Daschle dropout shakes up U.S. administration

By Margaret Talev
McClatchy Tribune

President Barack Obama scrambled to regain control of his political message Tuesday after a series of tax and vetting scandals forced one of his most important nominees to withdraw and raised questions about the new president’s central campaign pledge to change politics as usual.

Obama said Tuesday that he accepts responsibility for the controversies, is committed to high ethical standards and won’t accept a double standard for those in power versus average Americans. Obama also sought to steer attention back to the debate in Congress over an economic stimulus package that’s approaching $900 billion.

“I campaigned on changing Washington and bottom-up politics. And I don’t want to send a message to the American people that there are two sets of standards,” Obama said on CNN, one of five networks that conducted interviews with the president Tuesday.

“This was a mistake. I screwed up.”

Obama told ABC that it had been an embarrassing day.

“We can’t afford glitches, because right now what I should be spending time talking about is how we’re going to put 3 to 4 million people back to work. And so this is a self-induced injury that I’m angry about, and we’re going to make sure we get it fixed.”

Earlier Tuesday, former Sen. Tom Daschle withdrew his nomination to become secretary of health and human services, saying that his failure to pay what eventually became $146,000 in back taxes would prevent him from operating “with the full faith of Congress and the American people.”

Daschle told Obama of his decision in a telephone call. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the decision was Daschle’s alone.

The White House announced the news hours after NBC’s Lester Holt asked Obama’s nominee for deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget and the new post of federal chief performance officer, also dropped out because of unpaid taxes.

The race for the treasury secretary job followed the confirmation of Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner.

Protesters say ‘ICE destroys our communities’

By Kaley Delarosa
The Collegian

The Federal Government Fair brought 66 federal agencies and approximately 145 representatives to the Satellite Student Union yesterday. In addition to bringing students, faculty and staff to check out government job opportunities, the fair attracted controversy and a protest over the presence of one government agency: The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency is under the Department of Homeland Security.

According to their Web site’s mission statement, the organization, “protects national security and upholds public safety by targeting criminal networks and terrorist organizations that seek to exploit vulnerabilities in our immigration system, in our financial networks, along our border, at federal facilities and elsewhere in order to do harm to the United States.”

The protesters claim that ICE unfairly targets Mexican citizens and is tearing apart families and communities. They just go to neighborhoods where they know there is more working class people,” Walter Ramirez, a protestor, said. “They are discriminat-ing. It is clearly based on skin color,” he said.

Ramirez said that one way ICE is breaking families apart is by deporting illegal immi-grants who have children that are U.S. citizens. He said he is protesting against family divi-sion and community destruc-tion. “Our goal is to prevent this organization from com-ing back to campus to recruit students,” Ramirez said.

“They’re planting fear in the community. A lot of people now are afraid to go to work.”

A lot of kids are afraid to go to school because they might deport their parents. A lot of people are afraid even to go to the corner or to the grocery store to buy their food because they are afraid they are going to be stopped by ICE,” Ramirez said.

Although ICE declined to comment to The Collegian, according to their Web site, “ICE enacted a multi-year strategy of improving immi-gration enforcement through more efficient management, focused enforcement efforts.
DASCHLE: Obama accepts decision with ‘sadness and regret’

CONTINUED from page 1

Geithner despite his own controversy over unpaid taxes, and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson’s earlier dropping of his bid to become commerce secretary because of a federal probe into a pay-to-play scandal that’s reached into his office.

Obama on Tuesday nominated Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, a Republican, to the commerce post.

The loss of Daschle could imperil Obama’s ability to achieve comprehensive health care restructuring, one of his paramount policy goals. Daschle is a former Senate majority leader with wide connections throughout the nation’s capital and expertise in health policy. He was to have led Obama’s efforts to make affordable health care coverage available to all Americans.

“I will not be the architect of America’s health system reform, but I remain one of its most fervent supporters,” Daschle said in a statement.

