High school expresses ‘disappointment’ and ‘sadness’ as performing arts instructor charged with lewd acts

By Darrell Copeland

University High School (UHS) teacher Jonathan McCoy Malcolm has been arrested, as announced by University Police Department’s Lt. Lupe Canales-Shrum.

Malcolm, 31, was booked on three charges, including two counts of distribution or exhibition of lewd material to a minor and one count of annoying or molesting children under the age of 18. Details of Malcolm’s arrest are being withheld as the investigation remains open, but Canales-Shrum confirmed that a search warrant was issued to assist with the investigation.

Canales-Shrum also said that as the investigation continues, more charges might be brought against Malcolm.

According to Dr. James Bushman, head of school at UHS, school officials were contacted Tuesday, Jan. 27 and informed of a possible relationship between Malcolm and at least one UHS student.

Student School administrators notified University Police Department that day, and a cooperative investigation with the Fresno Police Department resulted in Malcolm’s arrest shortly before 5 p.m. Wednesday afternoon on the Fresno State campus.

“While we’re so sad at what’s happened, we’re very pleased that [University Police] did a good investigation and have gotten to the bottom of this,” Bushman said.

Malcolm has since posted bail and been released from custody by the Fresno County jail.

“I’ve got to tell you, it’s impossible for us to express the magnitude of our disappointment, sadness and anger that this event has happened,” Bushman said. “We understand the possible severity of the situation.

“I think this is some sort of fire drill,” a nearby student remarked.

McLane Hall houses many of the labs used for Fresno State chemistry courses.

It is not known at this time in which course or in which classroom the experiment that initiated the small explosion took place.

Fresno State News contributed to this report.

University moves deadline for transfer student apps

By Kaley Delarosa

Not enough state funding has caused Fresno State to move up another application deadline — this time for transfer students.

University officials announced Jan. 29 that the deadline for upper-division transfer applicants and lower-division nursing and engineering applicants, who wish to attend Fresno State next fall, have until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15 to get their applications in.

That deadline has been moved up by six weeks from the original April 1 deadline.

“Due to the state’s fiscal crisis, Fresno State has limited space for new students for the fall semester,” said Bernie Vinovrski, associate vice president for enrollment.

“Managing enrollment is critically important these days because Fresno State will not receive enough state funding to accommodate all students who are qualified to attend,” he said.

Vinovrski explained that Fresno State’s enrollment for next fall cannot be greater than the goal for this past fall. He said that Fresno State was above its target in the fall and has continued to be above tar-
UHS: School contacts parents via e-mail

CONTINUED from page 1

are devastated that this has occurred on our campus." Malcolm’s status within UHS is officially underdetermined to this point, although in a letter, e-mailed to UHS parents Thursday, Bushman acknowledged that Malcolm is currently on administrative leave until the school’s board of officials decides on a course of action. The board is scheduled to meet this evening at 5 p.m.

"I would think everything is clearly on the table," Bushman said when asked if terminating Malcolm was a possible course of action. The school’s board of officials consists of eight members, including four Fresno community members and four Fresno State faculty members.

Former Fresno city councilman Henry Perea Sr. is represented on the board as a community member, while Fresno State representatives on the board include: Dr. Vida Samian (Dean of College of Arts & Humanities), Dr. Michael Caldwell (Department of Music), Dr. Larry Cusick (Department of Mathematics) and Dr. Paul Beare (Dean of Kremen School of Education and Human Development).

Starting today, UHS will make available additional counseling for students who may seek such assistance.

Other actions to be taken by the school include sending an additional e-mail home to parents and teacher-student discussions within the confines of the classroom.

“We’re going to be asking parents to please remind their children not to spread rumors,” Bushman said.

“Rumors are, as you know with text messaging, a bad thing for everyone. And we all know it’s better if kids keep their ideas to themselves,” he said.

“We really want to work hard to make sure that all of us are keeping measured responses as we move forward, because no matter how you look at it, it’s a bad thing.”

