Fresno State Budget cuts: Where is the money going?

By Jessica Chamberlain
The Collegian

As California faces a huge budget deficit and budget cuts all around, so does the California State University system. Fresno State will be faced with the challenge of overcoming a huge budget cutback, and the students are bearing the brunt of the cost.

During a press conference last month, President Welty opened his speech by saying, "I wish I could tell you that the fiscal situation was improving, but it is not; it’s gotten worse." Fresno State is facing an 18 percent reduction in the school’s budget from the state, which equates to approximately $28 million that needs to be made up elsewhere.

This is not good news for students. Two questions remain: What happened to the money and what is going to be done about it?

Breakdown: How tuition is split up

With each passing semester, students are encountering higher tuition fee costs that leaves them wondering where it all goes even as the fees increase.

Sharon Briscoe, the budget and treasury manager at Fresno State, provided a breakdown of where the tuition and fees go and what they fund.

"Student tuition revenue is the cornerstone of our budget," Briscoe said. "CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed said, "It is not going to be pretty, about 84 percent of our budget is tied up in salaries and benefits."

He continues on to say that they will have to downsize the CSU to make up for the state’s budget cuts.

A 10 percent fee increase has been implemented for this semester along with fee increases from previous semesters to help close the gap left in Fresno State’s budget. President Welty reported that with this increase in tuition there has been an increase in revenue of $8 million.

That seems to be an effective move, but looking deeper, more money can be found.

The Campaign for Fresno State has also raised $160 million for the university as of Dec. 31, 2010. President Welty also reported that 80 percent of that amount would be used for academic enhancement.

"Dollars received through the Campaign must be used as donors direct," director of Campaign communications Jill C. Wagner said. "Most contributions are ‘designated,’ but it is not; it’s gotten worse." Fresno State is facing an 18 percent reduction in the school’s budget from the state, which equates to approximately $28 million that needs to be made up elsewhere.

This is not good news for students. Two questions remain: What happened to the money and what is going to be done about it?

New fraternity makes its way to campus

By Dana Hull
The Collegian

Alpha Sigma Phi has arrived on campus, and they are looking to recruit.

Matt Humberger, director of chapter and colony development, said he is looking for a group of founding fathers that want to be part of something new and something that compliments the other fraternities. Fresno State would be the only four-year university in Central California to have an Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

“We have five groups in Northern California, and we want to go into Southern California,” he said. “Before we do that, we wanted to have something in between Northern and Southern California that we can have be the staple for the state — the premier chapter — and we are hoping that the group we create in Fresno can be that.”

Humberger said that before the fraternity can become an official chapter, it must become a colony first.

“IT’s just a lot of getting your name out to the campus, recruiting more individuals and starting to operate like an actual fraternity does,” he said. “Typically it could take anywhere between nine and 15 months.”

Ryan Bakita, expansion coordinator for Alpha Sigma Phi, has been on campus since Jan. 31 giving presentations and holding meetings for students who are interested in joining.

“We couldn’t be more excited to be on a campus like this,” Bakita said in a release. “The community has been so welcoming and we’re thrilled to create a group of like-minded men who want to collaborate with the university and the Greek community to make Fresno State an even better place than it already is.”

Bakita said that in the short time they have been on campus, they have already had several individuals who are interested in joining their organization.

“We are well on our way to being successful here,” he said.

Alpha Sigma Phi was founded in 1845 at Yale University. More recently, the fraternity has expanded to other California State Universities including Sonoma State, San Francisco State and California State University, Chico.
EDITORIAL

Should the U.S. assist Egypt?

Where will events in Egypt go from here? This is the question the Obama Administration must be asking itself.

Among the intelligencegentsia, two positions have been staked out. One side proclaims support for the protesters demanding to be free — liberté, égalité, fraternité is their cry; the other side wonders why the United States is treating its ally in such a poor manner — send in the tanks, they say.

Obama is notable in that he has taken neither of these positions.

The administration’s policy could rightly be described as one of trying to pick the winner. Whatever this is, it is not leadership.

