Hundreds of Fresno State students marched Saturday alongside 5,000 protesters at the May Day rally through the streets of downtown in support of a comprehensive immigration reform.

Fresno joined demonstrations across the country in cities like Los Angeles, Washington D.C. and New York.

The event comes a week after Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed a law that authorizes police to arrest an individual based on the suspicion that he or she is undocumented. However, recent changes to the bill, aimed to avoid racial profiling, allows Arizona police to inquire about a person’s legal status only when it’s reasonably certain of other unlawful activities.

Raul Moreno, the University Migrant Services (UMS) coordinator at Fresno State, joined protesters in a chant of “Si, se puede (yes, we can).” Moreno, who works closely with undocumented students, said an immigration reform would allow illegal immigrants to become active members of society.

“It is time to legalize those living in the shadows,” Moreno said. “Everyone deserves to be treated as human regardless of immigration status.”

Moreno said undocumented students can contribute to the United States.

The May Day Committee organized the event that began at 4 p.m. at Eaton Plaza, near the Old Fresno Water Tower with a rally featuring performances by traditional Mexican dancers and speakers from local groups such as Peace Fresno and the Brown Berets. Nearly 700 demonstrators marched through streets surrounding City Hall before ending back at Eaton Plaza.

Cesar Sanchez, the Associated Students, Inc.’s (ASI) 2010-2011 vice president of finance elect, said he marched in support of the Dream Act, a bill that would provide undocumented students who graduate from U.S. high schools, arrived in the United States as minors and have been in the country continuously for at least five years prior to the bill’s enactment with the opportunity to earn permanent residency.

“The Dream Act would help Fresno State students, because the university has a significant amount of undocumented individuals,” Sanchez said.

See PROTEST, Page 9

Despite improvements, air gets F

By Joe Bailey
The Collegian

Fresno’s air quality has improved over the last couple of years but is still so severely polluted that it earned a grade of F from the American Lung Association’s “State of the Air” report.

Fresno is in the top six of all three statistical categories the study used, including unhealthy ozone days, short-term particle pollution and annual particle pollution. The pollution is linked to asthma and other lung issues. The numbers are based on 2006-2008 figures. Susie Rico coordinates programs for the Central Valley’s American Lung Association branch. The organization aims to revive the region’s air quality that has had a devastating impact on the younger population.

“I have to say that there is probably one in five in the Valley who do have asthma,” Rico said. “In California asthma is one of the leading causes in school absenteeism and the number one reason they are hospitalized.”

Rico said she was not shocked when she heard that Fresno received a failing grade from the report.

“I was hoping that our grade would be at something other than an F,” Rico said. “But all eight counties have been at an F the past seven years.”

Rico said that Fresno has made efforts to improve the quality of the air and there have been results, but the county still received an F because of tighter grading criteria.

Fresno’s poor air quality

An American Lung Association report on air quality placed the Fresno-Madera area at fourth worst in the nation.

Infographic by Michael Urbino / The Collegian

See QUALITY, Page 8

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See PROTEST, Page 9

Commuting puts pressure on student wallets

By Lacey Solis
The Collegian

When Candice Romano plans out her class schedule each semester she bears in mind the 84-mile commute she makes to drive to school Wednesday and Friday at least.

“I pretty much have a three-hour roundtrip,” Romano said, “and that’s if there’s no fog, it’s not pouring, no accidents or traffic. It makes it difficult.”

The 33-year-old English major is one of many students who commute to campus multiple times a week because of financial hardship or other obligations that prevent them from relocating closer to campus.

A report by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) defines commuter students as students who live off campus while attending school. The definition can be narrowed down primarily to spotlight students who do not live within walking distance from campus and must make more of an effort to physically get to campus.

Fresno State is considered a commuter campus because of the large population of students who commute to school. Roughly 1,000 students live on campus, which accounts for about 5 percent of the entire student body, according to a study by The Henry Madden Library. A majority of Fresno State students live off campus in Fresno or in one of the many small towns located in the Central Valley from Madera, Tulare and Kings Counties.

Romano estimated that on top of the time commitment she makes to drive to school three days a week, she budgets between $100 to $150 a semester on gas.

