After protest, faculty to vote

Jasmin Sani | Managing Editor
Lou Vanhecke | News Editor

Following a protest where at least 150 students gathered on the steps of Memorial Hall April 18 and marched to the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts for a sit-in outside administrator's offices, faculty will decide the fate of the controversial "The Birth of a Nation" poster, hanging in Marion Knott Studios, in a vote during a faculty meeting April 22.

The decision was announced by Dodge's associate dean, Michael Kowalski, as students cheered, hugged and congratulated each other. "The vote will be on Monday afternoon," Kowalski told students, who crowded in the hallway on Dodge's third floor holding signs. The announcement was met with applause.

In an April 18 email sent to The Panther, Struppa said that some faculty have suggested an online vote to expedite the process.

"The vote is on Monday; this is what we were trying to accomplish," Arianna Ngnomire, vice president of student government and one of the organizers of the protest, told the cheering crowd. The demonstration advocated for the poster's removal after multiple students condemned the film's inflammatory past. The film depicts actors in blackface and is thought to have been one of the key factors in the resurgence of the modern Ku Klux Klan.

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After drawing criticism and condemnation from some Chapman students, the fate of Chapman's controversial "The Birth of a Nation" poster will be decided by a faculty vote April 22.

Diversity at Chapman

In a special section, The Panther takes a look at minority representation and diversity on campus and how some students are tailoring their Chapman experiences to fit their needs.

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After at least 150 attend protest, Dodge faculty set to vote on poster removal

President Daniele Struppa watches as at least 150 students protest April 18 on the steps leading to Memorial Hall, where Struppa's office is located.

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Struppa maintained his position on the poster, writing in the email that while he condemns the "disgusting" racism in the film, he will continue to "defend Dodge College faculty and administration's right to decide if it remains."

"You say in your email that we need to do better. Hell yeah, we need to do better," Staten told Struppa, who stood near Staten at the top of the Memorial Hall steps.

Despite coming from the typically conservative state of Texas, Staten said he didn't experience racism until he came to Chapman.

"Do you think we actually want to be here protesting right now?" Staten asked. "None of us do. We have class to be at right now. We have an education to have right now and we're not able to do that."

He also pointed out discrepancies between Chapman's promotion of Netflix show "Stranger Things," created by 2007 graduates Matt and Ross Duffer, and 2005 alumnus Justin Simien's Netflix show "Dear White People."

"Tell me why 'Stranger Things' gets a big old poster, and what does Justin Simien get!?" Staten said, referring to an advertisement for Simien's show once displayed on a waste receptacle outside of the Marion Knott Studios. "A trash can. That looks horrible. That looks horrible."

Ron McCants, a Dodge adjunct professor, was the only faculty member to speak at the protest April 18.

"You say in your email that we need to do better. Hell yeah, we need to do better," McCants said to the crowd. "I find it very difficult for me to ask you, as a professor, to have pride and love your school when it is not currently showing you that same love, and pride and respect."

Ngномire, the final speaker, highlighted a page on Chapman's website that cites the Cross-Cultural Center (CCC) and Chapman's Diversity Project to "address" the myth that the university doesn't care about diversity and inclusion.

"Ideas for a cross-cultural or multicultural center had been discussed for years before the eventual opening of the CCC in spring 2017." Former President (Jim) Doti said it would 'ghettoize' campus to have a CCC here," Ngномire said to the crowd. "That is the power that the president of a university has over everyone else. A leader knows what is right and wrong, a leader has morals, a leader has integrity and a leader stands up for minority voices."

Dozens of students watched as she spoke, some holding up signs and flags that denounced white supremacy and racism while advocating for the recognition of the black community at Chapman.

"My major objection is their desire to have me make a decision over the faculty," Struppa told The Panther after students gathered on the Memorial Hall steps. "That would be a big mistake. I understand that students might not feel that way."

In an April 10 opinion column, Struppa wrote that he "disagree(d) with the request to remove the poster," and attended a BSU meeting April 15 to listen to students' concerns. Other faculty and administrators, including Price, were also at the steps of Memorial Hall watching the protest April 18.