Undoubtedly, this is a difficult situation. Hosni Mubarak, the president of Egypt, has been a steadfast ally in the region for 30-plus years. Since Anwar Sadat, Mubarak’s predecessor in Egypt, was assassinated for signing a peace treaty with Israel, Mubarak has almost single-handedly kept peace between Israel and the Arab states in the Middle East.

Egypt is the region’s largest country, and no jolt against Israel could be successfully attempted without Egypt’s acquiescence. Mubarak has been indispensable in this regard.

He has also been a dictatorial thug. He has tortured foes, imprisoned journalists and made a mockery of the democratic process.

This is what makes the Obama position reasonable. It doesn’t make it the right one.

If Egypt continues to descend into chaos, instability will reach other Arab countries. It started in Tunisia and has already extended in part to Jordan and Yemen.

It sounds right and just to American ears to hear people from other countries speaking of throwing off years of tyranny and oppression and of instituting true democracy and free and fair elections.

But democracy means nothing without freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the rule of law.

This has been shown throughout the Middle East: wherever democracy has been instituted in the region, radical Islamic groups have taken power, notably in Iran with the Ayatollahs in 1979, and in Gaza with Hamas in 2006. But what should the United States do?

What can we even do? America is hated all around the Arab world, with Al-Qaeda even being more popular in some countries. If there’s one thing we’ve learned from the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts, its that there is a limit to what the United States can do around the world.

But we must try to shape events in Egypt in a way that coincides with our interests.

It is clear that Mubarak cannot stay in power now, if he were to remain in power, those who protested his government would have their lives endangered, as some have already experienced. We should use the power of the purse (the U.S. government gives billions of dollars in aid to Egypt every year) to persuade Mubarak to step down as soon as possible.

It is equally clear that Egypt will be prone to anti-American and anti-Israel sentiments if leaders from the opposition movement were to take power. Mubarak’s vice president, Gen. Omar Suleiman, should take the reins of government. He has the respect of the Egyptian military, one of the most popular institutions in the country, and is removed enough from Mubarak that he could realistically command the support of a majority of Egyptians.

But democracy is not the answer in Egypt. Better the devil you know than the devil you don’t.

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

Gina Miller

“Democracy means nothing without freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the rule of law.”
Conspiracy charges filed against Muslim students

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) A group of Muslim students accused of disrupting a speech by Israeli ambassador Michael Oren at the University of California, Irvine, were charged Friday with misdemeanor conspiracies counts, ending speculation about what would come from their actions nearly a year ago.

The 11 students each face one count of misdemeanor conspiracy to disturb a meeting and one count of misdemeanor conspiracy to disturbance of a meeting, the Orange County district attorney’s office said. If convicted, they could face anywhere from probation and community service to six months in jail.

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The students were arrested Feb. 8, 2010, after shouting and protesting during Oren’s speech on U.S.-Israel security, forcing the diplomat to stop his remarks for 20 minutes. Eight of the students were from UC Irvine, and three were from the nearby campus of the University of California, Riverside.

Muslim students from the Irvine school protested outside the district attorney’s office earlier this week after word leaked that a grand jury had been convened in the case.

Jacqueline Goodman, an attorney for all 11 defendants, said they would plead not guilty at an arraignment scheduled for March 11.

District Attorney Tony Rackauckas defended his decision Friday, saying the protest was a pre-mediated attempt to quash the speaker and prevent the 500 to 700 people gathered there from hearing his remarks.

That made the incident about more than free speech, he said.

“This is a clear violation of the law, and failing to bring charges against this conduct would amount to failure to uphold the Constitution,” he said in a statement. “We must decide whether we are a country of laws or a country of anarchy. We cannot tolerate a pre-planned violation of the law, even if the crime takes place on a school campus and even if the defendants are college students.”

Goodman said that just because the district attorney can bring charges doesn’t mean he should, particularly in this case where the students protested peacefully and didn’t resist arrest.

“The district attorney enjoys wide discretion as to which crimes he’s going to choose to prosecute. We don’t prosecute every crime ever committed. We don’t have the unlimited resources to do that,” Goodman said. “It becomes very dangerous to a democracy when we allow the district attorney to prosecute a peaceful protest on a campus based on an interpretation of that speech.”