Obama had said Monday that he “absolutely” stood by Daschle. On Tuesday, however, he issued a statement saying that he accepted Daschle’s decision with “sadness and regret.”

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who’s long worked with Democrats on health legislation, said the loss would make health care revisions harder to achieve.

White House spokesman Gibbs declined to discuss apparent shortcomings in Obama’s vetting process for nominees. He said that Obama had confidence in the process.

“We are trying to change the mentality of a lot of the people who say that the undocumented don’t pay taxes,” Cuevas said. He said, “If you go to the store, just let them know that you are undocumented and you don’t have to pay taxes and see what they say.”

Cuevas said the undocumented people that ICE is targeting are contributors to the U.S. economy and are needed to perform the jobs that they generally hold in the U.S. “They’re here to work. I’m not gonna go to a country just to destroy it. That country is feeding me, it’s helping me, it’s helping me send money to help support my family in my home country,” Cuevas said.

“That’s all they want. They want an opportunity and that is all they’re asking right now.”

PROTEST: Students say agency’s targets are contributors to U.S.

CONTINUED from page 1

that target the most dangerous illegal aliens, workplace enforcement initiatives that target employers who defy immigration law and reducing the pull of the ‘jobs magnet’ that draws illegal workers across the border in search of employment.

Rosanna Rios-Spicer, another protestor, said she wants to make sure people visiting the fair receive equal information. “Particularly how ICE destroys our communities and how there are alternative careers that build communities, rather than destroy them,” Rios-Spicer said. “They are coming here to recruit students and there are many other jobs that promote peace.”

Martin Cuevas, a protestor from the American Friends Service Committee, gives presentations to inform the community of their rights and responsibilities.

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EUGENE ROBINSON

We’re Someplace We’ve Never Been: Race, Diversity and the New America

Feb. 5 at 7:00 pm

California State University, Fresno at the Satellite Student Union.

This event is sponsored by the Martin Luther King Visiting Scholars Committee.

Gene Robinson is one of the most prominent print journalists and commentators in the country, writing a twice-weekly column that runs in 145 newspapers across the country. Robinson brings audiences a tested perspective on today’s headline news.

About Eugene Robinson

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The Collegian is a forum for student expression. http://collegian.csufresno.edu
Excuses: We all them; we’ve all given them. Some of us are more clever, or more creative than others when formulating them, but we all never fail to pop one right out when the need calls for it. I’ve always stepped up to the plate when it comes to the big issues, but when handling the minute dealings of life – being late, returning a call or just plain forgetting to do something – I’ll confess, I’m a seasoned excuser.

For instance, one of my favorite excuses for being late to class is that I live out of town, I’m a bad driver and it REALLLY scares me to drive in the fog. Although I am a horrible driver – curiously cruising in a ’90 brown Camry with a missing hubcap and a cracked bumper (for your safety speed past me if you see me on the road) – I have, in fact, always lived fairly close to campus; actually I’m about a 5-minute leisurely walk to school, so you’d think I’d always be on time, right?

Well, the truth is, and yes, here goes my excuse for making an excuse: the “dog” line or any sort of “I had a flat-tire.” or “dog attacked me on the street” variation of an excuse just sounds so much better than me telling a professor, whom I usually fully respect, that I went to a random shindig in the Tower last night, got completely plastered and still felt extremely disoriented when I woke up.

I know that making excuses, especially when a bit of lying is involved, is not religiously or, to a certain degree, socially acceptable, but how can I not use my innocent looking face to my advantage, maybe keep my grade points and perhaps even score some future excusable tardiness? If like me, you’re not a morning person, you know how ridiculously hard an 8 a.m. class can be.

Yet a simple act by a great man has actually changed my excuse-making perspective. U.S. Airways pilot Chesley Sullenberger, who along with his crew, safely splash landed a plane with 190 passengers in the Hudson River, gave the Madden Library a call telling them that a book he checked out through an interlibrary loan, had gone down with the plane.