The crowded made its way from Memorial Hall to Dodge College after about 45 minutes of speakers, crowding through the doors of the Marion Knott Studios. Students lined the first-floor hallway where "The Birth of a Nation" poster is displayed and began chanting, "Take it down."

Two students held a Black Lives Matter flag, as they led the crowd in its chants. "It's incredibly easy to just pop it off the wall," Kaedi Dalley, an undeclared freshman, told The Panther while standing in the first-floor hallway. "For folks of color touring Dodge who see this, what does this poster mean?"

About 10 minutes later demonstrators climbed the stairs of Marion Knott Studios to the third floor – where Dodge College Dean Bob Bassett's office is located. While the doors leading to the administrative offices were locked, the crowd sat on both sides of the hallway and chanted phrases like, "Listen to the students" and "Vote now, listen now."

Some students climbed to the top of the window into the Dodge reception office and covered it with the Black Lives Matter flag, as well as posters made by Ngномire earlier that day with phrases like, "(Expletive) white supremacy" and "Black students matter" written on them.

"Administration not responding to this is a clear indication of a lack of respect for black students," Yasmeen Abu Khafal, a sophomore peace studies and political science double major, told The Panther while sitting in front of Bassett's office. "This is a conversation that should have happened much earlier."

Dodge faculty is set to vote on the poster's future this Monday, April 22.
At forum on poster, some students have a message: ‘Take it down’

Dayna Li | Staff Writer

During his first year at Chapman, film production major Jae Stat- en called the assistant dean of the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, concerned about a poster for the 1915 film “The Birth of a Na- tion” that currently hangs in the halls of the Marion Knott Studios. Staten, now a junior, was one of about 60 people who took part in a heated community forum April 16, discussing the same poster that he said caught his attention more than two years earlier. “It is so wrong and rude to put a Band-Aid over a broken window,” Staten said during the forum. “It’s one (expletive) poster. Take it down.”

Grace Kabondo Mutangilwa, a senior political science major, sits next to Black Student Union president Nadine Conde at an April 16 forum about the controversial “The Birth of a Nation” poster.

Students have strongly advocated for the poster to be taken down, with film production graduate student Arri Caviness tweeting on Dodge’s Twitter, “The Birth of a Nation” poster hanging in Marion Knott Studios. The meeting, which took place April 15 in Beckman Hall 105, began at 10 p.m. and lasted until around 1 a.m. “The Birth of a Nation” poster has garnered controversy on campus since late March, as the film features actors in blackface and is thought to have contributed to the resurgence of the modern Ku Klux Klan.

“The Birth of a Nation” poster hanging in Marion Knott Studios. The meeting, which took place April 15 in Beckman Hall 105, began at 10 p.m. and lasted until around 1 a.m.

Cassidy Keola | Photo Editor

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Cassidy Keola | Photo Editor

MIA FORTUNATO | Staff Photographer
President Emeritus Jim Doti donates kidney to Santa Ana grandfather

Jade Yang | Staff Writer

There typically isn’t much opportunity for a university president and a cabinet member’s paths to cross. But on March 18, when President Emeritus Jim Doti donated a kidney to 70-year-old grandfather Jose Tolento, they did.

Jose Tolento, a Santa Ana resident, had been on dialysis for more than six years — until Doti’s kidney became a match.

“I’ve lived my life and now I can give something back,” Doti said. “I’m not sacrificing my life span, it’s not a big deal. What is a big deal is Jose and his family. How many opportunities does anybody have to save another person’s life?”

When Doti met Jose Tolento and his family, he said, Tolento’s son and daughter translated for Doti, as Jose Tolento does not speak English.

“The most moving thing was when I walked in and his little granddaughter came running and hugged me and wouldn’t let go,” Doti said. “That’s when I knew it was all worthwhile. The little sacrifice I made was to give this man and his family the gift of life.”

Jose Tolento was placed on the kidney transplant list December 2018.

