ASI President Pedro Ramirez threatens resignation at Senate meeting

By Michael Kincheloe
The Collegian

Associated Students, Inc. President Pedro Ramirez was once again the main topic of discussion at Wednesday’s ASI meeting. Ramirez revealed that he may resign from office if surgery is necessary for an eye injury that he received in a traffic accident on Jan. 9.

Formal reviews had been scheduled for the offices of Ramirez and Vice President of Finance Cesar Sanchez, but the actions were postponed by the student senate after the American Civil Liberties Union questioned the legality of the process.

With a number of media present, attendance was standing-room only. The public comment session occasion-ally became raucous, with Fresno State senior Neil O’Brien speaking first.

O’Brien has paperwork verifying that a Pedro Ramirez with the same birth date and address as the ASI president is registered to vote in Tulare County.

“Illegally registering to vote is, I believe, a federal offense,” O’Brien said, “which I believe is a felony.” Federal laws authorize the prosecu-tion of non-citizens for registering and voting in elections. Aliens can be pros-ecuted under 18 U.S.C. § 1015(f), which criminalizes making a false statement or claim about citizenship “in order to register to vote or to vote in any Federal, State, or local election (including an initiative, recall, or referendum),” and under 18 U.S.C. § 911, which prohibits making a false claim of citizenship. The penalty can be a fine, imprisonment not more than five years or both.

O’Brien went on to question whether certain members of ASI had been hold-ing “secret meetings” about whether it was legal to use funds from California State Student Association to fly Ramirez to Washington, D.C. last year in support of the DREAM Act, and how someone in the country illegally was able to board an airline and fly across

Poor economy reflected in last year’s donations to California State Universities

By Dana Hull
The Collegian

The California State University system has seen a huge decline in the amount of monetary contributions made to its schools.

In the past year, CSU has seen a 12.5 percent decrease in monetary contributions from the year prior.

Charles B. Reed, chancellor for California State University, says California’s financial crisis, paired with a larger demand for higher education, is to blame. “Like most public universi-ties throughout the country, the California State University is challenged with determin-ing how to serve more students with fewer resources,” he said in a press release.

$265 million may seem like a significant amount of money, but it’s not enough to cover the entire cost of education. The California State University system has seen a huge decrease in monetary contributions made to its schools.

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What happened to rock music?

By Kelly Hance

The modern-day rock artists aren’t even in the same ballpark with this kind of talent. I am also not suggesting that it isn’t easy to reach that level of talent. I am just saying that there is no new music out there, it just isn’t epic, and we need that.

“Who’s to blame? Is it our generation because we’re satisfied with the way things are, or record labels for only promoting artists that are sure to make them money.”

As consumers we demand the best from professional artists, politicians and so on. We want constant improvement, progression and new things. We should demand the same of the music industry.

There should be at least one group whose children will look back at the last 40 years and say, “Who’s to blame? Is it our generation because we’re satisfied with the way things are and record labels for only promoting artists that are sure to make them money?”

I believe it’s a little bit of both. There are very few artists now who reach mainstream success through grassroots. Most are scooped up by record labels and given contracts that give most of the power to producers, not the musicians. Then you end up with bands like The Offspring, who began as a legitimate punk rock group, and later produced songs like “Pretty Fly (For A White Guy).” A far departure from their original sound.

I hope that we are not all satisfied with the current condition of the rock music industry. Really, the only solution is to be more vocal as consumers. There are some great underground bands out there, but the big record labels view them as too different and therefore too risky.

As consumers, our generation needs to go grassroots. Make a lot of noise about the groups you like. Go to their shows, write on-line about them, buy their music and apparel. The next epic band has to be discovered and promoted by fans. Find something new that could be an influence to rock artists in the future.

Letters to the Editor

I expect a response from you. Leave a response or send a letter to the editor via e-mail at collegian-opinion@csufresno.edu.
RAMIREZ: Pres. continues to take heat over immigration issues

Opponents and defenders of Ramirez's position in student government had a chance to speak at the senate meeting.

CONTINUED from page 1

the country in the first place.

“Students should know that they paid for Pedro Ramirez to fly to Washington, D.C.,” O’Brien said.

O’Brien then questioned whether Ramirez was “really illegal,” or if he was “legal, and lying.”

A procession of speakers from both sides of the political aisle took their place at the microphone.

