Expert test-taker pleads guilty

Mark Riddell, an expert test-taker caught up in the nationwide college admissions scandal, pleaded guilty to fraud and money laundering conspiracy charges in a Boston federal court April 12. Riddell was allegedly paid $100,000 by David Sidoo to take the SAT for his son, Dylan Sidoo, a former Chapman student who was admitted to the university in 2012.

“From in or about 2011 through in or about February 2019, RIDDELL conspired with Singer and others known and unknown to the United States Attorney to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud by cheating on college entrance exams by bribing test administrators to allow RIDDELL to secretly take the exams in place of actual students ...”

President Daniele Struppa is refusing to remove a controversial poster of 1915 film ‘The Birth of a Nation.’ Why? Censorship in any form is ‘hideous,’ he writes in a column this week.

Senior Jonathan Hernandez is a key part of Chapman baseball’s No. 8 nationally ranked team, along with a trio of pitchers the coach affectionately refers to as a ‘three-headed monster.’

Graphic by EMMA REITH Art Director

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Chapman Grand students accuse Public Safety officer of harassment

Jasmin Sani | Managing Editor

When sophomore Melanie Tran moved into Chapman Grand, the $150 million complex that first housed students in August 2018, she didn’t expect to feel like it was a “prison” before the school year ended.

Tran, a sophomore pre-pharmacy major, told The Panther she felt “dehumanized” and “targeted” after she said a Public Safety officer has been “harassing, stalking and attacking” her on multiple occasions.

The officer stood outside of her apartment door March 30, Tran said, and waited for Tran and four of her friends to exit her apartment so he could question them — what about, Tran said, she doesn’t know.

On April 4 and 11, Tran filed a university complaint form and a no-contact order against the officer, which is a protective measure used to “prevent unnecessary or unwanted contact or proximity” to another person, according to Chapman’s Title IX policy.

DeAnn Yocum Gaffney, associate vice president of Student Affairs, emailed Tran April 12 informing her that her no-contact order was put in place so the officer “is not permitted to contact (Tran) in any way” and that she has been reassigned from working at Chapman Grand “while this matter is under review,” according to the email, which Tran provided to The Panther.

The Panther has chosen not to name the officer accused of harassment.

“I heard a walkie-talkie outside and looked through my peephole, and he was outside. He didn’t knock on the door or ring the doorbell,” Tran said. “He was just standing there.”

Will Goh, a sophomore health sciences major, said he has also been harassed by the officer. This semester, Goh has had about four negative encounters with the officer, he said.

On March 30, Goh and a friend turned and walked away from the officer when Goh saw him. Goh said, Goh’s friend was able to leave, but Goh said that the officer told him to sit in the back of a Public Safety vehicle while the officer drove him around the premises to try and unsuccessfully find Goh’s friend.

“We weren’t causing any trouble — we were just walking through — but I saw him around the corner and my heart sunk,” Goh said. “This whole adrenaline rush hit me. I wasn’t doing anything wrong.”

Goh said he felt traumatized by the ride. The Public Safety officer let Goh out of his vehicle and made him pour out the contents of a bottle he was holding on the ground outside of Chapman Grand. Goh was embarrassed, he said, as drivers entering the parking gate watched the scenario unfold.

“He was asking me, ‘Why you run?’ and I told him I got scared and panicked because we’ve had bad interactions in the past,” Goh said.

When Tran and Goh left Chapman Grand together later that day, Tran said they were “cornered” by the officer on the parking lot’s second floor. They allege that the officer demanded they “comply with the student conduct code.”

Students are required to identify themselves if a university official asks, according to Chapman’s student conduct code.

“We do not need probable cause to request someone to identify themselves, we typically do not do so without good reason,” Chief of Public Safety Randy Burba wrote in an April 10 email to The Panther.

Burba denied The Panther’s request to interview the officer accused of harassment, but said his department takes claims like this seriously — and said that if someone complains, he follows up.

Burba was not aware of the complaints made against the officer when The Panther interviewed him April 4.

“We always want to know if anyone has concerns about their interactions with Public Safety officers,” Burba said. Tran requested that a residence life representative come to the parking lot the night of March 30, saying she felt “attacked” by the officer.

The residential graduate assistant allowed Tran, Goh and three of their friends to leave.

“You can stop us, but don’t disrespect us, don’t talk down to us.”

-Melanie Tran, sophomore pre-pharmacy major

“The officer) said, ‘Give me your identifications’ and I asked him what his reasoning for it was. He didn’t reply or tell me why he needed it,” Tran said. “It was a Saturday night and I couldn’t even leave my own apartment complex.”

Tran emailed Erin Ash, the area coordinator for Chapman Grand, March 31 to discuss the “unprofessionalism (sic)” and “trauma” she said she’s experienced from living in Chapman Grand.

The following day, Ash responded to the email, encouraging Tran to fill out an official university complaint form, which Tran told The Panther she did April 4.

“I’m glad to see that you CCed Dave Sundby to this message as he has meetings with the Chief and has confirmed that he will be sharing your concerns to him and his team at this meeting,” Ash wrote in an email to Tran, which Tran provided to The Panther.

Ash declined to be interviewed, deferring media requests to Dave Sundby, director of Residence Life and First Year Experience. Sundby declined to discuss Tran’s complaint, citing resident and faculty privacy, but said Chapman’s Residence Life staff wants to meet with students and address their concerns.

