Chapman vs. community

Tensions escalate as Chapman supports proposed charter school

News, Page 3

Presidential and vice presidential candidates discussed campaign platforms – from diversity to mental health reforms – at the debate March 8.

Student government debate heats up

News, Page 2

Gun violence walkout
Chapman will join schools nationwide on March 14 at 10 a.m. for a walkout to protest gun violence after the Parkland school shooting.

News, Page 4

Take Back the Night
Student spoke out against sexual assault by sharing stories, reading poems, performing songs and participating in a candlelight walk.

Features, Page 9

Election endorsement
In our weekly editorial, The Panther endorsed Mitchell Rosenberg and Arianna Ngomfire for president and vice president of student government.

Opinions, Page 12

Freshman diver
Simran Rajani has never enjoyed diving, but she has participated in the sport for seven years because she knows she can’t leave it behind.

Sports, Page 14
SGA candidates debate gun violence, ‘elitism’

Jamie Altman | Editor-in-Chief

Vice presidential candidate Arianna Ngnomire accused student government president Mitchell Rosenberg of using a gun safety presentation to his campaign's advantage during the student government debate March 8.

While Ngnomire said that she appreciated the email that Rosenberg, who is running for re-election, sent March 5 that notified students of an active shooter situation presentation, she wishes student government would talk about resources when it’s not “convenient during campaign season.” “I have no control over when tragedies happen in our country,” Rosenberg responded, adding that it was “insulting” to insinuate that he would turn a tragedy into a campaign strategy.

“Gun violence has been an issue ever since I stepped on this campus and before,” said Ngnomire, a junior screen acting major. “You chose to do this this week during campaigning just to get your name out there. I haven’t received any email like that prior to that. I think your response isn’t honest.”

While candidates don’t run on an official ticket — students can vote for presidential and vice presidential candidates separately — Rosenberg is running unofficially with Speaker of Senate Alex Ballard, and presidential candidate Jackie Palacios, a student organizations senator and diversity affairs chair, is running alongside Ngnomire. All four spoke at the debate, which was moderated by The Panther.

Palacios’ campaign, which uses the slogan “For the People,” is centered around a lack of diversity on campus. When she first arrived at Chapman, Palacios said, she struggled to find a community that gave her a sense of belonging. At the debate, Ngnomire, who is president of the Black Student Union, suggested increasing resources for minority groups on campus. “(The Cross-Cultural Center) is not supported very well on this campus,” Ngnomire said. “Students aren’t supported well. There have been some budget changes within the past semester, and that’s something I think (student government) should at least have some opinion on.”

Rosenberg and Ballard both highlighted the “wildly transformational” year that student government has seen, including vast mental health reforms, a popular fall election and the organization’s larger on-campus presence. But Palacios and Ngnomire were concerned that student government gives the impression that it is above students. Palacios said that giving senators business cards has created a hierarchy, and that the purchase of the cards wasn’t a productive use of student fees.

Ngnomire, who is the only candidate of the four who has never served on student government, said that her outside perspective is necessary. “It is for the students. You have to be involved outside of student government in order to know what the students want,” she said. “I’m a little bit speechless because it does make it seem like (student government) is elitist. It’s higher than the students that we serve, and that doesn’t make any sense.”

To Rosenberg, the business cards were only a tactic to add to the organization’s professionalism and accessibility, he said in response to Ngnomire. His year as president already under his belt makes him more qualified to assume the position again, he added. “I have experience getting things done,” he said. “I’ve seen (student government) work at every level. I’ve seen what doesn’t work and where we’ve failed, and where we’ve done great. I want to have that second term so I can continue to fulfill those promises.”

In that second term, Rosenberg hopes to make Chapman more student-centered, as he said the university is too business-focused. Ballard added that it’s an “unsaid truth” that Chapman’s film and business students have more opportunities and resources. “I think that students today feel very left behind,” Rosenberg said. “Chapman is in that situation that their students 10 years from now, and not focusing on their students today.”

Voting will take place March 12-14 on chapmanvotes.com.

Get to know the student government candidates

Mitchell Rosenberg

Campaign platform

Student services, institutional academic resources and health, wellness and recreation

Rosenberg led the student government-sponsored movement to improve Chapman Student Psychological Counseling Services. He and Ballard hope to use this success as a blueprint to improve student services and address specific issues, like doubling the size of the fitness center on campus.

“Experience is key. I’m in my sixth semester in student government. I’ve been in every level; I was a senator, I was speaker, I’m president. I’ve seen the inner workings (of student government). I’ve seen what works and I’ve seen what doesn’t work. I think that innate experience from all the different levels I’ve been in will definitely help.”

- Mitchell Rosenberg

Alex Ballard

Campaign platform

Student services, institutional academic resources and health, wellness and recreation

“I intend to further my efforts to connect with students from all different parts of campus. I am committed to reaching out to all different types of student organizations and college administrations to establish strong partnerships and present myself as a resource for all students.”

- Alex Ballard

Jackie Palacios

Campaign platform

Campus safety, sustainability, health, fostering the arts and diversity

Palacios and Ngnomire hope to provide free testing for sexually transmitted diseases at the health center every semester. The candidates would like to host diversity panels at each college. They also want to establish contacts with previous alumni who were advocates for diversity while at Chapman. Accessibility is another key part of the campaign, by making recap videos for students of all senate meetings.

“I want to be a person that is on the ground and get to know student organization meetings as possible. Delegating a committee to follow me with this would be a must. (And) also of course, going to their events. Basically, my job will be to be there for the student organizations when they need us.”

- Arianna Ngnomire

Arianna Ngnomire

Campaign platform

“Student government has taken the emphasis off of the students and placed it more on the university’s administration … I want to focus on making student government more student connected. I am already a familiar face for students and I want to continue to be that familiar face, as president.”

- Jackie Palacios
Proposed charter school causes local conflict

Rebecca Glasier | Managing Editor

Chapman’s involvement in a proposed charter school in Orange has upset some community members. The school could enroll up to 772 students at one of three potential locations, all within less than four miles of Chapman, according to the school’s charter petition.