“I’m one of those people that ran out of gas one too many times in my adult life. I now have this concept that if it hits half a tank, fill it up,” Romano said. “I’ve gotten in the habit of every day before school I go to the gas station, so it’s like a half a tank every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at least. It takes a pretty good chunk of change.”

Elizabeth Silva said she has twenty-seven percent of first-time freshman and 57 percent of seniors commute to school nationwide, according to the National Survey of Student Engagement. Five percent of Fresno State students live on campus.

By Lacey Solis
The Collegian

When Candice Romano plans out her class schedule each semester she bears in mind the 84-mile commute she has to make from her home in Porterville to Fresno State.

“I pretty much have a three-hour roundtrip,” Romano said, “and that’s if there’s no fog, it’s not pouring, no accidents or traffic. It makes it difficult.”

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Elizabeth Silva said she has
Things aren't looking good

American politician and diplomat Adlai Stevenson once said, while addressing a group of students at the University of Oregon, "Here, don't forget why you came." As graduation season hastily approaches, digesting the concept of graduating is here, don't forget why you came. As a graduating class, "When you leave, there is no longer a sense that things are going great. It seems inevitable that things will get worse."

I often wonder how many students, once upon a time, might have felt the same way. Perhaps, in my case, the days of compulsory school no longer matter. I remember possessing a type of self-assurance I never experienced before. With the days of compulsory school no longer prevalent I was free to live out my passions with complete abandonment of a legal guardian's authority. Somewhere along the way I lost my "I can do anything" faster. The bad thing about not having fresher memories to do whatever one wants is the accompanying responsibility, which proves to be expensive. I only realized that my role required a young adult to either learn to live without much or to get a job. I decided the latter was more reasonable.

Getting caught up in the flurry of wanting to make money merely to start college has decided to attend community college. I frequently considered why I was at Fresno State to discover my major. California State University students often consider turning away qualified students because more people want to enroll than the university has funding to handle. A CSU student concludes the system is creating a generation of student debtors.

For additional information, visit: http://www.AppleTorrico.com

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

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Things aren't looking good

The Right Tone

Tony Petersen

Our anti-terrorism efforts have once again proven to work when the terrorist is so inept they can't deploy their own bombs.

about the day of reckoning the United States is driving toward. The reason for this is that we are an inherently optimistic nation. Pessimism does not win elections in this country. We always believe things will be fine, that things will get better. In this way, all Americans are progressives—in the sense that we believe in Progress, that America is the greatest country on earth and if we do have problems, we will pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and make it right.

There is certainly nothing wrong with this. Sometimes optimism does in a way, make things better. In the 1980s, Ronald Reagan ran perhaps the most optimistic administration of the last 50 years, and tax rates fell, the economy improved and the Cold War ended. However, this is not always the case. There are non-problems and time problems that are staggering. There is no longer a sense that things will get better. In fact, it seems inevitable that things will get worse.

Between our entitlement system and our empire abroad, it’s looking like we’ll spend more on prisons than we do on higher education in their states. Now is the time for California to join the Fair Share for Fair Tuition Bill—will generate almost $2 billion for our community colleges and public universities. It would levy a 12.5 percent extraction fee on oil companies. California is currently the only state that does not impose an extraction fee on oil companies. Even former Governors Sarah Palin of Alaska and George W. Bush of Texas both levied oil profits fees and used the money to help fund higher education in their states. Now is the time for California to join the rest of the nation.

Alberto Torrico is the Chair of the Select Committee on Prison Reform and Rehabilitation as well as candidate—California State Senator General. For additional information, visit: www.AppleTorrico.com

Op-ed

A better way

By Alberto Torrico

Fifty years ago, visionary leaders created California's Master Plan for Higher Education. For decades, the master plan provided millions of Californians with opportunities to pursue their academic ambitions and improve their vocational skills.

Now, however, our higher education system is reeling. The visionary leaders gone and out of state and public universities are bruised by cuts, layoffs and even increasing fees hikes that threaten affordability and access for students across California.

