Support Does Not Come Easy

Senate approves campus club despite student concerns

Perla Luna
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The chartering of Students in Support of Israel (SSI) has instigated student criticism of Associated Student Government (ASG) for approving their club status due to concerns over SSI’s potential threat to Palestinian students and supporters on campus.

During discussion about the club, some senators mentioned not feeling informed enough about the issue to vote while others talked about the importance of including a diversity of voices—especially since there is already a Students for Justice in Palestine (SPJ) club.

First-year Valerie Rutenberg, president of SSI, saw a need for SSI at Santa Clara because she noticed there was no club for the Israeli viewpoint at Santa Clara. “It was alarming that the Israeli perspective wasn’t being represented on campus because there is a complexity behind these tensions,” Rutenberg said. “Not having both sides doesn’t reflect our democratic values.”

Senior Noor Darwish, co-president of SPJ, and other SPJ members felt the Center for Student Involvement (CSI) had not done its due diligence in informing them beforehand that SSI was attempting to get chartered.

But CSI is only responsible for initially deciding whether or not a club will cause violations, then we can have a conversation.”

For her, the human rights question is still up for debate. “There is ugliness on both sides, there is good on both sides and there is bloodshed on both sides,” she said.

See REFERENDUM, Page 3

After the Diversity and Inclusion Forum on Feb. 20, questions were also raised about ASG’s handling of the situation and why it was approved. This is in addition to concerns about SSI’s advise and their lack of acknowledgment of human rights violations against Palestinians in Israel. “We purely want to raise awareness about the human rights violations that are happening to the Palestinian people,” Darwish said. “There are about 60 laws that discriminate against Palestinians, therefore we label it as an apartheid state. When you hold Israel accountable to the human rights violations, then we can have a conversation.”

Rutenberg, however, does not feel equating apartheid in South Africa with the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is fair. For her, the human rights question is still up for debate.

“#SteveIrwin was killed while harassing a ray, he dangled his baby while feeding a crocodile & wrestled wild animals who were minding their own business,” read the tweet.

“Today’s #GoogleDoodle sends a dangerous, fawning message. Wild animals are entitled to be left alone in their natural habitats.”

Rigthfully the internet—myself included—responded with a largely unambiguous, bombastic “no thanks.” PETA’s comments were tone-deaf, unintelligent and, perhaps worst of all, done solely for the purpose of ruffling feathers.

For those readers who didn’t religiously watch Animal Planet, Steve Irwin was an incredible inspiration. As a television presenter, he spoke to adults and children alike about the value of ecological awareness and taught the people all about the vast array of creatures that walk the Earth. He wrangled crocodiles, nurtured animals, ran a conservation-focused zoo and journeyed across Australia while chronicling the wonders of his world. All the while, Irwin raised a family of his own who carry on his work today.

On Sept. 4, 2006, on a dive in Queensland, Australia, Irwin was stung in the heart by a stingray. His death stunned fans and he was remembered by various media worldwide.

His youngest fans who grew up watching his program lost a hero that day. My parents woke me up and told me the heart-wrenching news before I went to school. I still have the obituary clipping that the Los Angeles Times ran for him. So as you read what I have to say, keep in mind I take this whole affair very personally.

I was, of course, incensed by PETA’s comments. It seemed that their words, which are broadcast to quite a large audience, were a personal attack on one of my childhood heroes. Naturally, I was angry and wanted nothing more than to berate the cut-rate team that manages their media presence.

But I’m a man of reason. I know PETA has done quite a lot of good in the world and pursues a clear message of goodwill toward all animals. They have fought against abhorrent acts carried out by institutions like the Yulin Festival and Tyson Foods. I respect that work. I respect activism that is done tactfully, forcefully and intentionally. What I have no patience for is idiocy.

PETA has historically been guilty of an immense number of idiotic offenses that would make members of the 1960s activist movements groan in despair. This comment, and comments like it, seem to
Racks Reorganize Transportation

New project to improve safety on campus

Anthony Alegetre
ASSOCIATE REPORTER

A walk through Benson Memorial Center reveals minor change at either entrance: skateboard storage racks available for student use. Due to the relatively small size of campus, skateboard and scooter travel have become commonplace. 