Malcolm has been a teacher at UHS since Aug. 28, 2005, serving as an instrumental music instructor. His duties as an instructor include teaching music theory classes and the conducting of several musical ensemble groups, including an orchestra and jazz band.

COMMENT: The Collegian is a forum for student expression.
http://collegian.csufresno.edu

TRANSFERS: University contacting other campuses

CONTINUED from page 1

get this spring.

This means there are more continuing students for next fall and less room for new ones.

Fresno State has already received a considerable amount of more applications this year than at this time last year, Vinovrski said.

"If we fail to close applications now, we run the risk of being way over on enrollment and with the budget cuts we can’t afford to be in that position," he said.

Applicants are considered upper division transfers if they have completed at least 60 units with a minimum 2.0 grade point average and have also met all lower-division general education requirements.

Kevin Perkins, a junior entrepreneurship major, said he is glad that this is not affecting him.

"It is unfair to those students who expected to have time and now have to rush," Perkins said.

The deadline changes have been sent out to all the main institutions that Fresno State draws applications from, including local community colleges and satellite centers.

Vinovrski said they are encouraging those campuses to post signs and inform faculty so the message can be passed to students.

He said that with the new deadline, he expects about 300 to 400 additional applications to come in within the next couple of weeks.

During this month, the university moved up the freshman application deadline from Feb. 1 to Jan. 9.

Fresno State took similar measures to inform local high school counselors to put the word out to their students.

Graduate applicants and returning students who have previously attended Fresno State still have until the original April 1 deadline to submit their applications.

"It is highly unlikely that the graduate and returning student application deadline will be moved up," Vinovrski said.

The reason Fresno State is taking these actions is because it will be penalized if it goes over its enrollment Vinovrski said.

He also said, "We do not want to over enroll because our current students will suffer." He explained that the number of students who are funded through the state is ideal for education.

"If we go over that number, it erodes quality and we don’t want to do that," he said.

COMMENT: The Collegian is a forum for student expression.
http://collegian.csufresno.edu

THE STRENGTH TO HEAL

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The Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno Presents:

AMERICA’S CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

How Can We Achieve a More Secure and Peaceful World

A lecture by Hamid Entezam

To say we are in a mess is an understatement. World financial markets are in chaos. Hope for an international order based on the rule of law is disappearing. Industrial-scale death and destruction is all too real in the Middle East, in Iraq and elsewhere. The gap between the world’s rich and poor is widening. Human-induced environmental devastation is threatening all creatures on our planet.

No former generation has had to experience so much bad news as we face today. There’s a constant awareness of fear and tension should make any sensitive and compassionate person seriously question the progress of our modern world.

We cannot afford to continue our reckless and shortsighted approach to international affairs. There is a new administration in Washington elected on the promise of ‘change’—domestically and internationally. It is time to put rhetoric into meaningful action.

This lecture will examine some of the international challenges America is facing, and the shift of paradigm required to address them.

Friday Feb. 6, 2009
Lecture - 6:00 p.m.
Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno

Hamid Entezam
Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno
2111 E. Nees Ave. at Maple
www.icfresno.org
559.297.9535

Friday, January 30, 2009

The Collegian • News
News Editor, Mathew Gomes • invernessesf@csufresno.edu
Friday, January 30, 2009
Letters to the Editor

Collegian costs: shortchanging the nation’s future

By Philadelphia Inquirer Editorial

McClatchy Tribune

Dumb is a good way to describe America’s approach to paying for a college education. A college diploma is treated like any other commodity, priced at whatever the market will bear. And the market, historically, bears a lot.

This past October, the College Board’s annual report on college costs showed the average tuition and fees at a four-year public university had increased 6.4 percent from the previous year, while private schools’ costs were up 5.6 percent.

Those disturbing numbers exceeded inflation and past average annual increases. In fact, a separate report last week by the National Center for Public Policy and Education said tuition and fees increased 4.9 percent from 1992 to 2007, while median family income rose only 1.7 percent.