The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California said it is “deeply troubled” by the decision and called on the district attorney to dismiss the charges immediately.

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BUDGET: CONTINUED from page x

meaning they are directed to scholarships or a particular program or fund. Unrestricted gifts are typically less than one percent of total gifts each year.

“The impact of gifts to Fresno State is felt campus-wide.” Wagner added “Gifts are supporting scholarships, equipment, research programs, building enhancements and experiences for students and faculty that wouldn’t happen without private support.”

Fresno State is also making travel cutbacks, leaving positions unfilled, halting maintenance and major projects. But on top of all that, enrollment will also be looked at, the university will make cuts to how many students can be enrolled and who will be admitted to the school.

Progress is being made at various levels, but the brunt of the cutbacks will be felt by students, staff and faculty.
Changes to GRE could affect students' futures

By Beeta Taidi-Laskowski
The Collegian

Students applying to graduate schools could potentially be affected by the upcoming revisions to the Graduate Record Exam, more commonly known as the GRE. Graduate programs review a student's GRE scores to determine his or her readiness for graduate-level work. The GRE General Test has three sections: analytical writing, verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning.

The Education Testing Services website says the changes being made to each section create a "friendlier, more technically advanced" test.

"GRE scores are valid for five years after a student has taken the test," Linda Lazalde of graduate admissions said. So for the next four years, there will be two types of scoring that will be observed. There is, however, the chance that certain programs will not recognize the old scores, which may force some students to retake the exam.

The new test places a greater emphasis on data interpretation, real-life scenarios and provide specific responses to showcase their skills in directly responding to questions. The revised GRE will no longer have analogies or antonyms and will instead center on higher cognitive skills.

The revised test has been geared to be more closely aligned with the way students will be learning in their graduate studies. Students are expected to rely less on their memorization skills and more on their ability to comprehend what they are reading.

In addition to the way the test questions will be formed, there will be other changes to the test itself. The scoring system will change from a 10-point increment to a one-point increment. Students to sign up and "book" slots to take the GRE. If the method to sign up is altered, there is a possibility that students will sign up for an already full testing session. The testing center will not know how they are affected until the change takes effect.

The revisions could not only impact the students, but the faculty and administrative staffs. It is unclear whether or not those who administer the tests will see a change in the way they give the exam.

"The biggest impact that this campus would have is that we're computer based," Linda Ensch, the test coordinator of the GRE, said. Ensch administers the GRE throughout the year in the lower level of the testing center on campus, in the Family Food and Science building. The testing center on campus allows students to sign up and "book" slots to take the GRE. If the method to sign up is altered, there is a possibility that students will sign up for an already full testing session. The testing center will not know how they are affected until the change takes effect.

There will also be a way for students to earmark questions that they are unsure of and return to them at a later time. The revisions could not only impact the students, but the faculty and administrative staffs. It is unclear whether or not those who administer the tests will see a change in the way they give the exam. "The biggest impact that this campus would have is that we’re computer based," Linda Ensch, the test coordinator of the GRE, said. Ensch administers the GRE throughout the year in the lower level of the testing center on campus, in the Family Food and Science building. The testing center on campus allows

"We prepare people for how graduate studies in English are conducted."

— Lisa Weston, English Department Chair

Students have the option of taking the GRE at the testing center on campus or at Prometric Testing Center on Barstow Avenue.

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Students should continue to turn to their professors for guidance of ways to prepare for their future schooling. The faculty will not be changing any of their daily routine.

"What we do is teach discipline-standard curriculum," English department chair Lisa Weston said. "We prepare people for how graduate studies in English are conducted."

Free preparation tests have been available since July 2010. Students will be able to register for the revised GRE test on March 15. The revised version will take effect on Aug. 1.

The next available test offered at Fresno State is on April 9. Students should register by March 4.
George Strait and Reba McEntire perform at Save Mart Center

Arena housed thousands of local country music fans Friday night

By Karlena Franz
The Collegian

The Save Mart Center was packed almost to capacity Friday night for two big country stars Reba McEntire and George Strait.