“It’s such a hassle to carry around boards in buildings, so having this form of organization would be ideal,” junior Matteo de Suduiraut said. “This will also help keep the rooms clean since people won’t prop their boards on them.”

Director of Planning & Projects Don Akerland was one of the leaders behind the idea to bring these racks to Benson. “There is a need to find a way to provide skateboard storage and security within the various campus buildings,” Akerland said. “We have several buildings that we are wanting to try out these skateboard racks and there was a request to have one installed at Benson.”

The functionality of these racks allows for a safer alternative to skateboard and scooter storage. While these racks are being piloted in Benson, there is an interest in these storage devices throughout campus, according to Akerland. “We have a couple of additional racks and we are looking at Healey (Law Library), Alumni Science and the Art History Building as potential locations for racks,” Akerland said.

These racks feature several shelves large enough to fit an average longboard or skateboard as well as some scooters.

Additionally, each rack features a metal ring so one can lock the transportation device in place.

While the appearance of these racks may be arbitrary to some, Akerland addresses the possible threat that illegitimately stored skateboards can pose. “Some areas, loose skateboards can present a safety risks and the racks provide a more-appropriate way to store the skateboards,” Akerland said.

With Benson being just the pilot location for these racks, more are bound to appear throughout campus in the near future.
Undergraduate admissions, retention rate with Boston College, currently tied for the second-highest among all private nonprofit institutions.

The evening consisted of short presentations from the Cowell Center, the Wellness Center and the Education Opportunity Program to promote “Unity Night,” a program that brings admitted students of color to campus for a day, as well as the support group for students of color, Color of Campus.

The panel featured Noel Kreidler, a disability advocate, who presented a profile of the early admission class of 2019-20.

The topics discussed included undergraduate admissions, retention data, wellness initiatives, next steps following the Campus Climate Survey and the #BnPosi movement.

Time was allotted at the end for questions and discussion from the audience.

The goal of the event was to provide the university administration the opportunity to share updates with students and ask them important questions about the current climate changes, student diversity and social justice issues.

The first presentation was from undergraduate admission officers, who presented admission priorities of the early admission class of 2019-20. They announced an increase in the number of early decision applications received, as well as an increase in the number of academic achievements of the class.

The number of admitted students of color also increased by 8.4 percent. Paula Garcia-Yeaga, assistant director of enrollment management, went on to note that the university’s efforts to promote diversity and inclusion have been successful.

She encouraged students to RSVP as ambassadors and informed students that in previous years, 75 percent of attendees committed to Santa Clara.

Provost Dennis Jacobs, vice president for academic affairs, presented retention figures for students after their first year on campus. Santa Clara has an average 95 percent retention rate and is currently tied for the second-highest retention rate with Boston College among Jesuit schools in the United States.

“We can always continue to do better,” Jacobs said. “But the question is: are we really good metrics for students to say when they come here that this is the right place where they can thrive and succeed.”

The following presentations focused on increasing the numbers of women in science, student life on campus with presentations from the Cowell Center, the Wellness Center and the Education Opportunity Program for Violence Prevention group.

The Santa Clara News / Thursday, February 28, 2019

The Diversity and Inclusion Industry Panel, which consisted of the awards ceremony and presentations for the Diversity Works Awards and Expo, held in the Louis Pages Auditorium.

Winners delivered speeches to the crowd at the Diversity Works Awards and Expo held in the Louis Pages Auditorium.

“The following updates about changes and improvements being made across campus, students had the opportunity to ask questions in the session that they felt the university had failed to address completely.

Students had the option to submit questions anonymously with the university’s current occupancy of once belonged to the Ohlone tribe.

The career center director, President Michael Engh, S.J., who said Santa Clara is currently forming a working group of staff, students and members of the Ohlone tribe to address the issue of recognizing the people and their tribe.

Another issue students raised concerned the Associated Student Government (ASG)’s ability to provide funds to a pro-Israel club, Students Supportive of Israel.

The question described the club as purely political and asked how they could be on campus and given RSO status.

Members of ASG in the audience recognized that the university is working on campus and given RSO status.

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Thursday, February 28, 2019

The Santa Clara’s resident film critic shows disdain for the most recent Oscars

Brandon Schultz
THE SANTA CLARA

There is an unspoken rule about how comedians are granted the excuse to make jokes that rely on racist stereotypes as long as it’s about their own culture. Since these comedians are given the invincibility to laugh at their people, they give the audience permission to laugh with them. Less than seven minutes into “You Complete Me, Ho,” Jeong is boring with jokes at the expense of the Asian culture.