Families may complain about the cost of college, but they’re willing to pay up because they know the value of a college degree.

A recent Gallup poll for the Sallie Mae company, 96 percent of parents said they pay up because they know the value of a college education — tuition, fees, room and board minus financial aid — is 56 percent of the median income for a poor family and 28 percent of the median income for middle-income families.

For either group, that’s a lot of cash, enough to discourage many young people from considering college. The loan companies say that’s not their fault, that they are merely providing a service. They blame the colleges and universities, which keep raising tuition beyond inflation.

Some well-heeded private schools with big endowments responded to that charge last year by lowering tuition. But state schools expecting budget cuts in this economy will likely impose tuition hikes next year. And the market, providing the brainpower and work force needed to remain competitive in the world, will demand more education at all levels.

Yet, when a student seeks a college education, the government is more likely to serve him a loan than a grant.

— Philadelphia Inquirer

Web-Spe@K Question:

What is your view about lacrosse? Are you planning to go to any of their two home games?

Response:

History in the making

“Two home games? How did we get that far with 1.1 or 1.2 road games? This is why Title IX sucks. College scholarships for some young women who have never played the sport in their life when we can’t have NCAA wrestling or even a non-scholarship varsity level sport.”

Response:

We know President Obama is an African-American

“H is being judged on skin color alone. It’s just unfair, he gets all of this praise from the media, even in the face of having the most expensive inauguration ever during tough economic times, whereas Bush was tarred and feathered for every move he made, good or bad.”

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THE COLLEGIAN

Online

Page 3

Opinion Editor, Daniela Lopez • danielalopez@csufresno.edu • Friday, January 30, 2009

Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro

Some people fanatically believe in God and all that implies... The atheists fervently contend that God doesn’t exist...

...What’s wrong with admiring something that we just don’t know? 

Good luck, Son-and-Auntie, with that slogan.

That’s What the People Are Saying

Opinion in Super Bowl as ‘flaky and disgraceful’

“The Cardinals are a glorified Arena Football League team with a soft defense and a running game unworthy of the name. They are in the position they’re in because the NFL rates its season worse than any carny rides his wheel.”

— Charles P. Pierce, Slate Magazine

Web-Spe@K

Be sure to read the print edition of next Friday’s issue of The Collegian for featured comments.

New question:

What is your view about lacrosse? Are you planning to go to any of their two home games?

COMMENT: The Collegian is a forum for student expression. Readers can answer this week’s question at http://collegian.csufresno.edu.

Response:

F rankly, I’ve very happy. I used Maddon extensively for story research and have for many years. The capabilities of the new building are limitless compared to the old one, where turning on one computer too many would shut the power down to half the building. Of course, I’ve disappointed the fiscal meltdown has delayed the finishing touches.

A ll I know is that I’ll be the first time in a long time that the stacks don’t look like a Web site.

I’m simply just looking forward to it actually opening. I’ve been here for three years and have never had a library; it’s a little disheartening. But once it does open, I think it will be a great new addition for Fresno State and its students.”

Response:

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“H is being judged on skin color alone. It’s just unfair, he gets all of this praise from the media, even in the face of having the most expensive inauguration ever during tough economic times, whereas Bush was tarred and feathered for every move he made, good or bad.”

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THE COLLEGIAN

Online
Preserving and Adapting:

First generation Hmong students feel culture clash

Vangkou Khang
Stanford biology graduate
First generation Hmong

Khang created a Hmong student group at Stanford. When he was freshman, there were only three other Hmong students at the private school in Palo Alto. By his senior year, there were eight — just enough to start an organization.

Khang, who hopes to go to medical school soon, spends time with members of the Fresno State’s Hmong Student Association to stay connected. He said that there is a struggle between the Hmong and American cultures, but it is not simply due to racial differences.

“The separation is due to naivness,” he said. “Of course a separation is natural and it exists, but people really are just not knowledgeable about our culture.”

