



AikiWeb: The Source for Aikido Information

AikiWeb's principal purpose is to serve the Internet community as a repository and dissemination point for aikido information.

Sections

[home](#)
[aikido articles](#)
[columns](#)
[aikiwiki](#)

Discussions

[forums](#)
[aikiblogs](#)

Databases

[dojo search](#)
[seminars](#)
[image gallery](#)
[supplies](#)
[links directory](#)

Reviews

[book reviews](#)
[video reviews](#)
[dvd reviews](#)
[equip. reviews](#)

News

[submit](#)
[archive](#)

Miscellaneous

[newsletter](#)
[e-cards](#)
[multimedia](#)
[rss feeds](#) 
[polls](#)
[donate](#)
[about](#)

Buttons



Follow us on



Home > AikiWeb Aikido Forums

 [AikiWeb Aikido Forums](#) > [General](#)

 **Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?**

[Register](#)

[FAQ](#)

[AikiBlogs](#) 

User Name

Remember Me?

Password

[Active Topics](#) 

Hello and thank you for visiting **AikiWeb**, the world's **most active** online Aikido community! This site is home to over 16,000 aikido practitioners from around the world and covers a wide range of aikido topics including techniques, philosophy, history, humor, beginner issues, the marketplace, and more.

If you wish to join in the discussions or use the other advanced features available, you will need to [register](#) first. Registration is absolutely **free** and takes only a few minutes to complete so [sign up](#) today!



Page 2 of 6 < 1 2 3 4 > Last 

 [View First Unread](#)

[Thread Tools](#) 

 09-13-2011, 01:06 AM

#26

[sorokod](#)

Join Date: Sep 2008

Posts: 298



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Katherine Derbyshire wrote: 

I don't think the quality of his aikido is the issue here....

Didn't said it was an issue.

Quote:

In order to abuse power, one first must be skillful enough to obtain it. The list of charming and talented people who turned out to be predators is quite long.

Are you saying that generally speaking, teachers are skilful, charming and talented people? Are you saying that if one is such a person, it makes him or her a predator with high probability?

-- david



 09-13-2011, 01:31 AM

#27

[Tim Ruijs](#)



Dojo: Makato/Netherlands

Location: Netherlands - Leusden

Join Date: Aug 2005

Posts: 261



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

George writes that this man was very influential. He most likely has people supporting him. Perhaps they see this event as means to reinstate him after all these years. This would make the problem bigger than only this one man. Question is to what extend the organisation itself is 'aware'.

It is very sad that all this clouds the memorial of a man like Saito Sensei.

In a real fight:

* If you make a bad decision, you die.

* If you don't decide anything, you die.

Aikido teaches you **how** to decide.

www.aikido-makato.nl



09-13-2011, 02:29 AM

#28

philipsmith

Dojo: Ren Shin Kan
 Location: Birmingham
 Join Date: Jun 2003
 Posts: 218



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

The issue was known about and discussed by some senior people other than in Iwama and the general feeling was that he should NEVER teach Aikido again in any official capacity.

That should be the end of the matter IMHO



09-13-2011, 05:47 AM

#29

sorokod


Join Date: Sep 2008
 Posts: 298



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Philip Smith wrote: 
The issue was known about and discussed by some senior people other than in Iwama and the general feeling was that he should NEVER teach Aikido again in any official capacity.

That should be the end of the matter IMHO

The link at the top of this thread indicates that this is not the case.

-- david



09-13-2011, 05:58 AM

#30

Alister Gillies

Location: Taunton
 Join Date: Feb 2009
 Posts: 7



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Whatever the circumstances, Aikido is based on mutual respect on all sides. Where this is absent then one should refrain from stepping on the mat. Mr Klickstein would be well advised to stay off the mat since his reputation will no doubt precede him. Students attending this event might well reflect on what they are supporting, and the organisers should question what they are doing - they are not caring for the memory of Saito Sensei in a responsible manner. Aikido does not exist in some kind of rarified atmosphere, it is connected to a social reality where individuals have real and powerful reactions to sociopathic behaviour. Mr Klickstein's cronies need to wake up! This whole business is really bad for Aikido.



