‘It felt like the world was falling apart’

Some students staged a walkout to protest screenwriter and producer Max Landis, who has been accused of sexual assault and was set to speak at a Dodge College class Nov. 7. The class and walkout were canceled after Landis decided not to attend.

News, Page 2

Twelve people were shot and killed Nov. 7 at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, California, which is a little more than an hour away from Chapman. Less than 24 hours later, the Woolsey fire began to burn in Thousand Oaks and parts of Los Angeles County, scorching 85,000 acres and killing three people as of Nov. 11.

News, Page 3

Matt Layton, senior football captain, said he tries to focus on the “little things” he’ll miss as his collegiate sports career comes to a close.

Sports, Page 11

A Public Safety officer was assaulted by a male suspect at the Chapman Grand apartment complex in the early morning Nov. 8.

News, Page 3

Some students staged a walkout to protest screenwriter and producer Max Landis, who has been accused of sexual assault and was set to speak at a Dodge College class Nov. 7. The class and walkout were canceled after Landis decided not to attend.

News, Page 2
Sandhya Bhaskar | Staff Writer

A Dodge College of Film and Media Arts class was canceled Nov. 7 after a student in the class sent out an email about sexual assault accusations leveled against Max Landis, a screenwriter and producer who was set to guest lecture in the class that evening.

Some students had planned a walkout during the class to protest Landis’ appearance. Landis decided not to attend, causing Joseph Rosenberg, the class’s instructor, to send out an email just over an hour before the class to say it was canceled due to “planned events that would have jeopardized the purpose of the evening.”

In a Facebook post, Rosenberg explained she planned the walkout, which would be rude to the students who invited Landis. “I didn’t hope to use this opportunity not only to teach some interesting ins and outs about screenwriting, but also to address my public shaming in an honest and personal way,” he wrote on Instagram. “I see now that that is not welcome or needed by students.”

Landis declined an interview with The Panther.

Two days before Landis was set to speak to the New Era of Television class, Madison Geihs, a senior television writing and production major, sent the mass email to the class that included two links to articles from Screen Rant and the Daily Beast reporting on accusations against Landis.

It was “common sense” for Geihs to make the class aware of the allegations, she told The Panther. “It was also a safety concern for me, because there are so many young women in our class,” Geihs said. “We are young college students. Having someone like that in our presence … I think it’s important for us to know his background.”

Geihs also prepared a statement to read to the class before leading the planned walkout, which more than 80 students said they would attend on Facebook.

“I think that the university is more interested in how the students feel about the people they invite here,” said Geihs, who was asked to meet with Janell Shearer, the chair of the college’s Media Arts division, after she planned the walkout.

“I think that the university is more interested in how they are perceived by the public rather than how the students feel about the people they invite here,” said Geihs, who was asked to meet with Janell Shearer, the chair of the college’s Media Arts division, after she planned the walkout.

- Madison Geihs,
senior television writing and production major

In an email to the class sent the afternoon of Nov. 7, Rosenberg asked students not to protest, saying that while some “very important men” have recently lost their jobs in the industry, there is no information about the accusations against Landis other than what had been reported on by the two news outlets.

“We are certain free to express your opinions on this subject elsewhere, faculty control classroom discussion,” Rosenberg wrote. “I have heard that a few students are planning a walkout, which would be rude to our guest and does not fit the kind of behavior we expect of Dodge College students.”

Other students in the class also sent emails to Rosenberg and Jerry Price, dean of students, to express their discontent with Landis’ scheduled appearance, according to the walkout’s Facebook page.

“This situation demonstrates to me how fundamentally (the Dodge administration) misunderstood the purpose of the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements,” wrote senior screenwriting major Jake Naturman in an email to Rosenberg that he posted on Facebook. “By putting the prestige of Dodge College above its students and treating our voices as embarrassments to the school, I feel embarrassed to be a part of it.”

Neither Rosenberg nor Shearer responded to The Panther’s request for comment.

Junior Gianna Gravalese, who is enrolled in the class, said she was surprised Landis was asked to speak at the class, given the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements.

“I completely understand that professors want for us to be civil and learn about the industry, but with everything going on, how could you ignore that?” Gravalese, a news and documentary major, told The Panther. “I respect that (Rosenberg) said that if we didn’t want to come, he understands, but it kind of turned into ‘Oh, don’t say anything.’”

Landis, who wrote the Netflix film “Bright” starring Will Smith, has been accused on social media of sexually harassing and assaulting multiple women. He is the son of “Animal House” director John Landis. Actor Anna Akana, who worked with Landis on his YouTube short film project “Wrestling Isn’t Wrestling” took to Twitter to respond to Netflix’s promotion of “Bright” in 2017.