Stories about this decline can be found on campuses across the University of California, San Diego professor worries about students’ inability to get into the classes they need for graduation. California State University students often consider turning away qualified students because more people want to enroll than the university has funding to handle. A CSU student concludes the system is creating a generation of student debtors.

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Things aren't looking good
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

The daily crossword

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis
Los Angeles Times

1 Reacted with embarrassment, maybe
8 Moderate pace
15 Legally gone
16 Ignorant
17 Spannerian beings
18 Sparks resident
19 __ pro nobis
20 Fry corrugation
22 Company abbr.
23 Undersized one
25 Nearly a billion people live in them
26 “So will I ... make the net / That shall enmesh them all” speaker
27 Rhone tributary
29 Janeane’s co-star in “The Truth About Cats and Dogs”
30 Asked for a hand?
31 Exotic
32 Seen from above, as a view
35 In person
36 Carbohydrate used in jellies
44 Chilled
45 Abner’s radio partner
47 Prefix with graphic
48 Court org.
49 Techies’ campus hangout
51 They can get high
52 FDR home loan gp.

53 Become payable
55 Austin-to-Del Rio dr.
56 Make notes?
58 Scholarly
60 Italian colony from 1890 to 1941
61 Frenzied fits
62 Chamber group member?
63 Watching carefully

1 “Don’t miss this chance”
2 Hurrying along
3 Information gatherer
4 Where BMW was born
5 Worldly
6 Activist who said “You can kill a man but you can’t kill an idea”
7 First “Mission: Impossible” TV production company
8 Many ad circulars
9 Law school newcomers
10 Yielded
11 Old carrier
12 Project, as cheer
13 Aply named red tabby who played Cat in “Breakfast at Tiffany’s”
14 Police radio lingo
21 Knucklehead
24 Manhattan district
26 Spray targets
28 Cream of the crop
30 Magazine revenue item
32 Airport on Flushing Bay, briefly
34 Sewer’s target
36 Safe call
37 Bumps along
38 Close to the coast
39 A, B or C, e.g.
41 Deadline, metaphorically
42 Upset
43 “A cinch”
46 Managed
49 Public promenade
50 Raeburn van __, cartoonist who drew “Abbie an’ Slats”
53 Defense structure
54 “The Long, Hot Summer” vixen __ Varner
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Office hands

Someone who has soft hands for doing office work and little or no hard labor.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com
Arts
Fresno State's Social Science

DOWNTOWN DOWN

By Bethany Rangel
The Collegian

Nightlife, bright lights, crowds of people—these elements may describe some cities thriving downtown. For the city of Fresno, however, a thriving downtown may be a distant goal rather than a reality.

Fresno's downtown, aside from housing the city’s courthouse, Fresno Housing Authority office, Police Department and other government agencies, serves little purpose as a center of consumer interest. Many are simply too afraid to venture there because of the large population of homeless, the deteriorating buildings and the lack of resources offered.

The Fresno Bee’s crime map lists downtown Fresno as having less violent crime than surrounding areas. One reason for these numbers, Bee reporter Russell Clemmings supposed, is that the area is virtually vacant after the work hours, leaving few people to serve as potential crime victims. Still, the opinion remains that downtown is a “dangerous, ridden with homeless, and an “eyesore.”

Although, downtown was once the thriving center of Fresno, downtown currently falls short. As recent as the 1960s, Fresno’s downtown was a center of commerce and community activity; The Fulton Mall, a focal point for shoppers, gained national recognition for being the first of its kind, according to the Fresno County and City Historical Society. Downtown Fresno offers smaller, locally owned restaurants, vintage and thrift stores and outdoor produce markets. Despite being located near Highway 180 and 41, the area remains deserted.

Dr. Michelle DenBeste, of Downtown Fresno offers smaller, of its kind, according to the Fresno national recognition for being the first Downtown and Community Revitalization Department. Students were asked to create business plans for redeveloping the area.

Mechanical and industrial engineering major Casey Ogden said he does not consider downtown to be a place he would spend time in. The 22-year-old said he rarely goes there.

“The gang population in Fresno scares me,” Ogden said. Even though the Fresno Bee’s crime map lists downtown as having fewer violent crimes than some of its bordering neighborhoods, Ogden’s fear may hold some validity in regards to Fresno as a whole.

