I’m being interviewed.”

On game day, it’s much easier to hear Jue, whether it’s her voice or the sound of her heels clicking across the court.

“I think she purposely wears heels so she can be really loud and stomp,” said junior guard Jaryn Fajardo.

But the heels and stunning outfits aren’t a gimmick. They’re a representation of Jue’s experiences and her ability to command respect.

“We come from a poor family,” Jue, one of four children, said. “My mom and dad worked seven days a week. I never take anything for granted.”

Off the court, Jue wears sweats and a T-shirt and running shoes, and I don’t really think I’ve seen her repeat an outfit,” Hum-Nishikado said. She quickly nipped that move in the bud.

“Half the people in the stands are there for her.”

Assistant coach
Jennifer Lieu

Panther Archives

Head coach Carol Jue kneels down to speak to her players during a timeout in Chapman’s 97-69 win over Occidental College Feb. 14.

Panther Archives

**Assistant coach Jennifer Lieu**

"I've been here for four years now and I don't really think I've seen her repeat an outfit," Hum-Nishikado said. "I love that she can just be in sweats and a T-shirt and running shoes, and then just come out in her heels looking great. It definitely pumps us up!"

When Jue’s not at Chapman, she often coaches her sons, Ryley, 15 – who she named after Pat Riley – and Carson, 12. She used to coach her husband, Kevin, who "used to love to finger roll like James Worthy," Jue said. She quickly nipped that move in the bud.

“She coaches everyone the same,” Fajardo said. “Same terminology, so it’s funny for me to watch as a spectator.”

Somewhere in between coaching and playing, she finds time at home – but not too much. She said she went stir-crazy in her third season, after Ryley was born.

“In Chinese tradition, you’re supposed to stay in the house for 30 days and I told my mom I couldn’t go out 30 days,” Jue said. “With (Carson), I planned it around basketball.”

It’s impossible to say when Jue will stop coaching, if ever.

Considering her father, Wayne, still plays basketball at age 76, it may be a while.