“Before the transplant, (while) on dialysis, he was still working part-time and when he got home, he’d be very tired and exhausted,” said Leticia Tolento, who spoke on behalf of her father in a phone interview with The Panther. “Sometimes he’d get home not feeling well, sometimes he’d be tired and just go straight to bed right after dialysis.”

Some members of Jose Tolento’s family were nervous about waiting for a donor, as they had seen a friend’s aunt wait on the kidney transplant list for eight years, Leticia Tolento said.

“If there was any pain (Doti) was feeling, he didn’t show it,” Leticia Tolento said. “How grateful we all are for Dr. Doti and the miracle he gave us.”

Leticia Tolento said her father will recover for three to six months, but visiting friends and family have already seen improvements in his health.

“He’s changed. He has a lot more energy and he feels like he can do more,” Tolento said.

Doti was inspired to become a donor after witnessing a close friend donate a kidney. He went to the University of California, Irvine (UCI) donor website to apply, but ran into a roadblock: At age 71, he was above UCI’s donor age limit of 65.

“After reading a 2012 BBC article about an 83-year-old man who became the oldest person to donate a kidney to a patient in England, Doti called to speak to Uttam Reddy, the medical transplant program director at University of California, Irvine Medical Center.

“He told me that 65 is the limit because the organs start breaking down and only very healthy people can give a kidney,” Doti said. “I run marathons. I’ve never smoked, never been much of a drinker … I’ve climbed mountains all over the world, so I think I’m pretty healthy.”

Doti went through $10,000 worth of health tests before he was able to donate. After receiving the all-clear, the search for a perfect match began, and the brothers had a conversation at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival.

“It’s not uncommon for a hit series or movie to draw these types of claims. That’s not to say whether or not this particular claim is legitimate — I don’t know how the facts will prove out,” Judd Funk, a Chapman entertainment law professor, told The Panther.

Funk said the lawsuit proceedings so far are “pretty standard” in similar lawsuits.

“Although a trial date has been set, it’s quite possible that the case will settle prior to the actual trial,” he said.

“Stranger Things” — which premiered on Netflix in July 2016 — has won six Primetime Emmy awards, with its third season set to premiere On Netflix July 4. Chapman has lauded the Duffer brothers since the creation of the series, awarding the pair the Alumni Achievement Award in 2017 at the annual “Chapman Celebrates” fundraising event.

The brothers hold that their creation was independent and “occurred prior to (Kessler’s) alleged disclosure of his idea to them,” according to an April 17 judgement.

Funk said that “the primary argument (the Duffer brothers’ legal team) is seeking to prove is that their series is the product of ‘independent creation’ as opposed to an idea Duffer pitched to them.”

“The Duffer brothers are saying ‘We can establish independent creation’ and the plaintiff is saying ‘No, you can’t.’ And the judge is saying OK, we’re going to have to find out,” Funk said.

This is a developing story. Follow The Panther as we continue reporting.

Matt and Ross Duffer, the Chapman alumni behind hit Netflix show "Stranger Things," are headed to court after being accused of plagiarizing the show's concept by filmmaker Charlie Kessler.

Struppa wrote.

Representatives from the Creative Artists Agency, the company that represents the Duffer brothers, did not immediately respond to The Panther’s request for comment.

In April 2018, Kessler filed a lawsuit against the pair, alleging that the Duffer alumni “misappropriated, used and exploited” the idea that turned into “Stranger Things” after he and the brothers had a conversation at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival.

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As Notre Dame burns, students abroad feel effects

Lou VanHecke | News Editor

Sophomore Zach Davis was sitting in his Paris apartment April 15 when a friend texted him a startling message: “Notre Dame is on fire.”

“Googled it, but couldn’t find any information,” Davis said. “I didn’t think she was lying, but I thought it was a little exaggerated.”

Davis, a peace studies and political science double major who is studying abroad in Paris this semester, quickly realized that the fire’s gravity was not an exaggeration. After taking the Metro as close to the cathedral as he could, he understood the extent of the blaze.