CityRating.com listed Fresno as having 1.3 times the national average of violent crime in 2003. Along with Ogden’s fear, his distaste for the scenery also keeps him away.

“Remove all gangs and signs of gangs, clean up the buildings and remodel,” Ogden said. These kinds of actions, he believes, would make downtown much more appealing.

Rodriguez fears there are not enough businesses and attractions for Fresno, “Downtown Fresno is lacking some validity in regards to Fresno as a whole.”

“Families are unable to seek affordable housing close to the services they need, such as our agency (the Fresno Housing Authority),” Rodriguez explained.

Rodriguez hopes redevelopment and preservation of the area will occur to create a community that includes retail, restaurants, residential areas and attractions like museums and family events.

“Downtown Fresno is lacking attractions,” Rodriguez mused.

“During baseball games or shows at the Convention Center, people tend to head back to other areas for dining.”

Mayor Ashley Swearengin aspires to make Fresno a “top-tiered city.” However, Swearengin stated on her website that one of the biggest roadblocks to redevelopment has been the City’s own laws and ordinances.

Some of the changes Swearengin hopes for include improved parking, façade improvement programs, improved directional street signs, vacant building codes and expedited permits for business developers.

The path to a revitalized downtown includes many aspects and comes with numerous challenges. Students like Casey Ogden want to feel safe. Employees like Mary Rodriguez want affordability and convenience.

“If we want to improve our confidence and sell image as a city, Fresno must have a vibrant downtown,” Swearengin explained.

“Otherwise, it will be impossible to meet our long-term goals in creating jobs, reducing crime and improving distressed neighborhoods.”

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Fresno State University, Fresno, CA. 93740 (559) 278-4000"
LOS ANGELES _

Three years after the Los Angeles Archdiocese agreed to the largest priest abuse settlement in U.S. history, a key element of that agreement - public release of accused priests' personnel files - remains unfulfilled.

Release of the documents rivaled monetary compensation as the central part of the $660-million settlement agreement in 2007.

In 2002, documents filed under seal in court and later made public showed the archdiocese knew about child molestation allegations against priests but did little more than transfer them from parish to parish.

UNITED NATIONS _

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Monday demanded strong U.N. sanctions against Iran for defying demands to halt its enrichment of uranium. The public clash over the aims of Iran’s nuclear program dominated the opening day of a major U.N. review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the 40-year-old pact underpinning the global system to curb the spread of nuclear arms.

“Iran will not succeed in its efforts to divert and divide,” Clinton said. “The treaty is weakened when a state flouts the rules and develops illicit nuclear weapons capabilities.”

COLUMBIA, S.C._

South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster has cleared Gov. Mark Sanford of any criminal conduct for two trips to South America to meet his Argentine lover and, also, his use of state aircraft, upgraded airfare and campaign money. McMaster, a Republican candidate for governor, said Monday that the “evidence does not support, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the governor knowingly, willfully and intentionally set out to break state law.”

In March, Sanford settled 37 civil charges with the State Ethics Commission related to his use of upgraded airfare, state aircraft and campaign money. Sanford admitted no wrongdoing but agreed to pay $74,000 in fines and an additional $68,223 to reimburse airfare, use of state aircraft and campaign money.

SAN JOSE, Calif._

In a multimillion-dollar political battle between oil companies and Silicon Valley tech leaders, opponents of California’s landmark global warming law turned in about 800,000 signatures Monday for a November ballot measure to suspend AB 32, which was signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006.

Opponents say it will cost California jobs during a bad economy by increasing the price for fuels such as gasoline, and electricity bills. Supporters say the law already is helping the state’s green tech and renewable energy industries by driving demand for cleaner energy.

PHILADELPHIA _

This weekend dozens of versions of Children’s Tylenol and several other infants’ and children’s medications made by Johnson & Johnson’s McNeil Consumer Healthcare division were recalled.

Parents voiced fears to pediatricians and pharmacists, and asked questions about the affected products - two dozen formulations of Tylenol, known generically as acetaminophen, along with liquid formulations of Motrin (ibuprofen), Benadryl (diphenhydramine) and Zyrtec (cetirizine). So far, the advice for parents is clear: McNeil says they should stop using any of the affected products, meaning any liquid formulation of those medications made by McNeil.