“If they knew more, there wouldn’t be a cultural gap,” Khang said. “I don’t lose sight of my culture because he has constant reminders from his parents. He said because Hmong students are considered conservative, it is hard for them to understand how their children are adapting to American culture. “My parents remind me who I am,” he said. “You can easily lose it.”

Song Her, senior,
liberal studies major
First generation Hmong

In high school, Her was part of a similar association, so the transition was easy. She is currently president of the Fresno State Hmong Student Association.

Her’s father is a shaman, a practitioner of Shamanism, which means he can communicate with the spiritual world. A shaman’s spirit can leave the body to the supernatural world and answer difficult questions about life.

“Here, you go to school and you’re focused,” he said. “But adapting to a different culture makes it hard, especially when your family continues with traditions.”

Her said he is constantly reminded of his Hmong culture by constantly being surrounded by family and friends.

Xia Xiong, junior
kinesiology major
First generation Hmong

Xiong was involved in his high school Hmong student organization and believes the group is a useful and valuable way to be active in the community. He easily relates to his peers — they are his friends. He said he does feel a culture clash, because he has to adapt to American culture, which is different.

“Here, you go to school and you’re focused,” he said. “But adapting to a different culture makes it hard, especially when your family continues with traditions.”

Xiong said he is constantly reminded of his Hmong culture by constantly being around family and friends.

By Paige Ricks
The Collegian

In this issue

First, some history

During the 1960s, the United States recruited Hmong people to fight on the side of Americans in the Vietnam War. The Hmong, an ethnic minority group originating from China and Southeast Asia, then participated in what is known as the “Secret War.”

When the Laotian government was later overturned, Hmong people became targets of persecution.

Due to that political strife, many Hmong migrated south. Some stayed in countries such as Vietnam, Laos and Thailand and some migrated to the United States, the U.S. government placed the Hmong mostly in California and Minnesota.

“They didn’t ask to come here,” said Garabed, founder and executive director of Stone Soup, which strives to help families preserve their Southeast Asian culture. “They are refugees.”

Many Hmong came to California because of the resources in the land and for growing vibrant crops, like strawberries.

Now, the present

Members of the newest American minority group have struggled to maintain their own language, customs and religion.

Garabed said that when the Hmong arrived in the United States it was a culture shock, especially when they began to raise children, conflict arose.

“Elders want to maintain their strong traditions,” Garabed said. “But they are stuck because their children take on a new culture, particularly through their education.

Education is a positive culture adaptation, but there are the negatives, such as selfishness and materialism.

Garabed said it is difficult for many Hmong refugees to understand certain American values because they come from clan-based families where they focus on the wilderness of the group, not the individual.

Although Stone Soup strives for cultural preservation, not everything, of course, can be preserved in a completely new society. Yet, “You need to be selective,” Garabed said. “You can’t preserve it all.”

She explained that Hmong culture could be supported in many ways, specifically through language, arts and values.

Garabed said she constantly advises the young adults that she meets: “You need to know who you are, to be who you are; otherwise you will lose it.”

The cultural differences cannot be ignored. Specifically, many Hmong Fresno State students in the Hmong Student Association feel the differences.

Garabed said she constantly advises the young adults that she meets: “You need to know who you are, to be who you are; otherwise you will lose it.”

The cultural differences cannot be ignored. Specifically, many Hmong Fresno State students in the Hmong Student Association feel the differences.
Friday, January 30, 2009

The horror film genre has catered almost exclusively to teenagers for more than a decade now. But “The Uninvited,” which centers on the teenage Anna (Emily Browning), who is having visions of ghosts who claim the fire that killed her mother was set by the beautiful Rachael (Elizabeth Banks), soon to become her stepmother. There’s something not quite right about Rachael, who often hints at bad things in her past and loses her temper a little too quickly when Anna or her older sister Alex (Arielle Kebbel) don’t do as they are told.

For more than an hour, “The Uninvited” chugs along on a seemingly rote and predictable track, but the Guard brothers know exactly what they’re doing; it’s safe to say you won’t see the ending of this one coming. That climax is not enough to make the formulaic nature of what’s preceded any easier to sit through. Unless you happen to be 12, in which case “The Uninvited” may well seem like the scariest movie ever made.