“Our No. 1 priority is caring for students and providing a supportive, conducive living and learning environments for all our residents,” Sundby said.

On April 9, Tran said she met with Ash and Misha Martinez, the Equal Opportunity and Diversity officer from Chapman’s Human Resources department, where Tran was told she should reach out to Human Resources should there be a future altercation with the Public Safety officer.

“In our mission statement, it says to build partnerships with students,” Burba said. If students don’t know or trust Public Safety, then won’t come to officers for help, Burba said.

“You can stop us, but don’t disrespect us, don’t talk down to us and dehumanize us,” Tran said. “This is more than us; this is the future of Chapman Grand.”
Expert test-taker pleads guilty in college admissions scandal

Rebeccah Glaser | Editor-in-chief

Mark Riddell, an expert test-taker caught up in the nationwide college admissions scandal, pleaded guilty to fraud and money laundering charges this week. Among the people charged was David Sidoo, who paid expert test-taker Mark Riddell $100,000 to take the SAT test for his son, Dylan Sidoo, who was admitted to Chapman's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts in 2012.

Chapman was one of the universities named in the nationwide college admissions indictment that charged 50 individuals with fraud, money laundering and conspiracy charges. Among the people charged was David Sidoo, who paid expert test-taker Mark Riddell $100,000 to take the SAT test for his son, Dylan Sidoo, who was admitted to Chapman's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts in 2012.

In December 2011, according to the indictment, a copy of the SAT score was emailed to an unidentified Chapman administrator.

When Dylan Sidoo took the exam on an unsupervised date, he scored 1460 out of 2400. When Riddell took the test for him in 2011, he scored 1670 out of 2400, after allegedly being instructed by another individual whose name is also redacted to "not to obtain too high a score". Because of Dylan Sidoo's previous low score, according to the indictment, Riddell would typically arrange for Riddell to be paid around $10,000 per exam, according to the indictment.

In one instance, according to court documents, Riddell completed an exam in a hotel room in Houston, Texas. He would sometimes predict the test scores, once correctly projecting that he had scored 35 out of 36 on the ACT.

Danielle Struppa, Chapman's president, wrote in a March 12 letter to the Panther that the university will work with them to improve what they can offer to the students.

Around 400 students identify as Jewish at Chapman, said Jennifer Ruby, a coordinator for the Wallace All Faiths Chapel. "(Sodexo tries) to be accommodatiing," said Spencer Kaseff, president of Chapman Hillel and senior television writing and production major. "They ask us to be understanding that they cook for an entire school and it's difficult to adjust their kitchen completely to be kosher. And we ask them to understand that some of us can't eat their food eight days of the year."

In the past, Sodexo has provided kosher food for Passover for the past two years, with the food supplied by an outside vendor. Sodexo is working with religious and cultural leaders on campus to bring kosher options to campus year-round.

"It's not OK because freshmen have to have a meal plan, myself included. A lot of my friends last year were simply unable to eat at the cafeteria, yet had to pay thousands of dollars a year to eat there," Vered said. "I felt unsupported by my school community and that we were not being heard."

Vered is not the only one who feels this way. "I was disappointed," said Max Magursky, a sophomore music major who is Jewish. "They don't have food that caters toward what we need. It feels like they don't really think about us."

Magursky said that the topic was brought up during a Chadab meeting April 8 and said students are prepared to talk to Sodexo representatives in order for their concerns to be heard.

Sodexo is working with Rabbi Corrie Yutkin, the director of Jewish Life at Chapman, to bring kosher food options to Chapman year-round. As Passover approaches, Yutkin and Sodexo are working together to ensure kosher food options for Jewish students on campus. Sodexo will continue to provide kosher options from April 19 to 27, as it has done in the past for Passover.

"They have always been willing to work with me," Yutkin said. "Sodexo is always open to accommodating us and working with us in trying to improve what they can offer to the students."

Randall Dining Commons has offered kosher food for Passover for the past two years, with the food supplied by an outside vendor. Sodexo is working with religious and cultural leaders on campus to bring kosher options to campus year-round.

"I'm expecting that something will be resolved," said Hakeem Wakil, president of MSA. "We've had a positive relationship with (Sodexo) in the past, so I think that hopefully everything will be OK."

Cameron said that Sodexo works with Stearns and recognizes groups on campus, as well as with students who send him emails and attempt to meet with him. For Cameron, "face-to-face" communication is crucial.

"Our goal would be to sit down and understand exactly what the needs are," Cameron said. "If there is a Halal-style meat that is needed, we will work with them."
Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

While walking through Argyros Forum after leaving a class or heading to the student lounge, students may notice a child’s red dress, a pair of pajamas, or a black party dress hanging on a wall. The halls of Argyros Forum are usually decorated with ‘I Am Chapman’ portraits, student projects and Chapman’s distinguishable symbol, the fenestra. But during April, the hall adjacent to Einstein’s Bagels and Jamba Juice will also be home to the “We Were Wearing” gallery, that shares stories of assault survivors and shows what they were wearing what assault.

“(Survivors) might not get justice through the legal system or other formal avenues, but it is a personal way for them to tell their story,” said Dani Smith, Chapman’s rape crisis counselor and coordinator for Creating a Rape-Free Environment for Students (C.A.R.E.S.).

