Federal money to be used in spring

The federal money allocated to the California State University (CSU) system will be used to add courses and sections enabling students to graduate on time. Because the university just received the $1.3 million, Cal Poly Provost Robert Koob said some of the money will be used to supplement winter courses but most of it will be used on spring. He added that the money will be used to make sections available for courses with waiting lists and for both major and general education classes.

The California State University (CSU) system received a one-time allocation of $77.5 million in federal money, according to a press release from the Chancellor’s Office released Oct. 22. The 23 CSU campuses were to receive $25 million this year; the Chancellor’s Office lease noted that system wide, CSU campuses will add up to approximately 4,000 additional course sections and potentially retain up to 800 lecturers for winter and spring quarters.

Many students are understandably worried about graduating on time, according to feedback from students during ASS’s four-day budget debate last week. Koob said the money will help keep students on track.

“We’re going to try to use it for our goal of getting people to graduate,” Koob said.

He added that the average unit load increase by .35 units in fall, meaning students were able to take more classes than ever before. This momentum we had in fall,” he said.

“We want to continue the momentum we had in fall,” Koob said.

The CSU budget deficit for the winter and spring, as well as student support services. The release noted that system wide, CSU campuses will add up to approximately 4,000 additional course sections and potentially retain up to 800 lecturers for winter and spring quarters.

“With the down economy, it can be harder for recent graduates to find their way in the professional world. If only it was as easy as playing a game,” Koob added.

Those planning on pursuing a career in human resource management, employees, and general employees, according to a press release, will be able to take classes in the area. The test that certifies professionals in management practices, selection and recruitment, training and development, compensation and benefits, employee/labor relations, and health, safety, and security.

No student is required to take it, but if you do well on it, it can significantly increase your chances of getting a job.

“It’s growing in importance,” said Rebecca Ellis, adviser for Cal Poly’s Human Resource Management Association. “It’s a small function in any organization, but every organization has to have a HR function.”

Sounds intimidating? Not to worry—that’s what the HR Games are for.

“It’s set up like a game show,” said Rosemary Wild, head of the department of management at Cal Poly. “We try to have at least three undergraduates per team. It’s kind of a fun way to prepare, and practice answering questions on the spot.”

The HR Games are set up in a Jeopardy-style format, with each team having a call bell to ring when they know the answer. For example, the board may say “A situation where an employer makes working conditions so disagreeable that a reasonable employee would quit,” and the team or teams that know the answer would ring their bell and say “What is a constructive discharge?”

The games cover all six areas that the PHR Exam consists of.

Twitter co-creator comes out from behind the computer

ST. LOUIS — One night in mid-September, a man named Jack Dorsey stood on the pitcher’s mound at Busch Stadium, clutching a baseball in his left hand, about to realize a childhood dream.

The Cardinals were playing the Cubs. And he was there to toss out the first pitch.

What a sight it was, as 46,000 fans shrugged and asked each other: “Who’s Jack Dorsey?”

Hard to blame them. After all, Dorsey isn’t among the best known tech celebrities. But it’s difficult these days not to know about Twitter, the social networking phenomenon he helped create. Dorsey may very well be the most important St. Louis native you’ve never heard of.

And considering the power of Twitter, where millions of people communicate in short bursts, one has to assume that Dorsey’s anonymity is by choice. “He could build himself into an idol, 140 characters at a time if he wanted,” said Matt Curo, assistant professor of communications at St. Louis University.

Fortunately for Dorsey, he’s quite well known in tech circles — a must, given his current push to start a new company using Twitter’s technology. He won’t offer details, but says the venture will deal with the health care and financial service sectors, and will involve St. Louis.

When men like Apple founder Steve Jobs seek the limelight, Dorsey has always kept to the quiet edges of life. He’s stylish, without being flashy.

Jack Dorsey, the creator of Twitter, records a video on his iPhone as he takes the mound to throw out a ceremonial first pitch before a game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs.

