Local legend Norman Mineta dies at 90

By Beajana Cvijic
NEWS EDITOR

Former Federal Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta died Tuesday of a heart ailment, according to his former chief of staff John Flaherty. Mineta was 90. Born in San Jose, Mineta was the first Asian American secretary to serve in a U.S. cabinet position. He served as U.S. secretary of commerce under President Bill Clinton’s administration in 2000, and was the only Democrat to serve as secretary under President George W. Bush’s administration from 2001-2006, according to a Tuesday ABC news article.

San Jose State Interim President Steve Perez said in a Tuesday campuswide email that Mineta served the community with his “humanity and leadership.”

“Secretary Mineta, a San José native, was a legendary, towering figure who made important, lasting, positive contributions to our region and country,” Perez said.

As transportation secretary, Mineta ordered commercial flights grounded after the 9/11 terror attacks, according to the same ABC News article.

Mineta claimed to have grounded 4,500 planes, according to a Tuesday New York Times article.

“I said, ‘Get the damn planes down,’” Mineta told ABC News in 2001. He was praised for his decision to ground flights after the 9/11 attacks.

Mineta’s life at a glance
- First Asian American mayor of a major city – San Jose – and cabinet secretary, serving under both Democratic President Bill Clinton and Republican President George W. Bush
- U.S. transportation secretary during the 9/11 attacks
- A survivor of WWII Japanese internment camp

San Jose community members protest for reproductive rights

By Jennifer Schildge
STAFF WRITER

More than 50 people gathered at San Jose City Hall on Tuesday to protest the proposed overturn of Roe v. Wade that was released in a leaked draft majority opinion late Monday published by POLITICO.

The decision to overturn the landmark case is expected to have a five to four majority with Associate Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Clarence Thomas voting to overturn the landmark case, according to a Tuesday Washington Post article.

Chief Justice John Roberts confirmed the leaked document is legitimate early Tuesday morning, and has launched an investigation into the document’s disclosure, according to a Tuesday POLITICO article.

“[It] was a singular and egregious breach of that trust that is an affront to the Court and the community of public servants who work here,” Roberts said in the same Tuesday article.

Roe v. Wade is a landmark Supreme Court decision that established a constitutional right to abortion, according to a Tuesday New York Times article.

If Roe v. Wade is overturned another landmark case regarding abortions, Planned Parenthood v. Casey would also be overturned because it was reaffirmed Roe v. Wade in 1992, according to a Tuesday Newsweek article.

It states in the landmark 7-2 ruling that the federal government lacked the power to prohibit abortions. The Supreme Court judged that a person’s right to terminate their pregnancy was protected by the U.S. constitution.

Kaylynn Campvell, 9 months pregnant, joins protesters at San Jose City Hall Tuesday after the leaked draft decision to overturn Roe V. Wade was released late Monday night.
ABORTION

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according to a Tuesday BBC article.

She said she wants to protest the right for health care and women's rights since the '70s and what happened Monday night was a "massive smack in the face."

"If it is passed, the women's underground is alive and well and already doing something about it. They're providing transportation and I think that's just going to get stronger," Styria said.

The draft majority opinion, written by Associate Justice Samuel Alito, sided with the right for health care and women's right over their own bodies.

"I think it's really scary. It's a scary time for women like myself," Lord said.

"I feel like with the last administration... it's the government's way of overreaching, uncomfortable and unsafe," Frybarger said.

"I definitely think there will be a huge ripple effect and you'll be seeing a lot more protests and hopefully a lot more people sharing their thoughts," Hansen said.

Follow Jennifer on Twitter: @kyiojen

Spartans react to leaked draft opinion of Roe V. Wade

The Supreme Court voted to overturn Roe V. Wade and other laws to ban abortion, according to a leaked draft majority opinion, written by Associate Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito released by POLITICO on Monday evening.

"It made me reflect on the fact that having a baby is a lot of work, the hardest job ever," Frybarger said.

"I think it's the hardest job ever," Lord said. "To have safe medical care... and it's the way to go, the way to be in, scary to think about so quickly after years of fighting for it."

"I think it's really scary. It's a scary place to be, scary to think about raising children in a world where we're going back so far," Lord said.

"We have worked really hard to keep our thoughts, " Henning said.

"It made me reflect on the fact that having a baby is a lot of work, the hardest job ever. Forcing somebody to have to do this is honestly quite frankly bullshit," Frybarger said.

"It's mind blowing, because it's not only un-American but it's un-American that the women's underground is alive and well and doing something about it. They're providing transportation and I think that's going to get stronger," Styria said.