“Written by a psychopath who sexually abused and assaults women, right?” she tweeted. “Cool.”

Zoe Quinn, a video game developer, also tweeted about Landis, saying that his behavior has “probably been an open secret (in the industry) for so long,” because women may be afraid to speak out because of potential consequences.

Writer Lindsay Romain also alleged on Twitter that Landis is a “ritual sex abuser.”

Comedian and SNL writer Mike Drucker, tweeted in response to Netflix’s “Bright” promotion that Landis’ father may have covered up his actions.

In a 2013 now-deleted interview with sex and relationship blogger Shelby Sells, Landis talks about an ex-girlfriend he “gave a (sic) crippling social anxiety, self-hating, body dysmorphia (sic), eating disorder to.”

“I was so fickle about her body, I’m not shy, I would just blurt out (expletive) all the time,” Landis said in the interview, according to the Daily Beast. “She ended up completely changing how she dressed and how she looked for me. That chick will never talk to me again.”
Holocaust survivor Engelina Billauer honored at Kristallnacht service

Jade Yang | Staff Writer

Nearly two weeks after 12 Jewish people were shot and killed as they worshipped in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Chapman’s Fish Interfaith Center held its annual service in memory of the anniversary of Kristallnacht, known as “the night of the broken glass.” Engelina Billauer, a Holocaust survivor and firsthand witness of Kristallnacht, attended as the honorary guest of the night.

During anti-Jewish riots that occurred throughout Germany on Nov. 9-10 in 1938, Jewish synagogues, homes, businesses and schools were burned, looted and destroyed. Jewish people were taken from their homes, and nearly 100 people were killed.

The name “Kristallnacht,” a German phrase, references the scattered broken glass left on the streets after the riots.

Of the four Holocaust survivors who attended the Kristallnacht memorial event Chapman held five years ago, Billauer, 91, is the last survivor and Kristallnacht witness still alive.

“People don’t realize how bad we were treated. We were not treated like human beings,” Billauer told The Panther. “I want people to remember the history … the recent history and what can happen to people when nobody spoke up. Speak up when you see something wrong.”

An audience of about 250 people filled the seats of the Interfaith center Nov. 8, facing a platform decorated with brightly colored flowers and a Torah.

Gail Stearns, the dean of the All-Faiths Chapel, and Marilyn Harran, director of the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education, spoke at the event.

Iman Khosrowpour, a violinist and the director and conductor of the Irvine Valley College Symphony orchestra, played music from the 1930s and 40s, as well as other compositions like the theme from Schindler’s List.

Persecution of Jewish people had already begun in 1933 when the Nazis came into power and began enforcing anti-Semitic regulations, Harran said. The vast majority of Germans chose to remain silent at the time, thinking that the new rules were temporary.

“Most of us here have only experienced the events of November 1938 … through black and white photographs, newsreels, documentaries and brief paragraphs in history textbooks,” Harran said. “Eighty years ago, the Jews of Germany and Austria were assaulted by an unprecedented wave of violence and destruction. Kristallnacht left in its wake shattered windows, burnt synagogues and desecrated Torahs.”

Kristallnacht is an example of how the Germans had planned the attack on Jews in advance, waiting for the right moment to strike, Harran said. “Kristallnacht was the first really orchestrated violence that swept across all of Germany and Austria,” Harran told The Panther. “(The Germans) wanted to make it look like it was all spontaneous, but it wasn’t.”

Chapman’s Kristallnacht commemoration may be the only one of its kind in the nation, Stearns and Harran said. But this service is more unique, Harran said, because it marks the first year that both a rabbi and Muslim spiritual leader will take part.

“It reinforces the idea that’s really important to me, the center and Chapman, that we share humanity and when one of us doesn’t stand up for someone else who is being persecuted or abused, it damages all of us,” Harran said. “We have to speak up for our shared humanity.”

Will Jones, a first-year graduate student studying war and society, said he chose to attend in order to reflect on the present while learning about the past.

“It’s very important to learn from the past in order to make a better future,” Jones said.
Betty Valencia: a graduate student at Chapman and an Orange City Council candidate, isn’t happy she lost in the midterm elections, but she wants to continue advocating for issues that affect the Orange community.

Betty Valencia looks ahead after midterm loss

Kati Hoffman | Managing Editor

On Election Day, Chapman doctoral student Betty Valencia slept in for the first time in six months. She woke up at 7:30 a.m.—which is late for her—and met with an Orange resident to talk about city planning over coffee.

After months of campaigning and weeks of waking up before dawn to work, study and canvass until the sun set on Election Day, it felt like life was moving in slow motion, she said. “I would not have done anything differently,” she said. “The only thing I would have done is I would have started earlier…but I’ve left everything on the field,” she said.