Rather than depict Asian culture as dynamic and vibrant, Jeong reduces it to a monotonous collection of Asian-American elements, stereotypes, and comic punchlines. In the first few moments of his stand-up, he starts the show by bowing to the audience while saying “dakka” and referring to himself as a “korean-American boy.” His use of racial slurs and stereotypes is prevalent throughout his performance, demonstrating a lack of awareness or intention to change the perception of Asian culture.

Jeong’s performance falls flat and lacks the authenticity and genuine excitement that is evident in his speech. When she admitted that, as a cleaner, “I did this,” her speech was a knockout moment of passion, spontaneity that the show no longer produces. Pas- tical tears and giggles guide her speech. Despite helping the show move along

Comedians are particularly obsessed with limits—especially how far those limits can be pushed. In his first-ever stand-up special, Ken Jeong crosses racial thresholds and relies on crude, familiar humor that uses the Asian stereotype that made him famous.

One of the most telling specials on Netflix, “You Complete Me, Ho” is brimming with jokes at the expense of the Asian culture. The special lacks sub-

Where is our “Schindler’s List”? While the Oscars have certainly never lacked heated competition, they’ve also never felt as necessary as they have in recent years.

Yes, Grace Kelly upset Judy Garland in 1955, and Harvey Weinstein’s game-changing Best Picture campaign in 1999 deprived “Schindler’s List” of its Best Picture win. But the 2019 Oscars was stripped of a host. For a few brief moments, Gaga and Cooper invited us to share in their own riveting personal stories.

If one of our most ac-

Jeong is right. Comics like Han-

Contact Azariah Joel at joel@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852

Standup comedy jokes about race and gender in Netflix special

Azariah Joel
THE SANTA CLARA

The Oscars with No Host is No Oscars at All

The Santa Clara’s resident film critic shows disdain for the most recent Oscars

Brandon Schultz
THE SANTA CLARA

The decision in itself, while undoubtedly positive in the hopes for including—at least on the surface—a more diverse range of films, failed to live up to its promise. The Academy’s dream of drawing larger audiences with more diverse and luminous crowds barely materialized. Vot-

Despite helping the show movealong smoothly and without major controversy un-

After controversial tweets made by Kevin Hart canceled this year’s Oscar’s ceremony, the 2019 Oscars was stripped of a host.

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Senior Soloists Hitting All of the Right Notes

Santa Clara senior students to serenade this coming Saturday

Erin Fox Managing Editor

Four Santa Clara senior students will take center stage this Saturday night as winners of the Music Department’s 2018-19 Concerto and Aria Competition. The March 2 performance, titled “Mission Excellence,” will feature the soloists alongside the University Orchestra at their annual winter concert. Ashley Ahn will play the Wieniawski Violin Concerto No. 2; Anne Hsia will be featured in Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1; PJ Hummelt will be performing the Horn Concerto by Santa Clara orchestra conductor John Kennedy; and Garrett Woodford-Berry will be the soloist in Elgar’s Cello Concerto.

Auditions for the competition, which occurred in November of last year, are open to any student at the university, no matter their major. Each year’s competition varies and may result in anywhere from one to several winners. Hsia, Hummelt and Woodford-Berry won the same competition in 2017. Students are not allowed to compete two years in a row.

“It becomes very evident when we do the competition [auditions] who has been preparing for a long time,” Kennedy said. “The solo repertoire that people have won with, they’re really difficult pieces and they take months of familiarity, not just weeks. Those students who have dedicated themselves to learning such difficult repertoire over a sustained period and having the technique to actually play the pieces well was very obvious to the judges.”

The judges are always two people outside of the university who are familiar with music, whom Kennedy advises by answering questions about the players’ ability and dedication. Twelve students auditioned in total.

In a unique circumstance, this year’s winners are all members of the University Orchestra during the academic year. Several soloists will participate in the playing of other pieces in this concert, in addition to their respective concertos.

Ahn didn’t decide to audition for the competition until two weeks before the audition due date. She decided to give it a try for the first time with the Wieniawski piece, which she has been practicing with her violin teacher at Santa Clara, Motoko Toba, since early junior year.