Movie review
By Rene Rodriguez
McClatchy Tribune

The horror film genre has catered almost exclusively to teenagers for more than a decade now. But “The Uninvited,” which centers on the teenage Anna (Emily Browning), who is having visions of ghosts who claim the fire that killed her mother was set by the beautiful Rachael (Elizabeth Banks), soon to become her stepmother. There’s something not quite right about Rachael, who often hints at bad things in her past and loses her temper a little too quickly when Anna or her older sister Alex (Arielle Kebbel) don’t do as they are told.

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CONTINUED from page 8

BASKETBALL: Mychal Ladd records first career double-double

CONTINUED from page 8

Mychal Ladd
records first career double-double

much. The Huskies narrowed the gap to 16, with five minutes to play in the game, but the Dogs remained persistent to keep the win.

“We played with great ener-
gy and we were really unself-
ishly with the ball,” Cleveland
said. However, the team has some fine-tuning prior to hosting the WAC’s first place team, Utah State, on Saturday night. Stopping turnovers will be a key, as Houston Baptist was able to capitalize on 11 of the Bulldogs 14 turnovers Wednesday.

Another area Cleveland is emphasizing for improvement is blocking out. Last time the ‘Dogs faced Utah State they lost by a narrow margin, 66-61. “Utah State is a great team and the level of competition will be different,” Cleveland said. “We have been in every conference game, and I still believe we have the ability to win those close games.”

Dwight O’Neil update

The senior guard is expected to practice today and be back in the lineup Saturday night against Utah State. While O’Neil should be ready to play, he may be serving a different role with the team.

O’Neil is expected to come off the bench and contribute as a sixth man, rather than taking his usually starting role.

As a starter, he has averaged 12.8 points per game this season while managing to grab 4.5 rebounds a game. He leads the team in assists with 5.5 per game.

The Bulldogs have been with-
out O’Neil twice this season, coming out on top both times. O’Neil was suspended for the Bulldogs’ Jan 22 game against Louisiana Tech because of inappropriate conduct.

The Collegian’s sports editors talk basketball at the mid-point of the season at http://collegian.csufresno.edu

In dedicating the game to their teammate, the ‘Dogs set the tone early with a Seay dunk to put the Bulldogs up 2-0.

“Going back a year, this you have to respect every-
one and play with energy,” Cleveland said. “We gave one and play with energy,”

Every member of the Bulldog squad played at least five minutes, and despite early setbacks to start the second half, they didn’t relinquish

Bulldog squad played at least

“Going into a game like this

‘Utah State is a great team

Thibodeau acknowledges

While O’Neil should be ready

Dwight O’Neil update

Dwight O’Neil update

petukhova and kucerkova

They’ve improved the most

If you have any additional questions, please contact Mary Noor at (866) 557-3731.

Join us for an informational session at the University of St. Augustine’s beautiful new California campus location to learn how you can become a professional or occupational therapist. We are also proud to announce the launch of two new program options at our new campus location.

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Saturday, January 31 | 10:00 am - Noon

( Check-in begins 30 minutes prior to start)

Wednesday February 4 | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

New Campus Location:

700 Windy Point Dr. San Marcos, CA 92069

To RSVP, please visit www.usa.edu/infoSession_2009_SanDiego.htm. Check out the upcoming dates

Feb. 28 v. Pacific

March 1 v. Penn

March 12 v. TCU

March 14 v. Arizona

March 15 v. Sac State

The No. 15 tennis team plays at the Wathen Center on campus here at Fresno State, and the games are free for students. Check out the upcoming dates

Check out the duo

Bryan Cole / The Collegian

Guard Mychal Ladd had his first career double-double Wednesday night against HBU. Ladd had career highs in points (22) and rebounds (10).