Valencia, who declared her candidacy for the Orange City Council in April after the council voted not to comply with sections of California’s sanctuary state bill, is not a typical Orange County politician. As a first-time candidate, an immigrant and a member of the LGBTQA+ community, she knew she faced different hurdles than her competition—the majority had previous political experience. Some also came from families that had lived in Orange for generations. But just before the polls closed Nov. 6, Valencia wasn’t worried about the results. She was worried about her shoes, a pair she vowed to wear every day during her almost six-month campaign. “It’s really hard to take them off, because I feel like we’re not done,” she said, gesturing to her bright red, worn-in Ecco sneakers. “What am I going to wear?”

The red stands in stark contrast to her businesslike black trench coat. Thirty minutes before the first round of counted votes were reported on election night, Valencia said that, if she won, she would keep the shoes in a box somewhere in her house as a reminder of her journey. But Valencia didn’t win. On the morning of Nov. 7, she put the shoes back on. The work continues, she said.

After repeatedly refreshing the election results until midnight on Election Day, Valencia went to sleep. She woke at 6:30 a.m. to find that she’d finished fifth out of eight candidates. She wasn’t surprised that pro-business and anti-tax increase incumbent Kim Nichols earned the majority of the votes, or that similar candidate Chip Monaco, the runner-up for most votes, was also elected. But she was saddened that Jon Dumitru, who served on the council from 2004 to 2012, and former Orange planning commissioner Daniel Correa took the third and fourth spots in the polls. “I’m trying to wind down,” Valencia said. “I’m not happy that we didn’t obtain a seat, but I’m not surprised.”

Valencia feels, relied heavily on name recognition in the midterm elections. Despite the nonpartisan nature of city council elections, she also believes candidates who are endorsed by the Republican Party, like Monaco, have an edge in a historically Republican area like Orange County.

In the beginning, Valencia was nervous about gaining support from Orange residents. Some people were “negative” about her being an immigrant from Mexico, like a couple who once drove by in a golf cart and told her President Donald Trump was “coming for her,” Valencia said. Still, this didn’t deter her. Happy to have gotten this far in the elections, she’s already planning for the next step.

“The question today is not ‘How do I get over this?’ it’s ‘What do we do next?’” Valencia said. “I had my moment to think about how disappointed I was, but I wasn’t last. All those votes were more than we thought we would get at the beginning.”

The past six months have helped her understand the political system, she said. She isn’t sure yet if she will run again in 2020, but she hopes to use her new knowledge to continue advocating for the platforms she ran on, like changing the “us versus them” attitude she believes some residents harbor toward the homeless population. Valencia took an hour of time alone to collect her thoughts after her loss was clear—something she hasn’t been able to do often for the past several months—and then set out to return the election night party supplies she’d rented the day before.

“It feels surreal, because I know I’m not the same person I was April 10,” she said.

In a way, Valencia is excited. Now, she can focus on her day job as a vice president of operations at American Financial Group, finish her doctoral dissertation in Chapman’s leadership studies program and finally, catch up on some reading. Her spirits started to lift, she said, after talking to residents and checking the results of other elections nationwide.

The question today is not ‘How do I get over this?’ it’s ‘What do we do next?’ I had my moment to think about how disappointed I was, but I wasn’t last.

- Betty Valencia, Orange City Council candidate

In many states, the 2018 midterm elections were marked by historic firsts. A record-breaking number of women were elected to the House, including Sharice Davids of Kansas and Deb Haaland of New Mexico, the first Native American women elected to congress, and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, the first Muslim women elected. Jared Polis of Colorado is also the first openly gay man to have been elected governor.

“Not only did I look at my results, I went to look at the people I’ve met to see how they did, and most of them triumphed,” Valencia said. “It might not be my time right now, but maybe it’s theirs.”
One of the "safest cities" in the country. That's how the mayor of Thousand Oaks, California, described the city in an interview with CNN after a gunman opened fire in Borderline Bar and Grill late Nov. 7, killing 12 people, and then himself.

It was college night at the bar, and several of the attendees were college students. Of the 12 killed, at least one was a college student. Alanna Housley of Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. A majority of those killed were in their early to mid-20s.

Telemanach Orlanos, 27, was a Navy veteran who survived last year's Route 91 Harvest music festival mass shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada, was one of the Thousand Oaks shooting victims, according to his mother. His mother tearfully told reporters, "I don't want prayers. I don't want thoughts. I want gun control."

News of the shooting hit home for many Chapman students, many of whom live or grew up in the Los Angeles or Ventura county area.