“I really liked how it sounded,” Ahn said. “I love it when pieces have a slow, melodic line to it and then it goes into this very difficult, technical part of the piece. It also incorporated a lot of bowing techniques that I wanted to work on throughout the year.”

According to Kennedy, Wieniawski was a virtuoso violinist, meaning he only wrote music for violin, which was known to be difficult and showy.

“It’s another example of a student learning something for their instrument that’s really at the highest level,” he said.

Hsia, who is the orchestra’s principal violinist, decided to play the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto after Hummelt recommended it. Two years ago, Garrett, PJ and I all soloed together [in the competition] and since we’re only allowed to audition every other year if we win, we were like, ‘What are we going to play in two years?’” Hsia said. “That’s why I’m playing that piece now, due to our musicianship camaraderie.”

She started practicing the piece fall of junior year, when she studied abroad in Australia.

“I brought the music with me and I went through the hassle of finding a practice room in the university,” Hsia said. “It was rough because I had to convince them that I was really serious.”

She describes the concerto as a very passionate and powerful piece.

“There’s a lot of moods and different emotions,” Hsia said. “I feel like I’m not super emotional, but through this piece I explore different realms and it takes you somewhere, like a novel.”

Hsia started playing the piano at age 5, but described it as a “love-hate relationship” throughout her youth. She started violin when she was in fourth grade, and picked up viola in high school.

Hummelt was first introduced to Kennedy’s Horn Concerto in spring 2017.

“When the concerto competition came up again this year, I wanted to play it because I thought it would be fun to play something by a living composer, especially one who I get to work so closely with,” Hummelt said. He has been practicing the piece since late summer 2018.

“It’s thrilling to me that he’s doing it,” Kennedy said. “The solo is very hard, and he’s the first student musician to have learned it. It’s an incredible accomplishment for him to play it as well as he’s doing.”

According to Woodford-Berry, the Elgar Cello Concerto is one of his favorite pieces. Kennedy described it as a meditative piece that is a “wonderful contrast” to the other pieces being performed due to its emotional depth.

Woodford-Berry is proud to play in the competition as a senior, calling it a good ending to his music experience at Santa Clara.

He noted that it feels different from winning as a sophomore student, in that he’s more confident to play the music the way he thinks it ought to be played.

“What I find sort of extraordinary about all of these players is that they have majors in other fields and yet they play at a level that is first-class,” Kennedy said. “As a whole, the [senior class] is the most talented that I’ve seen at any time here. This group has set a standard that we hope will inspire others.”

Contact Erin Fox at efox@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.

From left to right, seniors PJ Hummelt, Ashley Ahn, Anne Hsia and Garrett Woodford-Berry. Three of the students were winners of the 2017 Concerto Competition, pictured below. The March 2 performance, titled “Mission Excellence,” will feature the soloists alongside the University Orchestra at their annual winter concert.

The March 2 performance, titled “Mission Excellence,” will feature the soloists alongside the University Orchestra at their annual winter concert.

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There are serious flaws in our education system as we fall behind in global standards. We have been lagging behind both Asian and European countries in important educational measures. Both South Korea and Finland are far above the U.S. in international testing, with the most important international test being the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment).

The PISA is the most relevant measure of intelligence because it tests critical thinking skills by asking students to give their opinion on articles, read fine print of health care plans and work out maths problems for which the formulas are provided. Collectively, this makes PISA a test about problem solving and creative thinking. A memorization test could show a difference in a country’s course materials, but this critical thinking test shows that the U.S. is falling in the ability to work while their stress keeps growing.

These differences in scores are not because the U.S. isn’t spending as much on education, they are spending more. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, Americans spent on average $12,509 per pupil in primary and secondary school in 2016, compared to Korean spending of $7,652 per pupil. This shows that more money does not guarantee better scores, as the U.S. is spending close to twice the amount as South Korea, yet not seeing superior results.

Additionally, U.S. spending on public schools is unequally distributed in different parts of the country, especially suburban versus urban schools.

Since many public schools are heavily funded by property taxes, the $12,509 per pupil is not being distributed proportionally because both the portion of property taxes used to pay for education and the value of property taxes vary greatly throughout the country. PISA reported that this inequality in funding results in a 15 percent socioeconomic variance in their test scores. South Korean students score much higher on the PISA, but their model is not ideal for us to follow. Their system is harsh, unforgiving and demanding as students go to school for long hours, stressing about testing performance.

