Opinion

It's 'SA' not essay

Cornell proves universities prioritize reputation over students

By RYLEY LEE
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TRIGGER WARNING: DISCUSSION OF RAPE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

"Well, what was she wearing?" "She was asking for it." "She didn't say no."

"It was a mistake." "It won't happen again." "He has his whole life ahead of him."

Growing up as a woman, I've heard these sentences too many times. Rape culture is normalized in society, and instead of teaching men to stop this behavior, we teach women how to try to prevent it.

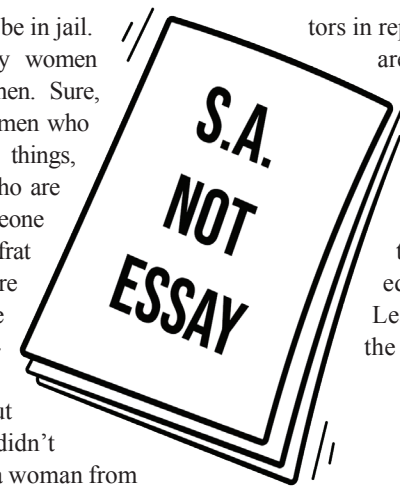
What happened to Jane Doe at the Chi Phi fraternity at Cornell University in 2024 is disgusting. However, it is not surprising in the least.

If you didn't know, a Cornell student, who remains anonymous under the name Jane Doe, went to see her "friend" at the Chi Phi fraternity, got pressured into taking ketamine and was gang raped for seven hours by seven men.

Jane Doe reported this horrific event to Cornell's administration, and only two of the rapists got expelled, while the rest of them were able to write essays to lessen their consequences. That's it.

All seven of these men should be in jail.

And the other 50 men who were in the frat group chat called "Chi Phi Actives" where rape was being advertised, who stood by and did nothing, should also be in jail.



Men wonder why women say they hate all men. Sure, maybe it's not "all" men who actually do these things, but it's most men who are friends with someone who does, or are in a frat with one, or care more about protecting the "bro code" than protecting a woman.

It's not all men, but it's 57/57 men who didn't do anything to stop a woman from being raped.

Even if they say they didn't do it, the group chat, where someone asked if "shop" was "still open," which is absolutely disgusting, is proof that this really happened. Also, the essays that the men wrote are proof of guilt. So why are we still investigating?

And to the people who are saying "the original police report said she consented," being intoxicated does not count as consent. Consenting to one person does not count as consent to six other people. Additionally, she could have been in denial about what happened to her, trying to convince herself she was okay.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, only about 20% of perpetrators in reported rape and sexual assault cases are criminally charged. This means that four of five sexual offenders walk free.

The problem isn't that survivors don't come forward; it's that our system wasn't built to protect them. This system allows convicted rapists to continue attending Ivy League universities, and even become the president of the United States.



ILLUSTRATION BY AVA STAGO

This sends young men the idea that they can do whatever they want, including raping and sexually assaulting a woman, and get away with it. It tells them that they are untouchable. And it tells women that speaking out won't do anything to help them. Because if they do, they won't be believed, or they'll be told it was their fault. Because even now, two years later, when the Cornell case is getting reopened, people are blaming Jane Doe.

Parents tell their daughters to do everything right. Never walk alone at night, don't drink from an open cup, stay with people you trust, don't take the shortcut. Where is that same attitude when it comes to teaching young boys not to take advantage of women, or to speak out when someone else is? And by the way, the majority of people who are speaking out about what happened are women.

We live in a world where it is more important to ask the victim what they were wearing, or if they were drunk, than why the perpetrator did something like that.

Even if we do everything right, it still happens. Jane Doe was going to see her friend. It was her friend who drugged and raped her.

According to the United States Sentencing Commission, 92.1% of sexual abuse offenders are men. This has to stop, and it's not going to stop by teaching women to prevent it. The only way it's going to stop is if we stop normalizing it and show men that it's not okay.

Educate your sons.

Shamchester City is a scum club

By REX NAYLOR
Staff Writer

On Sept. 28 the Premier League announced Manchester City, also known as Man City, were found guilty on all 115 charges related to financial breaches in a nine year span. For many fans like myself, this news was akin to Christmas Day.

This landmark ruling concludes a process that began in February 2023 when the Premier League charged the club initially. The charges spanned a nine-season timeframe, spanning from the 2009-10 season through the 2017-18 season, with additional counts through 2022-23 for failing to cooperate with the league's investigation.

In an official statement made by the Premier League, Man City arranged "sham" contracts which inflated their profits by nearly £900 million (~$1.2 billion). This inevitably caused them to buy the best players, pay them the best wages, and win the most trophies out of any other English club in the nine year span.

The financial side of the cheating is a little more complicated but that's the most important fact to understand. I recommend reading excerpts of articles from The Athletic as their coverage is the most straight-forward and easiest to understand.

Writing this I can't feel anything but hatred for the club's higher-ups and empathy for the players, staff and supporters.