The K-8 charter school, called Tomorrow’s Leadership Collaborative, aims to educate students with and without disabilities together, instead of dividing them into separate classrooms or schools.

“We once get approved, you just watch – everyone’s going to want to play with us. It’s so the way all schools should be,” said Don Cardinal, an Attallah College of Educational Studies professor in the Thompson Policy Institute, which is a disability research center.

But some are concerned about negative effects to the Orange Unified School District (OUSD). If the project is approved and students attend the charter school instead of other local schools, the district could lose funding that it receives every day for children’s attendance, said Tim Surridge, who serves on the district’s Board of Education.

“This could force the district to cut art and music programs in Orange, Villa Park and Anaheim Hills, Surridge said. Adam Duberstein, founder of community group Respect Orange, said the project is a “detriment” to the Orange community.

“It’s pretty disheartening to find out what programs may have to be cut to pay for something like this,” Duberstein said. “The community was never brought in to give their opinions. The applicants, including Chapman, did not communicate with the surrounding community at all.”

Chapman’s role in the project is to provide research, education and training through the Attallah College. Cardinal said, but he emphasized that the charter school would continue with or without Chapman’s support.

The charter’s proposed six-member board of directors includes a Chapman professor and a California State University, Northridge professor who received her Ph.D. from Chapman, according to the charter’s petition.

In October, the dean of Chapman’s Attallah College of Educational Studies wrote a letter to the district in support of the charter that was included in the petition.

After the district denied the school’s proposal in January, the charter appealed the decision to the Orange County Department of Education, which will either deny or approve the school on the county level March 14.

“I just wanted to hug Respect Orange,” Cardinal said. “Everything’s not so negative. This is a good thing.

The charter school, which Cardinal described as a “positive, cutting edge model,” would put Orange County on the map, he said. The school’s structure means that if parents have one child with a disability and one child without a disability, they won’t have to send them to different schools. About 15 percent of students attending the school would have a disability, Cardinal said.

Cardinal dismissed the concern that the school would bring more traffic to the community, as students would simply attend the charter school or another school in Orange, he said.

“I can’t think of anything about this that an Orange resident would be upset about,” he said. “If something like this happened in Orange County and Chapman wasn’t part of it, I would be embarrassed.”

Jessica Tunney, the would-be executive director of the school, said that families don’t want their children separated to learn.

“I know that it’s important to families of kids with disabilities in particular, to make sure that their child is not treated as less than, as ‘othered,’ as removed,” she said. “What I end up focusing on is that I know this school has a need, and I know the model is effective and beautiful because I have taught it.”

But Surridge said that the approval of the charter school could harm the district’s existing programs. This is because, under state law, California schools are partially funded by average daily attendance, or ADA. For every day that a child attends school, the district receives about $47 per child, said Kathleen Frankis, OUSD’s attendance accounting supervisor.

So if 772 children were pulled out of the district to attend the charter school in Orange, the district would lose ADA funding from those children, Surridge said.

“OUSD is far bigger than just Orange, and so the implication of this – I’m going, ‘Are you really going to partner with something that would so readily harm other students?’” Surridge said. “That’s where I’m critical.”

But Cardinal disagrees, saying that threats of program cuts are made to elicit sympathy.

Orange Unified’s enrollment is declining regardless of the charter school, he said. Enrollment has dropped by about 2,300 from 2011-12 to 2017-18, according to a fact sheet.

Surridge provided to The Panther. As a result, a projected enrollment graph for the next four years shows that the district could stand to lose $56 million from an overall loss of attendance.

“The way a school district deals with declining enrollment is their business,” Cardinal said. “If a person leaves one school and goes to another school, they lose that money. But (then), they have fewer kids to educate. If they said they were going to lose other programs, I don’t know what to say. That has nothing to do with the charter school.”

One reason the district denied the charter school was because its budgeting didn’t match its proposed programs, Surridge said. However, both Cardinal and Tunney said that the charter school’s structure is based on the CHIME Institute, which Tunney said she was a teacher, and WISH Charter Elementary, two successful inclusive charter schools in Los Angeles.

Another issue with the charter is the diversity of its staff. Surridge said, as the area that the charter school would serve, spanning from Anaheim Hills to Villa Park to Orange, is about 40 percent Hispanic on average, according to the most recent U.S. Census.

“Everybody involved in the proposed school is white, basically,” Surridge said. “This is a demographic that’s Hispanic. And if you have no background working with that student population … But the hard thing to beat is the Chapman brand.”

But Cardinal said it’s unfair to criticize the charter’s staff choices when it hasn’t yet begun the hiring process.

“If Orange Unified made that comment to me, I’d say, ‘What’s up with the demographics of your teachers and your students? Are you fully diverse?’” Cardinal said. “And they’re not. It’s a problem in the whole state of California.”

The Orange County Department of Education will vote to approve the charter school on the county level in Costa Mesa March 14.

Jamie Altman contributed to this report.
Student enrollment causes concern for some

Lexi Freund | Staff Writer

Chapman has faced some criticism from students and community group Respect Orange after an article spread rumors of a plan to increase its student population by 1,800 in the next decade — though Mike Pelly, Chapman’s vice chancellor for enrollment management, denied the rumors.

He confirmed that Chapman has a system in place to help it control how many students it admits. Last spring, however, the number of students who enrolled did not match Chapman’s prediction, which led to this school year’s largest freshman class, with 1,696 students.

“We should see that, on average, 20 to 25 percent of admitted students enroll,” Pelly said. “If (the admissions team) accepted 7,000 students and (our prediction) is off by 1 percent, an additional 70 (will consequently be admitted). Last May, we were off by 1.2 percent.”

Respect Orange believes that the location of Chapman’s campus has produced extra noise, as well as traffic and parking issues, according to its website, and that growth in student population would worsen these conflicts.

Some students feel that the possibility of a larger student body would be detrimental to their education.