“I’m Mexican, and I’m tired of people always putting us down,” one woman said. “So just shut the [expletive] up,” to a man who asked. This was in response to a man who asked, “If Mexico was so great, why did [Ramirez’s parents] come here?”

Jason Carns of the Fresno Stonewall Democrats spoke in favor of Ramirez, reading a statement that said, “both Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King believed that we should defy laws that are wrong.” He said that any senators who voted to remove Ramirez “will be viewed as being aligned with the racist, neo-Nazi elements.”

Ron Arteo, who is coordinator for the Auberry Branch of the Central Valley Tea Party, explained that “a citizen from another state has to pay a higher rate than an illegal alien,” and that legal resident aliens have to pay higher tuition than Ramirez does.

“We’ve seen your football and your basketball [teams] send criminals out there, and we’re a poor representation of your student body,” Arteo said. “Pedro is a poor representation of your student body.”

Machado, who objected to the pejoratives that have been directed at O’Brien.

The student senate’s bylaws state that Ramirez or Sanchez can only be removed from office if one or the other were to miss three or more senate or floor meetings.

Fresno State student senators will evaluate the ACLU’s accusation.

The Fresno podiatrist sought a legitimate wrestling move called the “butt drag” during the daily practice match.

The Associated Press is not naming the defendant because he is a minor.

He was expelled from the school in January, after officials concluded the teenager had sexually assaulted his teammate.

17-year-old ex-Buchanan school wrestler’s sexual battery charge dropped

By Associated Press

CLOVIS, Calif. (AP) — Prosecutors have dropped the sexual battery charge against a California high school wrestler who claimed he was just executing a common wrestling move.

The teenager had faced the charge for allegedly ramming his fingers into the rectum of his teammate.

But defense lawyer Stephen Quade said his 17-year-old client had used

DONATIONS: Diminishing support for universities

CONTINUED from page 1

lot of money, but it’s small in comparison to the nearly $440 million the schools received just three school years ago.

Included in these figures are monetary gifts and pledge payments. These funds go to a wide variety of programs, including student scholarships, academic programs, faculty compensation, athletics and other university needs. These gifts are given by parents, alumni and other philanthropic sources.

“While some of our fund-

Judge tosses lawsuit against Berkeley newspaper editor

By Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — A judge has dismissed a small claims lawsuit filed by the father of a deceased University of California, Berkeley football player who sued a college

newspaper editor for emotional distress.

In a decision Wednesday, Fresno County Judge Mark Cullers ruled against Harvey Purtz, who sued Rajesh Srinivasan, editor of The Daily Californian, in October.

The Fresno podiatrist sought $7,500 for intentional infliction of emotional distress caused by a 2006 article and two 2007 blog posts about his son Chris' altercation at a San Francisco adult club.

The father argued the article was a “major triggering event” in his son’s life that led to his mental deterioration. Chris Purtz died in June.

Harvey Purtz did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.
Students at Fresno State have several living options made available to them, but many students have a lot of different things to consider before deciding on their living arrangements. Some options available to students include on-campus housing in the dormitories, Greek housing, apartments, living with family and even a group of friends.

According to Jacqueline E. King, author of "Crucial Choices: How Students’ Financial Decisions Affect Their Academic Success," "Thirty percent of all beginning students live on campus, 27 percent live off campus and 43 percent live with their parents or other relatives.”

When students are searching for a place to live, there are a lot of factors that they have to keep in mind. "Convenience, safety, student’s personality and cost are the main factors that sway a student’s decision.” Erin Boele, Director of Housing at Fresno State, said.

Boele suggests that if a student prefers a more college-like experience, then their best option is to go with living in the dorm community halls, whereas those students who need privacy have the option of living in a suite. “Every student has a different preference when deciding where to live,” Boele said.

"For those students who are more social, they have the option of living in the dorm community halls, whereas those students who need privacy have the option of living in a suite," Boele said. The option to live in the dorms is open to all students, but Boele said that only 36 percent of the upperclassmen actually take advantage of that opportunity. "It’s my understanding that there are two main reasons why upper division students don’t like living on campus — either it’s too loud or too quiet," Cody Madsen, president of the Residence Hall Association, said. "Many upper division students don’t like having rules and restrictions, and as they get older they want more freedom." 

English major Natalie Bachicha prefers living in the dorms as compared to off-campus housing. Bachicha lives in the suite style dorm now, but previously lived in community style dorms for her first two years at Fresno State. “I love the idea of living with my friends in one suite,” Bachicha said. “We all get along well and have the same study habits, which made it easy to choose my roommates.”

