Demand is on the rise for child care at universities statewide

By Michael Kincheloe
The Collegian

High unemployment numbers and dismal job prospects have prompted an increasing number of California residents to pursue higher education. Universities statewide have seen an increase in new students as well as an increase in new applications for financial aid.

More and more of these new students are parents, and often the single biggest concern of a parent attending school is child care. Concerns about whether or not their child is in the proper environment may overshadow many other issues, such as doing well on an exam.

“Our environment is designed to be an extension of the home.”
— Renee Benell, Assistant Director, EEC

Two child care facilities at Fresno State are designed to alleviate these concerns. The Campus Children’s Center opened in 1973, and prepares senior child development students to work with young children and families.

“We serve 42 families,” Child Care Program Associate Alma Major said. “Some are single parents, some are married.”

Child development laboratory facilities serving infants, toddlers, and preschool children are maintained for instructional purposes. Students study child behavior and development under the supervision of faculty and laboratory teaching staff.

A degree in child development pro...
Dogs made mistake by firing Cleveland

Well, the day we were all waiting for is here. Cleve’s gone.

Fresno State Director of Athletics Thomas Boe announced last night that men’s basketball coach Steve Cleveland would be stepping down, his new position being “special assistant to the director of athletics”—whatever that means.

Cleveland was brought to Fresno State for one reason—clean up a Fresno State men’s basketball program that was in shambles.

Preceding Cleveland was Ray Lopes, a former assistant coach at Oklahoma, who, with the rest of the team, was 123 illegal telephone calls to prospective recruits to the school. The school was placed on four years of probation for the incident, and was not able to have its full complement of scholarships until only this year.

This was the situation when Cleveland was hired. “We’re gonna do this,” he said, “we’re gonna do this the right way.”

Under this rubric, Cleveland has not had even a sniff of a winning season. Fresno State has not had even a whiff of a scandal in the program in the six years Cleveland has led the program. In addition to the men’s basketball team has vastly improved where it ultimately matters: in the classroom. As The Collegian’s Vongni Yang is reporting today, for the 2004-05 season—Ray Lopes’ final year at Fresno State—the team’s Academic Progress Rate, a measurement for academic progress, was 752, the worst score in all of the NCAA since the APR was first used.

Since Cleveland has taken over, Fresno State’s APR has risen to 928. Graduation rates have drastically increased and, at one point, the team’s GPA improved from 2.25 to 2.36.

Grantled, Cleveland has not had the greatest success on the court. He has had only two winning seasons in his six years at Fresno State, and his best finish in the Western Athletic Conference was third.

But Cleveland has never had a full slate of scholarships until this past year, and to say this season’s disappointing record was unexpected is simply dishonest. Paul George left last year for the NBA Draft, and Mike Ladd and Brandin Jennings both transferred to Washington State and Humboldt State respectively, leaving the team of its best player, a starting guard and its sixth man. He had a young team this year—the Dogs had only one senior. Neil Golubovik, Greg Smith, who made the Second Team All-WAC team this past season, may not have left Fresno State if Cleveland had stayed.

Kevin Okeake, a freshman guard, averaged 12 points per game, Tim Steed, a junior guard, averaged 6.7 points per game en route to being named the WAC All-Newcomer team and Steven Shepp, a junior point guard, averaged about 2.5 assists for every turnover, providing a nucleus for a team that could be above .500 next year for the first time since the 2006-07 season.

And Cleveland won’t be around to see if the team he bring here will fulfill its potential.

Simply put, Cleveland was given the shaft by Fresno State. He left a good job at Brigham Young University, where he reached three NCAA Tournaments, to come back to his hometown and take over a squad that was a laugh stock. He turned the Dogs into a respectable program again, and this is how he is rewarded?

The Dogs will probably be a better record next year, and many will likely say that it was time for Cleveland to go. And maybe those people are right.

But it still leaves a bad taste in my mouth. It should for you too.

I’m dismayed at the ASI senate’s decision to approve a $20,000 benefits package for full time employees. They did so under the logic that a minimum wage for persons employed at the senate was 80% of the American Council for Education’s 2006 guidelines. That’s another huge sum of money spent by hearsay. That’s another huge sum of money spent on senators simply doing their job for free, rather than looking at all the work that didn’t need to be. That $20,000 could’ve been used to fund a club’s event or expand resources.