“I’m nervous that academic advisors and professors will not have as much time to meet one-on-one as they do now,” said Zoey Pittler, a freshman integrated educational studies major. “I feel like they will not be able to have personal relationships or be as invested in their students.”

But the admissions office plans to enroll 1,650 freshmen for next year, and for each freshman class to grow about 2 percent each year after. Pelly confirmed that the admissions team has a strategic plan for a five-year model that shows little to no growth, and for each freshman class to grow 2 percent.

“We shouldn’t just watch it happen with-out getting involved,” said Alexis Sutterman, a junior political science major who is helping organize the event.

Students participating in the protest plan to walk out of class at 10 a.m. and meet on Memorial Lawn. The event will have speakers, but Sutterman would not confirm their identities at press time. Students will have the opportunity to sign a petition urging Congressman Lou Correa to support gun control legislation, Sutterman said.

She decided the petition should be directed toward Correa, because the residents who wish to maintain the historic district’s wellbeing. He and the members of the OTPA fear any potential increase in student enrollment.

“Residents have already voiced their concerns about increased enrollment, lack of adequate parking, need for more on-campus student housing, student conduct, infrastructure impact and other issues that have been around for decades,” Quinn said.

But not all residents are upset by the university’s growth. Kaye Gittleman is an Orange resident who has been living next to Chapman for about 30 years and, aside from some students’ occasional reckless driving, said that she enjoys the campus and its students.

“Most of the people in the community hate Chapman, but I’m not one of them,” Gittleman said. “(Chapman) is really a benefit to the neighborhood. I’m always there at events (they host for community involvement); without the students these opportunities wouldn’t be there (for me to enjoy).”

Starting in fall 2019, all underclassmen will be required to live on campus for two years, from the beginning of freshman year to the end of sophomore year. This, along with Chapman’s purchase of the Chapman Grand apartments in Anaheim, means that fewer Chapman students will rent houses next to local families in Orange.

“(Purchasing Chapman Grand) is the most important thing we’ve done recently,” Pelly said. “We are creating a better environment (for Chapman’s neighbors), and the students can still get the feeling of living off campus, but in the safety of a Chapman-managed facility.”

Jasmin San contributed to this report.

Graphic by EMMA STESSMAN Art Director

Students to walk out against gun violence

Hayley Nelson | Staff Writer

On March 14, one month after the Parkland, Florida shooting that killed 17 people, schools across the nation, including Chapman, will protest gun violence by staging a national school walkout at 10 a.m.

“I figured that Chapman should be a part of this movement. We shouldn’t just watch it happen without getting involved,” said Alisa Arata, a junior business administration major.

Sutterman said she heard that different clubs on campus were talking about doing something to support the national protest, but she decided to take initiative and organize an event that everyone on campus could participate in.

“I’m very much looking forward to it and seeing a reaction. Obviously, we want some sort of reaction so there can be discussion about the actions we can take moving forward,” said Alisa Arata, a junior business administration major.

The March 14 silent protest will last 17 minutes, paying tribute to the 17 people killed in the Parkland, Florida shooting in February.
Organizations discouraged from requesting funds

Student government requests money back from the financial allocations it gives student organizations

Jack Belisle | Staff Writer

Over the past two years, student government has given out about $325,000 to student and academic organizations, said Corey Snyder, student government’s director of finance.

But some student organizations say that student government has requested they return money raised from student government-funded events, meaning organizations don’t make profit from these events.

“We did not want organizations making a profit off of something we funded,” Snyder said.

This rule, enacted in spring 2017, has discouraged some organizations, such as Chapman on Broadway, from seeking funds for productions.

Margot New, director of “Chicago The Musical,” said that Chapman Student Organizations Production had requested funding from student government to rent audio and lighting equipment for the production.

Though New was aware that ticket sale profits would have to be given back to student government, the strictness of the rule took her by surprise.

“(Student government) has changed their culture from funding people outright to wanting clubs to make a profit from these events,” she said.

“If student government wants their purpose to be to assist and support students … then they shouldn’t make us pay them back.”

- Margot New, director of “Chicago The Musical”

Shiza Shahid talks Malala Fund

Shiza Shahid, the University Program Board’s spring speaker, spoke March 7 about her experience helping found the Malala Fund with Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai.

Alya Hijazi | Staff Writer

When Shiza Shahid was a student at Stanford University, she watched a video that Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai uploaded – three years before then 15-year-old Yousafzai was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman.

Shahid, who is the co-founder of the Malala Fund, spoke at Chapman March 7 about her experience helping found the organization at Yousafzai’s bedside after she was shot.

The Malala Fund is an organization dedicated to advocating for universal education for all women. It is centered in countries such as India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Lebanon, Afghani- stan, Turkey and Jordan.

“Change is grassroots, gradual and intimate,” Shahid said. “The work I did with Malala was like the butterfly effect: Something so simple can turn into a typhoon.”

Yousafzai’s video inspired Sha- hid to start a summer camp to teach Pakistani girls the importance of education.

“(The camp showed) the power we have to influence the world in a way we can never imagine,” Shahid said.

“We have the power to change what we want to see,” she said.

Riddhi Mehra, the University Program Board’s director of awareness, said that about 60 students attended the UPB-hosted event. Although it wasn’t a large turnout, Mehta said, they still spent cost $2,000 because “everyone who came really wanted to be there.”

Mehra said that UPB reached out to Shahid because it thought she would connect with students – 24-year-old Shahid is only a few years out of college herself.

“(Shahid has) worked with the Malala Fund to create her own investment company,” Mehta said.

“She shows that you don’t need big contacts or money to make a difference … She’s really inspiring because she’s young and has done so much in her life.”

Shahid also spoke about her life in Pakistan, where she was raised.

“I learned what it means to be a woman,” she said. “(Women) are all fundamentally shaped by com- munity, culture and circumstances.”

Freshman business administration major Allie Ma, who volunteered at the event, said that stories about Sha- hid’s upbringing were a memorable part of the night.