Man City's owner, Sheikh Mansour, the vice president of the United Arab Emirates and deputy Prime Minister used his own wealth and private investment company's money on Man City.

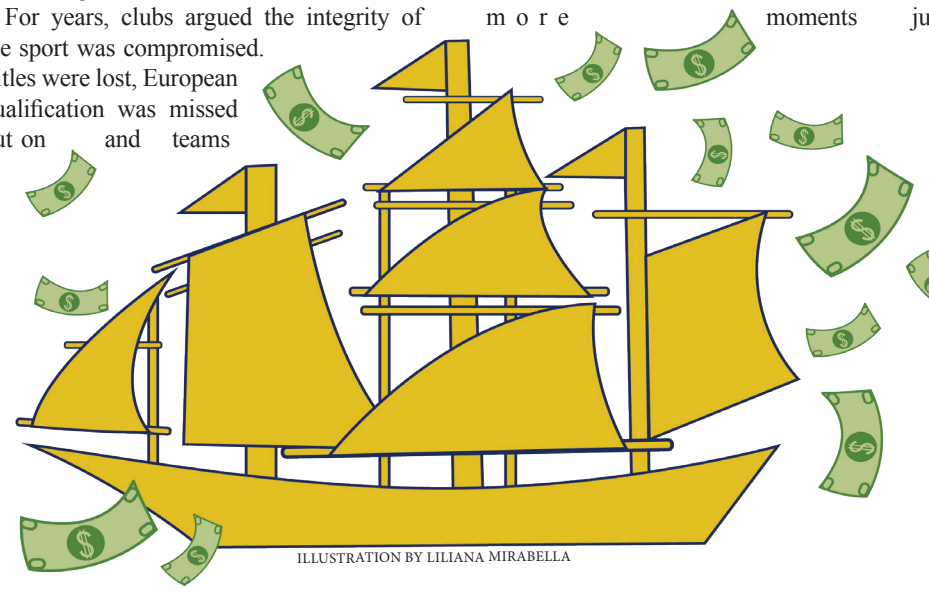
Mansour and his ownership group took over in 2008, and the charges go back to that season. This effectively means the ownership has been cheating behind the backs of players and staff since the start while winning countless titles and trophies.

Mansour has warned the United Kingdom's government that any penalization against his club will disrupt any economic ties and future investments. This is the perfect example as to why state-ownership in sports should never be allowed, as this consequence is too far gone from reasonable.

Everyday there is a new development of some kind and the crisis is escalating quickly. Man City lodged a formal appeal late Thursday, Oct. 1, stating their innocence and claiming errors in the Premier League's findings.

The state-owned Etihad Airways, Man City's stadium and jersey sponsor, released a statement rejecting the findings and threatening its own legal action as well.

For years, clubs argued the integrity of the sport was compromised. Titles were lost, European qualification was missed out on and teams fighting relegation went up against an opponent operating with a different economic reality.


ILLUSTRATION BY LILIANA MIRABELLA

None of this would have been found out without the help of Portuguese hacker Rui Pinto, who was the one who first released leaks in 2018.

For me as a fan of Arsenal who's watched the team since I was four, watching the Premier League every morning of every weekend for years, the memes and moments from the past don't quite feel the same anymore.

I feel a bit of the magic from the past has diminished because of Man City's cheating. For instance, when they first "won" the league in 2012, commentator Martin Tyler's commentary of Man City striker Sergio Aguero's title-winning goal was etched into English football memory.

Now that moment means nothing, it's a reminder to Manchester United that they were cheated out of a title. There's countless more moments just like that one for Man City, but only anger and disdain for rival fanbases when they see the same thing.

Players' reputations were changed because of Man City. Trophies were snatched away, accolades were missed out on and English football history was re-written

On top of the possibility of losing trophies, several Premier League clubs have preserved the rights to sue Man City for compensation. This hinges on the idea of lost earnings, if Man City cheated and finished above these clubs, which they almost always did, clubs lost out on possible sponsorships, prize money and European qualification.

This process will take years and millions of dollars to decide what punishment suits the crime. Man City should be stripped of every single title and trophy ever won in the nine year span, point deductions up to 25 points each season for the next 10 seasons and heavy financial fines that the club must pay.

Ultimately, there is no punishment that will make up for what Man City has done, as nothing will ever be looked at the same again. Players who bleed city blue through and through, now realize what their club was involved in behind their backs.

Players' histories and legacies are forever tainted. Greats like Man City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne, midfielder David Silva, defender Vincent Kompany and midfielder Yaya Toure will be reminded for the rest of their careers and lives that the titles they won were cheated for.

Man City has earned the new name "Shamchester City," and for good reason. This saga will continue to drag on as no one truly knows what will happen to this club, but one thing is for certain.

What Man City did to the integrity of the game will never be forgotten, and neither will its punishment. It's the biggest scandal in all of sports and no one will stop talking about it for years to come.