He loves to sail and enjoys driving. But he has neither boat nor car. He’s never owned a television.

He maintains apartments in San Francisco and New York, but shies away from material possessions — saying he’d rather not waste brain power worrying about them. His most prized possession? A tote bag he bought 10 years ago for $89.

If they made a movie about his life, you get the distinct feeling he’d

see Twitter, page 2


HR games

continued from page 1

so it's typically business students that participate, but that's open to everyone, Ellis said.

"We actually get students from psychology a lot," she said. The HR Games take place every year during the last weekend in February, and 2010 marks Cal Poly's 10th year hosting the event. Cal Poly has made it to the final four twice. Wild said, "We won first and third in 2003, and in 2006 we got third in state." She said, "They won a trip to Honolulu.

The games take place at a different university every year. Any school can volunteer to host them, so long as they have enough people to run the event. During the competition, everybody splits up into different classrooms, each room containing two teams, a timekeeper, a storekeeper and a judge. The three officials sit in the back row of the room and the teams sit in two tables of three.

The winners of the state competition then move on to the regional competition, and the winners of that receive a prize, which is usually money. Up until two years ago they had nationals, but stopped because the competition was getting too out of hand," Ellis said.

Ellis is already recruiting for the 2010 HR Games.

"We talk it up at meetings, and in my classes I'll look for people who are smart," she said. "I told them I'd give them extra credit in one of my classes.

Students can even go if they're not sure whether or not they want to compete.

We bring not just competitors, but people thinking about competing," Ellis said. Finding participants isn't always easy, however.

"We're always looking for competitors," Ellis said. "It's a fine line whether it's a competitive game or not.

While Dorsey hasn't lived in Cal Poly since 2003, he returns several times a year to visit friends and family. With parents and two brothers still here, he was the September visit that gave the city a chance to claim him as one of its own.

There was the trip to Webster University, where he was named the 2009 Person of the Year. He spent time with Mayor Francis Slay, who gave him a key to the city, and there was the ceremonial first pitch.

His parents, who still live in Compton Heights, were there every step of the way.

"I was nervous for him. But I was really happy with the whole weekend," said Marcia Dorsey, his mother. "It was like St. Louis acknowledged him.

Indeed, it would be hard to the praise lavished on Dorsey by Webster's Benjamin Ola Akande, dean of the communications school, who compared him to revolutionary inventor, Johannes Gutenberg, and Alexander Graham Bell. "In every generation, we produce individuals who come along and make for those around them," Akande said.

But does Dorsey really fit in the history books alongside a man like Gutenberg, whose printing press brought the written word to the masses? That's a tough one to answer when you consider Twitter has been around fewer than four years.

Some communication experts stop short of putting Dorsey and his creation at the forefront, saying they simply found a new way to use existing technology. Twitter allows users to post brief — 140-character maximum — messages or "tweets" that essentially say: This is what's on my mind right now.

"None of this is as revolutionary as the printing press," said Steve Jones, professor of communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has played a major role in reshaping today's local and national landscapes. Nearly 19 million people used Twitter at some point last month, according to data from the Nielsen Company. Among them were celebrities, politicians and corporations all looking for new ways to reach people.

Aside from a six-year stint in Compton Heights, Dorsey spent nearly three hours the night before his defining moment — the day he developed the site that would change his life.

"I think you'll see Jack being a little bit more out there in the future. He's built a lot of confidence with Twitter," said Fred Wilson of Union Square Ventures in New York, one of the original investors in Twitter and member of its board.

Wilson uses terms like "craftsman-like" when describing Dorsey's attention to detail in the way he presents himself in social and professional settings. He suggests the rather anonymous version of Dorsey could soon be a thing of the past.

"I think you'll see Jack being a little bit more out there in the future," Wilson said. "He's built a lot of confidence with Twitter."

Maybe that's why Dorsey spent nearly three hours the night before his defining moment — the day he developed the site that would change his life — working on Twitter. Did he play a big league field? Did he think of names like "tweeters" for the people using it? Did he think of names like "tweets" for the messages being sent?