"We shouldn't have to live like this," said Arielle Sunshine, a junior from Thousand Oaks. Her mother called her in tears the morning of the shooting, she said. "So many of my friends went to Borderline regularly, and I know many who barely got out last night."

Sunshine said "senseless" gun laws perpetuate a consistent cycle of mass shootings in the U.S., she said.

The gunman, who authorities identified as Ian David Long, was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Despite a history of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and "angry outbursts," Long legally purchased the gun he used to carry out the massacre, authorities said to the Washington Post.

On Nov. 7, a 28-year-old gunman opened fire on Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, California, killing 12 people and then himself.

"We do not want any more lives lost, so please listen when they tell you to evacuate," Rachel Kelly, who grew up near Thousand Oaks in Hidden Hills, said her family was forced to evacuate their home early Nov. 9. It felt like the "world (was) falling apart" since her husband was still recovering from the news of the shooting when they learned they had to evacuate. "So many empty seats. First the shooting in Pittsburgh, then at Borderline, and now this fire," said Kelly, a sophmore theatre performance major. "It's painful to watch."

Orange County congressional districts gain Democratic majority

After the Nov. 7 midterms elections, Democrats now hold five out of seven congressional districts in Orange County, two of which were originally held by prominent Republican congressmen Dana Rohrabacher and Darrell Issa.

Rohrabacher is serving his 15th term in the House of Representatives, making him a congressman for almost 30 years. Issa has held his seat for 24 years. Issa was reelected in the 49th district, whereas Republicans still have a majority in the Orange County portion of the district, according to the San Diego Tribune.

The three other Democratic congressional seats in Orange County are held by Linda Sanchez in the 38th district, Lou Correa in the 46th district and Alan Lowenthal in the 47th district, who were all reelected in the midterms.

The two remaining red congressional seats, which have not yet officially been called, are held by incumbents Young Kim, who ran again a Democrat Gil Cisneros in the 39th district and Mimi Walters in the 45th districts. Walters ran against Katie Porter, a campaign centered around fighting for universal healthcare, women's reproductive rights and public education.

The gap between Kim and Cisneros and Walters and Porter is narrowing, said Cisneros. She won in 2016 by only 1,621 votes, according to The Hill. For the first time in several years, Democrats outnumber Republicans in the San Diego County portion of the 49th district, whereas Republicans still have a majority in the Orange County portion of the district, according to The San Diego Tribune.

The four congressional districts held by Democrats in Orange County account for about one-third of the district, put Levin ahead by 12 points. Levin wasn't as popular in the 45th district, where he accounts for about one-quarter of the 49th district. Orange County voters gave Hakey the edge at 56 percent and Levin at 44 percent, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune.

For years, the 49th district, which spans from La Jolla to Dana Point and includes Camp Pendleton, the largest Marine Corps training facility in the United States, has been "relably red."

The district went to Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, making it one of 23 districts that voted for a Democratic presidential candidate but put a Republican in the House. Issa won re-election in 2016 by only 1,621 votes, according to The Hill.

For the first time in several years, Democrats outnumber Republicans in the San Diego County portion of the 49th district, whereas Republicans still have a majority in the Orange County portion of the district, according to The San Diego Tribune.
Students create club for sexual assault survivors

Healing Overcoming Preventing Enabling (H.O.P.E) is a new campus organization, which, though not yet official, aims to provide a support system for survivors of sexual assault.

Maggie Wright | Staff Writer

Chapman students Bradley Ledford and Cassandra Thibeault cofounded Healing Overcoming Preventing Enabling (H.O.P.E), a new club on campus that provides a support system for survivors of sexual assault.

"I can't believe you guys did this for me," Thibeault said. "After going through something so difficult and traumatic, we think that it's important for other victims who are going through that.

Thibeault said she was inspired to start the club after attending Chapman's Creating A Rape Free Environment for Students (C.A.R.E.S.) meeting. At the meeting, she watched as girls struggled to share their stories and express their feelings. She saw how "broken" their faces were, she said. "I saw them and something clicked," Thibeault said. "I was like, 'It's not about me anymore, it's about my story, it's about voicing those feelings, and what they're trying to express.' Thibeault and Ledford said they have received some push back on the club. After reaching out to several instructors, many said that there is already a similar club on campus, Thibeault said. H.O.P.E will take things in a different direction, she said.

"In my experience, I had a really hard time going to events about awareness when the event was so fresh in my mind," Thibeault said. "We're trying to make that differentiation, I know what C.A.R.E.S. does is amazing but it's not directly for the people who experienced sexual assault. We want to continue awareness, but we also want to step in and care for those people."