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CSU appoints repatriation collections manager

By Amani Hamed

The California State University system appointed Adriane Tafoya as the new project manager for the California Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA), according to a Thursday CSU news release.

Tafoya will work with the 25 campuses in creating new inventories of Native American remains held in university archives and with repatriating eligible remains and complying with the Repatriation Act and Assistance Act of 1990. Tafoya is appointed to the position of CalNAGPRA director at CalNAGPRA to include both federally recognized and the definition of “California Indian Tribe” as belonging to specific tribes, according to the California Native American Heritage Commission website.

Tafoya, who is currently the senior collections manager at the McClain Museum of Natural History and Culture at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is also a member of the Tyee Indian Tribe. The Tyee Tribe of the Klamath Nation are the indigenous people of the Southern San Joaquin Valley, and a majority of more than 1,200 members live in Kern County, California, according to the tribe’s website.

Rachel McBride-Petracfak, director of Tribal Relations at Cal State, said in the press release that Tafoya is uniquely qualified for the position because of her museum expertise and her understanding of the importance of CalNAGPRA. “The CSU has thousands of collections to inventory [Talesay]...strong experience in project management and museum studies education and her passion for the important work of CalNAGPRA make her a great fit to take on this work,” McBride-Petracfak said.

Tafoya earned a Bachelor of Arts in art from Chico State and a Master of Arts in museum studies from John F. Kennedy University. After finishing museum curatorial projects with the University of Tennessee, Tafoya will start working with the CSU system on June 1.

Former secretary of transportation and commerce Norman Mineta visits the JSU Spartan student project, repatriation of transportation issues, on Oct. 29, 2014 in collaboration with the Mineta Institute of Transportation.

. . . For the Spartan Superway project, that’s when he came to class. I mean, goodness gracious, how many times does the former secretary of transportation or secretary of commerce show up in a San Jose State classroom?

Burford Furman

Burford Furman, mechanical engineering professor, Spartan Superway co-founder, mechanical engineering professor, Spartan Superway co-founder, spoke on how Mineta helped bring transportation issues to the forefront.

Mineta was well known for bridging the aisle, he was well known for bridging the aisle, he was well known for bridging the aisle, he was well known for bridging the aisle, he was well known for bridging the aisle, Furman said. He also spoke about Mineta’s integrity and how he bridged the aisle between Democrats and Republicans. "You know, transportation is not Democrat. It’s not Republican. You know he was well known for bridging the aisle, between Republicans and the Democrats as endorsed by real issues,” Sneeden said in a phone interview.

After Mineta left government office in 2006, he was awarded with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in honor of his services. He is survived by his wife Don, his sons, Davis and Stuart and stepsons Robert and Mark Brantner.

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Follow Bojana on Twitter @Bojanaacv
The film is a psychological erotic thriller about a 1950s housewife whose reality cracks when she tries to witness a murder. It has a NC-17 rating. Viewers can anticipate a moody, enigmatic story, according to The Hollywood Reporter. "Trailers for the movie are very moody and address her childhood and what happened on Monroe's suspicious death," Armas has said on Twitter. "I saw the leaked behind-the-scenes footage and it was really interesting." The film is set to premiere this year.

The ‘50s aesthetic is gorgeous, defying expectations for a movie that hints at a possible alien invasion. The film’s been in the works for over a decade, according to a Sept. 23 New York Times article. It has me saying “Y ep. “

No. 2: "Nope" (July 22)

Jordan Peele is back writing and directing for his new movie "Nope," after "Get Out," "Us," and "The Twilight Zone." The director of "Get Out" and "Us" has already made his mark on the horror genre, and "Nope" is no exception. The film follows a rural ranch in California that has been affected by a monstrous, unknown creature. The cinematographer is Hoyte van Hoytema, known for "Interstellar," "Thor: Love and Thunder," and "Inception," so the film will definitely deliver in terms of visuals.

"The discovery and the surprise of it is part of the fun," Peele said in an April 27 Q&A with The Hollywood Reporter. "Trailers will give you a taste but we want to retain some of the mystery, so you can be satisfied going to the cinema without knowing everything."

No. 1: "Blonde" (end of 2022)

Amu de Armas will step into the role of Marilyn Monroe in director Andrew Dominik’s "Blonde," adapted from Joyce Carol Oates’ novel of the same name. The plot of the film focuses on Monroe's mysterious death and addresses her childhood and tumultuous life. The movie will be distributed by Netflix and is the only film created by streaming services to earn an NC-17 rating. Viewers can anticipate a moody, enigmatic story, according to The Hollywood Reporter. "Blonde" is unique because it has very few dialogues.