"It all just kind of boiled up into itself," Wilson said. "He thought of names like "tweeters" for the people using it."

Money

continued from page 1

2009-10 year is $564 million. The system is in the process of implementing an action plan that includes employee furloughs and workforce reductions; enrollment cuts, increased student fees, and additional cost cutting measures on campuses.

The guiding principles behind the plan are based on serving as many students and preserving as many jobs as possible while maintaining academic quality and shared governance, according to the press release.

The provost said that while the $1.3 million in new state money was helping Cal Poly stay afloat, it's just a temporary patch.

Katie Melcher contributed to this report.

I think you'll see Jack being a little bit more out there in the future. He's built a lot of confidence with Twitter.

Fred Wilson board members of Twitter

Avoid Burnout

Panel: Steve Jones, professor of communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago,

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Steve Jones, professor of communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago,
Singh’s visit an effort to reassure India about partnership

Steven Thomma
WHD CLY NEWSHAPhRS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama rolls out the red carpet Tuesday for India in the first official state visit of his presidency, but the stresses of a key relationship in a tinderbox part of the world will lie just beneath the glitz and glamour of a state dinner.

Obama will welcome Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with an elaborate state greeting on the South Lawn of the White House, meet with Singh through the day, then host him and his wife at a formal dinner for 400 under a tent erected on the South Lawn. A key reason for giving the visit the highest diplomatic status is to assure India that it remains a key U.S. partner in South Asia.

“This is a very important relationship with a very important country,” said White House press secretary Robert Gibbs. “That’s why India was chosen to be the first visit.”

Obama’s administration in recent weeks has focused intensely on countries on either side of India — Pakistan as part of the war on terrorism and China as a key player in everything from the world economy to stopping the spread of nuclear weapons. India regards both neighbors warily, and was keenly aware that Obama played up relations with China during his visit to Asia last week.

Still, the U.S. looks to India as a regional counterweight to China see Visit, page 4
and would like to see India ease tensions with Pakistan so that Pakistan would feel free to move some of its military away from the Pakistan-India border toward Afghanistan to fight the Pakistani Taliban.

Prospects for a thaw between India and Pakistan — and a shift of Pakistani troops — appear dim, thanks to the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, last November.

"No peace dialogue that started in 2004 was torpedoed by the attacks on Mumbai," said Erteoga C. Schaffer, a scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a center-right policy organization.

"India and Pakistan have been exploring ways to restart their back-channel discussions. The principal hang-up is the slow and erratic progress of Pakistan's legal actions against major figures accused of involvement in the Mumbai attacks." India three times has refused to host Obama's special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. official said.

The two leaders are expected to meet in New York.

Elizabeth Llorente

HACKENSACK, N.J. — The spread of the H1N1 flu, in addition to worries about the struggling economy, is expected to keep many Muslims from participating in this month in the holy pilgrimage to Mecca known as the Hajj, say community leaders and Saudi officials.

The Saudi Ministry of Health is urging senior citizens, children 12 and younger, pregnant women and people with serious health conditions to forgo the Hajj because of H1N1, the predominant flu virus in most countries. In addition, some nations, such as Tunisia, are banning their citizens from attending the Hajj — where millions of people stand in close proximity — because of fears that people will return infected.

Saudi health officials on Saturday announced four pilgrims had died from swine flu.

Last year, travel agents who arrange Hajj travel saw a drop in the number of people going and attributed it to the ailing economy. Now, travel agents say they have booked even fewer trips than last year.

"I've booked about 450," said Willie Ammar, manager of Apollo Travel in Paterson, N.J. That number, he said, is down from the roughly 600 trips he arranged around the same time last year.

"A lot of people are scared of the flu," Ammar said. "At the Hajj you have 1 million or 2 million people in one spot. Hopefully, things will be OK."