DOUBLEs: Partners work better as a team than solo

CONTINUED from page 8

Rowe in 2006. “We’ve been successful with our doubles,” Thibodeau said. “What they’re doing [petukhova and kucerkova] is very impressive.”

Thibodeau has coached seven Americans, seven players who have appeared in a national title match and five WAC championships for his women’s tennis team.

Thibodeau acknowledges that he’s had a role in the development of both petukhova and

Kucerkova. “It’s a little bit of both, work ethic and coaching,” Thibodeau said. “They’ve always been steady at the back; their defensive skills are very strong, they run so fast, they’re playing faster and aggressive. They’re very good in every phase of their play.”

Thibodeau also notices that the two have found ways to improve themselves when they’re on the tennis court. “They’ve improved the most with their offensive skill,”

Thibodeau said. “They’re a little bit more aggressive at the net than they were when they first started playing together.”

The duo has one challenge left to conquer – the NCAA tournament, where the furthest their entire team has reached is the semifinals.

Kucerkova and petukhova want to help their team get over the hump soon.

“Four years in a row, we made the sweet sixteen,” petukhova said. “We want to go to the elite eight.”

Both kucerkova and petukhova are juniors, which means they have one more year of Bulldog tennis left in

them. “I think now, the more nationals we win, the better,” petukhova said.

Whether it’s claiming conference championships, ITA national championships, or just playing at a high level inside the Wathen Center, Kucerkova just wants to reach new heights with her teammate Petukhova.

“We want to go as far as we can,” Kucerkova said.

COMMENT: The Collegian is a forum for student expression. http://collegian.csufresno.edu
Redwave Podcast Game of the Week

Women's Basketball

Friday, January 30, 2009, at 7 p.m., Save Mart Center

Bulldog Game Day

Fresno State Bulldogs
(13-6, 4-2 WAC)

VS.

San Jose State Spartans
(2-17, 1-5 WAC)

By Logan Hopkins and George Stepnowski Jr.

The Collegian

TELEVISION: COMCAST CHANNEL 14

Breakdown: Bulldogs

Coming off a convincing 71-45 victory last Friday at Hawaii, the Fresno State women’s basketball team has plenty of momentum to carry it past San Jose State tonight.

The Bulldogs are currently in second place in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC), but head coach Adrian Wiggins’ team has the best overall record at 13-6.

Last season, the Bulldogs won the WAC and are on track to finish atop their conference again. If they can come out and play their game tonight, the Bulldogs should count on another conference victory and will be one game closer to catching up with first place Nevada.

Sophomore Jaleesa Ross is coming off a 15-point performance and should again lead her team tonight. Ross and the Bulldogs average 10 made 3-point fields goals a game.

Tonight, if the long ball is not falling and Ross is on, the Bulldogs win big.

Breakdown: Spartans

The Spartans haven’t been the WAC’s hottest team in 2009. San Jose State has yet to win a game on the road this season and doesn’t have much hope in the near future. They are 0-8 away from the Save Mart Center and a lowly 1-17 overall.

The Spartans are lead by guard Charity Shavers and guard Natalie White. The guard combination are the only two players on the team to average double-digit points. On average, the Spartans are outscored by almost 20 points a night and shoot only 35 percent from the field.

If the Bulldogs force the Spartans to shoot from the outside with a zone defense, San Jose State’s decrease in points off of the zone defense. That’s how those guys are.”

The Steelers’ defense is a man who actually wants to be a man. They are worried about the Cardinals offense and sound the Cardinals defense. That is a championship defense. Dominating is one of those.

The Steelers led the NFL in total defense in 2009. They led the NFL in scoring defense. They and they failed to become the first team since the 1970 merger to lead in all four categories by which defenses are measured only because the Minnesota Vikings allowed three fewer rushing yards per game than Pittsburgh.

And you wonder why Pittsburg is in the Super Bowl?

“I think it’s true in any sport. Defense wins championships,” linebacker Larry Foote said. “We know what they’re capable of doing. If we can slow those guys down, our chances of winning are going to increase. I like our chances.”