“(Shahid is) the reason that Malala’s name is so well known. She gave Malala the platform to speak out about what was going on in Pakistan, and she was an integral part in mak- ing women’s education so world- wide,” Ma said. “There’s so much more to every story than just the one face you see, and it takes more than one person to contribute to every- one’s success.”
Dodge College professor, producer dies at 81

Lexi Freund | Staff Writer

Chapman professor Harry Ufland died March 2 after a short battle with brain cancer. Ufland, who was 81, died with family at his side, wrote Provost Glenn Pfeiffer in a community-wide email March 6. Ufland taught at the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts while at Chapman for six years. Part of the film production program, he led a range of creative and production management classes, including an internship course where he brought in guest speakers and helped students secure internships in the entertainment industry.

"(Ufland) was the only full-time faculty teaching in (production management)," said Michael Kowalski, the associate dean of academic affairs at Dodge College. "The guests (Ufland brought in) were extremely valuable for the students, as were his connections with agencies in Hollywood. He was able to bring our students (to Hollywood) and introduce them to that world." After a two-decade-long career as a talent agent, Ufland formed Ufland-Roth Productions with his partner, Joe Roth, his son, John, wrote in an email to The Panther. In the mid-1980s, Ufland and his wife Mary Jane opened the Ufland Agency. At this agency, Ufland packaged blockbuster films and represented many big industry names, including Martin Scorsese, Robert DeNiro, Jodie Foster and Ridley Scott, Kowalski said.

He was also a producer, with credits including movies like Scorsese’s "Last Temptation of Christ" and other films like, "Crazy/Beautiful," "One True Thing" and the music video for Michael Jackson’s song "Bad."

"Since joining Chapman University in 2012, Harry has been utterly devoted to students and alumni alike," Pfeiffer wrote in the March 6 email. "He has made a lasting impact on us all, and his passing reverberates through every member of our community."

Benjamin Weisman, a senior and screenwriting major, took three of Ufland’s classes during his time at Chapman, Weisman also served as Ufland’s teaching assistant during Weisman’s junior year and worked closely with him, he said.

"The man was the gold standard as a professor, professional and human being," Weisman said. "When he believed something, he believed it with his whole heart. He stressed the importance of becoming a culturally diverse person with a strong and original point of view. He cared so deeply about his students and wanted us to realize the potential he saw in us. I’ll miss him like hell."

Students advocate for violence victims with Clothesline Project

Students set up shirts for the university’s annual Clothesline Project March 5. The project is an event to help give a voice to victims of violence. Ten Orange County schools take part in the Clothesline Project, but Chapman is the only one that allows men to help set up and decorate shirts.

"Each shirt represents a person. Sometimes the shirts are the first time people have come forward about sexual violence."

- Dani Smith, Chapman’s sexual assault crisis counselor and C.A.R.E.S coordinator
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Chapman continues to expand, but some Orange residents feel the town is already at capacity.

From vomit on their lawns to music bumping through the walls, Orange residents have had their share of issues with Chapman students. Some resi-
dents, like Robert Maxstadt, who has lived in Orange his entire life, believe poor communication between the two communities is the root of the prob-
lem. But neither side is willing to take the blame, he said.

“It’s a shared responsibility,” Max-
stadt said. “The city should not allow single-family homes to become guest houses with four or five additional tenants that it was not made to han-
dle.”

He believes that both sides have the greater good in mind, but that some get overcome by the small issues and allow the negatives to overshadow all the other positives Chapman brings.

“Chapman has had to have their feet held to the fire to (remember) that they are within the community of Orange. They are not their own thing,” said Lisa Baldwin, an Orange resident of 41 years.

Chapman only puts on a good face for its public image, Baldwin said. She believes the fear of consequences drives the university to adhere to the city’s requests. But President Daniele Struppa thinks the opposite.

“It will never be a perfect situation,” Struppa said. “I am fully convinced that the presence of Chapman in Or-
ange is a definite asset for the city, and I am a bit disappointed in the lack of recognition of this fact.”

A main frustration is the physical space the university takes up in what residents argue was originally meant to be a small town. To keep up with its expanding popularity, Chapman is now building the Keck Center for Science and Engineering and the Villa Park Orchard Residence Hall.

“It has made Old Towne unaf-
fordable for locals,” said Baldwin’s husband, Dan. “Chapman has got the money to (expand) and pay cash outright, but we can’t afford it. You don’t want to be living next to a party house either.”

Enrollment is capped at 8,700 stu-
dents, but Jack Raubolt, vice president of community relations, said that the university plans to expand to 10,500 within the next decade. Residents, like the Baldwins, feel the community is already tight on space and low on patience.

“(Students) only believe what they’ve been told, which is, ‘Oh come on, Chapman has been here for like 150 years already!’ Well, no, they haven’t. They’ve been here since the 1950s and they started as a Christian school. We remember when they were a strug-
gling university. It was a much smaller campus,” said Lisa Baldwin.

Although Chapman aims to house 50 percent of its student population, Lisa Baldwin believes the additional bodies in town continue to create foot and street traffic that is potentially dangerous for older residents.

Typically, they are in a hurry to get wherever they want. They just jet on down the street and they drive very quickly. They don’t even look to make eye contact with you (to say) like, ‘OK, I’m gonna stop, you’re a pedestrian,” said Baldwin.

Baldwin described Orange as a “once peaceful” town until Chapman’s cam-
pus migrated from Woodland, Cali-
ifornia, to its current location in 1954. Maxstadt agrees that many locals did not move here knowing they would have to adapt to a loud and crowded college environment. But he believes the two worlds can coexist if students are more respectful and residents learn to cope with change.

Maxstadt believes a small percent-
age of “headache” students ruin the relationship with the community for everyone else. These students throw parties that trash the neighborhood, take up all the street parking and rush from one place to the next without getting to know their neighbors or any history within the town, Lisa Baldwin said.