Robert Haney took advantage of living with his fraternity brothers at the Theta Chi fraternity house, “because he wanted to be apart of a value-based organization.” But for those students who are seeking independence, an option to consider is renting an off-campus apartment or house. There are many apartment buildings specifically student-oriented around the Fresno State community.

Senior Sean Jones lives with three other roommates in Copper Beech Townhomes, which is 10 minutes from campus. “I chose to live in Copper Beech because the rent is low,” Jones said.

Junior Amelia Sarkisian used to live with her grandparents during the school weeks and at home on the weekends, but now she currently lives 15 minutes away from her parents and younger brother. "In order to graduate with minimal debt, I chose to continue living at home during college," Sarkisian said. "If I was more economically endowed, my living situation might be different." Although there are many living arrangements made available, students usually decide the option that fits best. "Every student has a different preference when deciding where to live. " Boele said. “Some students choose convenience, while others choose a low cost.”
Weekend of Movies
Movies for thrill-seekers, girly-girls and those who like to laugh

By Maddie Shannon
The Collegian

This weekend, local theaters are juggling films that cater to all tastes.

Whether you prefer thrillers like “The Rite” or quirky, slightly perverse movies like “Kaboom,” moviegoers of all kinds are likely to find something to suit their cinematic tastes.

There are also films that cater to specific genders. “From Prada to Nada” is aimed at women, as made apparent in the title. “The Mechanic,” a remake of the 1972 film, features car explosions and big guns—clearly a guy’s favorite. Here is this weekend’s movie lineup.

From Prada to Nada (PG-13)

What it’s about: Two sisters, Nora and Mary, grow up in a privileged home where they were never wanted for anything. Though they’re Mexican, they are so far removed from their heritage that they don’t fully acknowledge their ancestry from the outset. When their father dies unexpectedly, they find that they are left with nothing. They take refuge in the home of their estranged aunt, who introduces them to what it means to be a real family.

Why you should see it: Mary, who displays quite a few self-sufficient qualities, butts heads with Nora, who revels in the luxurious setting she and Mary were raised in. The culture shock Nora experiences adds another layer to the movie to illustrate the mingling of cultures.

Starring: Alexa Vega, Camilla Bell, Nicholas D’Agosto, Wilmer Valderrama and April Bowlby.

Kaboom (NA)

What it’s about: Smith, a young film student, starts having freaky dreams. As the imaginary people he dreams about start to make their way into his waking life, he starts to suspect that something else is going on. This movie, though it features weird, quirky occurrences, was a favorite at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival.

Why you should see it: If random, out-of-the-ordinary movies are your thing, this movie is for you. Be warned: It’s definitely risqué and not for moviegoers with delicate sensibilities.

Starring: Thomas Dekker, Haley Bennett, Roxane Mesquida, Chris Zylka, and Juno Temple.

The Mechanic (R)

What it’s about: Professional assassin Arthur Bishop specializes in assassinations that look like accidents. No muss, no fuss, he was never there. Although he works alone, he agrees to teach a friend of one of his former victims the tricks of the trade. Steve McKenna, Bishop’s new apprentice, wants the life of an assassin — which he gets, until he screws up his first job. Big explosions and gunfights ensue.

Why you should see it: The original 1972 version of the film starring Charles Bronson has quite a following. Fans of the 39-year-old version will definitely get a kick out of the remake directed by Simon West.

Starring: Jason Statham, Ben Foster, Tony Goldwyn, Donald Sutherland, Jeff Chase and Mini Anden.

The Rite (R)

What it’s about: Michael Kovak, a young seminary student, begovernmentally goes to exorcism school at the Vatican, despite the fact he’s lost his faith. In Rome he meets Father Lucas Trevant, who attempts to show him the dark underbelly of Catholicism by proving the devil exists. Kovak witnesses different exorcisms performed by Father Lucas, often walking away confused.

Why you should see it: Exorcism movies have a very specific audience. If you liked The Last Exorcism and The Exorcism of Emily Rose, you’ll like this one too. Anthony Hopkins stars in this one, which might open up the audience a little more but not much.

Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Alice Braga, Colin O’Donoghue, Ciaran Hinds, Rutger Hauer and Toby Jones.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Versatile actor Donald Sutherland, who has played everything from a Nazi spy to an aging astronaut, was honored Wednesday with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

His star was unveiled outside the Roosevelt Hotel next to son Kiefer Sutherland’s star. The older Sutherland joked that getting a star was better than a headstone at a cemetery.