Strong offense

Sounds like a done deal except for one thing: The Arizona offense is pretty darn impressive in its own right. Averaging 26.7 points per game.

Quarterback Kurt Warner threw for 4,000 yards in the regular season and he’s become more accurate in the postseason, becoming the second highest rated quarterback in playoff history behind Bart Starr and ahead of guys like Joe Montana.

The receivers corps has not one, not two, but three 1,000-yard receivers in Larry Fitzgerald, Steve Breaston, and Anquan Boldin, who authored his fourth 1,000-yard season despite missing four games.

Boldin and Fitzgerald, big, strong and physical, are as easy to tackle as eight-foot spiny cactus plants.

“ Fitzgerald is going to get his catches and Boldin is going to get hit and keep going,” James said.

“A lot of times, defenses play perfect, get the right call and right play, but somebody will just make a great play, anyway. That’s how those guys are.”

A running game

Arizona’s offense was one-dimensional throughout the season and then James, who was benched for 19 games from October to December, was suddenly rediscovered as a threat. The move signaled a renaissance for the Cardinals running attack.

Arizona, last in the NFL averaging 71.6 rushing yards per game in the regular season, is averaging 111 rushing yards per game in the postseason.

“We have run the ball successfully in the postseason,” Cardinals guard Deuce Lutui said. “In our game plan we plan to do anything necessary to attack their defense, which is very challenging. And that includes running.”

So the question as Super Bowl Sunday looms is not just can the Steelers beat Arizona or can the Cardinals pull the upset, but rather, what truly wins championships? Is it stifling defense? Or high tech offense?

“Sometimes you get the bear, sometimes the bear gets you,” Poste said. “We know they’re going to make plays. We’re going to make plays, too. We’ll see what happens Sunday.”

Super Bowl XLIII preview

By Armando Salguero

McClatchy Tribune

Tampa, Fla. — Arguably the best player on the NFL’s best defense is a man who actually pauses and thinks before he talks, so when Troy Polamalu says something in his trademark soft voice, the words resonate importance.

And right now Polamalu is talking about the Arizona Cardinals offense and sounding worried.

“They would be tough for any defense especially a defense like us,” Polamalu says of the Cardinals. “If we had a Tampa 2 style of defense, we could give up 7 or 8 yards, every once in a while even give up a 15-yarder and it would be no problem. But with us, we have a smothering mentality, so anytime you give up a big play, it’s hard to recover. And they can make big play after play, it’s hard to recover . And so anytime you give up a big play, we have a smothering mentality ,”

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Strong offense

Sounds like a done deal except for one thing: The Arizona offense is pretty darn impressive in its own right. Averaging 26.7 points per game.

Quarterback Kurt Warner threw for 4,000 yards in the regular season and he’s become more accurate in the postseason, becoming the second highest rated quarterback in playoff history behind Bart Starr and ahead of guys like Joe Montana.

The receivers corps has not one, not two, but three 1,000-yard receivers in Larry Fitzgerald, Steve Breaston, and Anquan Boldin, who authored his fourth 1,000-yard season despite missing four games.

Boldin and Fitzgerald, big, strong and physical, are as easy to tackle as eight-foot spiny cactus plants.

“ Fitzgerald is going to get his catches and Boldin is going to get hit and keep going,” James said.

“A lot of times, defenses play perfect, get the right call and right play, but somebody will just make a great play, anyway. That’s how those guys are.”

A running game

Arizona’s offense was one-dimensional throughout the season and then James, who was benched for 19 games from October to December, was suddenly rediscovered as a threat. The move signaled a renaissance for the Cardinals running attack.

Arizona, last in the NFL averaging 71.6 rushing yards per game in the regular season, is averaging 111 rushing yards per game in the postseason.

“We have run the ball successfully in the postseason,” Cardinals guard Deuce Lutui said. “In our game plan we plan to do anything necessary to attack their defense, which is very challenging. And that includes running.”