"It was utterly obsessed with Monroe’s fantasy Berlin, the way she said things," Oates said on Twitter that de Armas has seen a rough cut of the movie. "I’m pretty good at keeping interest in one way or another. The film is set to premiere this year. All five movies have piqued my interest in one way or another. The upcoming movies make me think that rumors could be back and the balance between streaming and theatrical releases will be restored."
The force is strong with the prequels

The original "Star Wars" trilogy is by far the best of the "Star Wars" films because of its superior practical effects, superb acting and clean storyline. The other six films pale in comparison because of their shoddy CGI, contrived plots and lackluster characters. Despite flaws including cheesy dialogue and silly action sequences, the prequels wereofilms that were shown with a few dashes of the evil Darth Vader as a nod to the 1983 masterpiece "Return of the Jedi." The issue I had with this trilogy was the character Finn not being given a true character arc and becoming a Jedi himself as it was slightly implied throughout each film. Although this can be an issue, it could be flipped to something greater such as a possible origin story in the future where Finn discovers his powers and becomes a Jedi knight himself.

Jennifer Schilde

The Star Wars franchise wouldn’t have a whole new group of first-generation fans if it wasn’t for the prequels. The prequel trilogy consists of “Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace” (1999), “Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones” (2002) and the best “Star Wars” movie of all time, “Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith” (2005). There is so much unbearably contradictory surrounding which trilogy is the “best” but despite all the flaws, the prequels deserve that title.

The biggest reason is they have one single vision and story. Anakin Skywalker was the solution to finding a satisfying way to tell an antagonist’s backstory and it wasn’t just satisfactory — it was heart-wrenchingly wicked, evil and fun. Obi-Wan Kenobi was always a wise, good-natured character but these movies made him quirky and not afraid to get into trouble and break the rules in adventures with Anakin. The prequels helped expand the Star Wars universe into much more than three mediocre movies, unlike what the sequels did.

Obi-Wan— a series coming to Disney+ this year, with Ewan McGregor returning to the role he played in the prequel trilogy— is not to mention, the entire “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” series is set during the years between Episode II and III did an amazing job at worldbuilding.

To this day I remember what it feels like to watch the end of “Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith” for the first time and it still feels like I’m in the mesmerizing world of “Star Wars” every time.

When the end of the brawl hits and emotions are dwindling to sadness, Obi-Wan tells Anakin that he was like a brother, saying “I loved you” as Anakin burns on the side of the rock as a sentient orchestra score plays in the background. Nothing can top that scene, I can’t even fathom how anyone could argue that the other trilogies did better.

When anyone thinks “Star Wars,” they think of light sabers. How could you have a Star Wars movie where the fights are boring and anyone can use anything? The sequels answered that question.

The first three films put the world to a universe and then the last three raked up bucks as blockbusters. Despite flaws including cheesy dialogue and silly action sequences, the prequels wereofilms that were shown with a few dashes of the evil Darth Vader as a nod to the 1983 masterpiece "Return of the Jedi." The issue I had with this trilogy was the character Finn not being given a true character arc and becoming a Jedi himself as it was slightly implied throughout each film. Although this can be an issue, it could be flipped to something greater such as a possible origin story in the future where Finn discovers his powers and becomes a Jedi knight himself.

The best part about the sequels trilogy is it lies in all aspects of the other two generations of “Star Wars” characters.

The original trilogy did an excellent job of exploring Luke Skywalker’s rise to heroism.

Anakin Skywalker says he would be at the heart of this next installment of the saga. John Boyega proved he was an incredible actor in "Attack the Block," a 2011 British sci-fi horror film about a group of Black and immigrant kids who have to defend their South London housing project from aliens. I was thrilled to see more diversity in the cast. Daisy Ridley was great as Rey, the main character. She was immediately a relatable and likable heroine. The last trilogy lost me when they squashed the burgeoning romance between Rey and Finn, crushed Finnish storyline like a soda can and planned in the last two films with a weird-ass storyline featuring, of all people, Emperor Palpatine.

Then the series tried to rehabilitate Kylo Ren, who should have met his end the same way Darth Vader did. The sparks flying between Kylo Ren and Rey should only have come from their clashing light sabers.

Producers should have quit the franchise while they were ahead and ended the series after the 1983 masterpiece "Return of the Jedi."" Star Wars" is one of the most iconic film franchises, spanning from the late 70s to now. With spin-off films including "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" and "Solo: A Star Wars Story," there are plenty of Star Wars universe branches.

However, the most recent trilogy, which followed characters Rey, Finn and Poe Dameron, was the best trilogy in the franchise.

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