I’m not quite sure what’s more incredible, the fact that he kept so many people safe or how he remembered to quickly call, out of all places, the library on the other side of the country My more than $100 in late fees can attest to the fact that I have trouble returning books on time even when walking right by the library on a daily basis.

As for my excuse-making self, I’d be willing to bet big bucks that the line “so your book, yeah, it’s missing because I just saved 150 people” would work wonders with the library staff.

But as my new and improved, what would Sullenberger do, self, I’m beginning to see the need for a change.

No more will I use my tattiness by blaming my clumsiness and saying that I had to dash back home because I fell in the mud, although it has happened before, or say my puppy (imaginary, of course) escaped and could not be found.

I promise to make an honest effort to officially retire from the art of excuse making, and, most importantly, Library Dean McDonald, I’ll try to return your books on time. If not, I’ll at least do like Sullenberger, and give you a call.

Caffeine drip
DANIELA LOPEZ

The Sullenberger change

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Phelps’ reputation takes a ‘hit’

By Ann Killion
McClatchy Tribune

Have you seen the full-page newspaper ads for the “Get Motivated” seminar? The lead pitchman? Michael Phelps.

He promises to teach you “how to sharpen your competitive edge.”

Insert your own joke here. They don’t make cultural icons like they used to. Last year’s golden boy morphed from an in-demand superstar to the butt of jokes overnight. All because someone took a picture of him inhaling out of a bong and sold the photo to a British tabloid.

But spare me the “Oh, he’s only 23” excuse.

Phelps wants to use that excuse. In his public statement _ after he fled Tampa in the wake of the embarrassing photo revelation he apologized. But he qualified his words by noting that he’s 23 and “acted in a youthful and inappropriate way.”

Phelps already has gotten one free pass. Already a star from the Athens Games, he was arrested for driving under the influence in 2004. But in Beijing, the word was that he had matured. That he was ready to accept the responsibility that came with the spotlight. He talked about being a role model for young athletes: his words, not a label the media tried to hang on him.

He’s the one who said after winning his eighth gold medal that his main goal was to raise the profile of swimming as “high as I can get it.”

I’m not the pot police, though marijuana is on the Olympic list of banned substances so it’s a very bad look for “the Greatest Olympian of All Time.”

I have sympathy with kids who make mistakes. As the mother of teenagers, I know full well that the concept of consequences is a purely theoretical idea for many young people.

But I have a problem with Phelps trying to pass off his blunder as a youthful indiscretion. Because 23-year-olds know better than anyone _ certainly better than anyone my age _ that there is no such thing as privacy. Members of his generation live their lives publicly: on their phones, on Facebook. They know exactly what damage can be done with a tiny cell phone at a crowded party.

I also have a problem with excusing Phelps because he’s a normal 23-year-old. There’s nothing normal about Phelps and hasn’t been for years.

I spent much of my summer watching Phelps, though I usually couldn’t see him. That’s because there was a crowd of reporters 15 to 20 deep every time he dripped his way past the interview area in Beijing. Because his news conferences were standing-room only. Because he was mobbed and observed everywhere he went.

He’s not some stoner kid, lounging on the couch, pondering why Homer Simpson is such a great actor. He is a superstar in the spotlight. He set a mind-blowing goal of eight gold medals, he met it and he cashed in big time.

Among the rewards: a hefty contract from Speedo plus a million-dollar bonus that he planned to use for a foundation “to encourage children to lead healthy, active lives.” A new deal with Mazda. A contract with Omega watches. Endorsement deals with McDonald’s and Kellogg’s Frosted Flakes (those make sense). He appeared on “Oprah.” “The Tonight Show” and David Letterman. He got a book deal. He was named Sports Illustrated’s Sportsman of the Year. His mom even cashed in with an endorsement. Omega, Speedo and Mazda say they are standing behind Phelps. His calls to Get Motivated went unanswered earlier this week. I wanted to find out if Phelps is still scheduled to tell paying customers how to “establish and maintain the competitive advantage.”