“This marker I can actually come and visit.” Sutherland, 75, said. “I could get a chair and sit here, or a bucket and a mop and clean it, and make sure that people don’t step on it.”

Kiefer Sutherland wasn’t able to attend the ceremony because of work obligations in New York. He wrote a message that was read by Colin Farrell, his father’s co-star in the comedy “Horrible Bosses,” which was read by Colin Farrell, his father’s co-star in the comedy “Horrible Bosses.”

“I selfishly wanted to be there to say hello to you and proud I am to have you as my father and how even more proud I am to be your son,” Kiefer Sutherland wrote.

The career of Canadian-born Donald Sutherland has spanned nearly five decades and included appearances in the movies “The Dirty Dozen,” “The Day of the Locust,” “King George VI,” with Oscar-nominated Geoffrey Rush as his speech therapist.

In an interview at the Sundance Film Festival on Tuesday, shortly after it was announced that the film had received 12 Oscar nominations, Bettany explained what he regrets most about not accepting the role:

“Number one, of course, it is a regret not to be working with such great and really great people, Geoffrey Rush and director/tony Hooper.

“I think it is a little inelgant for me to discuss it,” continued Bettany. “I had been working for five months steadily and my son missed me and I missed my son. Both of my sons and my wife," explained the actor, referring to his work on “The Tourist” as Inspector John Acheson. Bettany is married to actress Jennifer Connelly and they have two sons together.

“Do I regret it?” said Bettany. “I regret not working with such an amazing, amazing actor and director and writers. But no, I have to do the right thing by my family every time.”

Park City, Utah (AP) — British actor Paul Bettany regrets not taking Colin Firth’s Oscar-nominated role in “The King’s Speech.”

Screenwriter David Seidler has said he wrote the screenplay — also nominated — with Bettany in mind for the role of King George VI, with Oscar-nominated Geoffrey Rush as his speech therapist.

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News Briefs
Brief news for the brief attention span

Los Angeles (AP) — The Collegian is a forum for student expression.
http://collegian.csufresno.edu
History of Fresno State in Pictures

The Fresno State Cheer Squad cheers at a home game during the 1999 basketball season. This photo ran in the Friday, Feb. 5, 1999, issue of The Collegian.

Mystery Solved: Teen put piano on Miami sandbar

By Jennifer Kay

MIAMI (AP) — The rumors can stop swirling: The baby grand piano that turned up on a Miami sandbar is the real thing — and was put there by a teen.

Harrington said he wanted to leave his artistic mark on the sandbar. "It was time to say and let the world know that it was a 16-year-old who really did this," he said. "It put Miami on the map in a good way."

Harrington's school counselor, Ariel Diaz-Escanaverino, said they had discussed the idea as a unique subject for a college application — until others began claiming responsibility. "I think it was much more powerful as a mystery," said the teen's mother, Annabel Harrington. "It put Miami on the map in a good way."

Harrington's surprise. "It was time to say and let the world know that it was a 16-year-old who really did this," he said. "It put Miami on the map in a good way."

Harrington's school counselor, Ariel Diaz-Escanaverino, said they had discussed the idea as a unique subject for a college application essay. "It was time to say and let the world know that it was a 16-year-old who really did this without any intrinsic feeling for notoriety or money or any of the things that started to happen," Diaz-Escanaverino said.

The team you start to root for after your home team is knocked out of the playoffs or if they just suck.

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

MADISON HARRINGTON / Photo by Mike Lobue

The Fresno State Cheer Squad cheers at a home game during the 1999 basketball season. This photo ran in the Friday, Feb. 5, 1999, issue of The Collegian.
Full scholarships help basketball progam head in the right direction

Head coach Steve Cleveland has all his scholarships for first time in his six-year tenure

By Jerry Huerta
The Collegian

With March Madness on the horizon and conference play nearing an end, teams are getting ready for the final stretch of the season.

But outside some teams’ All-American talents, most programs dance into the NCAA Tournament via their depth. Having a full complement of scholarships from the end of the bench to the leading scorer helps separate the first-round exits from the Final Fours.