This marks the first year that the C.A.R.E.S.-sponsored monthlong event has taken place at Chapman. The project, which began in 2013 at the University of Arkansas, was created by Jen Brockman, the director of the university’s sexual assault prevention and education center, and university health educator, Dr. Mary Wyandt-Hiebert. It is now a fixture at schools like the University of Kansas, the University of Florida and Ohio University.

The decision held that, as part of due process, “the ability to confront the complainant, respondent and we needed to be in compliance,” said another.

The project included “Take Back the Night,” an evening dedicated to survivors of sexual assault and interpersonal violence, and the Clothesline Project, an event where students can share their experiences with assault or violence, or write uplifting phrases for survivors on t-shirts hung around campus. “If someone comes to you and tells you their story, believe them,” Smith said. “We’re all in this together.”

Chapman updates sexual misconduct policy to comply with state law

Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

After a Jan. 4 California appellate court decision found that the University of Southern California (USC) failed to give a student accused of sexual assault a fair hearing, Chapman has adjusted its sexual misconduct policies in compliance with state law.

The decision held that, as part of due process, “the ability to confront adverse witnesses, which may include the complainant, respondent, and other witnesses is an essential part for the hearing,” wrote Colleen Woods, director of student conduct, and DeAnn Yocum Gaffney, associate dean of students and lead Title IX coordinator, in an email to The Panther.

While the accused and accusers will not be required to be in the same room during the hearing, they can view the proceedings remotely when hearing officers deem it’s appropriate, according to a March 28 email sent by Chapman’s Dean of Students Office.

“After getting that decision and reading through it, we had to understand what the holdings from that case meant in comparison with our current policy and what we needed to do to make sure we were compliant,” Woods said.

The email from Woods and Gaffney said that the update gives those in the process the ability to confront witnesses, which can include the accused and accuser.

“if a respondent does not wish to participate with a hearing, one will proceed as long as the complainant is participating,” the email said, clarifying that the neutral factfinders who would be present during witness confrontations would be employees from Student Affairs.

The January precedent-setting case challenged how USC addressed sexual assault cases and resulted in changes to the statewide hearing policy.

“This decision” came out Jan. 4 and recently needed to be in compliance,” Woods said.

Students at Chapman in the process of sexual misconduct policy changes were notified as soon as the policy changes were made.

One major change in Chapman’s sexual misconduct policy requires that investigators gather information about the case, share it and share it with both parties, Gaffney said.

“We were doing that (already), but has moved from the investigators to a separate hearing panel before any determinations about policy violations are made,” Gaffney said.

In compliance with the new policy, both the accused and the accuser will be present in the same hearing. The students will not have to see each other during the hearing itself and can view the testimony of their opponent in a separate room if either chooses to, according to Woods and Gaffney. “We have never had an occasion when we have had a complainant or respondent run into each other during a hearing,” Woods said.

“People are shocked about that, but we haven’t had that happen. We usually have a staff member sitting outside trying to coordinate,”

The policy change comes as USC found the student accused of sexual assault a fair hearing.

Chapman University emails notice about sexual misconduct policy changes

Claremont McKenna College student accused of sexual assault appeal revisited after student claimed to not receive a fair trial

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos releases a proposed rewrite of campus sexual misconduct policies that give accused more rights

University of Southern California President writes open letter concerning lawsuits filed by more than 100 women against campus gynecologist George Tyndall

University of California, Santa Barbara student accused of sexual assault gets suspension overturned on the grounds of not receiving a fair trial

An appellate court finds that USC failed to give a student accused of sexual assault a fair hearing

Information from the University of Southern California, the California Court of Appeals, and the Chapman University Dean of Students Office

Chapman’s sexual misconduct policy was altered to reflect the California Court of Appeals ruling in favor of giving students accused of assault more rights. After a Jan. 4 hearing in Los Angeles County, Chapman’s Title IX office amended the misconduct policy to remain in compliance with the court’s ruling.

EMMA REITH Art Director

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After a decrease in election participation, student government aims to bolster votes with events like the April 9 “Meet the Candidates Bash,” where students met candidates running for senatorial elections and entered a raffle for two tickets to Disneyland.

“Spring senate elections have significantly reduced in participation,” said Wöl Harris, student government’s director of elections. About 22.5 percent of the student body voted in this year’s student government president and vice president election, which is 3.5 percent lower than last year’s election.

“I’m honestly here to try to win some Disneyland tickets,” said Logan Stevens, a junior news and documentary major and one of the about 120 students in attendance.

This is not the first time student government has used incentives and prizes to engage students. In the March presidential election, student government tried to encourage voter participation with a raffle prize of two Billie Eilish concert tickets.

“Without these incentives, people are too busy to even come out to these events,” said Max Chang, student government’s director of public relations. “We need to earn your engagement; we have to work hard to appeal to everybody who is busy.”

Student government has also focused on its social media platforms to get more access to students. Harris said the number of followers on student government’s Instagram went from 870 in August 2017 to 1,208 as of April 14, Harris said.

“Consumed in our own lives, (student government) is hard to prioritize, especially in our age, when you have work, school, social life and extracurricular activities,” said Jae Staten, a junior film production major.

Lack of education about student government is another contributing factor to low engagement, said Abby Tan, student government’s vice president-elect.

“A lot of students don’t know what student government does and don’t know why it’s important to be involved,” Tan said. “It’s good to know what’s going on at your school, especially when it has to do with policy changing.”