So the question as Super Bowl Sunday looms is not just can the Steelers beat Arizona or can the Cardinals pull the upset, but rather, what truly wins championships? Is it stifling defense? Or high tech offense?

“Sometimes you get the bear, sometimes the bear gets you,” Poste said. “We know they’re going to make plays. We’re going to make plays, too. We’ll see what happens Sunday.”

Super Bowl XLIII preview

By Armando Salguero

McClatchy Tribune

Tampa, Fla. — Arguably the best player on the NFL’s best defense is a man who actually pauses and thinks before he talks, so when Troy Polamalu says something in his trademark soft voice, the words resonate importance.

And right now Polamalu is talking about the Arizona Cardinals offense and sounding worried.

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No bluffing with a pair of ‘Aces’

Bulldogs’ tennis duo ranked No. 2 nationally and have their eyes set on the finals

By Lorenzo Reyna / The Collegian

From the National Indoor Doubles Championships, to the Spalding G. Wathen Tennis Center at Fresno State, Anastasia Petukhova and Renata Kucerkova have taken a swing at dominance on courts they share.

The pair has success with being Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) national champions, Northwest regional doubles champions, NCAA All-Americans, and first team All-Western Athletic Conference (WAC) selections in both singles and doubles.

They are currently ranked No. 2 in the national doubles rankings after beginning the spring tennis season ranked No. 8.

Their most recent accomplishment was winning the ITA National Indoor Doubles Championships in the fall of 2008, where they went 12-1 in the tournament as a pair.

Known as “A.P.” to her coaches, teammates and friends, Petukhova believes that teaming with Kucerkova for the last couple of years has helped the duo.

“We have our strengths set up and we know how we should play against different types of players,” Petukhova said. “We always find something that we can do well against.”

Petukhova enjoyed success early during her freshman year, by having a win-loss record of 24-3 in singles competition and 21-4 in doubles.

She ranked as high as No. 66 in the national singles ranks and was a first team All-WAC selection in both singles and doubles during the 2006-2007 tennis seasons.

Kucerkova also enjoyed success early in her Fresno State tennis career by winning the 2007 WAC Freshman of the Year, and posting a 23-4 record in doubles.

She went 19-4 in singles competition.

“We’ve been playing together for a while and we complement each other,” Kucerkova said. “We’re good on defense and offense as well.

Kucerkova says that people began warming up to her while at the ITA championship.

“When we went to nationals last semester, there were people who were nice to me a little bit, even people outside of the campus,” Kucerkova said.

Petukhova believes that even after the championship run at the ITA doubles championships, her and Kucerkova still find ways to improve.

“We always try to have everyone play the best we can. ‘With every match we play, we get better,’” Petukhova said.

Their coach, Simon Thibodeau, has had a good tradition of doubles during his five years at Fresno State, with a former number one pair: Melanie Gloria and Tinesta

Men’s hoops picks up needed win without senior O’Neil

By Megan Poindexter / The Collegian

Mychal Ladd took advantage of all Houston Baptist’s weak­nesses Wednesday night, en route to his first career double-double as a Bulldog.

Ladd led four other members of the Fresno State team into double figures as the Bulldogs gained an easy 81-63 win over the Huskies to improve their record to 9-12 and 1-5 in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC).

“My goal was to do what I could to help the team,” The freshman guard had career highs in points (22), rebounds (10) to go along with his three assists.

“I thought he was real well tonight,” said coach Steve Cleveland.

He was offensively around the rim at all times and just very aggressive.

Freshman Paul George and Bryce Cartwright turned in solid performances, scoring 12 and 13 points, respectively and junior forward Sylvester Seay added 13.

Brandon Sperling also had his best night of the season with 11 points, six rebounds and four assists.

Sperling, also a freshman, started the game in place of senior guard Dwight O’Neil, who could not play due to fam-

By Matt Weir / The Collegian

Anastasia Petukhova, left, and Renata Kucerkova began the season at the No. 8 ranked doubles team and got as high as No. 1 in the nation.

The two are now

See DOUBLES, Page 6