This season marks the first year that Fresno State has the full amount of scholarships after the program was forced to serve a four-year probation. The NCAA cracked the whip on Fresno State basketball and its former coach, Ray Lopes, for recruiting violations. Fresno State was able to dodge the “death penalty” of being completely shut down, but couldn’t escape being stripped numerous scholarships and being under the NCAA’s watchful eye.

Current head basketball coach Steve Cleveland inherited a depleted program, and in his sixth year leading the Bulldogs, he finally has been granted his full 13 scholarships.

“Hat’s a good thing,” Cleveland said. “That means season tickets — with some depth, even though most of the depth is from freshmen. It’s put us in a position where guys don’t have to play tired. Indisputably, we’ve been as a result of it. To be here five and-a-half years and never have a full complement of scholarships has probably been the most challenging thing of this job.

“We’ve never been able to establish any kind of continuity. The lack of scholarships and losing two or three guys to the NBA has really disrupted the continuity of trying to build this program, but I can tell you it makes a big difference having these scholarships.”

A full allotment of scholarships has been felt not only on the court, but on the recruiting trail as well.

“We can go now into more homes,” Cleveland said. “For the first three or four years, we never went until we had the spring time what our numbers were going to be. Now, we have the knowledge of what we need. This entire team returns except for one senior so we don’t have a lot of scholarships right now. We will add one or two players for next year. We’ll go forward, but it’s nice to have an entire group coming back next year.”

Cleveland acknowledges that the nature of the program has changed, but says that one final step needs to be taken so the program can rise to the next level.

“The [Academic Progress Rate], the academics, the NCAA compliance all those things have been fixed,” Cleveland said. “The last step is to get this done and compete for championships. The most important thing in this whole process is recruiting. Nothing else matters more than the quality of players that you can get. We’re now attracting not only a quality human being, but a better quality player and a better-quality student.”

One quality player that was attracted was center Greg Smith. Smith was one of the few players actually on scholarship the past two seasons. He came to Fresno State before the program was reinstated the full amount of scholarships and can see the difference in the program.

“It has changed a lot,” Smith said. “A lot of guys on the team right now are young and it’s great to have all thirteen guys that can play. In the long run it’s going to do well for us.”

Despite being in only his second season wearing Bulldog red, Smith, Fresno State’s leading scorer, can see progress in the near future.

“I see a lot of future in this program,” Smith said. “Thirteen scholarships mean that every player can play and you can attract kids that you want really. It’s just great for this program right now that we are somewhere in the right direction.”

Fresno State guard Kevin Olekaibe is new to the program, but has heard how the program was impacted before it had its full amount of scholarships.

“I’ve heard about what happened in the past and coach Cleveland has taken care of that, so I think it means a lot to those kids that come from,” Olekaibe said.

The true freshman had many offers coming out of high school, but chose Fresno State because he wants to rebuild a once-program.

“I picked Fresno State because it was close and it’s a great program,” Olekaibe said. “I want to help build something as long as I’m here.”

Like Smith, the second leading scorer on the team sees some optimism on the horizon.

“I see a big future for us,” he said. “For us to be in the NCAA tournament from now on, especially next year, all of the guys that are all the redshirts we have, I think we’ll be a great team.”

CONTINUED from page 8

addition to getting everything ready for 2011 we’ve had such a huge demand for people to relive 2010. Luckily, we’ve accommodated that with the trophy. There are many vehicles for people to tap into 2010.

This fall, the team hosts its annual tour of the first baseman Aubrey Huff, Year catcher Buster Posey, NL Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum, Rookie of the Year catcher Buster Posey, bearded closer Brian Wilson, sure-handed second baseman Freddy Sanchez, eccentric first baseman Aubrey Huff and Pablo "Kung Fu Panda" Sandoval.

That’s why those who have been there and want to share their experiences.

The following are highlights of the series.

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GIANTS: S.F. still living the dream after championship
**Best Super Bowl for the next 730 days**

Enjoy this year’s big game folks, because the National Football League generally won’t be having one for another 730 days.

The Super Bowl on Feb. 6 will likely be the last one football fans will see until 2013, thanks to an almost certain lockout.

Sad to say, but because the players, owners, front office, league officials, you name it, can’t come to an agreement, it may be a while until we see the biggest game in all of sports unfold.

That being said, football fans like you and me should be thankful we’re in for the most intriguing matchup, at least on paper, of the past decade.