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By Ann Killion
McClatchy Tribune

Phelps’ reputation takes a ‘hit’

Word of the Day

From UrbanDictionary.com

2))

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10% Off On All Lotions (Plus additional monthly deals. Excludes samples and body shots)

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**ACROSS**
1. Spill the beans
5. Japanese entertainer
11. Silent assent
14. World-class
15. Presser
16. Lennon’s lover
17. 1986 hit by Heart
19. Sebaceous cyst
20. Asparagus unit
21. Top point
22. Boater or bowler
23. Passport stamp
26. Canine hotels
28. With frankness
29. 1986 hit by Heart
30. Sebaceous cyst
32. Salty droplet
33. Conceit
34. Alan and Nathan
35. Goblet parts
36. River of Hamburg
37. 1966 hit by the Beatles
38. 1986 hit by the Beatles
39. 1963 hit by the Orlons
41. 1963 hit by the Orlons
43. Melville novel
44. Infamous Helmsley
46. Jeweled cornet
48. Plus
49. Toy person
51. Ceylon, today
53. Very bad
56. Legendary archer
57. Toward the bottom
58. Uh...pardon me
59. Three-spot
60. Two quartets merged
62. Transition point
63. Russian ruler
64. Hawaiian staple
65. 1984 hit by Berlin
66. __ Grande
67. Serving of corn

**DOWN**
1. Prohibits
2. Air show maneuver
3. Chip in chips
4. Act right
5. Rummy call
6. Hurler’s stat
7. Speck
8. Late-night bite
9. Protective headgear
10. Dahl and Francis
11. 1966 hit by the Beatles
12. 1966 hit by the Beatles
13. Pressed act
14. Cork populace
15. Musial or Mikita
16. Portion out
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52. One of HOMES
53. Greek letter
54. Voiced disapproval
55. Geneva’s lake
56. Very bad
57. Toward the bottom
58. Uh...pardon me
59. Three-spot
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**PUZZLE SOLUTION:** http://collegian.csufresno.edu

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Edited by Wayne Robert Williams
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

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**Quote of the Day**

“When I read about the way in which library funds are being cut and cut, I can only think that American society has found one more way to destroy itself.”

— Isaac Asimov, Science Fiction Author

From BrainyQuote.com
Soccer practice on hold without head coach

By George Stepanoff Jr.
The Collegian

There are several sports at Fresno State dealing with coaches leaving, and the women’s soccer team is one program that falls under that category. However, one thing other sports programs can’t relate to, is what the soccer team is going through.

“Our team was supposed to start practice a couple of weeks ago, but it’s kind of hard when you don’t have a head coach,” sophomore defender Elora Martinez said.

“Steve’s decision,” Martinez said. “We didn’t hear about the news too much earlier than the public got to find out, but Steve did call each of us individually.”

Springthorpe leaves behind a young talented team. The Bulldogs are coming off a season where they won the WAC Tournament earlier this fall, and made only the second NCAA Tournament appearance in Fresno State women’s soccer history.

Springthorpe in an earlier interview, discussed why he accepted the coaching position at NC State. He stated that his decision was based on what was best for his family, and that returning home to the East Coast with the opportunity to coach in the ACC was too attractive to pass up.

“I am happy for Steve,” Martinez said. “And I have faith in our university to find a qualified coach to fill the opening.”

Last week, in a team meeting with the athletic department, the Bulldogs received word that assistant coaches Chris Shaw and Christine Johnson will assume the coaching duties until a new head coach is found.

Sophomore defender Allison Ventura says the team is close to its assistants.

“Steve is missed, but we’re okay as a team,” Ventura said. “All of us love our assistants, and respect both Chris and Christine.”

Shaw has been an assistant coach for the last two years, while Johnson has been with the Bulldogs for three. However, both assistants’ jobs may be in jeopardy.