McEntire and Strait’s fellow country star LeAnn Womack opened the concert. She is known for her chart-topper hit “I Hope You Dance,” a song on her album of the same title in 2000.

Reba McEntire kept the audience on their toes with her performance. She played a number of older songs and newer songs that audience members of each generation could enjoy. Songs like “Consider Me Gone” and “I Want A Cowboy” from her 2009 album, “Keep on Loving You,” had the ladies singing along.

Other than putting on a great show, McEntire sounded amazing. She hit every note and sounded like she just came out of the studio, if not better.

McEntire also sang “If I Were A Boy,” written by Beyonce, and “Because Of You” by Kelly Clarkson, both of which became popular with Reba fans. Womack came back on stage to do a duet with McEntire for the song “Does He Love You,” a song about two women sharing one man.

Melissa Peterman from McEntire’s sitcom “Reba” came onstage wearing a George Strait T-shirt, an “I Love Reba” headband and a Budweiser bottle in hand. McEntire was about to perform the sitcom’s theme song “I’m A Survivor” when Peterman interrupted her. The funny skit left fans laughing and wanting more.

Just when everyone thought McEntire’s performance was finished, she surprised the crowd by coming back onto the stage to sing “Fancy” in a yellow taxicab and a shimmy red dress similar to the one she wore in her 1991 music video for the song.

McEntire was entertaining, funny and a pleasure to listen to. She definitely made this performance memorable in so many ways.

The crowd went wild when George Strait entered the stage. He started off with one of his newer songs “Twang” off his 2009 album of the same title that lifted the audience to their feet.

Strait played for a solid two hours with a mixture of slow and upbeat songs.

Unlike the other performances, Strait’s show lacked the pizzazz and flair of McEntire’s. He kept things simple, by just using his singing to do the job.

Strait and his band left the stage, but that didn’t stop the audience from continuing to roar and cheer. He came back on after and played several more songs before calling it a night.
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jaime Pressly has pleaded not guilty to drunken driving charges in Los Angeles.

Court records show former “My Name is Earl” co-star entered the plea through her attorney Friday.

The office of her attorney, Richard Hutton, confirmed the plea and that the case will be called again on March 18.

The act of wishing someone ‘Happy Birthday’ in a Facebook wall post.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com

The daily crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

PUZZLE SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu


SUDOKU

9 7 4 5
5 6 8 5 2 3 7
1 3 9 8 2 6
2 4 3 5 7 8 1
3 6 9 4 7 2 8
7 5 1 3 4 6 9

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

Word of the Day

Wall an hb

History of Fresno State in Pictures

In honor of Fresno State’s centennial

The Fresno State women’s basketball and track teams teach a traditional Fresno State cheer to a group of young women athletes on National Girl and Women in Sports Day, 2002.

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

News Briefs

Brief news for the brief attention span

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jaime Pressly has pleaded not guilty to drunken driving charges in Los Angeles.

Court records show former “My Name is Earl” co-star entered the plea through her attorney Friday.

Pressly was arrested Jan. 5 after police say she was stopped for a traffic violation. She was released after posting $15,000 bail.

Records show a judge also ordered the 33-year-old model-actress to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at least twice a week.

The office of her attorney, Richard Hutton, confirmed the plea and that the case will be called again on March 18.

NEW YORK (AP) — An Australian woman says Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Soderbergh fathered her baby daughter, and she’s suing for child support.

Soderbergh’s lawyer declined to comment Thursday on the lawsuit, and his manager didn’t immediately return a telephone call.

Frances Lawrencina Anderson’s paternity suit says the “Traffic” and “Ocean’s Eleven” director helped pay medical expenses during Anderson’s pregnancy, and a DNA test showed he was the father of the girl she had in August.

COMMENT: News briefs courtesy of Associated Press.

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Bulldog Game Day

Fresno State Bulldogs (10-12, 5-6 WAC) vs. CSU Bakersfield Roadrunners (9-13, independent)

Breakdown: Bulldogs

Just when it looked like the Bulldogs were becoming the Western Athletic Conference doormat, Fresno State scored perhaps the biggest victory of the season.