The information presented to the senate on this issue was clearly tainted, and funnelled to them by the President’s office as third hand hearsay. That’s another huge sum of money spent that didn’t need to be. That $20,000 could’ve been used to fund a club’s event or expand resources. This is another example of senators simply doing what they’re told, rather than looking at all the facts and making the right decision, and it cost students $20,000 of their fee money this time.

I commend Senator Alicia DePezco for being the only person to vote against this. This kind of wasteful spending needs to end.

— Sean Kiernan

ASI Senator at Large Candidate

Letters to the Editor

Letters are limited to 250 words in length, must be typed, written or hand-printed, and will be subject to editing at the editor’s discretion. All letters are eligible for publication in the print, online and social media versions of The Collegian.

Letters should be sent to: The Collegian, 2230 N. Maple Ave., M/S SA42 Fresno, CA 93740-8027

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Letters to the Editor (collegian@csufresno.edu)

Facebook Response:

web-spec

Associate Students, Inc. approves employee benefits

“Why do you keep bashing on Latin Americans or more specifically Mexicans? Why so much hatred in your heart and mind?”

— Gregory Jackins, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

The Collegian

The Collegian is a student-run publication published by the Associated Students Inc. of Fresno State, a California State University, Fresno student organization. Since 1928, The Collegian has been the voice of the campus community, providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, and promoting the ideals and values of the American Dream.

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Each member of the campus community is permitted one copy of The Collegian. Subscriptions are available for $25, on a semester basis. Staff positions at The Collegian are open to students of all years, and The Collegian is a part of Associated Students Inc. of Fresno State.

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chunk of Calif. coastal highway falls into Pacific

Associated Press

CARMEL, Calif. (AP) — Engineers on Thursday were working to figure out when the road they call the scenic Big Sur region of California would know closer to the end of Thursday when the road closed the two-lane road to traffic indefinitely.

The collapse occurred south of Carmel near Rocky Creek Bridge, one of the iconic arch bridges that make the central part of California's famous 101 coastal highway known as the Pacific Coast Highway, one of the country's best-known scenic drives.

California Department of Transportation officials told The Monterey Herald they would know closer to the end of Thursday when the road would be reopened.

The closure comes as spring tourist season is about to get under way.

“If there is too much going down here to allow an extended closure,” Alan Perlmutter told the newspaper. Perlmutter is a partner in the Big Sur River Inn, one of the many inns and lodges that depend on the dollars of tourists drawn to dramatic ocean views and resort developments.

The alternate route to Big Sur from the north would require drivers to take Highway 101 inland through the Salinas Valley and drive over a steep, winding mountain road to the coast, adding at least an hour to the trip.

Radiation is one of those words that get everybody scared, like ‘plague,’” said Dr. Jonathon Fielding, Director of public health for Los Angeles County.

“It is certainly not a threat in terms of human health” added William H. Miller, a professor of nuclear engineering at the University of Missouri. Earlier this week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency deployed extra radiation detectors throughout the country to allay public concern.

On Thursday, President Barack Obama said “harmful levels” of radiation from the damaged Japanese plant are expected to reach the U.S.

California Environmental Protection Agency spokesman Damien LaVera said “The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has said they see no radiation at harmful levels coming to the United States and we’re not seeing anything that is inconsistent with that.”

An arm of the United Nations earlier this week made a forecast of the possible trajectory of the radioactive fallout from Japan. The forecast only showed how it might move, but does not have information about radiation levels.

On Thursday, air quality regulators in Southern California said they have not detected increased levels of radiation.

“So far there’s nothing out of the ordinary,” said Sam Atwood of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The agency is continuing to monitor radiation levels at its stations around the area and planned to post daily updates on its website.

In the unlikely event that the situation escalates, the California Emergency Management Agency would coordinate emergency response efforts with state and local officials.

Typically, if something very dangerous is happening, there is no threat to public health in Los Angeles County, said the agency’s acting secretary Mike Dayton.

The California Department of Public Health said on its website, the hotline, also has its own network of 8 monitors sampling the air, water, and soil for harmful substances, including radiation, said agency spokesman Ron Owens.

Farragut, Wash. in Alaska, people have also been asking where they can buy potassium iodide pills. Greg Wilkinson, a spokesman for the state Department of Health and Social Services, said the state doesn’t monitor or track private inventories, but he also said it’s seen no indication that potassium iodide will need to be taken by Alaskans in response to events in Japan.

Health officials throughout the western U.S. have said there’s no need to take them.

There are four preschool rooms, one infant room and one toddler room. School-age children are accepted during the school year.