C.A.R.E.S., which is not a club but a department, is overseen by Dani Smith, the school's rape crisis counselor. Smith and C.A.R.E.S. focus on awareness and prevention of sexual assault. "It's never the survivor's fault," Smith said. "Often the survivors blame themselves. Yes, we talk about preventing, but there is nothing you can do that warrants someone to hurt you." Victims sometimes still see their attackers on campus, which is very difficult and triggering, Thibeault said.

In response to this, she and Ledford wanted to implement "big brother" and "big sister" programs, which would include walking with someone to and from a class where they know they'll see their attacker, or after a night class, Thibeault said. Their goal is to provide something more casual, like a big sibling who is looking out for a little sibling, Ledford said.

These older club members, big sisters and brothers, will be set up with younger club members, similar to bigs and littles in sororities and fraternities. The underclassmen will text when they are going out and the big brother or sister will make sure they are safe, check on them while they're out and test them to make sure they've gotten home, Ledford said.

"I've personally had friends who have texted or called and said that they weren't sure where they were and sounded like they weren't present enough to get back safely," Ledford said. "I think having a big sister or brother program available, for freshmen especially, would help them not only feel safer, but actually be safer, since someone is touching base with them.

Ultimately, the founders of H.O.P.E want to change how things are on college campuses everywhere. They said they hope to change the mindset of those who view women as objects. "We want to have a domino effect," Thibeault said. "The more talk there is, the more awareness, the more noise we make, the less it will happen. People will realize that this is a very real issue in our world and it's not something that can be hidden anymore."

Hayley Nelson | Staff Writer

Clarissa Cordova, a first-generation student at Chapman, said her mother didn't set foot on campus until her sophomore year because the university intimidated her. When Promising Futures, a program at Chapman especially created to offer resources to first generation students, held a first generation family social, her mom finally got to experience the campus in a welcoming, low-pressure way, she said. Nov. 8 was National First-Generation College Student Day, the first time this day has been celebrated at Chapman, and Promising Futures sponsored events during the week ranging from a student resource fair and a pizza party.

"Nov. 8 is like my holiday," Cordova said. "First-generation is such an identity of mine ... I love to talk about it because I am so invested in it. I feel like everybody comes together, all your family, to celebrate with you."

De La Riva said that many Chapman employees are first generation students themselves, including Jerry Price, dean of students. None of his parents or siblings went to college. Price said in an email to The Panther, and he is the youngest of four children.

Ashley Lee, a sophomore anthropology and public relations and advertising double major who is also a first-generation college student, had a lot of questions during her first year at Chapman that she couldn't ask her parents, she said. Her mother and father are immigrants from Vietnam and Hong Kong and they both started working as soon as they arrived to the U.S. Though they both value higher education, they weren't able to pursue it themselves, Lee said.

"In the beginning, I felt alone because I didn't understand what I was feeling," Lee said. "I just felt like college wasn't for me. I wasn't used to talking to more people gradually and realizing some of my problem correlated with being first gen."

Inspired by Promising Futures and

Graphic by EMMA REITH Art Director

Photo courtesy of Clarissa Cordova

The Panther
How four friends created the Moonlight Mic, a monthly open mic night at the Masson Beach Club Pool for students to showcase their talents, from drag to stand-up comedy

Talia Cutitta | Assistant Features Editor

It all started with a few friends who bonded over a love for stand-up comedy. Going from one open mic to the next, they couldn’t find a place that would give them more than two minutes of stage time, so they decided to host their own show.

Noah Jorgensen, a junior film production major, brought a stool and his dad jokes. Konner Kienzle, a junior screenwriting major, brought a mic, an amp and a guitar. Oba Olaniyi, a junior peace studies major, brought some erotic fanfiction. Jack Mulaney, a sophomore screenwriting major, brought “pseudo” stand-up comedy, along with some toothpaste. And the Moonlight Mic was born.

“The shows are always different. It’s really exciting to see people who are excited to get up there and do their own thing,” said Noah Jorgensen, a junior film major and Moonlight Mic creator.

“We want (the Moonlight Mic) to be the open mic and performance part, but we also want to have writers’ rooms (as performers), have field trips to comedy clubs and be an actual club,” Kienzle said.

Some students who didn’t major in the arts who had no creative outlet served as social media chair of the Moonlight Mic.

“We didn’t know if there was enough of a stand-up community at Chapman, but then we saw that there was music and poetry acts, too,” Olaniyi said. “Right away, (the Moonlight Mic) was anything anyone wanted it to be.”

This semester, the Moonlight Mic started having “writers’ rooms” once or twice a month, where performers can come together and help each other write jokes and work on material, Kienzle said.

“We want (the Moonlight Mic) to be the open mic and performance part, but we also want to have writers’ rooms (as performers), have field trips to comedy clubs and be an actual club,” Kienzle said.