SAN FRANCISCO _

Consumer watchdog groups say a draft congressional bill falls short of its proclaimed intention of protecting the privacy of consumers using the Internet.

The bill would require companies to disclose when they collect information from consumers and use it to target ads. Consumers could opt out of targeted advertisements. Marketers would have to get consumers’ explicit consent before collecting sensitive information such as race or sexual orientation.
Running toward the cure

Sticking with the events “24 rule,” organizers hope to raise at least $24,000

By Tara Albert
The Collegian

The Relay For Life event at Fresno State is centered on the campus and in the community.

The goal of the 24-hour walk is to have 24 teams and the facebook fans raise $24,000 for cancer, said Chariya Newton, the senior Relay For Life manager.

Newton said the facebook fans will represent the 2,400 college students that will be diagnosed with cancer this year. She said the 24-hour period represents a day in the life of someone with cancer.

“Cancer never sleeps, so we don’t either,” she said.

The event sits close to home for Newton, who first got involved with Relay For Life about 14 years ago.

Newton was a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, when she joined a team to support a coworker diagnosed with lung cancer.

Since then, she became an employee for the American Cancer Society when she was diagnosed with endometrial cancer in 2000. The cancer spread to her uterus, forcing her to have a hysterectomy.

“This year 1 celebrate 19 years of being cancer free,” Newton said.

The event is a fundraiser and a way to educate college students about how to prevent cancer, create awareness, help raise funds towards research and help provide funds towards programs and services for cancer patients and their families.

Fresno State has an opportunity to educate college students about how to prevent cancer, create awareness, help raise funds towards research and help provide funds towards programs and services for cancer patients, Newton said.

The American Cancer Society set the fundraising goal for $15,000, but Newton said organizers hope to raise at least $24,000 to keep with the “24 Rule.”

According to the Relay For Life website, the first relay was in May of 1985. Gordy Klett, a surgeon, wanted to get more funds for the local American Cancer Society; so he spent 24 hours circling the track at Baker Stadium at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash. The 24-hour relay raised $2,700 during the first year from donations by nearly 300 friends, patients and families. Klett then worked with a small committee to plan subsequent relay events that featured teams of runners and walkers.

During their first team relay in 1986, 19 teams raised about $3,000.

Ashley Lyons-Robinson, a business major at Fresno State, is the event chair for the Relay For Life event at Fresno State.

Lyons-Robinson said that teams camp out, walk the track, participate in activities and enjoy the music and entertainment throughout the day during the relay.

She said most relay events are community based, but this event is college oriented.

The money raised from the event will go to the American Cancer Society, which provides different services for cancer patients and their families.

“Ninety-two cents of every dollar goes to funding cancer research and providing services,” Lyons-Robinson said.

Each team must have at least one person on the track at all times for the entire 24-hour period.

The walk starts at 9 a.m. Saturday and ends at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Saturday. Lyons-Robinson said the event will finish with the fight back and closing ceremonies, which start at 9 a.m.

The event will be at the grassy area near the Science I building.

The event is hosted in conjunction with the American Cancer Society and Colleges Against Cancer. The organizations are also joining 376 colleges and universities across the nation to host relays on their campuses.

This is the first college Relay For Life at Fresno State, and it is just the beginning.

Newton said, “If our inaugural event, so many more years to come,” she said.

So far, the event has 26 teams and more than $4,000, Lyons-Robinson said.

“Cancer never sleeps, so we don’t either.”
— Chariya Newton,
Senior Relay For Life manager

QUALITY: Geographical make-up of the Valley combines with the heat to worsen pollution

CONTINUED from page 1

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COMMUTER: Fresno State, a commuter campus, services students across the Central Valley

CONTINUED from page 1
to get gas in her Nissan Sentra about two to three times a week because of her daily commute from Hanford to Fresno. She said she’s fortunate because she lives with her parents and they help her out with her gas expenses.

“The commute just sucks,” Silva said. “I used to live in Fresno and lived 10 minutes away from campus. Going from a 10-minute drive to an hour drive is a big difference.”