09-13-2011, 06:32 AM

#31

Hellis

Dojo: Ellis Schools of Traditional Aikido
 Location: Bracknell
 Join Date: Feb 2010
 Posts: 450



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

I don't know anything about Mr Klickstein so I am unable to comment on what has been said so far. It does though appear that there is some maneuvering to bring him back into the fold, possibly involving some of the other instructors of the day ?

Henry Ellis

Aikido Articles

<http://aikidoarticles.blogspot.com>



09-13-2011, 07:07 AM

#32

eva

Join Date: Jul 2002
 Posts: 19
 Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Normally I'm very happy with anyone being allowed to teach at a seminar... and would say it's absolutely up to the organizers of the event to decide if the person is a good addition to the teaching faculty... and also it's up to the students to decide

with whom they want to train.

Now this case is very different: to invite someone to teach at a Memorial Seminar for the very same teacher who threw the guy out - for a darn good reason - is very disrespectful to the teacher who's life and memory is celebrated at such an event, as well as to the other instructors on the teaching faculty of the seminar, and to anyone participating. This would clearly send out a very wrong signal to the aikido community as well as the general public.

I'm all in for second and third chances for everyone (including me visiting some convicted criminals in jail) BUT it seems to me that in this case the fact that he was expelled is just ignored which doesn't speak for honesty or remorse from his side...


Eva



09-13-2011, 07:10 AM

#33

Marc Abrams

Dojo: Aikido Arts of Shin Budo Kai/
Bedford Hills, New York
Location: New York
Join Date: May 2006
Posts: 905

Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

David Soros:

Could you kindly explain your position to the rest of us who believe that Bruce Klickstein should not be there.

Marc Abrams


<http://www.aasbk.com>



09-13-2011, 08:02 AM

#34

Peter Goldsbury ✨

Dojo: Hiroshima Kokusai Dojo
Location: Hiroshima, Japan
Join Date: Jul 2001
Posts: 1,782

Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Hello Marc,

I am sure that David Soroko can speak for himself, but I was around when this issue first came up. Stan Pranin refused to have any discussion at all on the AJ website, but Jun allowed it and I remember having some discussion with George Ledyard.

At the time I was concerned that the group of aikido people involved were acting as prosecutor, defense, judge and jury combined. In other words I was concerned whether there had been 'due process'. Clearly, there was some kind of process, but what characterizes American and British democratic procedures is the Rule of Law, which means that even aikido communities do not take the law into their own hands.

With Clint George, there was due process and he was convicted by a court and sentenced to a prison term. The fact that this did not happen with Mr Klickstein is, in my opinion, unfortunate, for the issue has remained uncompleted. When I last discussed the issue of sexual violence and harassment with the present Doshu, his response was very clear and unambiguous: prosecute and let the courts decide the matter.

As for Mr Klickstein's '*hamon*', I think we need to be careful here. At the time, I understood that his dan ranks had been cancelled by the Aikikai, but I do not know whether this is the case. However this is not the same as the cancellation of his Aikikai membership, which is what *hamon* would mean here.

I must confess that I was surprised to see Mr Klickstein's name on the teaching roster for the seminar in Italy, but I have been a member of Aikiweb for many years. I am curious to see what effect George's comments on Facebook will have.

Best wishes,

PAG


P A Goldsbury,
Professor Emeritus,
Hiroshima University



09-13-2011, 08:25 AM

#35

Marc Abrams

Dojo: Aikido Arts of Shin Budo Kai/
Bedford Hills, New York
Location: New York
Join Date: May 2006
Posts: 905

Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Peter A Goldsbury wrote: 

Hello Marc,

I am sure that David Soroko can speak for himself, but I was around when this issue first came up. Stan Pranin refused to have any discussion at all on the AJ website, but Jun allowed it and I remember having some discussion with George Ledyard.

At the time I was concerned that the group of aikido people involved were acting as prosecutor, defense, judge and jury combined. In other words I was concerned whether there had been 'due process'. Clearly, there was some kind of process, but what characterizes American and British democratic procedures is the Rule of Law, which means that even aikido communities do not take the law into their own hands.