Some students who didn’t major in the arts who had no creative outlet served as social media chair of the Moonlight Mic.

“Our friends graduate, he said. “We've seen a lot of open mics, and we've seen a lot of the flaws and we can find ways to fix them.”

REVIEW

‘Beautiful Boy’ accurately depicts addiction

Emma Reith | Art Director

Drug addiction is easy to get wrong in films. Filmmakers often paint a consistent narrative of broken homes and lives built on tragic occurrences. There are seldom stories about privileged white men in healthy families who get into drugs out of boredom and depression — people whose parents loved them, who grew up with plenty of opportunities.

“Beautiful Boy” shows that addiction can affect everyone. Relapses can still happen, even in instances where the addict has resources and a support system. Addictions can intensify over time, and recovery can be drawn out. The movie portrays drug addiction as a disease, a fusion of neurological predisposition and unfortunate social circumstance. It is not a matter of being a terrible person.

Nic Sheff (Timothee Chalamet), the artsy, brooding and tortured—but kind main character, has the perfect upbringing. In the affluent Marin County, California, the teenager has divorced but loving, doting parents (his father played by Steve Carell) and a stepmother who cares deeply for him, as well as two half siblings. However, he jeopardizes his family ties for the chance to get high.

What is important about this movie isn’t the fact that Nic’s family eventually gives up on him. This is a narrative only someone with drug addictions close to them can understand.

Increasingly, we see sweet, privileged men with abundant support still using drugs not in delinquency but as escapism, because they don’t have a tangible reason for their internal issues — I’ve seen this in my older brother, an ex-boyfriend, an old friend and now, in “Beautiful Boy.”

“Beautiful Boy” stars Timothee Chalamet and Steve Carell, was released in theaters Oct. 12.

That in the 120 minutes of this film, I would fall in love, have my heart broken and sob for 45 minutes straight. Be prepared.

This movie was sad, it was ugly, but it was real. This is the closest Hollywood has ever gotten, in what I’ve seen, to portraying the innocence of a mindless drug addict, all while showing you that each drug addict you see on the street, each person you think is a failure, he had a deep, long and colorful life behind them.”
On Nov. 7, the U.S. saw the 307th mass shooting in 2018. Twelve people were killed while celebrating, dancing and listening to music on “college night” at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, California. Thousand Oaks is just over an hour’s drive from Chapman, and the victims’ ages ranged from 18 to 54 – but most were the age of many college students. Victim Alaina Housley, 18, had just begun her first semester at Pepperdine University. Telemachus Orfanos, 27, survived the Route 91 shooting in Las Vegas, but was shot and killed in California a little more than a year later, according to his mother.

We live in a country where some Americans have lived through one massacre only to witness another. This week’s attack came just 14 days after 11 people were killed as they worshipped in a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. People have been shot at places of worship, Christmas parties, community colleges, movie theaters, music venues, nightclubs and schools. It’s beginning to feel like nowhere is safe.

With each mass shooting that happens, another group of people have to contend with the loss of community members whose deaths could have easily been prevented – and no, not by a good guy with a gun. There was a good guy with a gun in the Thousand Oaks shooting: His name was Sgt. Ron Helus, and he was the first responder to enter the bar after police were called to the scene. He died a hero, trying to protect others, with his last moments marked by pain and a spray of gunfire. But he could not prevent 11 other people from being killed.

“The only thing you people do after these shootings is ‘hopes and prayers’... or ‘keep you in my thoughts’... every time... and wonder why these keep happening,” a man believed to have been the Thousand Oaks shooter wrote on Facebook around the time of the shooting, according to CNN.

The time for thoughts and prayers has long been over. It is time for meaningful change and powerful federal gun control. It is time for our political leaders to cooperate with one another and show that preventing unnecessary death should not be a partisan issue. California’s gun control laws are among the strongest in the nation. Thirty years ago, the state became the first to ban assault rifles after a shooting at a Stockton elementary school. In 2014, California also passed extreme risk protection orders, a measure that allows law enforcement or family members to temporarily stop a person from purchasing firearms and ammunition by court order.

But clearly, this isn’t enough. And when politicians stave off legislation by accusing those who are advocating for stronger restrictions, more laws and better oversight surrounding gun ownership of “politicizing” a tragedy, we are simply left waiting anxiously for the next tragedy to strike.

Now is the time for gun control. It was also the time for gun control last week, and the week before, and the week before that. It is no longer acceptable to champion the constitutional right of owning a firearm over the human right to life. It’s time for gun control, and it’s time for change.

We need more than thoughts and prayers

The Panther Editorial Board

Illustrated by Gaby Fantone
Don’t skip over Thanksgiving

Maura Kate Mitchelson, assistant news editor

I’ve practiced two religions for as long as I can remember, but never felt as though I could fully claim either one.