Children, Major said. The EEC tries to create an educational setting that is as much like the child’s home and building and an infant-toddler program in the Home Management house in the studio. The CCC is located in two buildings and an infant-toddler program in the Home Management house in the studio.

Continued from page 1

3 months through 12 years.” Assistant Director Renee Benell said.

There are four preschool rooms, one infant room and one toddler room. School-age children are accepted during the school year.

Those 124 spots are in sign-up for 6 months to a year before they enroll.

Applications are ranked according to family income. Those 124 spots are in sign-up for 6 months to a year before they enroll.

Student-parents who are unable to afford day care may apply for assistance through the Department of Health and Social Services. Those who are eligible will receive subsidies from the state to help cover tuition at the EEC; those who have a developmental services for all children,” Benell said.

“Early education can have a positive effect on a child’s development and success in school. The CCC provides an educational setting that is as much like the child’s home as possible; open communication and participation are more likely to occur when the school is regarded as a friendlier environment.”

“There is a good mix of ethnicities and backgrounds among the children,” Benell said. “Our environment is designed to be an extension of the home.”

The Huggins Center has 15 teachers and 20-25 student-employee teachers. There are three staff members in administration and three more working in the kitchen.

“We have a really nice facility here,” Benell said.

 chunk of Calif. coastal highway falls into Pacific

Experts: No radiation worry for West Coast

By Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The U.S. government and scientists insist that there’s no threat of radiation from Japan endangering people on the West Coast — but that hasn’t stopped roughly 1,000 worried Californians from flooding a state hotline.

“Radiation is one of those words that get everybody scared, like ‘plague,’” said Dr. Jonathon Fielding, director of public health for Los Angeles County. “But we’re 5,000 miles away.”

Some computer models tracking the possible path of radioactive material from the stricken Japan nuclear reactors suggest it could cross the Pacific, swipe the Aleutian islands and reach Southern California as early as Friday.

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Take a bite of Fresno State's farm

Bulldog Bark arrives at the Rue and Gwen Gibson Farm Market this month

By Thomas Pearson
The Collegian

A sweet and crunchy chocolate bar is being launched at the Rue and Gwen Gibson Farm Market this month for $1.50. A mix of chocolates, roasted almonds and giant raisins grown on the Fresno State farm are fusing together to make a new treat — the Bulldog Bark.

Despite being a new item to the Farm Market, it is already the top selling item in the store.

Since coming out earlier in the month, the Farm Market has already sold approximately 900 bars.

Criminology major Billy Jones said he’s sold nearly 30 Bulldog Bark chocolate bars on March 15.

“Since the Fresno Bee came out with the article, I’ve sold tons of them,” Jones said.

The name of the Bulldog bark is spun off from “chocolate bark,” a term used in describing chocolate bars with a good amount of nuts and dried fruits in them. When the chocolate is broken into smaller pieces, it resembles chunks of tree bark.

The Bulldog Bark is shaped like a dog bone and has the Fresno State logo on it. Both milk and dark chocolate flavors are available for choosing.

Customer Kurt Kovac said the Bulldog Bark is high quality.

“It’s very flavorful with all the raisins and almonds,” Kovac said. “The dark chocolate is very smooth.”

The Farm Market worked closely with Fresno State’s Agriculture extension and local chocolate maker Guy Debbas. Debbas also dips the almonds and raisins in chocolate that are sold at the Farm Market.

Rue and Gwen Gibson Farm Market Manager Jennifer Sobieralski and Debbas created the idea after noticing the popularity of the chocolate-coated almonds and raisins sold at the Farm Market.

The pair then decided to take the two and create a chocolate bar with the Fresno State theme incorporated. The theme is woven through the wrapper’s colors and the shape.

Todd Graves designed the bar for us and we thought the design was great,” Sobieralski said. “We thought the dog bone design would speak to people more than a regular rectangle, since we are the Bulldogs.”

Sobieralski said she is also looking to sell the Bulldog Bark beyond the Farm Market. She also has high hopes that the Bulldog Bark will become a mainstream item sold along with other the big-name treats.

The 190-calorie chocolate bar wrapper states, “The proceeds of this product benefit the University Farm and the academic endeavors of the Jordan College of Agriculture and Technology.”

The Farm Market recently participated in the inaugural Fresno Food Expo on March 11. Representatives from local stores, such as Save Mart Supermarket and Costco, came and took samples of the Bulldog Bark.