Often, when a new head coach is hired, they are likely to bring in a staff of their own. Springthorpe did just that when he left the University of Florida, and brought Johnson down with him to Fresno State.

“I don’t know what will happen come March,” Ventura said. There has just been a lot of uncertainty that has taken place over the last month.

Fresno State is currently conducting its national search in pursuit of a coach. In the meantime, the Dogs are conditioning with trainers, and practice will start soon.

Martinez says the team’s morale is fine.

“There’s nothing we can do now, but go out and continue to work hard,” Martinez said.

Who knows, maybe change could be good in some ways.”

If the position is occupied sometime in March, the coach will have approximately four months to have the team buy into his or her system.

“The first couple practices may have a different feeling to them with the new coach in the beginning,” Martinez said. “But we will respect whoever the coach is, in time, we’ll be fine.”
Bulldog basketball’s woes wear on fans over time

Even with a stand-up coach at the helm, Fresno State basketball still has troubles

I have to wonder if men’s basket-
ball coach Steve Cleveland is also a garbage man for the Bulldogs. No matter how much trash he col-
lects and throws out, he still gets more waste dumped right in front of him.

The trash that Cleveland is now dealing with is the garbage bag labeled “off the court conduct.” This can be attributed to a young man on his roster getting in trouble with the law this past weekend.

The young man is senior guard Dwight O’Neil, and he happens to be one of the more experienced players on the team, supposedly the leader on and off the court.

In no way am I going to bash and disparage O’Neil, especially with his uncle’s death this past week. But any man who dos has a suspended license, has a warrant out for his arrest issued back in November 2007, fails to do what the court asks and doesn’t pay the fine has no one to blame but himself.

Yet O’Neil was in trouble with his team before the arrest. He displayed bad behavior toward his teammates and coaches after a loss to Nevada recently, which led him watching the Louisiana Tech game in his jeans and letterman’s jacket.

His arrest causes him to join the likes of Ja’Vance Coleman, Bryan Harvey and Rokalien Sims as players who have gotten in trouble under Cleveland.

This has to be frustrating for Cleveland, because in real life, he is one of the most genuine, insightful and articulate people you’ll ever talk to. He is a man that rarely displays a temper, will never throw tantrums like a Bobby Knight, or perform crazy antics as if he’s Tennessee Volunteer men’s basketball coach Bruce Pearl.

Cleveland was given the task of cleaning up a mess left by Ray Lopes and Jerry Tarkanian four years ago, and it was the kind of mess that would stink up any basketball program.

He had to deal with preventing recruiting violations and improper benefits, getting his players to improve their grades and keeping them away from trouble off the court, all while trying to get the Bulldogs to win a Western Athletic Conference title in the mean time.

He has already improved the Academic Progress Rate (APR), in which six of his players graduated in 2009. That’s the most in recent memory for the men’s basketball program.

However, some true Fresno State basketball fans may say that no matter how clean the basketball program gets, there is some road blocks.

As quiet and calm as Cleveland seems, we have to wonder if he’ll go off when the next trash bag comes his way.

LACROSSE: First game just around the corner

CONTINUED from page 8

are the same are the ball, the goal and the goal keeper equip-
ment that’s it.

Men’s lacrosse is classified as a contact sport and thus requires players to wear helmets, gloves and other protective equipment.

While the rules for women’s lacrosse doesn’t allow for much physical contact and only requires a mouthpiece and protective eyewear, it is still a “very aggressive” sport, according to Behme.

“Women’s lacrosse has a goal of not becoming men’s lacrosse,” said Behme. “We want our sport to evolve as a sport of its own and the goal is just to raise the level of play.”

With lacrosse coming to the Valley, Behme said it has been a struggle to make it clear that women’s lacrosse is a game of its own.

“The object of the game is to score more goals than the opponent.”