"We were hoping to recover from last year's drop in travel (to the Hajj)," he said, noting that before last year he'd book more than 800 flights each year to the Hajj. "Then we got this."

Saudi officials say that normally 1.7 million pilgrims arrive for the Hajj from overseas each year.

The most critical days of the Hajj this year are from Nov. 25 to Nov. 29. But many people arrive well before, often about two weeks in advance, Muslim leaders say.

Saudi officials were instructing people planning to attend the Hajj to receive shots for the H1N1 flu as well as the regular flu. In addition, they were dispatching medical teams to different gathering spots to monitor health conditions and check anyone with flu symptoms.

Normally, some 14,000 Hajj visas are issued each year to people living in the United States, and Naij Al-Jubeir, spokesman for the Saudi Embassy in Washington. But last year, that number dropped to about 11,800.

"There were earlier indications that (attendance) might be lower this year," Al-Jubeir said, adding that they have not yet counted the number of Hajj visas issued this year. "How much will have to do with the global economy, the U.S. economy or the swine flu, we don't know."

However, some Muslims are casting aside concerns about the flu and attending anyway.

Muifeed Lahham is one of them.

He recalled that once, his doctor responded to a concern he expressed about catching a virus by asking him if he desired, "I said yes, and he said, 'If you drive a car, there's 10 to 15 times more danger.'" Lahham said before he left for the Hajj, "Any action you do in your life can carry a little bit of danger."
Support gathers behind proposal to split up too-big banks

Jim Puzzanghera

WASHINGTON — Momentum is growing to deal with financial institutions deemed too big to fail by breaking them up so they’re not big in the first place.

“The era of the big bank is over,” said Simon Johnson, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund.

A proposal in Congress car- ries important ramifications for the economy’s future and the ability of U.S. financial institutions to compete abroad, experts said. Critics point out that only a handful of the world’s largest financial companies are U.S.-based, and they say mega- corporations need megabanks to meet their needs.

The call to limit the size of fi- nancial firms has come from former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan at the Fed Volcker, as well as some economists. Europeans are considering a similar move, and the Fed’s British counterpart, the Bank of England, said it would force three bailed-out giants — Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyds Banking Group and Northern Rock — to downsize.

But many lawmakers say the govern- ment needs the ability to break up companies engaged in risky be- havior before they get to the point of collapse.

“The American mind is asking ... ‘Are we going to allow institutions to put their lives, their children’s lives, the entire country at risk? Or can we take preventive action to prevent this risk?’ ” said Rep. Paul Kangas, D-Vt., who wrote the breakup provision.

The concept is simple, supporters said: The bigger you are, the harder you fall when small guys screw up, they shut them down,” Johnson said.

“We’re good at managing failure. What we can’t do is deal with the failure of big banks.”

Kangas’ proposal would re- quire regulators to give special at- tention to the 50 largest financial institutions, those with more than $17 billion in assets.

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Warning: I say the word “penis” seven times in this column and imply it almost constantly.

Here’s something you didn’t need to know about me: I’ve never had any sort of body modification. When using that phrase, the mind travels first to piercings and tattoos, since these are the modifications most people choose. However, for about three-quarters of guys my age, their first, and possibly only modification was an unwilling removal of a few inches of skin.

In many countries, especially those with high Arab and Jewish populations, circumcision is nearly universal for religious or cultural reasons. In others, such as most of South America and Europe, it is quite rare. In the ’60s, American circumcision rates reached 85 percent, declining only moderately to the current 65 percent rate.

One of the main reasons for circumcision’s persistence in this country is its popularity. Even though the American Academy of Pediatrics decided in 1971 that circumcision was unnecessary, parents immediately thought forward to locker room showers and chose the option that will give their sons the ability to fit in.

Lockers and showers seem to have been abolished by the time I entered high school, but I was already acutely aware that I was not in the majority. As much as everyone loves to blame things on pornography, I think it even preceded my exposure to the world of porn, in which “uncut” is a subcategory that must be specifically sought out.