Head coach Steve Cleveland's squad hung on to take out reigning WAC Tournament champion New Mexico State last Thursday in an overtime thriller, 88-83. Fresno State got a season-high 30 points from senior guard Greg Smiths 17 points. The Bulldogs will have their hands full with the Roadrunners' stellar frontcourt, especially Cal State Bakersfield two leading scorers Stephan Carter and Donovan Bragg.

Combined, Carter and Bragg score 30 points per game, nearly half of the team's average output.

Breakdown: Roadrunners

Cal State Bakersfield's season has nearly mirrored Fresno State's so far, but has been followed by recent struggles. The Roadrunners began the season 8-5, including winning five of six from Dec. 4 to Dec. 22. But after a home win against UC Riverside, things went downhill for head coach Keith Brown's team.

Brown and company lost six consecutive games following the win, and eight of nine up through 22 games. Carter has scored 16 points per game through 22 games. Carter has scored in double figures in all but five games this season.

Alongside Carter is senior Donavan Bragg who, like his running mate, has posted double figures in all but six of the Roadrunner's games.

But the Division I independent Roadrunners are near the top in rebounding per game (33) and field goal percentage (42%). Competing on the block against Fresno State center Keith Brown will be 6-foot-6-inch Rashad Savage. The junior is averaging nearly eight points per game to go along with a team-leading 10 rebounds per game. Savage has had 12 double-digit rebounding efforts this season. Smith has just four double-digit rebounding games in 2010-11.

Keys to Victory

1. Run through Okeke. The freshman is on fire. Okeke has averaged 23 points per game in Fresno State's last four contests. Getting him going early and often will be critical.

2. Get Smith going on the block. Smith will have his hands full with Roadrunner forward Rashad Savage, especially in the rebounding battle. Smith has taken his share of contact this season, but has a good chance to prove himself against a seasoned forward in Savage.

3. Enjoy time away from the WAC. The WAC season hasn't been too kind to the Bulldogs this season. But out-of-conference games in the middle of WAC play have been friendly to the 'Dogs in the past couple years.

SUPER BOWL: The Lombardi Trophy returns home as the Packers win their first Super Bowl title in the post-Brett Favre era

CONTINUED from page 8

just to make the playoffs as a wild card. Then he guided them to wins at Philadelphia, Atlanta and archival Chicago before his biggest achievement — against a Pittsburgh team ranked second in defense. They barely survived a sensational rally by the Steelers, who still own the most Super Bowl rings — six in eight tries. But Pittsburgh failed to get its third championship in six years with quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. Roethlisberger threw five interceptions with a four-game suspension for violating the NFL’s personal conduct policy. It ended with Roethlisberger standing on the sideline, his head down, hands on his hips, feeling something he never experienced: defeat in a Super Bowl.

“I feel like I let the city of Pittsburgh down,” Roethlisberger said. “It’s not a good feeling.”

Not even a dictionary black-and-gold crowd, with Terrible Towels swirling through out the $1.2 billion stadium, could make a difference for the mistake-prone Steelers. Their biggest defensive stars — Defensive Player of the Year safety Troy Polamalu and outside linebacker James Harrison — were virtually invisible. The offense didn’t seem to miss outstanding rock-star center Maurkice Pouncey, who was out with an ankle injury, but Roethlisberger only occasionally made key plays until the second half.

The biggest plays were left to Rodgers. Nick Collins with a 37-yard interception return for a TD, Jennings, Nelson, and the rest of the guys in green and gold. In the end, they gave coach Mike McCarthy his first Super Bowl victory against the team he rooted for while growing up in Pittsburgh. Besides Lombardi, Mike Holmgren — who still own the most Super Bowl rings — six in eight years — sparked a quick 77-yard drive. Favre’s countenance. It was very difficult to come back from a 21-7 halftime deficit. The Packers and the Steelers had no more comeback in them. “You play to be world champions,” Favre said. “That’s what we are today.”
By Ben Ingersoll

Baseball season is a mere days away, and head coach Mike Batesole’s team will be without one of its premier players in two full series.