With Clint George, there was due process and he was convicted by a court and sentenced to a prison term. The fact that this did not happen with Mr Klickstein is, in my opinion, unfortunate, for the issue has remained uncompleted. When I last discussed the issue of sexual violence and harassment with the present Doshu, his response was very clear and unambiguous: prosecute and let the courts decide the matter.

As for Mr Klickstein's 'hamon', I think we need to be careful here. At the time, I understood that his dan ranks had been cancelled by the Aikikai, but I do not know whether this is the case. However this is not the same as the cancellation of his Aikikai membership, which is what hamon would mean here.

I must confess that I was surprised to see Mr Klickstein's name on the teaching roster for the seminar in Italy, but I have been a member of Aikiweb for many years. I am curious to see what effect George's comments on Facebook will have.

Best wishes,

PAG

Peter:

I genuinely appreciate your concerns. The zeitgeist in the US at that point in time was such that it was best to spare the victims the "trauma" of having to have the event aired in open court. The stigma to the family, community, etc. was such that everybody conspired to keep things a "secret." This of course was done at the expense of the victims.

It is unfortunate for everybody that the legal process did not take place. We cannot turn back the clock and undue the damage done. That being said, I have yet to hear anybody, that includes Bruce Klickstein, say that this predatory, sexual abuse did not occur.

I can tell you as a psychologist who has evaluated and treated victims, that the damage done to them is profound and life altering. I make the following assumptions: 1) Aikido is budo; 2) Budo is about protecting our community. Then take into account a great preponderance of information that supports the position that Bruce Klickstein did commit these crimes and a lack of information to support

the position that Bruce Klickstein did not commit these crimes. This should compel us to demand that Bruce Klickstein continue to stay away from our community.

The integrity displayed in Demetrio's position is one that I agree with. My action would not be to leave the art, but to actively encourage everybody to boycott anyone who would support and encourage Bruce Klickstein to resume any role within our community. It is an affront to what we should stand for and it is an act that will cause those who have already suffered as a result of his actions, to experience needless suffering again.

To quote Bob Dylan: "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows." The failure of the legal system to address an obvious wrong does not negate our greater moral obligation to ourselves and our community.

Marc Abrams

<http://www.aasbk.com>



09-13-2011, 08:52 AM

#36

SeiserL



Dojo: Tenshinkai Aikido (CA) Aikikai
Location: Roswell (GA) Budokan
Join Date: Jun 2000
Posts: 3,301



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

There are some lines, once crossed, you cannot cross back over.

There are some lessons, if we do not take seriously, we are facilitating and perpetuating the need to experience again.

No abuse of power, position, or authority should ever be tolerated.

Just because you cannot (or do not) legally prove something, doesn't mean it isn't true.

Lynn Seiser PhD
Sandans Tenshinkai Aikido & FMA/JKD
We do not rise to the level of our expectations, but fall to the level of our training. Train well. KWATZ!



09-13-2011, 10:27 AM

#37

Avery Jenkins



Dojo: Litchfield Hills Aikikai
Location: Litchfield, CT
Join Date: Nov 2001
Posts: 140
Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

I'm not a torch-and-pitchfork kind of guy, and I don't know Klickstein from a hole in the wall. But I do know that pedophiles generally keep pedophiling, and there's not a whole lot of reformation possible.

Thus, if the community felt it wise to shun him in the first place, it is probably wise to keep it that way.

Avery Jenkins
www.docaltmed.com



09-13-2011, 10:55 AM

#38

Richard Stevens

Dojo: Indianapolis Dentokan
Location: Indianapolis
Join Date: Oct 2010
Posts: 68



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

As a person with first-hand experience with the prosecution of child predators, the American legal system is most certainly incapable of truly bringing them to justice. However, there is also a danger in judgements brought down by a community as emotion can often impair objectivity.

The sad truth is, predators were often victims themselves and true reformation is likely not possible. As someone mentioned above, it is a line that, once crossed, there is no turning back. Someone of this nature who is returned to the community will find another victim. They should be given no second chances.

I once interviewed a convict who had been incarcerated for a crime similar to the one in question. He told me that his greatest fear is being released because he knows as soon as he gets out he will seek out another victim and that there is nothing he can do to stop himself. To the day I die, I'll never forget the sorrow and self-hate I saw in that man's eyes.