That’s because Super Bowl XLVII doesn’t feature any one-hit wonders like the Buccaneers, Panthers or Seahawks. No media-obsessing, feel-good stories like the New Orleans Saints. What the millions of football fans across America will get is, arguably, the two professional football franchises with the richest traditions in the game.

There’s Green Bay and the cheesebread that is littered across the states led by a quarterback who had to sit through one of the most humiliating NFL Drafts in recent memory. Aaron Rodgers has had the last laugh, leading the Pack to their first big dance in 32nd. The Packers have won 12 NFL championships in all. Pretty good for a franchise that never has hoisted the trophy named after its Lombardi.

It has been a while since the green and gold team playing in nine days, the only team to have them out there to celebrate that all play very well at this level. I’ll definitely be a lot more proud of that.

Ross and the Baltimore defense was in full force Thursday night, holding the Spartans to just 12 points in the first half. The last time the Pack saw a team score that low for a Baltimore opponent, was in 2013.

Much of Ross’ 1,788 career points have come from beyond the arc, where she holds the NFL’s school record for 3 point field goal percentage (41 percent) and sits in third place for the record of all-time Western Athletic Conference 3 point field goal percent with 35.

The Pisces, Calif., native has a career average of 16 points per game through 119 games. She recorded her highs 12 points and 11 rebounds against Boston College her junior season and has a season-high 39 points in a loss to Southern California.

But through all the accolades and recognition, Ross is the first person to shrug off her milestone, deflecting credit back to her teammates.

“My teammates are the record,” Ross said. “I’ve never really been the type of do-it-by-myself scorer. My teammates have done great finding me in open places, getting me open and over the past four years this entire time we’ve always had a team that looks to pass first.”

**Ross vaults into the record books**

It took Jaleesa Ross only 15 and a half minutes to surpass a 20-year-old number in Fresno State’s women’s basketball history.

Coming into last night’s game against San Jose State averaging 17 points per game, Ross sat just nine points shy of Yvette Roberts’ all-time scoring record set in 1987. With Roberts looking on from six rows behind the Bulldog bench, Ross shot off two of four and earned three-point attempts by hitting her next four from the field and eclipsed the 1,778-point mark. The bucket at the 4:22 mark in the first half also put Fresno State 18 points ahead of the Spartans, who opened the season 0-8.

It’s an awesome feeling,” Ross said. “I’ll get to kind of relive the thing a little bit and enjoy it with my team and to have them out there to celebrate it with me.”

Roberts, following the game during a mid-court celebration, presented Ross with the game ball. But immediately following Ross’ record-breaking bucket, she let her teammates do much of the celebrating.

“It’s exciting to be a part of something that big,” point guard Emma Andres said. “I think I was more excited than she was. I was definitely first pumping the air when that shot went in. I have a lot of respect for [Jaleesa] and what she’s accomplished.”

Ross finished with a game-high 18 points, helping her team win its third straight game heading into a three-game road stretch that includes a Feb. 5 game at first-place Louisiana Tech.

Head coach Adrian Wiggins’ team has dropped its last two games against Louisiana Tech by a total of four points, but it’s an absolute whirlwind here. In

**Giants gain momentum after World Series run**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The World Series trophy has traveled from San Francisco to California’s Central Valley and on to the Giants’ Polo Grounds roots in New York. Now, they are also planned in Arizona, Nevada and Oregon as the hardware makes its way East again to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

There’s a book coming out reliving the 2010 championship season and a television series in the works backing the Giants’ upcoming year, featuring many of the same castiffs and miscasts who pulled off an improbable title run last fall. Season ticket sales are so far ahead of schedule that comparisons are being made to 2000 when the club opened its sparkling new waterfront ballpark.

A public appearance by someone in the Giants franchise has taken place nearly every day since the season ended, too. The team is soaking up all the attention, destined to create an even bigger national name for itself in these situations.

“It’s been nonstop,” team president Larry Baer said. “We’re getting lots of early momentum building.”

Baer expects a large number of the 81 stadium fans to come out to AT&T Park — so, his advice is don’t laugh and get tickets now.

San Francisco’s first championship since moving West in 1958, and the franchise’s first since 1904 in New York, has made for an eventful, wild winter. Baer has been so busy fielding requests from fans wanting to celebrate the Giants’ World Series victory over the Texas Rangers that the 2011 season is suddenly a huge topic of conversation.

Pitchers and catchers report to spring training on Feb. 14.

“We have one month less to do it and we were glad to accommodate the combined interest, which has been an absolute whirlwind here. In