

To the SBCC administration, faculty, students, and staff:

Last night it was my great honor to speak for your Faculty Colloquium hosted by professors Mark McIntire, Peter Naylor, the SBCC Critical Thinking Project, and Associated Student Government, with the book signing hosted by Chaucer's Books.

After the event I was informed that earlier in the day an assistant professor at SBCC named Raeanne Napoleon sent out an email on a campus-wide email server that defamed me by suggesting that I am a rapist and sexual assaulter. She added to the defamation by implying that any students who do attend should not be alone with me, especially if it is dark, as if I were a rapist hiding in the bushes. This is a disgusting, repulsive, defamatory lie. I am no such thing and never have been and never would be and I will not stand by and allow my name and reputation to be so denigrated. Dr. Napoleon doesn't know me and doesn't know anything about me. And yet she feels no compunction whatsoever to publicly hurl such calumnies against me in an act of wonton irresponsibility.

Further, Dr. Napoleon willfully and intentionally left out of her email my public response to the libelous BuzzFeed article, clearly and unmistakably posted in the article itself. So Dr. Napoleon either didn't read the article she is relying on to defame me, or she did and knowingly and willfully left out my response so as to convince you all to boycott my talk and form an unopposed opinion of me as a rapist and sexual assaulter. Either way, it is a form of fraud, in addition to libel and defamation.

As well, in her email Dr. Napoleon implies that the police were called to investigate me but "did not bring formal charges against him." This is another defamatory lie. Dr. Napoleon has no evidence whatsoever about anything the police did or did not do because there never were any police ever involved in relation to me about anything I have ever done. I have never once spoken to a law-enforcement officer or anyone in any capacity about the lies told about me in the BuzzFeed article. The only motive for Dr. Napoleon to include this lie in her group email to you all was to defame me. That is illegal.

Note as well that the author of the libelous article in The Channels, Daniel Wallace, interviewed everyone but me. Why? I am quite accessible online and the hosts of last night's event have my personal email and phone number. Any journalist worthy of the name would have called or emailed to ask for a response before publishing a hit piece like this. Had he done so, for example, I would have given him my response to the BuzzFeed article that Dr. Napoleon intentionally left out. And I would have informed him that last Fall a moral crusader of Dr. Napoleon's ilk sent an email similar to hers to faculty and administrators of Chapman University, where I have been a Presidential Fellow for many years. The President, along with the administration, undertook a thorough investigation of these allegations and dismissed them as unwarranted. I am teaching there this semester and will be teaching there for the 2018/2019 academic year. I would have also informed Mr. Wallace, along with Dr. Napoleon had she contacted me before irresponsibly defaming me, that none of my other business associates have acted on these false allegations: Scientific American, where I have written a monthly column since 2001; my book publisher Macmillan, one of the big four publishing houses in New York; and my literary agency and lecture agency. I continue working with these companies because they have drawn the same conclusion as Chapman University.

Instead of trying to determine the truth about me, the motive of Mr. Wallace and Dr. Napoleon was to personally harm me. The point was to get you all to boycott my talk as well as believe these lies about me. It worked. As Dr. Napoleon boasted in a private email that I have: "I've heard that it was not well attended. I think that response to the information is very telling." My attorneys will be most interested in reading Dr. Napoleon's private emails in which she continues to defame me.

Let me be clear: this is not a free speech issue. This is a libel and defamation issue. It is against the law to tell or pass on lies about someone with the intent of damaging them or their reputation. This is precisely what Dr. Napoleon has done, and the college, the school newspaper, and Daniel Wallace are now complicit in that defamation. I will not stand for it.

I am hereby putting SBCC and the school newspaper, The Channels, on notice that if this libelous article is not removed from the web site immediately I will turn over all the emails and documents I have to my Los Angeles attorneys who specialize in defamation and libel. I can prove damages in lost book sales last night as a direct result of this email and this newspaper article, and you will pay for it.

Further, Dr. Napoleon, I hereby demand that you retract your libelous accusations of me publicly to the entire campus via this email system, and publicly apologize for wrongly implying that I am a rapist and sexual assaulter. You have no evidence whatsoever of this allegation because there is no evidence. If you do not do by 6 p.m. Wednesday I will take legal action against you personally for libel and defamation of character. You have libeled me and defamed my character to over 17,000 people, and by giving an interview to the school newspaper that is now online, the potential for these lies to be spread to millions more is now a reality, potentially costing me millions of dollars in down-stream income. I make my living as a public intellectual and you have single-handedly suggested, without any evidence whatsoever, that I am a rapist and sexual assaulter, and as a consequence last night alone I lost major book sales, along with my reputation being severely damaged. I normally fill halls of thousands of people and sell hundreds of books. Due to your actions, a desultory audience resulted in minuscule book sales, a fact that you boasted about in your private email, thereby implicating you in intentional libel and defamation of character. If you do not retract and apologize, you will pay.

A final warning to you Dr. Napoleon: I moved to Santa Barbara with my wife and young son last year and I have made an effort to engage with the rich intellectual community here, which is why I waved my normal speaking fee to come to SBCC. You are hereby put on notice that if you or anyone associated with you intend to pursue your defamatory actions going forward by following me around this small community where I live and work and play with my young son, I will have a restraining order placed on you. Anyone who would do what you did to me yesterday is potentially dangerous and I will protect my family in any manner deemed necessary. My son is too young to understand the evil that you have

wrought, but my wife fully understands and she too will be on the look out for you. Further, you are not to contact my employers, business associates, colleagues, or anyone else, especially here in Santa Barbara where I intend to raise my family, with the intent to harm me, and if you do I will prosecute you to the extent of what the law allows.

Dr. Michael Shermer, PhD  
President's Fellow  
Chapman University