Richard Stevens
[Indianapolis Dentokan](#)



09-13-2011, 12:42 PM

#39

Relaxed Aikidoka

Dojo: Butoku-Ryu Aikijujutsu
 Join Date: Aug 2011
 Posts: 10



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

So what exactly is being done about this?



09-13-2011, 12:46 PM

#40


George S. Ledyard ✨



Dojo: Aikido Eastside
 Location: Bellevue, WA
 Join Date: Jun 2000
 Posts: 2,407
 Online

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Peter A Goldsbury wrote: 
 Hello Marc,

I am sure that David Soroko can speak for himself, but I was around when this issue first came up. Stan Pranin refused to have any discussion at all on the AJ website, but Jun allowed it and I remember having some discussion with George Ledyard.

At the time I was concerned that the group of aikido people involved were acting as prosecutor, defense, judge and jury combined. In other words I was concerned whether there had been 'due process'. Clearly, there was some kind of process, but what characterizes American and British democratic procedures is the Rule of Law, which means that even aikido communities do not take the law into their own hands.

With Clint George, there was due process and he was convicted by a court and sentenced to a prison term. The fact that this did not happen with Mr Klickstein is, in my opinion, unfortunate, for the issue has remained uncompleted. When I last discussed the issue of sexual violence and harassment with the present Doshu, his response was very clear and unambiguous: prosecute and let the courts decide the matter.

As for Mr Klickstein's 'hamon', I think we need to be careful here. At the time, I understood that his dan ranks had been cancelled by the Aikikai, but I do not know whether this is the case. However this is not the same as the cancellation of his Aikikai membership, which is what hamon would mean here.

I must confess that I was surprised to see Mr Klickstein's name on the teaching roster for the seminar in Italy, but I have been a member of Aikiweb for many years. I am curious to see what effect George's comments on Facebook will have.

Best wishes,

PAG

Hi Peter,

I am quite conscious of the whole "witch hunt" mentality and the need to avoid it.

Even our legal system acknowledges that there is a difference between reality as it needs to be demonstrated in criminal court and reality as it needs to be demonstrated in civil proceedings. OJ was found not guilty too. Would I been seen with the guy? Not on your life.

At the time of the scandal, there was a meeting attended by a large number of the members of the Northern California Aikido community. I know a number of people who were there. I have heard in detail what transpired. There was not just one accusation but a number of them. They spanned a period of ten years. It came out that he had actually been confronted on a number of occasions, apologized claiming it was a one time mistake, and promised he'd never do it again. Each time he was allowed to escape. Which in turn allowed him to continue his predation. The victims each thought they were the only ones until that meeting when they became aware of each other. Since this was a large meeting, what happened there is pretty much public knowledge amongst the old timers.

I simply cannot proceed as if nothing is going on. The Aikido community quite effectively policed itself when the criminal justice system failed to step up. It should do so again. It is an absolute insult to the victims to see this man on the verge of being rehabilitated and accepted back into the Aikido community. His appearance alongside such an illustrious and respected international group of Senseis gives him a legitimacy that he has long ago shown he does not deserve.

Someone needs to say something. In the words of Edmund Burke, "all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." If Budo is anything it is about stepping up when an injustice is being done and this is one.

Thanks though for your concerns... they are certainly legitimate. I have quite a bit of personal knowledge of this and it makes me more certain of my course.

George S. Ledyard
Aikido Eastside
Bellevue, WA
[Aikido Eastside](#)



09-13-2011, 01:04 PM

#41

dps

Join Date: Apr 2006
Posts: 1,979
Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Is this something that should be discussed in an open and public forum?

Did the OP start this thread at the request of one of the victims and did he get the consent of all the victims to discuss openly the cause of their trauma?

Did the OP consulted a profession counselor, physiologist or psychiatrist that deals with this type of trauma and ask if this could cause further problems for the victims?

Could not a less public means had been used?

dps

Thanks to the current administration a wooden nickel is now **not worth the wood it is made of.**



09-13-2011, 01:22 PM


#42

eva

Join Date: Jul 2002
Posts: 19
Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

David Skaggs wrote: 

*Is this something that should be discussed in an open and public forum?
[...]
Could not a less public means had been used?*

dps

I think while there is a risk of this causing further problems for the victims, the risk of NOT discussing this openly is even bigger.