Anita Cheng, a sophomore psychology major who is running for senator of Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, said that low campus involvement can affect political participation on a larger scale.

“If people aren’t willing to vote in something so small, people are going to be less willing to vote in something big,” she said.

To increase student voting, SGA raffles Disneyland tickets

Student government held a raffle for two Disneyland tickets to students who participated in the “Meet the Candidates Bash” April 9. Above, freshman business major Ishani Patel, who is a student organization senator, tables for student government.
RuPaul’s Drag Race contestants perform at annual drag show

Mitali Shukla | Staff Writer

As a young child in the Philippines, 37-year-old Ryan Paolo – known by his drag queen name Orgina – discovered his love for drag. On April 12, Paolo, a season one contestant of popular TV show RuPaul’s Drag Race, performed on the Student Union Stage in Argyros Forum at the seventh annual Chapman Pride Drag Show – along with previous RuPaul’s Drag Race contestants Mariah Balenciaga, Kurtis Blow and Laganja Estranja.

“I love the energy (the audience) gives me, which inspires me every time I’m on stage,” Jay Jackson – also known as Laganja Estranja – told The Panther. “It doesn’t matter if I’m performing to a crowd of 20 or a crowd of thousands – 99 percent of the time, they’re there to see a drag show and they love it.”

Four student performers also took the stage, beginning with Rosa Sharks, then Queen Jade, Goldine Jasper and Pal Polo. The queens performed intricate and provocative dance routines with detailed, colorful costumes, lip syncing to popular songs in the LGBTQ+ community like “Yes Man” by Lady Gaga. The audience of around 100 people responded with clapping, hollering and rounds of applause. Some of the student queens were returning performers and some were performing drag for the first time.

“Historically, drag queens have led the way when it comes to gay rights, so we have a lot to thank for today, said attendee and junior sociology major Andreas Ter-Borch. “Multiple genders are represented in that sense, it’s very inclusive. There isn’t really a wrong way to do drag.”

The four drag queens from various seasons of RuPaul’s Drag Race executed dance numbers with an array of different costume and wig changes. The “death drop,” which is a type of dance in which a dancer falls to the ground in a pose, is one of the most exciting renditions of the splits, Ter-Borch said.

“I love the unexpectedness of it all. You never know what a queen is going to look like coming out or what she’s going to lip sync to,” Ter-Borch said. “There’s nothing like the jaw-dropping than a death drop.”

In between performances, the queens thanked those who organized the event and fellow members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

“B-G-T-Q-A plus, got that? But you don’t need a label,” Jackson told the audience.

Following the performances, there was a Q&A portion of the show where the four RuPaul’s Drag Race queens answered questions from the audience. One of the audience members asked them how they felt about RuPaul, the host of the drag show competition.

“I’m a very emotional person. I was really hurt when I was eliminated and RuPaul didn’t hug me,” Jackson said. “I told him this while I was on his podcast and ever since then, each time I see him, he’s hugged me. Underneath it all, he’s a good man.”

Mariah Balenciaga, whose real name is Eliah Kelechi, went on to say that RuPaul had to endure the difficulties of doing drag at a time where it was not as culturally and socially accepted. He encouraged the audience to learn about the history of drag and what their predecessors had to go through to get where they are.

“Drag is more than just men dressing up as women,” Kelly said. “It’s an act of self-expression.”

When Paolo was asked if he ever feels uncomfortable in his line of work, he said there are certain aspects that make him feel unsafe.

“With the shootings at gay bars and nightclubs, it’s impossible not to think about my safety. I can’t be afraid, because then it would mean that I let them win,” Paolo said. “As far as being uncomfortable – I don’t anymore. I figure, if you don’t like me or my drag, then that’s on you. Not me.”

RuPaul’s Drag Race contestants perform at annual drag show

Sati Vunkara | Staff Writer

Kelly Galindo, director of human trafficking documentary ‘26 Seconds,’ views Harbor Boulevard as one of the scariest places for human trafficking. The street runs along the borders of Disneyland, which may seem like an unlikely location for prostitution. It’s not.

“Human trafficking in Orange County is happening right under our eyes,” said former Chapman student Melissa Hoon, a California state-certified counselor for survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking. “It is one of the least known about and it’s happening in our own backyards.”

Out of the 415 human trafficking victims rescued in Orange County in the past two years, 73 percent of these victims were trafficked in either 2017 or 2018, according to a 2019 report by The Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force (OCHTTF). The report also found that 12 percent of the cases were labeled sex trafficking and 87 percent were sex trafficking.

“Human trafficking is the most invisible crime,” said Hoon.

In her experience working as an emergency response counselor for the OCHTTF and as a Youth Anti-Trafficking Specialist at WeAVE – a Sacramento County-based crisis intervention program for victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual assault – Hoon said that oftentimes, victims come from broken homes or have already suffered physical or sexual abuse, which aids human traffickers in knowing where and how to prey on vulnerabilities.

“This is an undiscussed topic that led Galindo, a professor at Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, and Prateek Damodaren, a junior film production major, to travel across the world and uncover the reality of human trafficking.

Galindo visited and filmed survivors in Thailand, Iraq, Cambodia, India, East Africa, Mexico and the United States for her documentary series ‘26 Seconds,’ which refers to the fact that every 26 seconds that passes, a child is trafficked. Each episode of the documentary series is designed to guide the viewers through a survivor’s experience and point of view in a particular country.