After living in Fresno for two years, Silva had to move back in with her parents because she could no longer afford to live on her own.

“I was supposed to graduate [last] May, but I ended up not passing a class,” Silva said. “I couldn’t afford to live on my own with the income that I had because I was working at Target at the time. So, I had to move back home with my parents, because that was the only option.”

 Mandatory classes for her athletic training option were mostly at 8 a.m., Silva said, which meant she had to wake up extra early to deal with traffic to make it to class on time.

“I really didn’t have a choice, because the classes were only offered in the morning,” Silva said. “I hate it, I really do. I usually have to go every morning just to get coffee, but I need to keep myself awake while I’m driving. It’s draining.”

Silva said the timely drive home always resides in the back of her mind when she makes plans to hang out with her friends in Fresno.

“If I was going to be spending time with friends I would have to try to find arrangements to stay at someone’s house, because I knew it would be too late for me to drive back home,” Silva said. “Most of the time, it just gets to a point where I say no because I have to drive home.”

Silva said with the amount of money she spends on car maintenance, gas and other necessities she purchased throughout the day, it would probably be the equivalent to putting up the money to live in Fresno.

“I never really sat down to think if I spend as much as when I was living in Fresno, it would probably almost come close to it, just by the gas,” Silva said. “If there was something like a shuttle from Hanford to Fresno I would probably take that option. I wouldn’t have to put the miles on my car and I wouldn’t have to spend it on gas.”

The NSSE study on commuter students focused on the time commitment students had to make as well as the quality of education compared to students who lived on-campus within walking distance from campus.

The report found that students who commute are less likely to be as engaged in the campus community with co-curricular activities, internships, study-abroad programs and community service, because their time constraints.

Romano said she commute prevents her from participating in campus activities and feels as if she’s leading two separate lives.

In Fresno State’s Campus Master Plan, one of the goals proposed by the school is to “broaden the experience of commuter students with diverse facilities and a range of transportation options.”

Amy Armstrong, public information officer for the University Police Department, said various programs offered at Fresno State are set up to help commuter students. Programs like the Commuter Services and Red Bike Program are designed to help lessen the cost and time most commuting students face.

Fifty-seven percent of seniors commuting to only 27 percent of first-year freshmen, concluded the study. There was also a much more likely to devote more time taking care of dependents and working off campus.

The study found that overall, commuter students were just as engaged in their education as students who lived on or off campus. The examination of the matter is that these students were not their choice, because they immigrated at a very early age.

Amid a sea of American flags and people in white shirts showing the “Reform Immigration for America” emblem, messages directed toward President Barack Obama crowded the streets.

“Obama, we voted for you,” read a sign. “Obama, you lied to us,” read another while a young man wearing a graduation gown displayed “Obama, I have a dream. You have the solution. We have the votes,” on a large cardboard sign.

Also, “Brown is not illegal” was held high on a sign in reply to Arizona’s new law.

Police escorted marchers as they approached intersections. A man played theme songs such as “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “Respect” while leading the crowd with chants from a sound system set up in the back of a truck covered in American flags.

Fresno State art major Mauro Carrera, a member of the Brown Berets, said the group fought for unity, equal rights and a comprehensive immigration reform.

“This movement calls for the students to implement their student duty in a call for social justice,” Carrera said. “It is part of an ideal university-education curriculum to demand for equality.”

Carrera supported undocumented students saying education is a basic human right.

To close the event, speakers at Eaton Plaza expressed the need to end immigration raids saying it separates innocent families. They also opposed a temporary guest program arguing it would allow employers to discriminate permit holders.

Camille Russell, the Peace Fresno president, urged the Obama and Congress to address the broken immigration system.

“We need a humane and just immigration reform,” Russell said. “We need it now”

PROTEST: Sparked by Arizona law

CONTINUED from page 1
said. “Certain people may conveniently categorize these students as distant. The truth of the matter is that these students are our best friends, our sisters [and] our brothers.”

Sanchez said, many times the immigration status of these students was not their choice, because they immigrated at a very early age.

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Paxson speaks from the heart

Vice President of the Chicago Bulls apologized for his incident with Bulls coach.