The guy's name is on an official course announcement, which means he might be accepted back in the community with a "well this was something loooooong time ago". Or people involved who don't even know about these events from "way back". So making this discussion public might help to not get to a point where he is "back in business" and maybe grooming the next victims. While there is a chance that he has learned something over the years and wouldn't do such things any more, I believe in "better safe than sorry".

Also: the policy of keeping such discussions away from the public has caused by far more damage (e.g. when awful things happened in the church communities).

Eva



 09-13-2011, 01:49 PM

#43

grondahl

Dojo: Stockholms Aikidoklubb
Location: Stockholm
Join Date: Apr 2004
Posts: 416



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

I think that this thread is discussing two separate issues.

- 1: Klickstein and the memorial seminar
- 2: Klickstein teaching/practicing aikido ever again.

On the first issue I personally think that it's bad taste to invite him to the memorial seminar. Saito sensei did after all put hamon on him and inviting BK is in my eyes more the opposite of honoring the memory of Saito.

On the second. If BK would have been convicted, he would be a free man by now. If adults are willing to train with/for him, that's their decision, and discussions like this is important so that when people google him, they will find out about his history.



 09-13-2011, 02:34 PM

#44

Autrelle Holland

Join Date: Feb 2008
Posts: 15
Online

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Years ago, when I first started studying Aikido, I heard about Bruce Klickstein. I saw his book. No one could tell me where this guy was or if he was teaching anywhere. I asked about him on a few bulletin boards, only to find my posts deleted. At first, I thought that I had not submitted my topic correctly, so I reposted my question, only to have it deleted again, along with a private message from each particular bulletin board's admin asking me to not ask about it.

George Ledyard was the only person who would speak to me about it. Having met him in person once also, I get that George is not the sort of person to curry favor by speaking poorly of someone. His is a genuine concern for the respect of the victims, Saito Sensei, and the Aikido community.

Budo is supposed to be about the fostering of character. As Budoka we are supposed to uphold higher standards, as we are held to higher standards. Martial Artists are always "on stage" so to speak.

Take for example the young man that [gave a foul kick to a competitor](#), or the guy who [kicked a referee in the face and spat on the mat at the Olympics](#).

These, although horrible events, pale in comparison to the acts that Bruce committed.

As far as his skill is concerned, I have heard from someone at an Iwama seminar in Florida:

Quote:

Saito Sensei would often send his son to train with Bruce so that he would remain humble. Whenever Bruce came to the dojo Hitohiro would tremble.

So what? The guy is good at Aikido? Big deal. The guy needs to just stay wherever he has been for the last how many years. And more people need to speak their mind on this issue. SILENCE IMPLIES CONSENT.

Let me say this again: SILENCE IMPLIES CONSENT.

Let me offer a perhaps overly simplified analogy for those of you that are "neutral" on the matter:

Let's say that you are walking home, and two people that you know are having a fist fight. They are both your good friends. So you might decide that it's in the best interest to not get involved, stay neutral.

But what happens when it's you that's in a fight? Surely, you would want someone to help you. Surely you would begrudge someone that, rather than come to your aid, just stood by, because they are neutral.

I submit that in a rational setting, you can disagree with someone without disrespecting them. I disagree with Bruce's participation in this event. I will not be neutral about that. If that were my child, mother, wife, etc. that Bruce had hurt, I would never let that go. If he had any sense of honor at all in the matter he would just stay away.

Honestly, out of all of the topics that I have seen people post about for days and days on, I'm surprised that more people aren't voicing more opinions about this.

George, I commend you. And I support you. And my dojo supports you. And my organization supports you. I say that in the case that you think you have no support on this, no sir, you do; you have a lot.

Autrelle Holland



09-13-2011, 02:47 PM

#45

sorokod

Join Date: Sep 2008

Posts: 298



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Marc Abrams wrote: *David Soros:*

Could you kindly explain your position to the rest of us who believe that Bruce Klickstein should not be there.