“I got as close as I could and watched the flames. I got a news notification from CNN while I was standing watching,” Davis said. “I was there before the news even broke. I wanted to cry. It was the first place I went in Paris when I got here in January. I pass it every morning on my way to class.”

Notre Dame, the iconic gothic cathedral located in the heart of Paris, caught fire April 15. The fire burned out around 6:30 p.m. Notre Dame’s two towers, which are visible throughout the city, were saved but about two-thirds of the roof was destroyed, according to The New York Times.

“When junior communication studies major Katarina Trifunovic took a selfie in front of the Notre Dame Cathedral with her cousin around 1 p.m. April 15, she didn’t think that she would be watching the historic structure burn just hours later,” Trifunovic said, who is studying in Paris this semester, which was saved as the cathedral went up in flames.

The Notre Dame Cathedral went up in flames April 15, its signature spiral collapsing. Zach Davis, a sophomore peace studies and political science double major who is studying in Paris this semester, watched as the cathedral went up in flames.

The cause of the fire is unknown, but the building has been under construction since September 2017 to repair limestone and its damage from age. The construction was estimated to cost up to 150 million euros, or about $180 million, according to The New York Times.

“People were crying,” she said. “Parisians around us were distraught. People who clearly were not French or Parisians left (the crowd) around 10 p.m., but the Parisians stayed.”

Trifunovic said, calling the fire an “emotional disruption” for those who watched Notre Dame burn.

Trifunovic said that two young people in the crowd, about 13 and 15 years old, played violins while the crowd sang.

“People were crying,” she said, noting that people were still watching the fire unfold at 1 a.m.

Davis returned back to Notre Dame April 16 and was met with “hordes of people” still surrounding the cathedral.

In the wake of the damage, French billionaires have pledged donations to restoration efforts for the cathedral which are estimated to cost between 1.13 billion and 2.3 billion euros, according to USA Today.

The owners of luxury fashion brand Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior and Givenchy have pledged 200 million euros, while other French families including the Bettencourt Meyers family, owners of cosmetic line L’Oreal, and the Pinault family, owners of French luxury group Kering, have pledged a combined 300 million euro donation, according to CNN.

Donations were pledged within hours of the fire and were met with backlash from French protestors involved in the ongoing yellow vest movement. Some criticized the donors for selectively choosing to help the cathedral rather than social issues like France’s rising taxes, according to the New York Times.

The cause of the fire is still unknown, as officials are still assessing the damage.

Asian and Pacific Islander culture celebrated at Attallah Piazza event

Jade Yang | Staff Writer

In a celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander culture, members of Asian Pacific Student Association (APSA) gathered in Attallah Piazza April 18 for dancing, singing and bubble tea.

Sarah Scholle, the APSA president, said the event’s aim was to give talented Asian students a platform – something that, Scholle said, is lacking in entertainment.

“On this campus, we’re not able to see these performers, so we’ve invited people to come specifically out in the Piazza to see and see the performances,” said Scholle, a senior integrated educational studies major.

Scholle said she’s seen an increase in event attendance and in club membership after working with student government and the Cross-Cultural Center to put on the event.

“We’ve been able to create a community with all the Asian students on campus. We really strive for people who are part of this community to feel empowered,” Scholle said that she hopes people who are not part of the Asian Pacific Islander community understand the importance of promoting Asian voices on campus.

Asian and Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students make up almost 13 percent of Chapman’s undergraduate population. Amanda Galemmin, cochair of APSA, who was one of the head coordinators of the event, told The Panther that the event is “to make sure the Chapman community knows we’re here.”

Chapman’s APSA club was founded in 1931, Galemmin said. The annual APSA celebration began on campus in 1998.

“It’s an event where we say ‘Hey, we’re Asian students; we’re proud of this and we want people to see what we can do,’” Galemmin said. “It’s a great venue for us to showcase a lot of really great Asian American talent.”