Sobieralski is hopeful one of the representatives will decide to sell the Bulldog Bark at their store. She also said she hopes to be able to sell the Bulldog Bark at Fresno State football games, as well as being sold as part of fundraisers for student groups.

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USU Courtyard water leak construction finishes up

By Sergio Robles
The Collegian

Repair work is wrapping up on the northside of the University Student Union after two months of having a section of the courtyard closed.

The area around a planter was closed since the beginning of the semester for work crews to fix a water leak over by the breezeway alley.

Nursing graduate student Hayley Mehlhoff said she studies in the courtyard every day that she has class on campus. She described the closure as “not attractive, but not upsetting either.”

Mehlhoff also admitted not knowing exactly what is being repaired.

Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Operations Debbie Adishian-Astone said the source of the problem is the waterproofing membrane installed along with the building decades ago. It joins with the membrane installed when the USU Pavilion and USU Courtyard were constructed in the 1980s.

Leaks were first noticed two years ago in the area after heavy rainfall. Since then, the leak continued to pour as rain fell.

Adishian-Astone said smaller and quicker repairs were done a few years ago to stop some water seepage, but extensive work was needed this time in order to permanently repair the membrane.

Since the USU extends as far north as the courtyard, they have been in charge of contracting and paying for the repairs. The latest repairs hit an approximate cost of $58,000.

According to Adishian-Astone, “only had to make a small change in my route from my car to class.”

— Hayley Mehlhoff, Nursing graduate student

The caution tape and cones block off the USU Courtyard pathway, making pedestrians use the stairs.

However, some students are not bothered by the closure because the location is not a heavy-traffic area.

As a nursing student, the majority of Mehlhoff’s classes are located in McLane Hall, influencing her decision to study in the courtyard. The USU Courtyard is adjacent to McLane Hall.

Despite the location, Mehlhoff said the repairs aren’t inconvenient.

“Like to study outdoors when the weather is nice,” Mehlhoff said “I only had to make a small change in my route from my car to my class.”

Business major Esteban Gutierrez studies often on campus and usually does so in and around the USU Courtyard. He said he only recently noticed the work being done because bad weather had kept him studying indoors since the beginning of the semester.

“I prefer studying outside because of the sun and fresh air,” Gutierrez said.

Adishian-Astone said the USU Courtyard has been closed since work began in early January, although the actual solution to fix the leak began Jan. 29.

The caution tape and cones block off the USU Courtyard pathway, making pedestrians use the stairs.
Soil presented as source of life in documentary

By Maddie Shannon
The Collegian

Soil ain’t dirt. It takes microbes and men — the magic between them — to turn common dirt into uncommon soil.

“Symphony of Soil,” a film by director Deborah Coons Garcia that will screen at Fresno State on March 23, documents soil’s life-giving properties and how we can’t eat without it.

“People that tend to be far removed from the soil don’t understand that it’s a precious resource,” Garcia said. “We need to appreciate healthy soil and give back. We can’t just keep taking from it and taking from it.”

“Symphony of Soil” is a fascinating topic. “It’s eroded and washed down, and makes the soil a rich place for food to grow,” Willey, who regards Garcia as a brilliant filmmaker, says society finds it’s a strange place that the soil makes food and the environment healthier.

“We receive lots of sunlight and there is a lot of knowledge going into cultivation and production.”

One of the main points Garcia touches on in “Symphony of Soil” is the rate of soil depletion in today’s industrial, pesticide-dependent farming society. The loss of farmable soil, an ever-increasing problem in modern times, occurs at a rapidly growing rate.

“We do live in a flat valley, but we still experience loss of soil particles,” Benes said. “Wind erosion, as well as rain erosion, can cause nutrient depletion. We have to continue to add carbon to the soil in the form of manures and crop residue as well.”

Garcia stressed that cultivation of the soil, a basic tenet of civilization, was emphasized in early societies.

“Early religions cultivated an appreciation of the soil. People were taught to be aware of the earth, that soil was alive, that the soil makes food and the environment healthier.”

— Deborah Coons Garcia, Director of “Symphony of Soil”

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The San Joaquin Valley’s soil faces erosion, which accounts for the loss of some soil nutrients.

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The film is being screened across the country in a first-draft format that Garcia is calling “Sonatas of Soil.” “It’s a stunning film,” Willey said. “It travels all over the world and shows how soil evolves from rock. In every way, it’s beautifully done.”