Marc Abrams

Hello Mark

Let me list the information I have:

- * The events took over 20 years ago (not sure of the exact year)
- * The case never went to court.
- * Bruce Klickstein's rank was taken away from him (no details).
- * The only person who seem to have direct knowledge of the matter in this (and the

other) thread is George Ledyard

* People I respect and who were very close to Saito Sensei have invited Bruce Klickstein to a seminar

So this is my list.

Also after reading this thread on e-budo: <http://www.e-budo.com/forum/showthread.php?g=klickstein> the list remains.

Maybe you have a different list or maybe you assign different significance to the individual items. As for me, I am unconvinced, unconvinced that there is an issue with Bruce Klickstein participating in the memorial seminar.

-- david



09-13-2011, 03:15 PM

#46

eva

Join Date: Jul 2002

Posts: 19

Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Peter Gröndahl wrote:

I think that this thread is discussing two separate issues.

1: Klickstein and the memorial seminar

2: Klickstein teaching/practicing aikido ever again.

On the first issue I personally think that it's bad taste to invite him to the memorial seminar. Saito sensei did after all put hamon on him and inviting BK is in my eyes more the opposite of honoring the memory of Saito.

On the second. If BK would have been convicted, he would be a free man by now. If adults are willing to train with/for him, that's their decision, and discussions like this is important so that when people google him, they will find out about his history.

I couldn't agree more!

There is a BIG difference between teaching/practising somewhere and being part of a seminar faculty advertized as one of "Saito Sensei's closest deshi", which might have been BK's status before he was asked to leave... but I doubt it was/is his status afterwards

which makes it very disrespectful to the memory of Saito Sensei, if he had decided to make BK leave and now BK is teaching at the memorial seminar.

Adults who are aware of BK's history can perfectly well make up their own mind if they want to train with him. And yes sometimes people only go by "technical ability" in choosing who they train with. Which is a perfectly fine decision, IF the prospective student in such cases can make an informed decision because the history is not kept secret.

Eva

Last edited by eva : 09-13-2011 at 03:29 PM.



09-13-2011, 03:57 PM

#47

George S. Ledyard ✨



Dojo: Aikido Eastside

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Eva Fenrich wrote:

While there is a chance that he has learned something over the years and wouldn't do such things any more, I believe in "better safe than sorry".

Location: Bellevue, WA
 Join Date: Jun 2000
 Posts: 2,407
 Online

Also: the policy of keeping such discussions away from the public has caused by far more damage (e.g. when awful things happened in the church communities).

Eva

Hi Eva,

A while back I had an actual registered sex offender want to join the dojo. I ended up not letting him but doing private lessons for him and a friend. At the time I wasn't sure what to do so I asked one of my police students about it. He had been on the sexual offender unit at the Auburn, WA police department. He had a fair amount of training regarding this issue.

Basically, if a young man offends when he is still a teen (which was the case with the fellow who wanted to train with me), often their patterns are not fully formed. Therapy can often work in these cases. But when an adult sets up a pattern of offending, there is virtually no evidence that they can be cured. Re-offense rates are astronomical.

I do not wish to impinge on Klickstein's life in any way. He never had to go to jail, has pursued a career successfully by all appearances. To the extent that he may have continued his behavior after leaving the Aikido community, none of us knows. But we are entirely within our rights to ask others within our own Aikido community to consider whether allowing this man back into the fold does anything but tarnish the art and their own reputations.

It's as if OJ had been invited to teach a seminar at my daughter's high school. I am sorry but I think that most folks would object to that as well. It's not even that we think he might do it again... For me it's more about how the victims, who had to watch him walk away scott free in the first place, would feel if he were now accepted back into polite society as if nothing happened. That would be wrong.

George S. Ledyard
 Aikido Eastside
 Bellevue, WA
[Aikido Eastside](#)



09-13-2011, 03:58 PM

#48

Demetrio Cereijo

Join Date: Nov 2004
 Posts: 1,221



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

FWIW,

I'm not going to elaborate about personal communication I've had today about the subject at hand, but my thoughts about this issue remain unchanged.

However, I don't support boycotting the event.

"The defensive form of war is not a simple shield, but a shield made up of well-directed blows."
 Clausewitz - On War.