“Through their stories, we introduce the organizations that are there in the fight with them,” Galindo said.

“They’re doing incredible work; they are the heroes. They need to have a light shined on them,” Galindo said.

The teaser for the series is available on Amazon Prime, and will soon be on other platforms like iTunes and Google Play. Galindo plans to pitch the project to Netflix, where the episodic series would have hour-long episodes.

“Very few projects go about how sex trafficking is global. It’s everywhere, but it’s a little different in each country,” Galindo said.

To read more about human trafficking, visit the OCHTTF website at ochttf.org.

Harbor Boulevard and Hazard Avenue – both streets in Orange County – are locations involved in a Santa Ana Police Department human trafficking investigation.

‘RuPaul’s Drag Race’ contestants perform at annual drag show

MAX WERRAUCH Staff Photographer

Harbor Boulevard and Hazard Avenue – both streets in Orange County – are locations involved in a Santa Ana Police Department human trafficking investigation.

73% of victims were newly identified in either 2017 or 2018.

87% of the 415 victims were involved in sex trafficking.
Khalid’s sophomore album falls short of expectations

Gabby Toczek | Staff Writer

Khalid, left, released his most recent album, “Free Spirit,” on April 5. The 21-year-old gained popularity with his first album, “American Teen.”

“American Teen,” Khalid embraced his unique voice, by making his singing meaningful and utilizing his personal experiences to lead his music, but with “Free Spirit,” he didn’t allow himself to be as vulnerable.

The lackluster music production in Khalid’s second album offered a bland comparison to its predecessor, which has extremely unique beats, especially with songs like “American Teen” and “Let’s Go.” Khalid’s personal touch in his new album is gone because he didn’t go out of his way to connect to his audience. These small additions on “American Teen” were missing from “Free Spirit,” which took more of a pop route. Most of the songs had the same rhythm.

Khalid left himself out of his second album. With the amount of fame he received from “American Teen,” it seems he felt more pressure to conform to the mainstream standards in “Free Spirit” and it shows.

‘Living a second life’: Chapman students run Barstool account

Gabby Toczek | Staff Writer

Chapman Barstool is run by four anonymous cocreators, who post entertainment content that features Chapman students. The account has gained more than 3,000 followers in less than three months.

Chapman students, “Michael” said. “Some people just want to release their inner

Fraternity parties, alcohol and memes – these are just some of what students can find when scrolling through Chapman’s Barstool Instagram account. Created in September 2018, the page is a parody made to replicate the official Barstool Sports page, which features comedic content for its 6.7 million Instagram followers.

Michael, one of the four founders of Chapman Barstool, told The Panther that the account was created to provide a platform for students.

Michael said he and the other creators of the account were surprised Chapman didn’t have its own Barstool account. He said the Instagram page has grown tremendously in a matter of a few months, given that about 3,500 people follow it.

“Running the account feels like living a second life – like Hannah Montana. It’s an alter ego,” Michael said. “It’s an account that has a strong presence and influence on the lives of Chapman students.”

Some posts contain explicit imagery – for example, a male student urinating in a toilet while another male student is slumbered over a toilet. When individuals directly message content to the account, the material is reviewed by the owners, who “try (their) best to check for consent.”

The owners of the account ask the submitter to check with the people featured in the content to provide privacy approval, and sometimes go to the individuals themselves for consent.

“We have posted, ‘Try to get permission from the people in the video or picture to allow us to post it,’” Michael said. “We take the submitter’s word as consent.”

Nic Dowdy, a senior public relations and advertising major, was one of the individuals who wasn’t made aware of his face being featured on the account on December 14.

In the public video, Dowdy was being fed a burger after Undie Run, a spring event at Chapman where students walk or run to the Orange Plaza and back to the main campus in their underwear.

“Barstool hadn’t asked me for consent, but I do know that that’s necessarily a stain on them,” Dowdy said. “I consider it to be my choice and responsibility … knowing that people are around and cameras are on.”

Michael said that if someone asks for a post to be removed, which has happened between five to 10 times, the account owners promptly do so.

“We are a service provider and we hope to provide the best service to our community,” Michael said. “We never post anything that disrespects the dignity of someone.”

As the account is still new, the creators are trying to build up a reputable image. Michael said they have received both positive and negative feedback.

“It is a catharsis for people. It allows students to experience significant moments through the lens of other students,” Michael said. “Some people just want to release their inner ‘Thotiana’ without feeling judged, so Barstool has provided them with a way to do so.”

The account owners work together by having discussions regarding possible content. The account has three criteria for a post: relatability, humor and appeal factor.

Even though Chapman Barstool is run by four owners, only about 12 others know of their identity.

“We’re just a group of dumb college students running a fun account,” Michael said. “We are planning on revealing our identity to a select group of friends after graduation, and we’ll probably pass down the account password to another student to run.”
Confronting my own mortality

I can’t recall a time before this year when my own mortality has truly crossed my mind. I’m 19. From where I sit, I feel invincible. But I’m starting to realize that’s not true. On April 8, my little sister told me that two high school students died in my hometown in the past week. They didn’t attend my high school and I had never met either of them. I’d never even heard their names before my sister brought them up, but for some reason, I still felt a strong sense of loss.