Sophia Saturnino, a freshman business administration major, told The Panther that she chose to perform in the dance groups Floor 13 and Kapamilya to take part in “traditional dances” and culture.

Kapamilya is a Filipino dance group that performed a traditional style dance and a modern hip-hop routine at the event.

“People were cheering,” she said, “and everyone was cheering. Our community is a lot bigger than we think.” Saturnino said. “Not a lot of Asians feel like we’re represented, but having events that showcase our culture is very important in recognizing that we are diverse and we aren’t hidden.”

Students performed modern hip-hop dances as a part of the Asian Pacific Islander cultural celebration April 18.

GABRIELLA ANDERSON | Staff Photographer
Students and faculty push for establishing Africa studies minor

Gabby Toczek | Staff Writer

For almost a year, integrated educational studies professor Quaylan Allen has wanted to create an established Africana studies program at Chapman. But Allen now faces the obstacle of finding 12 students to enroll in the program and make it an established minor in the course catalog.

Allen’s goal is to show students that the minor isn’t tailored to black students. Instead, he said, it’s meant for those who are interested in learning about or working in the fields like global affairs or locally in the communities that are discussed within the program.

“You shouldn’t need demand to know this is important to have on the college campus, if we want to compete with universities and be seen as the Harvard of the west,” Allen said. “Well, guess what? Harvard has these types of programs.”

Jackie Blaser, a junior screenwriting and peace studies double major, has a self-designed Africana studies minor that serves as a focal point on the Diversity and Inclusion Curriculum Task Force, and is involved in the Chapman Diversity Project. She helped Allen and Jerrica Newrick, a senior integrated education studies major, advocate for the Africana studies minor.

“It’s so important to have identities reflected in the curriculum that we haven’t been able to experience or relate to part of,” Blaser said. “It’s been taught through history that curriculum is Eurocentric with a lot of white propaganda, so being able to study outside of what we know is critical to be a proper human.”

Africana studies began as a self-identified minor when Newrick was one of the first to take part in the program. The Africana Diversity Project examines humanities in African and African American culture while looking at its contributions to world civilization, according to Chapman’s course catalog.

Allen, who spoke on the program at Chapman’s 2018 Education & Ethnic Studies summit, and has acted as a liaison between students and the administration. The group has also reached out to administration and faculty who might be interested in teaching courses for the minor.

“We help look over the syllabus (for the minor) before it goes through, and then also asking students from clubs and classrooms to see what classes they like, what classes they don’t like and then also what classes they want to create,” Blaser said. “It’s important to include students in that voice.”

Another thing that Blaser mentioned the task force considers is the diversity of staff involved in the minor.

“(Chapman should) hire more professors who are people of color, so shouldn’t the faculty look like that?”

Chase, an independent activist and professor Prexy Neshit to teach in the peace studies department, Allen said, but Neshit has also shown interest in supporting the Africana studies minor.

LeNoir said. “Creating an atmosphere where everyone is welcome and everyone is valued is critical to be a proper human.”

Professors who are people of color, the university doesn’t want to “allocate resources where there’s no interest. “We help look over the syllabus (for the minor) before it goes through, and then also asking students from clubs and classrooms to see what classes they like, what classes they don’t like and then also what classes they want to create,” Blaser said. “It’s important to include students in that voice.”

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“(Chapman should) hire more professors who are people of color, so shouldn’t the faculty look like that?”

Arthur Blaser is a Chapman political science and peace studies professor who was left partially paralyzed after a stroke in 1993. As someone with the use of one hand, he said he values the benefits of adaptive clothing for people with disabilities.

But Blaser does see an overarching problem: Adaptive solutions typically only focus on solving one problem, he said. He wants universities to give students the ability to have a choice in what they wear and not be limited to certain brands or styles.

“It’s important to the disabled person to feel included, and (to not) have to pay outrageous prices for ‘special’ merchandise,” Blaser said.

Blaser views his experience having a disability as positive, because he’s involved as the faculty cochair of Chapman’s disability advisory group, and he enjoys participating at the Dayle McIntosh Center in Anaheim, California – which provides services to people with disabilities, including skills training and transition assistance.