[How do armbar?](#)



09-13-2011, 04:01 PM

#49

sakumeikan

Dojo: Sakumeikan N.E. Aikkai
 .Newcastle upon Tyne.
 Location: Newcastle upon Tyne
 Join Date: Jan 2008
 Posts: 498



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Peter A Goldsbury wrote:
Hello Marc,

I am sure that David Soroko can speak for himself, but I was around when this issue first came up. Stan Pranin refused to have any

discussion at all on the AJ website, but Jun allowed it and I remember having some discussion with George Ledyard.

At the time I was concerned that the group of aikido people involved were acting as prosecutor, defense, judge and jury combined. In other words I was concerned whether there had been 'due process'. Clearly, there was some kind of process, but what characterizes American and British democratic procedures is the Rule of Law, which means that even aikido communities do not take the law into their own hands.

With Clint George, there was due process and he was convicted by a court and sentenced to a prison term. The fact that this did not happen with Mr Klickstein is, in my opinion, unfortunate, for the issue has remained uncompleted. When I last discussed the issue of sexual violence and harassment with the present Doshu, his response was very clear and unambiguous: prosecute and let the courts decide the matter.

As for Mr Klickstein's 'hamon', I think we need to be careful here. At the time, I understood that his dan ranks had been cancelled by the Aikikai, but I do not know whether this is the case. However this is not the same as the cancellation of his Aikikai membership, which is what hamon would mean here.

I must confess that I was surprised to see Mr Klickstein's name on the teaching roster for the seminar in Italy, but I have been a member of Aikiweb for many years. I am curious to see what effect George's comments on Facebook will have.

Best wishes,

PAG

Dear Peter, I read an earlier blog dated 2001[E budo-Klickstein /Tohei] wherein you asked the question ' what kind of sin would or should get someone banned from Aikido.'The answer as far as Klickstein is concerned, if he did molest under age students , he should not be allowed within a hundred miles of any dojo/demo.You cannot compare the Tohei Sensei situation with the alleged acts of Klickstein. Tohei Sensei just pulled out of the Aikikai.

Ok, he was good at aikido, could translate for Saito Sensei.

I saw him doing so in London.Jolly good for him, but if there was evidence that he did as has been suggested, he deserves to be named , shamed and banned [sine die].If you were the father of a victim of this type of crime , would you make a passionate defence for anybody who was a paedophile?Just because Klickstein was not charged does not mean he is clean as a whistle, it just means the American version of theC.P.S decided not to prosecute.

In Britain not all fiddling expenses M.Ps were hauled into court.Two who were jailed got off yesterday having served a quarter of their jail term.So much for justice and the rule of law.

Sorry for putting two subjects in one blog.Hope you are well, Cheers, Joe.



09-13-2011, 05:08 PM

#50

Fred Little

Dojo: NJIT Budokai
Location: State Line NJ/NY
Join Date: Apr 2001
Posts: 506



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

David Soroko wrote:

Hello Mark

Let me list the information I have:

** The events took over 20 years ago (not sure of the exact year)*
** The case never went to court.*
** Bruce Klickstein's rank was taken away from him (no details).*
** The only person who seem to have direct knowledge of the matter in this (and the other) thread is George Ledyard*
** People I respect and who were very close to Saito Sensei have invited Bruce Klickstein to a seminar*

You may add a second person who has some direct knowledge of this to your list. My aikido training began in Northern California in 1985 at UCSC. During that period, Bruce Klickstein taught me Saito Sensei's 31-count jo kata. It is entirely accurate to say that he was a capable and personable instructor.

I have spoken with multiple individuals who were present at the meeting of senior practitioners where Bruce was publicly confronted, one of whom gave me a detailed contemporaneous account of the accusations presented that day and a xerox of the subsequent public letter from Saito Sensei, along with a translation into English. While I don't have my files with me, it is my recollection that the letter was vague regarding the offenses ("In view of the situation in aikido in Northern California," or some such bland phrase), but quite specific regarding the penalty, which was the loss of all rank and the striking of his name from the rolls of the Iwama Dojo. (To address Peter Goldsbury's point above, once action had been taken by Saito Sensei to formally expel Bruce from Iwama, my sense is that any additional steps by Aikikai Hombu would have been seen as unnecessary, but that's just a feeling, not an assertion).