The screening at Fresno State is scheduled for March 23 in the Satellite Student Union at 7 p.m.
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

Edited by Timothy E. Parker
Universal Press Syndicate

ACROSS
1 Allocate
5 Catch a second showing of 10 Liquify
14 "...Breezy Heart"
15 Pitcher
Henschel and others
16 Annoy with sweetness
17 "If the ___ fits..."
18 How dustballs begin
20 Distant settlement
22 "Aladdin" apparition
23 Bit of filly feed
24 Kama ___ (Hindu love manual)
27 Congenital deaf
31 Qualifying bouts, for short
35 "Do as I say"
36 Perfumes
38 Billy Blanks’ workout: ___
39 Makes public
41 Paternal mates
42 Honor the flag
44 Mozart’s “L’___ del Cairo”
45 Turns topsy-turvy
48 Gymnastics star Korbut
49 Excavation site
51 Authority level
53 Make good on a loan
55 Become compost
56 Broadway performer

Puzzle by Paul Jenn

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SUDOKU

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Word of the Day

Workout imposter

One who walks around in workout or gym-like clothing to give the effect that they have worked out or gone to the gym today or are planning to work out or go to the gym today when in reality they have not or are not going to.

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Source: UrbanDictionary.com

History of Fresno State in Pictures

In honor of Fresno State’s Centennial

Jesse Solis, President of Los Trabajadores de la Raza, accused the School of Social Work of discriminating against Chicanos during a noon rally in spring of 1976 in the Free Speech Area. Solis called for a Chicano curriculum for the school that would benefit Chicanos and non-Chicanos. This photo ran in the Thursday, March 18, 1976, issue of The Collegian.
Cleveland leaves stamp on academics

By Vongni Yang
The Collegian

While Steve Cleveland may have not done very well on the court — compiling a 28-90 record during his six years as Fresno State’s head coach — he did deliver on his promise to improve performance in the classroom.

His teams may have stumbled in league play and they failed to reach the NCAA Tournament, but consider their academic progress under his leadership.

Before Cleveland’s arrival, the Fresno State men’s basketball program’s academic standards were abysmal. Through former head coach Ray Lopes’ final year (2004-05), the team’s Academic Progress Rate, which measures academic progress each semester, was the worst in the nation at 725. That score is the lowest rating that a basketball program has ever been handed since the NCAA started recording that figure in beginning of that season. A perfect APR score is 1,000.

There are more than 300 Division I basketball programs in the United States, and still, Fresno State fell dead last.

“He walked into a program that had quite possibly the lowest APR,” Susan Gutkind, assistant athletic director of student-athlete services, said. “I give a lot of credit for having the worst APR in the nation at 2.296 to 2.86. It improved again a year later to 816 and again (891) and again (928).”

His APR is skyrocketing,” Gutkind said. “It’s been great. It makes everyone’s life easier.”

A rating of 925 is considered the benchmark, and Cleveland achieved that in four short years. From inheriting the worst academic program to turning it around to a respectable one is an achievement that shouldn’t be dismissed.

“I do want to make sure that I express our sincere gratitude to coach Cleveland for his services over these past six years,” Director of Athletics Thomas Boeh said. “And particularly the way he has managed the program and returning integrity back into our program, restored our academic achievement. [He’s] done a wonderful job with the student-athletes in many, many ways.”

Cleveland not only improved the APR scores, but graduation rates during his era reached an all-time high for the program. Nearly a dozen players have earned bachelor’s degree since Cleveland was named head coach, and at one point the team’s GPA improved from 2.296 to 2.86.

Ned Golubovic was just one product of Cleveland’s success off the court. The now-graduated senior Ned Golubovic credits Cleveland for his success on and off the court. The Montenegro-born forward has had an impact that the coach has had on him. Riding played for Cleveland during the first two years, and gained valuable experience from 2007-09 while serving as a graduate assistant on the Fresno State coaching staff.

Riding is now an assistant coach at Sacramento State and also serves as the team’s academic coordinator.

“Over the course of years, he’s been making sure that guys get degrees,” Gutkind said of Cleveland. “That’s a good sign.”

The turmoil collected during the Jerry Tarkanian and Lopes’ era did not offer Cleveland no favors, but he did deliver on a promise that his predecessors couldn’t — in the classroom.

Cleveland’s legacy will always be known for the work and time he put into academics. Bulldog players now stress the importance of education as much as they do basketball.

“The guys that come in, they are talking about graduation, they are talking about classes and majors. That’s a good sign.”