They were both juniors in high school. They had years and years ahead of them; so much they could’ve done but will never be able to accomplish. Teenagers aren’t supposed to die. These boys were supposed to graduate, go to college, start a family and live long lives.

How can you gripe the loss of someone you never knew? I started to feel guilty about being upset. I’m not related to them. I wasn’t friends with them. My everyday life is the same as it was before I heard the news. The only thing I’ve ever known and will ever know about these boys is the story of their untimely deaths. I thought I didn’t have a right to mourn. How could I be so upset about something that doesn’t affect me directly?

I’ve driven countless times down the same road where one of the boys died in a car accident. I’ve read through that turn. I’ve driven around with my friends, blasting music and forgotten to put my seat belt on, like the other boy. I’ve been in their shoes. I know what they were thinking at the time and I know it had nothing to do with dying.

I don’t have exact numbers, but it seems like for the past six years, there has been at least one death at a high school in my hometown each year. All of the deaths felt so sudden. I didn’t have a direct connection to any of the people who died, but I saw and heard about how their parents, siblings, friends, significant others and neighbors dealt with the aftermath. I signed cards and tried to show my support, but I never really learned how to react. So I tried to put it behind me and move on.

No one expects a young person to die. Last year, two high school students died in my hometown in the past week. They didn’t attend my high school and I had never met either of them. I’d never even heard their names before my sister brought them up, but for some reason, I still felt a strong sense of loss.

It may not seem like it, but life is a beautiful thing, and even though something will always be missing. Those affected one day feel whole again, even though something will always be missing.

I’ve realized that mortality isn’t something you grow into. I’m not trying to sound like your mom, but be careful. It sounds cheesy, but life is a beautiful thing, and even though it may not seem like it, it can be taken from at us at any time.

Illustrated by Gaby Fantone

Interrogation encourages silence

The Panther Editorial Board

Colleges across California are now complying with a Jan. 4 appellate court decision regarding a University of Southern California student accused of sexual assault. The decision holds that “fundamental fairness” requires students who are accused of sexual assault to have the right to a hearing and ability to cross-examine their accusers and potential witnesses in the case.

False reporting falls between 2 and 10 percent, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. For the small percentage of sexual assaults reports that are fabricated accusations, the right to a hearing and a fair trial is crucial. But this comes at a cost to sexual assault victims.

At many universities nationwide, sexual assault investigations are private and contained. The accuser and the accused meet with Title IX investigators separately, and aren’t permitted to interact.

But this comes at a cost to sexual assault victims. A fair hearing and the opportunity for someone accused of a crime to be innocent until proven guilty is crucial. No one should be denied that. But this ruling puts the burden for a fair hearing on students who are in a vulnerable position – and that should never happen.

A 2011 Dear Colleague letter written during the President Barack Obama administration set forth guidelines in which the accused and accuser would be able to question one another, but not in a live setting. In fact, the letter discouraged it. Campus sexual assault cases are high stakes for both parties, but a fair hearing process is still possible without the confrontational nature of live questioning. Just like an accused student shouldn’t have to give up their right to defend themselves, an accuser should not have to be subjected to the potential trauma of cross-examination.

Chapman is not at fault – this is a statewide ruling, and schools that receive federal funding can’t refuse to adhere to these changes. But the Department of Education – and the appellate courts upholding these decisions – need to consider whether this decision is really in the best interest of the students they represent.

Have a question, comment or idea? Contact us at thepanthemnewspaper@gmail.com.
Chapman’s ‘The Birth of a Nation’ poster should be removed

Dr. W. Griffith’s “The Birth of a Nation” is a 1915 film that depicts the story of two southern families during the Civil War and Reconstruction. So, before penning this article, I watched it. I deserve special credit here ... because it is a silent, black and white movie that’s three hours long.

The movie is artfully done. It has acting that is composed and touching, and powerful large-scale scenes. But there are clear reasons for any viewer to be troubled. If a movie like this were made now, we would be shot by the insensitivity it displays and the way in which African Americans are portrayed. It is thus hard to see the film’s nostalgia for a time before the Civil War and resentment against the Reconstruction era. All of this pales, however, when compared to the blatantly racist tone that pervades the entire film, especially the second half. It was, at times, really hard to watch. I do understand why many of Chapman’s students are asking for the poster to be taken down. One student told The Panther that the poster is “accusing and blaming” and that the display of the poster shows that Chapman still condones “the celebration of white supremacy.”

This is where I disagree. The movie has a significant place in the history of films. It offers major technical innovations and broke new ground when it was first produced. The historic and artistic value of the film was acknowledged by its 1992 inclusion in the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress and in 1998, it made the American Film Institute’s list of the 100 greatest movies ever made.

More importantly, I find troubling the desire to remove something whose presence contributes to collective education. A university is a place where uncomfortable ideas must be expressed and discussed, not a place where they are hidden and eliminated. Removing the poster won’t do an iota of good for our cause. On the contrary, it will take away an opportunity for students to confront a problematic past.

Arti Caviness, film production graduate student

Chapman’s ‘The Birth of a Nation’ poster should be removed

Why I won’t take down Chapman’s ‘The Birth of a Nation’ poster

Censorship, including the removal of a poster, is always tedious, even when done with the best intentions. We must resist the temptation to whitewash our past and to edulcorate reality. Reality is harsh, unpleasant and ugly. That is what we have done in the past is often awful and shameful. But that is no reason to hide it. We should always return to our history, that checkered history, just like every other country. And on our country is the stain of slavery. It is not a stain that can be washed away and one we will always have to contend with. The best way to contend with it is not to remove anything that has to do with our history, but instead confront it with open eyes.