Additionally, I have had extensive communication with one close associate of Bruce and was at one point, more than a decade ago, contacted by Bruce himself. He seemed to hope that memories might fade and there might again be a place for him in the world of aikido. My view, expressed to him then and still true today, is that memories are long and any attempt to return would rouse them. I never heard from him again.

The absence of any criminal conviction for statutory rape notwithstanding, It is incontrovertibly the case that Bruce had sexual relationships with multiple teenage girls who were his students, that the exposure of this personal history led to his confrontation by a quorum of his peers in the aikido community, and that this confrontation led to the removal of his rank and his name from the rolls of the Iwama Dojo.

I have also heard first hand accounts from individuals whose homes and persons were threatened as a result of their role in bringing this matter to attention.

It is my observation that few who were involved wish to discuss this matter. Some do not wish to be threatened again. Others have legitimate reasons to avoid an examination of their own failure to act sooner. Yet others are conflicted: the deeper one's feelings of respect, admiration, and affection for another, the sharper the sting of betrayal.

One also notes in passing that Japanese society, or at the very least a significant segment of Japanese society, has a very different view of sexual activity between adult men and teenage girls than is common here in the West. Though it would not be a popular view here, there may be a sense in some quarters in Japan that Bruce's difficulties were with prudish Western values and not with inappropriate conduct.

Were aikido a koryu art, the act of inviting and publicizing the appearance of an individual who had been issued hamon would draw sharp and immediate consequences.

Alas, aikido is not a koryu art, and a steady traffic in indulgences has long been the order of the day. Thus it is that senior practitioners feel free to speak of what the flyer calls "respect, kindness, gentleness and love toward others," while in open public association with an individual who used just such rhetoric to groom and then take advantage of teenagers who had been placed in his charge, and whose indiscretions were sufficiently florid that, in an art that is not a koryu art and almost

never sees the imposition of formal expulsion, he was formally and **publicly** dissociated from his home dojo. Perhaps these gentleman tell themselves they are healing old wounds, and perhaps they may even believe it. We each of us have the freedom of our own thoughts.

My thought is this: Suffice it to say that if one of these senior practitioners were my teacher, or my teacher's teacher, I would not only be making other plans for that weekend, I would be looking for a new teacher, and though I wish them every good opportunity to unring this bell, I do believe that is a most difficult undertaking.

Sincerely,

FL

"Forget it Jake, it's the Kii Peninsula"



Please visit our [sponsor](#):

[Aikido DVD's - George Ledyard Sensei Weapons and Empty Hand DVD's](#)

AikiWeb Aikido Forums > General > Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Page 2 of 6 < 1 **2** 3 4 > [Last »](#) ▾



0

0

Like

Be the first of your friends to like this.

« [Previous Thread](#) | [Next Thread](#) »

Currently Active Users Viewing This Thread: 13 (5 members and 8 guests)

[Autrelle Holland](#), [DDATFUS](#), [gyudien](#), [Janet Rosen](#)

Posting Rules



You **may not** post new threads
 You **may not** post replies
 You **may not** post attachments
 You **may not** edit your posts

vB code is **On**
 Smilies are **On**
 [IMG] code is **On**
 HTML code is **Off**

Similar Threads



Thread	Thread Starter	Forum	Replies	Last Post
Teaching Aikido to Children Workshop	wmreed	Seminars	2	09-06-2008 04:33 PM
Transmission, Inheritance, Emulation 3	Peter Goldsbury	Columns	16	05-28-2007 06:24 AM
Transmission, Inheritance, Emulation 2	Peter Goldsbury	Columns	3	04-19-2007 04:53 AM
bruce klickstein	johanlook	General	3	02-08-2003 03:14 PM

All times are GMT -6. The time now is 06:44 PM.

-- English (US)

[Contact Us](#) - [AikiWeb Aikido Information](#) - [Archive](#) - [Privacy Statement](#) - [Top](#)

vBulletin Copyright © 2000-2011 Jelsoft Enterprises Limited

Copyright 1997-2011 AikiWeb and its Authors, All Rights Reserved.

For questions and comments about this website:

[Send E-mail](#)