By David Haugh

McClatchy Tribune

If John Paxson really wanted to clear his conscience Tuesday, he could have added apologies for trading LaMarcus Aldridge for Tyrus Thomas or giving Luol Deng a $71 million contract, among other things.

But the Bulls vice president saying he was sorry for his role in the physical confrontation March 30 with coach Vinny Del Negro over Joakim Noah’s minutes represented enough public flogging for one day. What Paxson’s mea culpa lacked in punctuality, bet- ter late than never, I suppose, it made up for in sincerity.

“I hold myself accountable,” said Paxson, who cleared the air with Del Negro at a morning meeting. “I am not at all proud of how I handled the situation. I was trying to protect our player and I went about it the wrong way. It was a heat-of-the-moment type of thing.”

Of the three men who read their lines on cue at the Berto Center production, Paxson’s words came across as the most genuine and believable if Paxson, Del Negro and general manager Gar Forman had shown as much respect for each other on the job the past two years as they did Tuesday for the show. The Bulls never would have needed to call a news conference to correct a mistake.

Yet it was good for Chicago to see Paxson out of the basketball bunker and better to hear him take responsibility for something he should have owned up to a month ago. He looked uneasy, sounded nervous and made some of us worry about the condition of his back because it can’t be easy to carry the weight of the world on one’s shoulders.

“I’m comfortable with who I am as a person,” said Paxson, appearing anything but. Still, he spoke from the heart, most poignantly when suggesting that one instance of inappropriate anger doesn’t define who he has been to the Bulls organization. That must have been the same rationale Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf applied when deciding not to discipline or fire Paxson the way some CEOs would for attacking a subordinate.

Objectively, it’s a benefit of the doubt Paxson has earned in this city. A couple of the other things Paxson mentioned earned only doubts.

instance, somebody please explain how a coach the Bulls fired with a year left on his contract qualifies as a success in Paxson’s eyes.

Vinny didn’t fail, and I don’t think we did,” Paxson said. And James Johnson was the steal of last year’s NBA draft.

Paxson’s other curious revelation came when he said in passing that “I don’t have the ability to overlook bad things or anything like that.” Unless I missed a press release, Paxson’s title of vice president of basketball operations would suggest otherwise.

More likely, Paxson made the com- ment to stress the not-so-subtle mes- sage the Bulls sought to spread that Forman fired Del Negro, Forman will conduct the search for his replacement and Forman probably will pick up the new guy at O’Hare.

A jury of Bulls officials will offer input during the deliberation process, but apparently a Forman will have the final say.

Message received. But it’s hard to imagine Paxson taking a back seat if the Bulls pursue Doug Collins or, gulp, drag this out and Phil Jackson leaves the Lakers as speculated if they’re upset in the Western Conference play-offs.

I don’t know if Forman can find the right coach, but I suspect the Lake County housing market would recover quicker if he were a realtor. The guy can flat-out sell, a word that came up several times during his 40 minutes at the microphone.

Naturally, in case Chris Bosh was listening to the pitch, Forman accentu- ated the positives about the solid struc- ture of the Bulls (tradition, Derrick Rose, Noah) while glossing over any possible cracks in the foundation (Paxson’s temper tantrum, Reinsdorf’s commitment given his pending pur- chase of the Coyotes).

“We’re looking for the best coach, teacher, leader,” Forman said. “At this point, I wouldn’t rule out anybody.”

I would. Eliminate every candidate without NBA head coaching experience _ no more Del Negro-esque experiments. Simultaneously, stay away from college coaches as they historically struggle making the transition. That includes Kentucky’s John Calipari, who coached Rose at Memphis and has ties to LeBron James. Chicago has enough pressure with corrupt pasts.

If Forman really didn’t have a list of candidates, as he claimed at the dais, it had to be because he left it in his car. The Bulls have been researching possi- bilities since Christmas.

As for Forman’s off-hand remark that the search could spill into July, he can’t be serious. If Forman still is looking in July after the search for Del Negro took six days, his job may be the next one the Bulls try to fill.