“The city was not built or created for a large school,” Maxstadt said. “We have a lot of older homes in the neighborhood. We don’t have the great parking. But if everybody adheres to the rules, parks where they’re sup-
posed to, keeps the parties down, we can all get along.”

Struppa finds the communication between the city and the university frustrating because issues are not as prevalent as they have been in the past, he said. Sophomore public relations and advertising major Marshall Scott with residents would consider the larger portion of Chapman – students who actively and positively participate in the community – instead of those who ruin it for the others.

“Students are the backbone of the economy in Old Towne Orange,” Scott said. “Without us, many restaurants and merchants would be out of busi-
ness. This being said, the city needs to adjust to its community…and more (members of) Generation Z are com-
ing,” Scott said.

It is not students versus the commu-
nity, but rather that students are the community, or at least a large and active portion of it, Maxstadt said. Maxstadt agrees that the university contributes to many aspects of the city – financially and socially – that the community may otherwise miss out on.
At Take Back the Night March 6, Creating a Rape Free Environment for Students member Sabrina Dworkin asked the crowd to close their eyes and think about four women they know.

“Now think about this,” she said. “Statistically, one of them will be a victim of sexual assault within their lifetime.”

Survivors, advocates and allies gathered to speak out against sexual assault at Chapman’s 20th annual Take Back the Night, hosted by Chapman’s C.A.R.E.S.

Take Back the Night got its start on Chapman’s campus 20 years ago. Since then, it’s evolved from a crowd of 20 people to an event where hundreds gather in the Fish Interfaith Center to show support for sexual assault victims, said Dani Smith, the university’s rape crisis counselor and coordinator for C.A.R.E.S.

The event, in which participants share personal accounts, poems and songs about experiences of sexual assault, is followed by a candlelight walk.

“In the media, so much of the focus is on the perpetrators, but we’re here to listen to the survivors and the people who get overlooked. So much of healing is just getting it out,” said Jack Carpenter, a freshman news and documentary major who participated in Take Back the Night. It is a time to support survivors and bear witness to their courage and strength, Smith said. Student participants believe hearing the speeches firsthand makes the issue more personal.

“With the #MeToo movement and Time’s Up, it’s great that people are advocating on social media, but it’s another thing to show up to events like this,” said Judie Muhrez, a senior screenwriting major who spoke about her experience as an ally. “Seeing for yourself that your fellow students go through this is different than making a 90-character tweet.”

Take Back the Night events are organized on a local level, and some restrict participation exclusively to women. But at Chapman, everyone who wishes to participate is welcome.

“There are many more people who experience sexual assault than we all realize,” Smith said. “We included men, and all folks, because they are victims of sexual assault too.”

Overall, the event’s goal is to foster a sense of healing and understanding. While C.A.R.E.S. hopes all attendees can learn from sharing their stories and listening to others, the main focus is creating a safe space for survivors.

“Dealing with trauma is about helping people feel safe, and I think that’s what we all felt in Fish tonight, even if only for a moment,” Smith said.

Students speak out against sexual assault

Kali Hoffman | Features Editor

“Take Back the Night” attendees joined together in solidarity against sexual violence March 6.

“Take Back the Night” attendees joined together in solidarity against sexual violence March 6.

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Dealing with Disney: working at the ‘happiest place on earth’

From Mickey Mouse-themed study rooms to the nightly booms of fire -works in the distance, Disneyland’s connection to Chapman is a major draw for some students. But while some can’t get enough, others have a hard time getting away.

I often say that Disneyland stole my life in a sense,” said David Mandel, a senior business administration major. Mandel, who works 30 to 40 hours a week at the park, has had to make sacrifices to balance his job at the park, has had to make sacrifices to balance his job at the park.

Despite understanding why she had to work on Thanksgiving, May said that on Thanksgiving, the company tried to make up for the long holiday by giving employees an extra 20 minutes at the park. Though student Disneyland employees might not have to worry about making ends meet, the pressure to work extended for much of a problem, but I still have to cater to everyone’s needs.”

Disney compensates by paying employees an extra shift at the end of the shift to make up for time spent walking to and from the parking lot, said May. They worked for her because she was often able to find a parking spot near her work location. For the majority of Disneyland workers, May said.

Mandel balances his shifts between working as a new member training class facilitator, a shift scheduler and a Paradise Pier attractions lead.

In late February, a group of 11 Disneyland unions pushed for an increase in wages for park workers, according to the Orange County Register. A survey of 5,000 Disneyland Resort employees found more than 10 percent had struggled with homelessness in the last two years while working at the park. Though student Disneyland employees might not have to worry about making ends meet, the pressure to work extended for much of a problem, but I still have to cater to everyone’s needs.”

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I loved ‘Love, Simon’

Jack Eckert | Staff Writer

You do not have to be a member of the LGBTQIA+ community to enjoy the new romantic comedy, “Love, Simon.” The movie, which comes out March 16, is based on the 2015 novel “Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda.” I have not read the novel and cannot say how authentic the film was to it, but as its own entity, “Love, Simon” is a triumph.

The heartfelt film follows 17-year-old Simon Spier (Nick Robinson), an average high schooler with a loving family and tight-knit friend group. But he’s hiding a massive secret: He’s gay. Simon’s life takes a suspenseful turn when he discovers, through an anonymous blog post, that there’s another closeted gay student at his high school who goes by “Blue.”

Simon contacts Blue through a fake email account and the two quickly become friends. Sadly, Simon gets blackmailed by another student who forces Simon to set him up with his friend Abby (Alexandra Shipp). As the film continues, Simon must navigate the threats and his suspicious friends while also trying to uncover Blue’s identity.

The film effectively builds suspense as to who Blue is and leaves the viewer guessing until the last minute. “Love, Simon” address-es how difficult it is to come out, while also trying to uncover Blue’s identity.

Throughout most of the film, I laughed thanks to Simon’s outlook on life, including funny narration and laugh-out-loud daydreaming sequences, like when he imagines his “out” life in college. Hilarious characters, like drama teacher Ms. Albright (Natasha Rothwell), further add to the film’s appeal. Not only does she deliver great lines like, “I was an extra on the ‘Lion King,’” they do not pay me enough for this crap” but she’s also a true ally, especially when confronting students who bully Simon.