Outfielder and Bulldog slugger Dusty Robinson will serve a five-game suspension to open the 2011 season for an incident that occurred in September of last year.

Just two days after turning 21 years old, Robinson was cited for driving under the influence near the Fresno State campus. The junior’s blood alcohol concentration level was nearly twice the legal limit for a 21-year-old at 0.14.

After serving less than a week of jail time, Robinson was released but had a hearing in front of Fresno State’s athletic code of conduct committee. Originally, there was no announcement of punishment for Robinson, which drew some scrutiny to the baseball program.

But this past weekend the announcement was made that Robinson would be forced to sit through the home-opening series against Gonzaga, as well as the home series with 2006 and 2007 College World Series champion Oregon State. Robinson will also sit the first game in a three-game home series with Pepperdine. He will be eligible to play his first game on Feb. 26 against the Waves.

The Bakersfield product is expected to be a key component in Fresno State’s quest to averge last season’s disappointing snub of the national tournament. The Bulldogs fell in the WAC championship game to Hawaii, missing out on the NCAA Tournament automatic qualifying bid.

But Robinson, along with the 21 other leftovers from last year’s roster, have a daunting schedule and their eyes set on Fresno State’s eighth regular-season WAC title.

The Bulldogs were picked to win the 2009 conference championship, according to the preseason poll. Robinson, meanwhile, is a preseason All-WAC selection after garnering All-WAC honors in his first two seasons in a Bulldog uniform.

Robinson had 74 hits and drove in 40 runs last year to go along with 16 home runs while hitting .308 from the plate. Altogether, Robinson already has 31 career home runs.

Bulldog slugger to sit first five games

Two-time All-WAC selection Dusty Robinson suspended for September DUI incident

By Brianna Campbell

Fresno State outfielder Dusty Robinson will sit out two home series against Gonzaga and Oregon State for being cited for DUI in September.

Robinson was cited for driving under the influence near the Fresno State campus. The junior’s blood alcohol concentration level was nearly twice the legal limit for a 21-year-old at 0.14.

Packers take home Super Bowl XLV

Pack win first title in 14 years behind Aaron Rodgers’ 304-yard, three-touchdown MVP effort

By Barry Wilner

Forget Lombardi on Broadway. Green Bay has the newest Super Bowl hit: Aaron Rodgers.

Capping one of the greatest postseasons for any quarterback, Rodgers led the Packers to their first NFL championship in 14 years Sunday, 31-25 over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Packers reclaimed the Vince Lombardi Trophy, named for their legendary coach who won the first two Lombardi Trophies, over the Packers’ record of NFL Bowl wins, and he extended the Packers’ record of NFL titles to 13, nine before the Super Bowls.

“It’s what I dreamt about as a little kid watching Joe Montana and Steve Young,” Rodgers said, “and we just won the Super Bowl.”

The Packers QB threw for 304 yards, including a 29-yard touchdown to Jordy Nelson, who had nine catches for 148 yards to make up for three big drops. Rodgers found Jennings, normally his favorite target, for 21- and 8-yard scores.

“I think this is a great day to be a great, baby,” Jennings said.

Then the favored Packers held on as Pittsburgh (14-5) stormed back.

“We’ve been a team that’s overcome adversity all year,” Jennings said, who noted injuries to Charles Woodson and Donald Driver. “Our head coach goes down, emotional in the locker room. Our No. 1 receiver goes down, more emotions are going, flying in the locker room. We find a way to bottle it up and excel it all out here on the field.”

Few teams have been as resourceful as these Packers, who couldn’t wait to touch the trophy honoring their greatest player and their title. Several of them kissed it as Cowboys great Roger Staubach walked through a line of green and gold.

“Vince Lombardi is coming back to Green Bay,” NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said as the silver prize was handed to the team.

“Vince Lombardi is coming back to Green Bay,” NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said as the silver prize was handed to the team.

Brianna Campbell | Collegian Photo

Aaron Rodgers capped off one of the best playoff performances by a quarterback in history with a thrilling 31-25 victory over Pittsburgh.

See SUPER BOWL, Page 7