Within Korea, there is a constant effort to reform their educational system in an attempt to reduce stress for young students. But Korea, as well as other Asian countries, have fallen into an arms race to see who can improve test scores the most. It is a race that countries and their students cannot get out of easily once they have begun. The United States, when looking for ways to improve their education model, should consider models like Finland. Finland raised their test scores by improving the quality of their teachers in the public school system by making teaching a high-paying and respected job. By improving the quality of their teachers, they have systematically improved the quality of their entire educational system. This is significantly different than the Korean model, most importantly because Finland employs better teaching as the mechanism to increase scores and overall education as opposed to increased hours of work and pressure placed on students. Finland is improving their education in a healthier way that allows the country’s education system to flourish without jeopardizing the happiness or health of students by applying unnecessary amounts of stress and work.

While South Korea is outperforming the United States in education, their PISA scores keep dropping while their stress keeps growing as the education standard continues to rise. Because improving education is an equilibrium process that can be achieved in multiple ways other than extreme pressure and copious amount of time studying, the U.S. should adopt the Finland model and raise the quality of teachers by making graduate school acceptance mandatory and more exclusive, having higher expectation both in terms of schooling and natural skills for their teachers and by increasing teachers’ salaries.

Finland’s education system has improved because they emphasized an important variable—educators. By improving the quality of their teachers, they improved the entire system.

The U.S. is a hegemony and if it hopes to hold this standing in the future, especially in regard to education, we will need to improve our educational system to compete against these other countries who are currently leaving us in the dust. If we want to compete better in this race, we need to improve the coaching.

Sahale Greenwood is a sophomore political science and communication double major.

**America is Getting Schooled in Teacher Quality**

**The Santa Clara**

**Sahale Greenwood**

Continued from Page 1

**PETA Attacks Steve Irwin On His Birthday**

For his 57th birthday, Google created a Google Doodle in remembrance of famous Australian explorer and television star Steven Irwin. PETA, in turn, took this opportunity to define his name and critique his work.

**Joshua Raymundo**

In arguably one of the strangest acts of the animal cases of the past decade, actor Jussie Smollett has been arrested. Indeed, strange does not begin to describe the circumstances of those that have snowballed into an irreversible situation with implications for the now disgraced “Empire” actor.

The drama began in late January, when Smollett supposedly received a threatening letter composed of cut out magazine photos of African Americans that were found inscribed in classic horror movies. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Smollett’s case was fabricated. He was found to have the magazine from which the threatening letter was composed.

The letteratures show his attackers, Nigerian brothers Ola and Abel Osundairo, buying the supplies on a local surveillance camera. Investigators found the check he paid the attackers to stage the crime.

Smollett capitalized on a divided public—a real dilemma. He painted the image that he, a gay black male, was beaten on the streets by racist, MAGA-supporting white men.

Smollett is playing a dangerous game that needs to be recognized. His fraudulent scheme perpetuates the stereotypes surrounding race-based issues that fracture American society.

Hate crimes are a heinous problem caused by sickened and evil souls that attempt to divide our country, and it is imperative they end. However, staging a hate crime is one of the most effective ways on a national scale for a personal benefit further distances unity from coming to fruition.

T

**Joshua Raymundo is a first-year undeclared business major.**

**Articles in the Opinion section represent the views of the individual authors only and not the views of The Santa Clara or Santa Clara University.**
**Kraft Charged**

San Francisco took a 65-63 lead over Santa Clara after knocking down a three-pointer with 2:23 left to play. Then, senior forward Henrik Jadrsten, playing his final game at Leavey Center, drew the teams even when he scored a layup moments later for the Broncos.

First-year guard Troy Wertz followed up with a layup of his own shortly after, putting the Broncos ahead once again. A free throw from sophomore guard Tahj Raddy, who had 16 points on the night, would give Santa Clara a 68-65 lead.

With seven seconds remaining, the Dons managed to down the court but failed to get a shot off. Two timeouts later and 0.8 seconds left on the clock, Santa Francisco took off for a last shot and missed, cementing Santa Clara’s win.

Men’s Basketball will travel to LMU today to take on the Lions at 8 p.m. Santa Clara’s final game of the regular season will take place Saturday at 7 p.m. against Portland.