There were also moments in the film when I was on the verge of tears, like when Simon’s dad, Jack (Josh Duhamel), shows his son how much he loves and accepts him no matter what. I was skeptical of how Robinson would perform, as I wasn’t impressed by his acting in “Jurassic World.” Thankfully, my preconceived judgment was proven false by his genuine portrayal of Simon. This is the first romantic comedy with a gay protagonist to be made by a major Hollywood studio, and it’s about time. After years of hiding in the closet of the indie film world, it’s refreshing to see a non-stereotypical gay protagonist given the respect and mainstream attention he deserves. “Love, Simon” is a beautiful, wholesome story that deserves everyone’s attention.

“The Plaza’s new boba shop was surprising, and not in a good way

Jackie Cohen | Web Editor

As Old Towne Orange transforms from antique stores to trendy restaurants, it was only natural for a boba tea shop to open. For students, the “coming soon” sign in front of T-Milk was a beacon of hope that they would not have to drive 10 minutes to get boba tea, a cold beverage that has tapioca balls. But when T-Milk finally opened in mid-February, many students were disappointed after trying it. I had to try it for myself because, after all, it’s conveniently close to campus.

The shop is cute with wooden tables and bright red walls. The drinks came in sleek, clear cups that say “tea” on one side and “milk” on the other. I could definitely picture these cups on people’s Instagram feeds.

I decided to get my usual mango green tea with boba. That was the easy part. Then came the multiple questions from the cashier. From the amount of sugar to the amount of ice, I was given an overwhelming amount of customization options.

I like having choices, but if you made the right choice. I answered all of her questions, saying I wanted it with ice and 70 percent sweet. My drink cost about $5, which is a little more than what I pay at other places, but T-Milk’s proximity to campus made up for it.

When I was handed my tea, I was confused as to why it was warm. It wasn’t hot like tea or coffee, it was more tea like I should’ve asked for more ice during our initial game of 20 questions.)

Ignoring the weird temperature, the tea was pretty good. It was the typical mango green tea and had the perfect amount of sweetness. When trying boba tea, the make-or-break factor is the tapioca balls. For people trying boba for the first time, the moment when the first squishy ball comes up the straw can be surprising if they don’t expect the boba’s texture. I’m not new to drinking boba, but when the tapioca ball came up the straw, I was definitely surprised: It was caramel-flavored. Besides the fact that I didn’t expect that flavor, it was not good. The caramel turned the boba tea from refreshing to sickeningly sweet.

The amazing thing about classic tapioca balls is that they fit perfectly with milk tea, coffee, smoothies and most other beverages. Caramel boba doesn’t really have the same effect. It might be good with iced coffee or something that balances out the sweetness, but with a mango green tea, the two flavors seemed to be competing.

If I go back to T-Milk, I would only order tea without boba, but honestly, I might be better off getting an iced tea at Starbucks or Contra, which would probably cost about the same anyways.
I'm sick of ‘fake feminism’

Scrolling through my Instagram feed often leaves me annoyed, but last Thursday, I was reminded of a certain subject of Chapman that irritates me the most. Gracie Fleischman, Opinions Editor posted photos and stories featuring “the women I love most” and “some of my favorite ladies” for International Women’s Day on March 8. Even more posted cute illustrations and graphics about being an active boss and various iterations of labeling themselves as feminists.

Now, let’s be clear. I am a feminist and I have definitely posted about it on social media in the past. But I have a problem with this particular brand of feminism — the type that comes around once or twice a year. Maybe it’s on International Women’s Day or maybe someone was feeling extra patriotic voting for Hillary Clinton last year. I call this brand of feminism “fake feminism,” in which people’s dedication to ensuring women have the same opportunities as men ends with themselves. As long as they can buy Lululemon clothing and their skinny Frappuccino, they are satisfied.

To be a real feminist, you have to venture outside of your comfort zone and advocate for people who aren’t exactly like you. This means supporting the right not only for gender-straight women, but also transgender, lesbian, bisexual, or queer women.

To be a real feminist, you have to support women of all sizes and shapes, whether they have stretch marks, have faces dotted with acne or covered in contour and highlight, they all need to see that feminism is inclusive.

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President Trump: a dream (and promise) come true

Ryan Marhoefer, sophomore business administration major

I t is ironic that a man can be condemned for doing what no other politician in recent times has been able to do: deliver on his promises. In his first year, President Donald Trump has worked relentlessly to make the U.S. “great again for all Americans.”

He prioritizes Americans over undocumented immigrants, much to the dismay of Democrats. However, even in 2006, almost 60 percent of Democrats voted to add “two layers of reinforced fencing” along the southern border. And in 2013, every Democrat senator voted to end the illogical and disadvantageous visa lottery program, as well as chain migration.

Enforcing borders is the oldest and purest function of any government. Where Trump’s predecessors failed — 2.5 million illegal immigrants entered U.S. between 2008 and 2015 — Trump has succeeded. He allowed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to do its job by no longer limiting which immigration laws can be enforced. In 2017, ICE arrested more than 143,000 illegal immigrants, and 92 percent of them were convicted criminals, fugitives, illegal re-enters or had pending criminal charges. This heightened, necessary security in immigration has led to a 45-year low in illegal border crossings.

Trump’s major legislative victory is the tax cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Slashing the corporate tax rate means that businesses are now incentivized to stay and reinvest in the U.S., like Apple, which announced its plan to invest $350 billion in the U.S. economy and said it will create 20,000 jobs.

Trump’s tax bill also eliminated the unconstitutional (Congress can’t penalize Americans for not buying a product) and expensive Obamacare individual mandate, lowered taxes for nearly every American. And every time you see Americans get paid, raise, and bonuses, just remember one thing: not a single Democrat voted for the tax bill.