My dog is the devil, but I love her

Kali Hoffman, managing editor

Tina certainly didn’t fit into my or my family’s lifestyle, but it’s not true that it had any say in my choice to adopt her. If, like my 12-year-old self, you choose to get a pet on a whim, you had better be willing to give up your pets, according to a study conducted by the Orange County Animal shelter took in 4,815 dogs last year, according to its website. Moving, cost of maintenance and “having no time for a pet” are among the most common reasons people give up their pets, according to a study conducted by the National Council on Pet Population Policy. I’ve found friends who have adopted and then given away pets to a shelter on several occasions because the dog was too much to handle or didn’t fit into their lifestyle.

I’m working on having fewer opinions. Here’s why

Natalie van Winden, web editor

For example, I no longer have an opinion on Fortnite, Taylor Swift, pizza toppings, Starbucks orders, cockroaches or cheerleading as a sport, to name a few.

It got me to thinking about the way I react in debates: I have a tendency to get defensive when you remove yourself from the debate. I have discovered that “no opinion” is a more freeing phrase than I originally thought. Honestly, it’s really fun to see the look on your friends’ faces when you remove yourself from the debate. Of course, I do think some opinions are really important. When I recently cast my ballot during the midterm elections, I based my vote on my opinions. I consume media on a daily basis that is curated toward me and based on my opinions. And I think kindness, ambition and hope are essential to the betterment of the Anthropocene period (meaning our current geological age, which is viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment).

All of these important opinions are, well, really important. What I’m talking about when I say it’s important to have less opinions is about giving your mind the chance to sub out and sit on the bench on a topic where the outcome of game has already been decided.

I guess my point is to share with you how having fewer opinions has given me mental freedom from triviality and more time to care about things that matter.
Equestrian aims to compete in 2020 Olympic Games

Mallika Sinha | Staff Writer

Freshman Shota Ogomori won a silver medal in the 2018 Asian Games, also known as Asiad, this past summer. But amidst the cheering and celebration, Ogomori said the intensely competitive atmosphere and the international scope of the games made him nervous.

“I still have trouble maintaining pressure and using it as a good influence because I get a little nervous and make mistakes,” said Ogomori, a business major.

The Asian Games, regulated by the Asian Games Federation, is a multi-sport competition for Asian countries. Like the Olympics, the games are held every four years.

Ogomori has been riding horses since he was two years old, and his father rode for a Japanese national team. Ogomori followed in his footsteps despite it being rare for men to ride horses competitively in Japan, he said.

Ogomori, who was nominated by the Japanese Federation to be on a shortlist of competitors for the 2020 Olympics, said his strength comes from his versatility with riding horses — he rode eight this summer and spends up to an hour a day training one horse.

He had humble goals when he was younger, like learning how to jump a certain height or how to maneuver around obstacles. But now that he’s competed in the Asian Games, he hopes to make it to the Olympics. It’s been his goal for the past two years, he said.

“I competed in the top levels, but there’s always somebody better than me, there’s always somebody faster than me,” Ogomori said. “And it’s so good to see different people, different levels, different environments, and learn from that.”

Training for the games includes making sure the horses are healthy and well-trained as well as consulting with team members and practicing riding technique, Ogomori said.

Ogomori is the only male on Chapman’s equestrian team. He likes the recreational attitude of Chapman, he said, and he hopes remembering to have fun on the team will pay off in bigger competitions, like the Olympics.

Riding in a team environment is also good practice, as Western teams tend to be more competitive than Japanese teams, he said.

“The Western teams really work in unison and they’re really focused on teamwork,” Ogomori said. “That applies to the Olympics or the bigger competitions where you have team competitions.”

Catie Woodward, president of the equestrian team, said despite Ogomori’s experience competing at an international level, he stays grounded.

“He is always willing to go with the flow of the team and participate, even as the only male on the team,” Woodward said.

While riding is an individual sport, participating in team competitions like college shows or the Asian Games, helps Ogomori appreciate his fellow riders.

“At the end of the day, when you’re competing, you’re alone in there,” Ogomori said. “But doing a team competition, like in the Asian Games, or what we do here on the Chapman equestrian team, it really gives you a sense that you have to be positive and carry that on to the next person.”
From on the bench to leading the scoreboard

As a freshman, Lucy Criswell was often benched during games after getting into foul trouble. But now, in her junior year, Criswell is one of the team's leading scorers.

Pri Jain | Staff Writer

Lucy Criswell played aggressively when she first joined the Chapman’s women’s basketball team. Her coach, Carol Jue, often sat her during games since she would repeatedly get into foul trouble.