**Baseball**

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—Taking on the Pac-12’s Washington State in a four-game home series this weekend, the Broncos saw improvement after being swept by San Jose State to open the season.

During the first game of the series last Thursday night, the Cougars’ pitching stole the show, allowing Santa Clara just one hit—which came from first-year outfielder Cam Allie in the bottom of the ninth. Two Washington State pitchers combined to shut out Santa Clara while the Cougs’ offense came alive to triumph the Broncos 6-3.

Friday night, however, was a different story. Junior Brendan Ecklebarger delivered a strong five-inning performance for the Broncos, giving up just two runs. The next three Broncos pitchers combined to shut out the Cougs and BII singles from junior Jason Dioschaid and first-year Matt Jew put Santa Clara ahead 4-2 in the third inning. Neither team would score again and the Broncos took game two. Saturday was a similar story. Starter Keegan McCarville (junior) led the way for the Broncos defense, allowing no runs in five innings before junior relievers Locke Bernhardt and Ethan Keinstei took over and gave up just one unearned run.

Santa Clara tallied three solo home runs from junior catcher Jake MacNichols in the fourth-to-defeat WSU 5-1 and give the Broncos a 2-1 advantage in the series.

In the final game of the series on Sunday, the Cougars’ offense returned with a vengeance to collect 16 hits and score 10 runs. The Broncos, who gained a 5-4 lead following a home-run from first-year infielder Blake Faddoul in the seventh, could not come back after the Cougars followed up with six runs in the eighth inning to split the series 2-2.

Broncos baseball will play its first road games of the season against CSU Bakersfield in a four-game series beginning Friday at 6 p.m.

**Women’s Tennis**

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—Women’s Tennis, which cruised by Southeastern Louisiana, 4-0, on Thursday, maintained their dominance against UC Davis on Sunday by serving the Aggies a 7-0 defeat.

The Broncos left no room for doubt in doubles play when junior Maddie Potthoff and sophomore Elvena Gevargiz partnered up to defeat UC Davis’ No. 1 duo, 6-0. Sophomore Nadine Del Carmen and first-year Jamie Schr€or secured Santa Clara’s doubles point after winning on court three.

In singles play, Potthoff and Gevargiz both earned victories in their respective matches. Schr€or, Del Carmen and junior Caitlyn Frankel all won in straight sets over their opponents to keep the Broncos’ sweep in tact.

Sunday’s contest had originally been scheduled for Feb. 3, but was rescheduled due to inclement weather. Women’s Tennis will travel next after being conference play against Portland on Friday at 10 a.m. before continuing their road trip to Gonzaga on Sunday at the same time.

Contact John Brussa at jbrussa@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.

**UPCOMING GAMES**

**Men’s Basketball**

Santa Clara @ San Diego Thurs. 2/28 6:00 p.m.
Santa Clara @ Portland Sat. 3/02 7:00 p.m.
Santa Clara @ Loyola Marymount Thurs. 2/28 8:00 p.m.
Santa Clara @ Portland Fri. 3/01 10:00 a.m.

**Women’s Tennis**

Santa Clara @ San Diego Thurs. 2/28 6:00 p.m.
Santa Clara @ Portland Fri. 3/01 10:00 a.m.

**Contacts**

Contact John Brussa at jbrussa@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4852.

**STANDINGS**

**Men’s Basketball**

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**Women’s Basketball**

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<td>Saint Mary’s</td>
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<td>Pacific</td>
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<td>Loyola Marymount</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
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SPORTS

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Pat's Owner Kraft Named in Prostitution Ring Charges

Florida police unveil operation taking place in spas around the state

Lacey Yahnke
THE SANTA CLARA

When news broke about New England Patriots’ owner Robert Kraft was facing two charges for solicitation in southern Florida last Friday, a spokesman for Kraft denied he committed any crimes and stated that they would not be commenting further.

Since then, the story has developed and more information has been released about the details of the event and Kraft’s charges. The 77-year-old was one of roughly 25 men charged in this case, involving connections to a prostitution ring in Jupiter, Fla.