Tyler believes that adaptive clothing lines have more than just disability rights on their minds.

“Id say they’re profiting off of a trend,” he said. “I don’t think that’s inherently a bad thing, because they’re providing a service.”

Twenty-six percent of adults in the U.S. have some type of disability, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Leaving out the quarter of Americans with disabilities from the selling pool can impact a company’s profits.

“They are businesses and their main goal is to make money,” Browne said. “They have so much authority and such a wide scope of customers that they sell to. It’s important for them to spread equality and fight for disability rights.”
Beyonce’s ‘Homecoming’ brings HBCU culture to the public

Olivia Harden | Features Editor

Beyonce, you’ve done it again. And you didn’t even have to try that hard. All you did was take your 2018 Coachella performance and redesign it into something fresh.

The 2016 “Lemonade” era was a culmination of Beyonce’s personal life when her now-platinum album released. But “Homecoming,” released April 17, is the manifestation of everything that has led up to this point. We’re witnessing an artist step into a realm where she is practically untouchable.

Beyonce’s success is not just due to fan base hype. The 37-year-old has built herself up since “Destiny’s Child” formed in 1997. Something that sets Beyonce’s projects apart from other artists’ work is the element of surprise. She’s been dropping unannounced albums since her self-titled album “Beyonce,” which was released almost six years ago.

Another one of Bey’s greatest talents as an artist is popularizing the concept of a visual album. After the 2013 release of her self-titled album, you think we would’ve seen this one coming. After minimal advertising from Netflix, Beyonce’s documentary “Homecoming” was released April 17.

But no one was expecting her 2018 Coachella performances to be transformed into a 40-track live album, which is available for purchase and streaming on Apple Music, Spotify, Google Play and Amazon – unlike “Lemonade,” which is only available on Tidal (at least until April 23).

Even when she recycles previous performances, Beyonce knows how to revamp something that could be considered old news and turn it into an entirely new experience. “Beychella,” as it was deemed by DJ Khaled, showcased black culture in a way that made it accessible to those who have never been exposed to it. Although Beyonce didn’t attend college after graduating from Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Texas, she and her production team delivered that experience to the crowds at Coachella in 2018. She brought the greatest exhibition of black talent I’ve ever seen – musicians, step routines, baton twirlers and more to bring the spirit of a historically black college to some who may not even know this culture exists.

Using a live band completely changed the way Beyoncé’s songs were performed. It brings back a nostalgia for cheering along at football games in high school. It brings that same pride to black culture. Singing the black national anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” to a crowd of thousands who probably don’t recognize it embodies what she can bring to the pop industry.

By releasing her content around the same time as the iconic musical festival, it seemed like 2019 Coachella faded into the background. Ariana Grande who? Kanye West where? Overnight, performance from the exclusive 2018 festival became accessible anytime and anywhere, because now we’re able to experience those front-row seats from the comfort of our own homes.

Listening to her powerful vocals shows how the performer’s music has completely defied the typical definition of pop. “Mi Gente” is Latin music. “Feeling Myself” is a rap song. “Top Off” is clearly trap. The vocal and artistic range Beyonce has is expansive, and yet, she’s able to appeal to enough listeners to stay mainstream and accessible. Every album she produces sounds and feels different. I feel blessed to be born at a time where I’m able to experience this, and I can’t wait to see what she comes up with next.

IMDb

Beyonce’s Netflix documentary “Homecoming,” released April 17, came with a surprise 40-track live album, featuring the songs from her iconic 2018 Coachella performance.
Acknowledge your white privilege

I'm very white. I have blue eyes and blonde hair. According to AncestryDNA, I'm 81 percent Irish. I love kombucha, Soul Cycle, brunch and anything Timothée Chalamet does. By all accounts, I'm super white. I'm also straight, cisgender and able-bodied. I don’t even have any allergies. I'm not the ideal spokesperson for diversity on campus.