Forman never has faced a bigger basketball decision. The right choice, coupled with the right free agent, immediately could catapult the Bulls into Eastern Conference title conten- tion. The wrong choice could result in another public apology for negligence if the Bulls squander this opportunity. Happy hunting.
Walk-on or walk-off

Many Fresno State students pursue the student-athlete life even though they were not recruited.

By Brianna Campbell

The Collegian

Around this time of year we hear about athletes signing letters of intent to put on a Bulldog uniform for the upcoming season. What we don't always hear about are the athletes that are not approached, but instead go to the coach and ask for a chance to make the team.

Walk-on athletes are non-scholarship athletes that train hard to get a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a collegiate team without being asked.

Many Fresno State students take the risk, and things like that. "I basically worked out every day, worked on my footwork, ball accuracy and things like that," Stirewalt said. "I was very happy that I had a chance to come up and actually play Division 1 sports," Stirewalt said. "I was very excited to come up here."

Unlike Stirewalt, Fresno native Showron Glover didn't have as smooth of a transition on to the basketball team.

"The 5-foot-10-inch guard from Sunnyside High School averaged 18 points, 5.9 assists and 4.6 steals per game. He then continued his career at Fresno City College and continued on to College of the Sequoias, over the summer. But that didn't stop Glover from spending many hours working on my footwork, ball accuracy and things like that."

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Fantasy is where it is at

Undrafted to Super Bowl

Worrell knows what it feels like to go undrafted and to work hard for a free agent contract.

By Vongni Yang

The Collegian

Fantasy baseball is the reason baseball is still America’s most popular sport. (I love making blanket statements that nobody can prove. It’s fun. Try it sometime.)

Think about it. Baseball is boring unless it’s the plays-offs or your favorite team is playing. Nobody wants to watch the Brewers play the Pirates. Heck, I’d rather watch a Spongebob Squarepants rerun.

So why do people still watch? Fantasy baseball. That Brewers-Pirates game that you normally skip over for Spongebob? Now that Ryan Doumit of the Pirates and Rickie Weeks of the Brewers are on my fantasy team, I have a vested interest in the outcome of the game. I’m interested in what happens, that’s what it’s all about, without fantasy baseball.

But fantasy is more than that. See, guys like to be in control. That’s why we play fantasy baseball. We’re smarter than we think on balls in play (BABIP—Really a stat geek, batting average) and on-base plus slugging (OPS) and, if you’re paying attention, how well the coach, general manager and owner. And we like it that way.

It adds to the arguments that we used to have, except now we’re more sophisticated. Our grandfathers argued over Willie, Mickey and the Duke. Now, we can argue over Albert, A-Rod and Hanley, except now instead of arguing batting average and home runs, we pull out on-base percentage, on-base plus slugging (OPS) and, if you’re really a stat geek, batting average on balls in play (BABIP—not exactly the catchiest acronym). We’re smarter than we used to be, and that’s thanks to fantasy.

Without fantasy baseball, the sport would not be as fun as it is now. And isn’t that what it’s all about? Sports like horseracing, boxing and, no offense to photo editor Matt Weir, hockey aren’t as followed as they used to be, partly because a large segment of the sports watching public thinks they’re boring. Baseball has bucked that trend because of fantasy.

It’s time we embrace it. Now, excuse me, I have to go see how Doumit and Weeks are doing. I need a win this week.

Second chance at NCAA

With a big bid into the NCAA Tournament, men’s tennis has a chance to prove themselves.

By Megan Morales

The Collegian

After suffering a heartbreaking loss to Hawaii, it was tough to stay positive, but the Bulldogs were determined to make a run at the NCAA title. They went on to win the WAC championship, advancing to the NCAA tournament.

The team, coaches and media gathered for a selection party on campus. It was a long-awaited opportunity for the Bulldogs, who had struggled in recent years. In the NCAA tournament, they faced tough opponents, but the Bulldogs proved themselves to be a strong team.

After losing in the final match for the WAC Championship title, Tejasvi Veerepalli is ready to battle back for the NCAA Tournament. After suffering a heartbreaking loss to Hawaii, the Bulldogs were determined to make a run at the NCAA title. They went on to win the WAC championship, advancing to the NCAA tournament.

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