Despite her inconsistent freshman year, Criswell is now one of the tallest players on the team and has learned how to use her height as an advantage.

“I did play guard in high school, but I came here and I was the tallest,” Criswell said. “I only got playing time as a post because we had so many skilled guards … last year, I was able to do a little bit of both.”

While some players may view a change in position negatively, Criswell said it gave her a better understanding of the game, allowing her to break down the game from the perspective of a guard and a post.

Criswell has adapted to play the “stretch four,” a modern position that allows players to score on the outside and handle the ball like guards.

“I would definitely prefer guarding players in the post,” Criswell said. “Sometimes it’s harder for me to keep up with the speed of guards on the perimeter.”

Criswell sees herself as an offensive-minded player and said her defensive skills could use improvement. Jue allowed her to help lead the team.

“(She’s) really grown,” Jue said. “As a freshman, she had a hard time staying on the court because she was always getting in foul trouble… (but) she’s one of the few who is first in the gym and the last to leave.”

In spite of her limited playing time her freshman year and a game average of 4.1 points, Criswell said her dedication helped her better her scoring skills. In her sophomore season she averaged 15.1 points per game and was named the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Athlete of the Year.

“I’ve become a lot more comfortable challenging myself,” said Criswell. “I’m not normally someone who is a vocal person, but I’ve had to become one out of necessity.”

At 5’10, Criswell is one of the tallest players on the team and has established a stronger presence on the field. Her senior year, he recorded 24 more tackles than he did his junior year and added seven sacks to his credit.

“The coaches emphasize to soak it in. Every hour of it. Hanging out in the locker room. All the little stuff. Senior year is fun as a captain. You’re with all your buddies that you’ve grown old with,” said Layton.

Layton has been with the team for four years and has always played with a chip on his shoulder, he said.

Layton wasn’t a starter his freshman year, but each year at Chapman he established a stronger presence on the field. His senior year, he recorded 24 more tackles than he did his junior year and added seven sacks to his credit.

Dominic Vaccher, senior wide receiver, said he started crying during the last game.

“These guys are really something special,” Vaccher said. “We have a great group of leaders and it’s not even just the captains. The guys who aren’t the captains can motivate this team and it’s a testament to coach Owens and the program and everything he does. It’s hard saying ‘bye.’

Layton said this is his final goodbye to football — he’s ready for a new stage of his life.

“In high school, I was much more ready to move on because I knew that there was a next step and I was going to keep playing. Here, it’s more of an end,” Layton said.
Men’s soccer falls to Trinity in national tournament

Mimi Fhima | Sports Editor

Last Saturday, Tobi Howe played alongside his older brother Kai Howe for one last time. The brothers played soccer together in high school too, but lost in the finals of their league tournament in Tokyo, Japan. It wasn’t until they lost in the national tournament while playing for Chapman Nov. 10 that Kai Howe realized he hadn’t fully appreciated playing alongside his brother. “Now that it’s all done it was definitely a lot of fun,” Kai Howe said. Chapman ended its season Nov. 10 with a 3-0 loss against Trinity University. The team didn’t expect to get a lot of shots on the experienced Trinity defense, Tobi Howe said, and prior to the playoffs, he said the team needed to convert every scoring opportunity they had into a goal.

Chapman took 15 shots during the game, none of which ended up in the net. Kai Howe said the score doesn’t reflect the effort put in by the team, but he was still disappointed. One of the team’s hopes for this season was to stay focused for all 90 minutes of the game, Tobi Howe said. Chapman was nervous to play Trinity, which is a nationally ranked team, Kai Howe said.

To keep up with the more experienced Division III teams, Tobi Howe said Chapman needs to up its physicality. “(Trinity was) so much bigger than us and stronger than us and had the ability to push people off the ball and hold on to it,” Tobi Howe said.

When the game finished, Tobi Howe said it hit him that it was his last game with his brother. “You can see by how many game-winning goals (Kai Howe) had this season, he showed up and he scored for us,” Tobi Howe said. “I want to become that player. I want to be the one that the team feels like they can rely on.”

Tobi Howe, who scored an early goal in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) championship game against Occidental College Nov. 1, secured a 1-0 win for Chapman and advanced the team to the national tournament. “There was also a lot of pride in what we’ve accomplished this year together. We won the SCIAC championship,” Tobi Howe said. “There was also a lot of pride in what we’ve accomplished this year together.”

- Tobi Howe, freshman forward

After winning the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship game for the first time in Panther history, the men’s soccer team advanced to the national tournament in San Antonio, Texas. The team lost to Trinity University 3-0 Nov. 10.

Follow us on social media!

@pantheronline

The Panther

The Panther

Follow us on social media!