When I first came to Chapman—moving here from a town in Kansas that is 93.1 percent white—I thought the student body was pretty diverse. Compared to my graduating high school class, where I could name and count every black and Asian student, Chapman has a lot more variety. But that’s not saying much.

Because I grew up in such a homogenous town, I didn’t see the issue at Chapman until other students started to point it out to me. At first I was confused, because it’s the most diverse school I’ve ever attended—but I quickly realized the gravity of the issue. Chapman isn’t in Leawood, Kansas, where only 1.1 percent of the population is black and 4 percent is Asian, according to the U.S. Census.

Np is it a university that can only accept students who live within a few miles of campus. Chapman is in the heart of Southern California and can accept any student—no matter their background—who meets the academic requirements.

As a white person, I’ve never felt targeted because of my race. I wasn’t the kid everyone turned to in history class when we talked about slavery. No one ever assumed that I could speak fluent Spanish. I was never asked if I thought a new Chinese restaurant in town was authentic. I’ve never felt singled out or alone because I didn’t look like everyone else in the classroom.

The game has been rigged in my favor and I can see that clearly. My life has been filled with privileges, both small and large, that many others have to work for. It is the responsibility of white people to acknowledge just how much our race benefits us and do what we can to try to even the playing field.

Shedding light on the damage white privilege has done and continues to do shouldn’t scare anyone—and certainly shouldn’t be seen as “reverse racism.” Because racism is an inherently systematic concept, and white people originated that system, there is no racism against white people. Sure, there can be prejudice, but that comes from a personal level, not an institutional one. And that isn’t a widespread issue that affects the everyday life and safety of a white person.

Once you realize your white privilege and where it puts you in comparison to others, you will be uncomfortable. Yes, it’s easier to just accept the countless benefits you inherently receive based solely on the color of your skin. But knowing how other people are treated, you shouldn’t settle for the easy way out.

On April 22, the majority-white faculty of Dodge will be given the chance to vote on the future of Chapman’s “The Birth of a Nation” poster. They will be given an opportunity to use their vote to support minority groups and set a new standard for behavior on campus. We aren’t a diverse campus, but that certainly doesn’t mean we should ignore the voices that are here.
The homogenization of the Asian American experience

When asked about my intersectionality, my immediate response is that I’m an Asian American with a Persian background. My story is not just one of a privileged individual, but rather one that is representative of the struggles that our Asian American community faces. My identity is shaped by the experiences of my grandparents, who fled Iran during the 1979 revolution and settled in the United States. They instilled in me a sense of pride and resilience, and taught me the importance of cultural identity.

But despite my diverse background, I have noticed a trend in society that homogenizes the experiences of Asian Americans. This is particularly evident in the way that Asian Americans are often lumped into a single category, often referred to as “Asian.” This can be seen in the way that Asian Americans are often depicted in the media, with a focus on their physical traits and a lack of attention to their cultural or religious backgrounds.

This homogenization of the Asian American experience is not just limited to the media. It is also evident in the way that Asian Americans are treated in educational institutions. For example, I have noticed a lack of representation of Asian American cultures in course offerings at my university. This is despite the fact that Asian American students make up a significant portion of the student body.

Additionally, this homogenization can also be seen in the way that Asian Americans are treated in public spaces. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes. This is despite the fact that Asian Americans make up a diverse group of individuals with different cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds.

In conclusion, the homogenization of the Asian American experience is a concern that needs to be addressed. We need to work towards a society that represents the diversity of our community and respects our cultural identities. This will require a shift in the way that we think about and treat Asian Americans in all aspects of society.
After 98 mph fastball, pitcher works toward MLB draft

Luca Evans | Staff Writer

On March 16, sophomore pitcher Nick Garcia fired a fastball that stuck with him. Garcia felt strong in the home baseball game against California Lutheran University, and after he wound up and delivered, a number appeared on the scoreboard.

The ball had sped past the plate at 98 miles per hour.

“We were losing, so it wasn’t that big of a deal,” Garcia said. “Then, on the bus ride home, I sat there and I was like, ‘Holy.’