According to the Palm Beach State Attorney’s Office, part of the prostitution ring was conducted out of a massage parlor called Orchids of Asia Day Spa. Kraft visited the massage parlor on the morning of Jan. 20— the same day as the AFC Championship Game against the Kansas City Chiefs hosted in Kansas City. By the time the game kicked off at 6:40pm EST, Kraft was in attendance.

This was his second visit to the massage parlor in the last 24 hours, as he was also seen leaving hours earlier on Jan. 19. In both accounts, video surveillance recorded Kraft receiving sexual acts from a woman in the spa in exchange for cash.

Earlier this week, Kraft was officially charged with two misdemeanor counts of first-degree solicitation. A low-level warrant has been issued for his arrest but, despite being called an arrest warrant, Kraft is not going to be handcuffed and taken into custody.

Instead, Kraft received a summons in the mail instructing him to turn himself in. Through the legal process, his lawyers have since made arrangements for a court date in Florida—set for 8:30 a.m. on April 24. Kraft will not need to appear in court and has hired Jack Goldberger from Atterbury, Goldberger & Weiss firm to represent him.

If Kraft is convicted, he may face up to one year in jail along with 100 hours of community service, $5,000 in fines and a class on the dangers of prostitution and human trafficking.

However, Florida has a “diversion plan” under its state law which usually allows first-time offenders to avoid jail time. Therefore, many legal experts expect him to stay out of jail, even if he is convicted.

On the other hand, punishments by the NFL are almost certain. While they do not carry legal weight and are by no means as severe, possible punishments could include a fine or a suspension. Kraft may also choose to donate to causes that combat prostitution and human trafficking, but many would likely question the sincerity of this move.

“Our Personal Conduct Policy applies equally to everyone in the NFL,” the NFL’s official statement said. “We will handle this allegation in the same way we would handle any issue under the Policy. We are seeking full understanding of the facts, while ensuring that we do not interfere with an ongoing law enforcement investigation. We will take appropriate action as warranted based on the facts.”

Kraft, however, is the biggest name on a list of hundreds of arrest warrants that were issued as part of a major crackdown on human trafficking in southern Florida. And in this revelation comes the bigger issue. Kraft’s

Preseason has new rules and missing stars

Lacey Yahnke
THE SANTA CLARA

The sights, sounds and smells of spring—chalk stripes, the crack of a bat and the smack of a catch—er mitt—have arrived just in time for baseball fans to emerge from the long, cold winter and fill the stadiums.

In a crackdown that stretched throughout southern Florida, Patriot’s owner Robert Kraft was included in an almost 200-person list of those allegedly soliciting prostitution in spas around the state.

The Philadelphia Phillies remain in the hunt for the super-star free agent, reportedly setting a deadline on his decision. The Los Angeles Dodgers met with Harper earlier this week. He is shopping for a contract that extends 10 years or more, but according to Jeff Passan at ESPN.com, the Dodgers have “been opposed to very long-term deals.”

For Bay Area fans, there are still rumors that the Giants remain interested.

Another young talent recently confirmed Harper may still have a chance to get his wish of a high-paying, long-term contract. Last week, Manny Machado signed a 10-year contract for $300 million with the San Diego Padres—making the buzz swell around Harper’s contract prospect.

If one thing is certain, it’s that Opening Day waits for no one—even superstars. And for fans in ballparks in Arizona and Florida, players are taking batting practice, the weather is warm and the beer is cold.

And, for now at least, every team has a chance to be in the World Series.

MLB Plays Father Time with Experimental Rule

The idea of a pitch clock has faced resistance from players, especially from pitchers who work slower on the mound. Of the 468 pitchers to throw at least 30 innings last year, all but six averaged more than 20 seconds in between pitches suggesting that adjustments will have to be made to pitching styles and techniques and the overall nature of professional baseball itself.

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"Having a pitch clock, if you have ball-strike imperfections, it’s messiing with the fabric of the game," Washington Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer said to the Associated Press.

"There’s no clock in baseball and there’s no clock in baseball for a reason.”

For now, there are roughly four weeks of spring training to see if the pitch clock experiment will end up speeding up—or undermining—America’s pastime.

Meanwhile, the Bryce Harper lotto, which has riveted many fans this off-season, may finally be nearing a conclusion. Harper, a free agent, remained unsigned to any MLB team even as spring training gets underway.

However, USA Today’s Bob Nightengale reported Monday that Harper is “expected to make his decision by the end of this week.”