This economy has flourished for global competitiveness once again. As Trump said, the “era of economic surrender is over.” This newfound confidence and opportunity is reflected in the stock market. For example, the Dow Jones industrial average grew 257 points the day after Trump’s election. His presidency has brought Americans’ 401(k), retirement, pension and college savings accounts the stock market has not seen in more than $7 trillion in value since Trump was elected (its best performance since the 1930’s).

During Trump’s presidency, more than 2 million jobs have been created. While 303,000 manufacturing jobs were lost during Barack Obama’s presidency, 186,000 were added in Trump’s first year alone, thanks to Trump reducing regulatory burdens, which, as of 2014, cost manufacturers and businesses over a trillion. According to the National Association of Manufacturers.

Food stamp recipients are down by more than 2 million, unemployment is at a 17-year low, and both black and Hispanic unemployment rates hit all-time lows.

Trump’s foreign policy found success, too. South Korea’s president credited Trump for renewed talks between South and North Korea. In the Middle East, the successes grew.

To read the rest of this article, visit thepantheronline.com

Dawn of the Donald: Well, at least he didn’t nuke anyone

Juan Bustillo, junior screenwriting and political science major

There are many possible approaches to reviewing President Donald Trump’s first year. I can barely keep up with how he contradicts himself, so let me stick with his own words as evidence. I can criticize his defense of Nazis, racism and fascists, which isn’t the time he suggested intentionally killing terrorists’ innocent families to win the fight against the Islamic State. Because, you know, replicating the ISIS’s playbook puts America First.

Instead, I’ll address Trump’s policies, because that’s what matters to working Americans.

Trump’s sole legislative victory adds $1.5 trillion to the debt in a massive giveaway to the rich. This tax bill was never designed to help ordinary Americans. For example, the few middle class tax cuts are temporary, while the exorbitant corporate cuts are permanent. Families making under $75,000 a year receive a tax increase. It reinstates the same supply-side economic policies that unintentionally killed major downturns like the Great Depression, Black Monday and the Great Recession. According to Trump’s own government, workers lose.

Trump’s radical shift in deportation priorities doesn’t help working Americans. While Barack Obama targeted suspected criminals, Trump wastes resources on immigrants who haven’t committed violent crimes. Regardless, Trump hasn’t yet proven that undocumented immigrants aren’t just scapegoats for Americans’ valid concerns that stem from policies like his tax bill.

Between the Environmental Protection Agency chief’s statement that climate change may not be linked to human activity (it is) and Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, it’s clear that corporate profits supersede workers’ health. Examples include the Clean Water Rule and the Clean Power Plan, both designed to boost corporate profits. Polluted water and air will hurt workers who live near factories and mines, not the owners who will watch their wallets get fatter from far-off estates.

I’m not sure Trump’s withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) because it was the right move to support American labor. Combined with his vow to revisit the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), I saw a silver lining to his presidency. But, unsurprisingly, it ended up being another of his many contradicted promises as populism. Trump used that renegotiation to slash the worst provisions for American labor and environmental standards. This will only exacerbate the consequences of his policies, which he calls throughout his campaign.

The analysis of Trump’s foreign policy must begin with how the U.S. is actively engaged in eight bombing campaigns against Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan, Libya and Niger. Obama bombed Iraq and Libya, and Trump added Niger. These campaigns, part of the failing War on Terror, contributed significantly to the deaths of workers, leaders. Sidenote: The Yemen bombing is particularly significant because Yemen is also victim to a genocide perpetrated by Saudi Arabia using U.S. weapons.

Trump’s famous travel ban is a ridiculous plan that avoids confronting the real exporters of terrorism in the Middle East, namely Saudi Arabia, which literally funds ISIS with American dollars.

To read the rest of this article, visit thepantheronline.com

The sun is trying to kill me

Danielle Shorr, senior creative writing major

It’s another 90-degree day in Orange County, California and I’m driving the mile from my house to campus.

“Why don’t you just walk?” is a question I receive often, and a fair one to ask. I’m not opposed to pre-class cardio and, although the 20-pound backpack on my shoulders is a factor, it’s not the driving reason. The sun is trying to kill me — and more than 15 minutes of exposure to it is likely to knock me out for the rest of the day.

My disdain for the sun is not without cause. I live with systemic lupus erythematosus, commonly known as lupus. It is an autoimmune disease that causes inflammation in bodily tissue, including the joints, heart and kidney. So what do you do in Southern California when the sun is trying to kill you?

You avoid going to the beach or on hikes, or doing anything that requires prolonged exposure. You spend most days indoors and hope that the strength of your piller will become the strength of your sun. Sometimes, you say “screw it,” and go to the beach anyway, acknowledging that you’ll pay for it in the form of sun and debilitating exhaustion. Here, in a state of year-round warmth, I have found myself in a predicament I could hardly have anticipated.

For months, I have been familiar with lupus common symptoms: the symmetrical rash that often forms across the bridge of my nose and fingers for days, the fog that leaves me disoriented, the blue tint my fingers take on when it’s too cold in a room, and the fatigue — ever-present. The inability to do anything that requires my brain to function is one of the reasons I can have effects.

But last weekend, I made a spur-of-the-moment trip to the beach. With SPF 100, of course.

I celebrated Trump’s withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) because it was the right move to support American labor. Combined with his vow to revisit the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), I saw a silver lining to his presidency. But, unsurprisingly, it ended up being another of his many contradicted promises as populism. Trump used that renegotiation to slash the worst provisions for American labor and environmental standards. This will only exacerbate the consequences of his policies, which he calls throughout his campaign.

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Baseball picks up win in the rain

Chapman saves win after weather helped wash away early lead

Rahul Setty | Staff Writer

On a rainy March 10 day when one of two scheduled games were played, the Chapman team took over early against Whittier College. Thanks to two walks, two singles, hit-by-pitches, and a fielding error all strung together, Chapman jumped out to a 5-1 lead against Whittier in the first inning, on the way to a 9-7 win.