— Susan Gutkind, assistant athletic director of student-athlete services

Ned Golubovic became the only student-athlete in Fresno State history to earn Academic All-District honors. He was the great part of my academic success because I felt I owed that much to him, to give him my best shot,” Golubovic said. “I gave a lot of credit of my success to coach Cleveland.”
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Coach let go after six years

CLEVELAND: Coach let go after six years

restructuring his contract, which was set to expire at the conclusion of the 2012-13 season. Instead, Cleveland will hold his new position with the athletics department until May 4, 2012 and will "remain at his current state level compensation," as Boeh put it.

Since taking over a troubled program in 2005, Cleveland compiled a 98-96 record in six years and just two winning seasons, in which he took the Bulldogs to the National Invitational Tournament and finished with a 22-10 record. Since that season, Fresno State reeled off four straight sub .500 seasons, including a 14-17 (6-10 Western Athletic Conference) mark this past season.

"We’re always going to want the program to have integrity," Boeh said. "Our first and foremost mission will always be to make sure that the program’s integrity and the institution’s integrity is protected at all costs. Coach Cleveland did that for us."

While Cleveland said he has no regrets about the effort and attitude of his teams over the last six years, he does take full responsibility for the continuous unsuccessful seasons.

Cleveland took over the Fresno State program feeling the effects of NCAA sanctions left by preceding leadership and painfully low Academic Progress Rate scores. Cleveland restored both issues, but on-the-court struggles, coupled with depleted fan and booster support, now has Boeh and company searching for a new coach.

When Fresno State does appoint a new coach, which Boeh declined to discuss in detail, Cleveland said he will still back the program with whatever direction it chooses to go in.

"Will I have a discussion with the new coach? Probably so, and I’m going to do everything I can to help him and support him," Cleveland said. "I want them to be successful."

Boeh said that discussions regarding Cleveland and the program’s future began immediately after Fresno State’s first-round exit from the WAC Tournament nine days ago. Cleveland stayed behind in Las Vegas, as did Boeh. The two met on Saturday and speculation began as to whether or not Cleveland would be the future face of the program.

Boeh said the discussions spilled over into this week, and the news that Cleveland would be the future face of the program. Boeh said discussions spilled over into this week, and the news that Cleveland would not return began to leak to many local and national media outlets.

"We’re always going to want the program to have integrity," Boeh said. "Our first and foremost mission will always be to make sure that the program’s integrity and the institution’s integrity is protected at all costs. Coach Cleveland did that for us."

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During Smith’s two-year Fresno State career, the Bulldogs were 29-35 overall and 10-19 in Western Athletic Conference play. Smith averaged 11.6 points and 8.7 rebounds per game in two seasons, and led the team this past season with 11.7 points per game. He was fourth in the WAC in rebounding with 8.1 boards per game during the 2010-11 season.

Smith is the second player in as many years to leave school early to play professionally. Paul George, who led the Bulldogs in scoring during the 2009-10 season, opted for the NBA Draft and was an eventual lottery pick, going No. 10 overall to the Indiana Pacers. George has played in 47 games this season, starting five and averaging 8.1 points per game, eighth best among rookies.

ESPN.com ranks Smith as the 16th-best center prospect in the upcoming draft. George faced a similar fate when he initially announced his declaration for the NBA Draft but impressed scouts and quickly climbed up the boards.

"We’re going to have some discussions, and whatever Greg decides to do I’ll support him," Cleveland said. Smith collected second-team All-WAC honors this season, a year after the 6-foot-10 NBA prospect was named the WAC Freshman of the Year as well as being named to the 2009-10 WAC All-Newcomer Team.

"I want these young men to be a part of this program," Cleveland said. "I want them to continue to be here and do what they need to do, and it’s important to me."

Current recruiting also came into discussion. Fresno State already has one player, former George Mason player Kevin Foster, signed to a letter of intent, and 19 other players targeted on the recruiting trail as well. Cleveland said he hopes those players will still remain interested in Fresno State, but the targeted players will rest in the hands of whoever Boeh appoints to lead the program.

Cleveland’s associate head coach Jeff Reinert is in control of the program as of right now and will monitor team workouts with assistant coach Lee Moon. Cleveland had a meeting with his players and assistants prior to Thursday’s announcement, and left them with a lasting impression.

"I told them I loved them," Cleveland said. "I told them that I would be in their lives not just in the next year or two, but I’m going to be in their lives the rest of their lives."

You know what, I’m sorry. I sincerely am sorry that this thing didn’t get turned on the court, because I really believed that it would."

— Steve Cleveland