In that moment, everyone was looking up at the scoreboard, head coach Scott Laverty said. Garcia said he wasn’t expecting an achievement of this caliber. For the right-hander, the pitch added to his statistics, which included a .89 earned run average for his freshman season at Chapman, he played third base and appeared in 50 percent of games. But, Garcia knew he wanted to stick to pitching because he worked on his mechanics the summer before his sophomore season, and “things just kind of skyrocketed on the mound.” A combination of long-toss sessions, adjustments to his pitching fundamentals and gaining 10 to 15 pounds added to Garcia’s maturation.

Throughout the season, he said his fastball sat in the mid-90s miles per hour, before reaching 98. His favorite memory from the season is a February 9 game against Pacific University, in which he struck out two batters to close out a tight game.

“I try and trust my stuff, knowing that it’s better than everybody else,” Garcia said. “They’re not going to beat it – basically, that’s my mindset.”

The belief in his “stuff” is driving Garcia to be considered for a draft for a professional team.

On March 16, sophomore pitcher Nick Garcia threw a 98 mph fastball. He now aims for a potential MLB draft post-graduation.

Female track and field team sets personal bests at conference meet

Kavya Maran | Staff Writer

Under the midday heat April 13, with teammates cheering from the sidelines, freshmen Bella Rudis and Promise Johnson had a record breaking day. The two achieved personal season-bests in the long jump and the triple jump events at the third Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Multi-Duals at Occidental College.

Rudis, a business administration major, scored marks of 4.59 meters and 10.32 meters in long jump and triple jump respectively. Johnson, a broadcast journalism and documentary major, reached 9.88 meters in the triple jump. Despite the track and field meet’s size, the excitement in the air was infectious, Rudis said. But she didn’t expect to pull off a personal record breaking jump.

“I looked back at my mark in the sand, I was like, ‘Wait, that’s better than usual.’” Rudis said. “I had spent the whole season trying to reach that mark, but couldn’t.

Johnson said the conference meet was a successful “comeback” for her after she injured her right leg after landing on the runway during a triple jump March 8 at the Ben Brown Invitational Meet.

After the injury, Johnson said she wasn’t sure if she would be able to do triple jumps again. She deliberated about whether or not to participate in the meet, but decided to “go for it.”

Johnson and Rudis weren’t the only field athletes to achieve personal bests during the conference meet; senior strategic and corporate communication major Josann Martinez scored her best in discus throw at the meet, with a mark of 23.08 meters at the Multi-Duals meet. Also, Camryn Hamaguchi, a sophomore business administration major, scored a personal best in shot put with a mark of 10.06 meters at the Collegiate Irwin Scoring Meet at Point Loma Nazarene University March 17.

“Going in, I didn’t feel that confident because it was only my second meet of the season,” Hamaguchi said. “It ended up being a really successful meet, not just for me, but for the entire team.”

The momentum from Hamaguchi’s personal best kept up when freshman health science major Maija Girardi placed third in javelin throw with a 33.12 meter throw at the University of La Verne March 30. Girardi said her throw was an unexpected but “extremely satisfying” triumph.

“Coming in as a freshman, you’re not expected to do incredibly well,” Girardi said. “But for the whole season, it’s a great experience.”

During the season, in a typical week Girardi said the team practices for three to four hours every day. But Girardi said the team is starting to ease up on training because the SCIAC Championships – which will be held on April 27 and 28 – are approaching.

Johnson said the team’s primary focus has shifted from an emphasis on strength and technique training to staying healthy for the upcoming championship, where Hamaguchi said the Panthers aim to beat Occidental University and Pomona-Pitzer.

“We’re taking nobody lightly,” Hamaguchi said. “They usually finish in the top three or four for SCIAC, so they are our targets.”

For Hamaguchi, Johnson, Girardi and Martinez – this will be their first-ever SCIAC Championships. “As long as we just go and finish the race, no matter what happens, we can be proud of ourselves,” Johnson said.
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