Chapman sent 10 batters to the plate in the first inning, getting back to the start of the lineup with two outs key in driving home baserunners, said head coach Scott Laverty.

“If you get two-out walks and all the (baserunners) that we got (toward) the end of the game, the lineup is going to be better in your favor,” Laverty said. “Those two-out runs are really crucial.”

By the fifth the inning ended, senior outfielder Conner Larkin had plated three runs, and the scoreboard read Chapman 9, Whittier 1.

Junior pitcher Joey Harmon (3-0) had a quality start for Chapman, giving up two runs over six innings. He struck out four and walked four, allowing seven to reach base.

“He was in the strike zone and (picked up) some big strikeouts when he needed to,” Laverty said. “We really needed him to go out and pitch that way.”

Junior pitcher Jonathan Hernandez picked up his first save of the season, recording the final four outs of the game.

Although Whittier scored six runs total in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings — including five earned runs off of reliever Brad Steiner — it ultimately was not enough to close the gap.

Laverty refused the notion that the drizzle, which progressively worsened as the game continued, affected the game.

“Until we call it, we’re playing,” Laverty said.

Junior shortstop Jarod Penniman had two hits and three RBIs in the Panthers’ 9-7 win against Whittier March 10.

Rajani dives past the fear of injury

Emmie Farber | Staff Writer

Simran Rajani has never enjoyed diving.

Despite finishing her first full diving season with impressive performances — finishing 10th in the three-meter championship in NCAA regions — Rajani struggles to dive without thinking about what might go wrong.

“Usually, divers don’t enjoy it, but they know they can’t leave it behind,” said Rajani, a freshman. “I don’t enjoy learning new dives because there is always that risk of getting injured.”

Rajani spent most of her life in the pool but only began diving in 2011. Born and raised in Mumbai, India, Rajani has swum for most of her life, she said. Her older brother, a nationally ranked breaststroke swimmer in India, inspired her to swim competitively.

Rajani said her parents have encouraged her to continue diving and there’s something about the sport that’s stopped her from giving up on it.

Rajani’s father sent her and her brother to Australia for six months to train for swimming, which is when she switched to diving.

“When I would watch the divers in Australia, they really caught my eye,” she said.

The transition from diving in India to the U.S has been a massive shift, Rajani said. The equipment in India is not nearly as good as the U.S., and the diving schedule is much longer, she said.

“I am happy that there are competitions every week in the U.S., whereas in India the competitions were monthly,” Rajani said. “I enjoy having a routine and a set schedule.”

Rajani’s criteria for a college was nuanced: the school needed a diving team, to be on either the East or West Coast, have great weather, and be a private university.

“Chapman hit all of my points,” said Rajani, who heard about Chapman through her counselor in India.

Going to her first NCAA tournament gave Rajani perspective on her abilities.

“We could really see where we stood compared to all of the other athletes,” Rajani said.

Rajani, freshman Simon Duyungan and senior Kel-lyn Too1e all competed in the NCAA regions, with Too1e placing highest at fifth place in the three-meter event and Rajani finishing 10th.

Because her family has a background in media and production, Rajani, a business administration major, wants to pursue something in the media and business industries. She wants to go back to India once college is over.

“The people in India are much more reserved,” Rajani said. “I would not be allowed to roam around late at night. My curfew is 9 p.m. in India.”

Freshman teammate Simon Duyungan — the only male diver to qualify for NCAA regions — said Rajani is known for her humor.

“She is super funny,” Duyungan said. “At the beginning, no one really talked to each other because there were a lot of freshmen and everyone was shy.”

Despite placing in the top three for the three-meter SCIAC diving championship for the last two seasons, junior teammate Kelllyn Too1e said she was intimidated by Rajani at first.

“Simran is a fierce competitor,” Too1e said. “But now she is one of my closest friends.”

Freshman diver Simran Rajani dives headfirst into the water in the NCAA regional diving championship in Trinity, Texas, March 3.

Photo courtesy of Brianne Davis.
Kirkpatrick keeps goalie spirit as head coach

Rikki Saydman | Staff Writer

Women's lacrosse head coach Dan Kirkpatrick – known as "DK" by his players – fell in love with playing goalie when he was in seventh grade. Since then, he has played lacrosse at Chapman, became an assistant coach working with goalies and eventually took the head coaching job.

"The best part about coaching is being able to hang out with awesome kids all day," said Kirkpatrick, an '09 alumnus. "I have great players (who are) awesome people. Kirkpatrick’s love for his players is returned in spades by the women on the lacrosse team.

"His whole heart is in the team and that comes out when he coaches," said Michaella Lopez, a sophomore midfielder. "It affects us too, because it makes us want to put our whole heart in."

Lopez said she has never had a more knowledgeable coach.

"He points out the most interesting details that I would have never noticed playing the game," Lopez said.

After graduating from Chapman, Kirkpatrick didn’t have any specific plans. When he was offered the position to coach goalies at his alma mater, he said he was happy to "stick around.

"Taylor Hextrum, a freshman goaliekeeper, said she appreciates the goalie-specific knowledge Kirkpatrick brings to the team.

"My coaches (in high school) were both attack players; they weren’t goalie-oriented," she said. "They didn’t know how to support me in the right way. Having a coach who is a goalie coach now is a completely different world."

Hextrum said that Kirkpatrick is supportive, and that she has drastically improved since he became her coach.

"Kirkpatrick (teaches me)," said Hextrum. "The field is just like a classroom – he’s my teacher. I am a student and I’m learning to get that good grade at the end of practice or at a game."

Kirkpatrick said that being a goalie helped him become a head coach.

"Midfield was too much running, I was just not that good at defense, and I always played catcher in baseball so they said this was the perfect transition for me," he said. "That’s always been my in for coaching. Everyone wants goalie coaches because it’s such a unique spot on the field."

Kirkpatrick said he’s happy to keep coaching as long as he can.

"The reason that I keep (coaching) is that they keep letting me," said Kirkpatrick. "It really is that simple. As long as they’ll let me do it, I love to do it."