Just like the segment of the Berlin Wall in the center of campus reminds us of the tragic history that separated people, the poster of “The Birth of a Nation” should remind us of a time when our country struggled with the worst injustices.

While I disagree with the request to remove the poster, I sincerely commend our students for their awareness in really “seeing” the poster, rather than being oblivious to what was around them. Our students turned their encounter with the poster into a moment of learning.

To read the full column, go to thepantheronline.com.

Society needs autism action, not just awareness

April is Autism Awareness Month. But awareness isn’t always enough.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 59 children has autism. In 2007, Dr. Meghan Cosier – at Chapman has made major strides to remove some of the systemic barriers to support and acceptance for students who are autistic.

To be manifested into tangible support and acceptance. And while spreading awareness is a start, it shouldn’t be the only goal for this month and beyond.

To counter the stigma surrounding autism and the lack of representation and services available in schools, workplaces and the mainstream media, we must bridge the gap between what the majority assumes about the living realities of those on the autism spectrum.

Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old climate activist from Sweden, is one of many young people striving to transform the trajectory of modern society’s future. Her relentless commitment to and passion for climate justice has sparked an international movement of school strikes all across the globe – including countries like Germany, Australia and Japan. She is also a nominee for this year’s Nobel Peace Prize, the youngest since Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai.

Dr. Cosier is driving action on combating climate change – but she’s also using her platform and leadership to shatter the stigma around autism spectrum disorders, mental illness and other “invisible” disabilities. If you look at her Instagram and Twitter, she refers to herself as a “climate activist and empowering advocate.”

On April 2, in honor of Autism Awareness Day, Thunberg posted about how she was proud to be on the autism spectrum. But she didn’t stop there. Instead, she transparently delved into the daily experiences of living with her multiple diagnoses, which include Asperger’s Syndrome, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Tourette’s Syndrome and obsessive-compulsive disorder, as well as dealing with depression and anxiety.

“Since I was 6 years old, I have been dealing with a lot of prejudice and a lot of ignorance,” she wrote. “It’s not easy to live with a disability that isn’t always hideous, even when done with the best intentions. We must resist the temptation to whitewash our past and to edulcorate reality. Reality is harsh, unpleasant and ugly. That is what we have done in the past is often awful and shameful. But that is no reason to hide it. We should always return to our history, that checkered history, just like every other country. And on our country is the stain of slavery. It is not a stain that can be washed away and one we will always have to contend with. The best way to contend with it is not to remove anything that has to do with our history, but instead confront it with open eyes.

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Nicole Fouts leads women’s tennis team as sole senior

At 10, while senior psychology major Nicole Fouts was relaxing on vacation at Gleneden Beach in Oregon, her mother Karen signed her up for a tennis lesson at the Salishan Tennis Center, without Fouts’ knowledge. She went to her first lesson and didn’t like it, but her parents believed she was a natural.

As time went on, she continued playing so she could improve while also playing basketball. When she enrolled at Jesuit High School in Portland, Oregon, she made the freshman basketball team and the varsity tennis team. Fouts felt like she had to make a decision.

“I decided to take tennis more seriously and play tennis or 1 decided to make the most of it,” Fouts said.

This year, the team carries an overall record of 3-10, with three matches left in its season. Fouts has won five singles matches this year and lost eight. She has also won seven doubles and lost six. But she isn’t discouraged by a few numbers on a piece of paper. This season the team has played higher division teams in nonconference matches, and Fouts welcomes the competition.

“It looks bad, but we have to consider that we’ve played Division I schools and the rest of our schedule was already stacked in the first place,” Fouts said. “It’s good competition. You are only going to get better if you play people who are better than you.”

The team has played 12 nationally ranked Division III schools this year, like No. 2 Claremont Mud-Mudd-Scripps and No. 4 ranked Pomona-Pitzer College. Fouts is the only senior on Chapman’s team of 11, but she tries to balance her academics and athletics.

Her teammate, sophomore kinesiology major Delara Fotovatjah, said Fouts manages her activities well.

“She does have a busy life,” Fotovatjah said. “She is a fighter and she has a lot of personality. After Fouts graduates this spring, she intends to continue tennis.

“I want to keep playing as long as I can,” Fouts said. “I can’t imagine not playing.”

The kid”: Runner speeds through freshman track season

When undeclared freshman Don Celestine was on the football team as a running back at El Dorado High School in Placentia, California, he suffered a spiral fracture in his right leg that changed the trajectory of his athletic future. While Celestine was at practice during his junior year — a agricultural future. While Celestine was

Celestine is still figuring things out. Though he doesn’t regret the end of his football career, he misses it and debates going back to the sport.

“One side of me is telling me, ‘Yes, play. Why not?’ and the other side is like, ‘No, your body has taken too much of a beating after all these years,’ Celestine said.

For now, Celestine is focused on preparing for the April 27 and 28 Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Championships. Celestine said running track has helped fill the void left by football, and he wants to pursue the sport.