Behme. “We want to show what women’s lacrosse is.”

And the Bulldog program seems to be doing a good job already getting the word out about women’s lacrosse.

At the team’s first clinic in August, only four people were enrolled, but at its latest clinic on Jan. 24 more than 100 girls came to learn the sport.

“Even though we won’t have a winning season, it’s going to be a really fun experience,” Rose said. “Lacrosse is just something new around here and we are making history; I’m just glad to be a part of it.”

Saturday at 1 p.m. the Bulldogs will kick their sea-
son off at home against the University of California, Berkeley and the team is hop-
ing to draw many spectators.

The game is one of only two home games the Bulldogs will host this season. The games will be played inside Bulldog Stadium.

“We really hope everyone comes out to the game,” said Behme. “It’s a new, fast and exciting sport.”

INTERACTIVE PACKAGE: Learn more about women’s lacrosse online at http://collegian.csufresno.edu

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Today in sports history

February 4, 1971

The Baseball Hall of Fame announced plans to open a special wing of the hall to honor the accomplishments of African-American players in the early years of the baseball. Four months later, it was decided that the Negro League players would have full membership.

One of a kind

Women’s lacrosse is a unique sport and different from anything the Valley has seen before.

By Megan Poindexter
The Collegian

The addition of women’s lacrosse to Fresno State athletics has left many wondering: what exactly is lacrosse?

“It’s a great crossover sport,” head coach Sue Behme said. “It’s a combination of soccer, ice hockey, basketball, field hockey and some other sports.”

The objective of the game is to get a yellow or orange ball into the opposing team’s net, but it is not as easy as it sounds.

Behme says with a total of 12 players on the field (11 field players and one goalie), there are restraining lines 30 yards from each goal that regulate player movement.

According to Behme, only seven attackers are allowed past the offensive restraining line and seven defenders plus the goalie keeper, are allowed past the defensive line at any given time.

“Sometimes it can be hard because you have to constantly be counting how many people are on each side of the line,” freshman member of the Bulldog squad Jennifer Rose said.

When an attacking team has more than seven players past the restraining line, they lose possession of the ball. However, if a defending team violates the rule, it’s closest defender to the ball is repositioned four meters from the ball carrier.

These characteristics define women’s lacrosse, which is often misperceived to have the same rules as men’s lacrosse.

But what most people don’t know, is that men’s and women’s lacrosse are completely different sports.

“Everything is different between men’s and women’s lacrosse,” said Behme. “The only things that

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LACROSSE STICK/CROSS: Players can catch, pass and shoot on goal with the crosse. The basket is tight, but at the bottom, it will cradle the ball while running.

BALL: women’s lacrosse requires either a yellow or orange ball and it must be made of solid rubber.

PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR: while women’s lacrosse is a fairly safe sport, eyewear is used to prevent the rare eye injury.

MOUTHPIECE: the mouthpiece must cover at least the upper jaw teeth in order to prevent injuries to the mouth.

GLOVES: the gloves provide some protection for the player’s hands and extra grip for the crosse.

CLEATS: The cleats allow the player to make quick cuts and stop quickly when needed. The structure is similar to a wide receiver’s football cleat.

FIELD DIMENSIONS are not drawn to scale

ATTACKERS: Their purpose is to run offensive plays, help assist and score goals. Attakcers mainly remain on the attacking third of the field and defend the oppositions transition.

ATTACK MIDFIELDER: Both the attack and defensive midfielders are responsible for playing both ends of the field. These midfielders concentrate on offense and scoring.

DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER: Like the attack midfielders, the defensive midfielders are allowed to cross the restraining lines. These midfielders focus on helping the defenders.

DEFENDER: They try and prevent the opponent from scoring. They play most of the game in the defending third of the field and are responsible for moving the ball up to the offense.

GOAL KEEPER: The keeper is responsible for protecting the team’s net and not allowing opponents to score a goal, just like a hockey or soccer keeper.