“I’ve always wanted to go to the Olympics,” Celestine said.
Mimi Fhima | Staff Writer

Senior Jonathan Hernandez had an ERA of 3.05 and 49 strikeouts this season. Most recently, Hernandez struck out 10 Claremont Mudd–Scripps hitters in Chapman’s game April 12.

Hernandez and Collins pitched as long relievers during their first three years before transitioning into a starting role this season. Peck saw his ERA drop by nearly four runs per nine innings his junior year, a performance that he’s matched this season.

Peck said he checks his statistics nearly every innings his junior year, a performance that he’s matched this season.

Peck is the opposite. He’s aimed at a specific number at the end of the season: 100 strikeouts. Peck said he checks his statistics nearly every inning, which, he said, is “probably too much.”

The three pitchers come from similar athletic backgrounds. Peck and Collins competed against one another three years ago at Chapman and in its short history, it’s moved up to being No. 22 in the nation for NCAA Division III women’s teams. With three nationally ranked players, Lewis at 20, sophomore Lauren Settle at 90 and freshman Kristen Lee at 108, Lao said the team is gaining national respect.

“She’s a grinder. She practices relentlessly,” Lao said. “She’s good enough and she’s proven it; she just needs to stay on track.”

Lewis attributes much of her success to her older brother, Jeff. Despite their seven year age difference, Lewis said she has never had another personal swing coach — her brother is her biggest mentor. Her brother mentors her every golf move, showing up to Chapman practices and even caddying for her during summer tournaments. Lewis’ competitive nature has motivated her to push herself — she wants to score higher than her brother.

“I want to beat him. I have beat him in nine holes, and that was probably one of the highlights of my golf career. I haven’t done it in 18 yet, so still working on that,” Lewis said.

The women’s golf team was formed three years ago at Chapman and in its short history, it’s moved up to being No. 22 in the nation for NCAA Division III women’s teams. With three nationally ranked players, Lewis at 20, sophomore Lauren Settle at 90 and freshman Kristen Lee at 108, Lao said the team is gaining national respect.

“I’ve got some really qualified candidates coming in 2019,” Lao said. “I need to make sure that we do everything carefully and planned from graduation in the back of her head, and focusing on her game, she said. “I need to just relax and keep it as just a normal tournament, not that it’s my last one,” Lewis said.

Emily Lewis tees up for senior year

Mimi Fhima | Staff Writer

Senior Emily Lewis knows exactly what’s at stake. Ranked No. 20 in Division III for female golfers nationwide, Lewis said she feels the pressure. But with seven years of golf under her belt and a possible national appearance in the works, Lewis said she welcomes the competition.

“If my batting average against is .210 and then I give up a hit, it’s like, ‘Oh, OK, now it’s .213,’ Lewis said. “I don’t want to be thinking about that while I’m out on the mound, so I’d rather not know it all and then surprise myself.”

Peck is the opposite. He’s aimed for a specific number at the end of the season: 100 strikeouts. Peck said he checks his statistics nearly every inning, which, he said, is “probably too much.”

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Luca Evans | Staff Writer

The night before his cleats toe the pitchers’ mound at Orange’s Hart Park, senior Jonathan Hernandez lies in the comfort of his bed in the dark. He’s avoided sugar the entire day. He lights a candle and his mind drifts to the thoughts of the upcoming game. Before he falls asleep, he visualizes his movement on the field, the pitches he’ll throw and his hopes for his team’s success.

“They’re your thoughts and your presence being calm helps everyone.”

Chapman is ranked No. 8 among Division III schools nationally. As a team, the university ranks No. 35 nationally among all Division III schools this season in earned run average (ERA), according to the NCAA. The three pitchers contribute to that figure with their own individual numbers — Hernandez with a 3.05 ERA, Peck with a 2.44 and Collins at 3.12 for the 2018-2019 season.

But, Collins pays no mind to his statistics during the spring season. He hasn’t checked them once. The reason?

“He’s a perfectionist.

“I’m very analytical … If my batting average against is .210 and then I give up a hit, it’s like, ‘Oh, OK, now it’s .213,’ Collins said. “I don’t want to be thinking about that while I’m out on the mound, so I’d rather not know it all and then surprise myself.”

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‘Three-headed monster’: Baseball starting pitchers form dynamic trio

Scott Laverty describing the trio as a “three-headed monster.”

Senior Jonathan Hernandez has an ERA of 3.05 and 49 strikeouts this season. Most recently, Hernandez struck out 10 Claremont Mudd–Scripps hitters in Chapman’s game April 12.

Hernandez and Collins pitched as long relievers during their first three years before transitioning into a starting role this season. Peck saw his ERA drop by nearly four runs per nine innings his junior year, a performance that he’s matched this season.

Laverty’s favorite aspect of this season is the determination and relentlessness of the three, even when they fall behind.

Of course, Collins might have avoided checking his statistics and seeing he struck out 11 batters that day. The previous day, Hernandez may have lit a candle the night before throwing six innings in a win. And the game before that, Peck probably examined statistics to confirm he struck out 10 California Baptist University hitters. Collectively, the trio is spearheading a nationally ranked team, with goals of making a deep postseason run.

“We play for a national championship,” Laverty said.

Looking toward the conference championships, Lewis said she plans to treat the tournament like any other. She’s putting her thoughts of this moment forward.

After placing sixth in conference April 6, senior Emily Lewis heads to the conference championships April 20, with hopes of qualifying for nationals.
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