More likely culprits were the sex education classes I took in fifth grade, with their diagrams of circumcised men and possibly a small picture comparing them to a natural penis. In junior high, during my obsession with Greek mythology, I remember looking at a picture depicting a battle between Greeks and tribes Africans. The exposed glans of the foremost African was greatly exaggerated and brightly colored, as the Greeks...

sex & dating column

Intact: Tales of an uncircumcised life

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Talk show queen Oprah to end her run on broadcast

Almost never circumcised. It was comforting to think that there was a culture, or there had been, in which I would be considered normal.

Of course, my discomfort in those days was one of being abnormal, like a more embarrassing left-handedness. However, almost immediately after I had my first kiss, I realized that being uncircumcised was going to be quite a hassle. One of the perks of having man-who-wants sex is that it is almost certain that your partner has many years of knowledge of how to please a penis. Depending on the girl, she may have had plenty of years, too.

However, when they have never dealt with your type of penis before, this practice becomes useless, the passion stops and you have a short window to give a lesson on how to please you, before the mood is ruined.

Circumcision exposes the head of the penis (the glans) to the environment, and it protects itself by becoming less sensitive. Therefore, the head can be touched relatively casually, although a little spit or lube never hurt anyone.

There won’t be a positive reaction if you try this on a head that has been protected by its foreskin since birth. More sensitive does not imply more pleasure. Pleasure and pain have a complicated relationship, which can definitely be explored, but most people are interested in conventional pleasure, so that’s what we’ll shoot for here.

So what’s to be done with an uncircumcised penis? The idea is still to stimulate the head, but by using the foreskin as a go-between. Its two-sided nature makes it a natural simulator of this sensitive region. Later, with sufficient arousal and copious amounts of lubrication, it is possible for direct stimulation to feel good, so it wouldn’t hurt to try it out if you think things are going well.

As far as actual techniques go, there are no rules, as each guy will prefer a different touch. If all else fails, there’s never anything wrong with a saliva “Show me how you like it,” assuming that we’re still talking about hand jobs.

This is not an argumentative column. My thesis is not that circumcision is wrong. I can’t really say which I prefer without experiencing both situations. I don’t even know which I’d choose for my son. But arguments over which is “better” are fruitless. When the goal is pleasure, the key is knowledge and, of course, practice.

Anthony Root is a biology junior and Mustang Daily sex columnist.

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The turkey won’t buy itself.
This show has been my life, and I love it enough to know when it’s time to say goodbye.

—Oprah Winfrey

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey has faced several challenges throughout her career, including the loss of one of the biggest shows in its history, the premiere of "The Blind Side," and the move of her show from Chicago to Amarillo, Texas. Despite these setbacks, Winfrey has remained a media empire that includes TV, radio, movies, and a book club. She continues to be a popular figure and has won numerous awards for her work in the entertainment industry. In the past, she has faced criticism for her talks on dieting and weight loss, but she has also been praised for her dedication to helping others and her commitment to social issues.
Predictor of the economic crisis a friend of the freedom movement

In this time of economic turmoil, people seem to reference "economists" as if there's almost a consensus that there is at least one economist who stands apart from the pack, both in his understanding of the economy and his ability to predict the direction we are heading. If you search for "who predicted the economic crisis?" on either Google or YouTube, the pick, both in his major issue on college campuses like this economist will appear as a friend of the freedom movement. His name is Peter Schiff.

There's a video on YouTube called "Peter Schiff was Right 2006-2007/2nd Edition" which summarizes Schiff's rise to an iconic status in the freedom movement. He was predicting the current financial meltdown far ahead of the curve and at the time he was laughed at for those predictions. Even leading economists laughed at him for saying that there was an impending housing crisis that would go well beyond the sub-prime market. Time after time he would be written aside as being off-base, inaccurate and even mildly crazy. We can now say that Schiff was spot on. Though as bad as things are now, Schiff has predicted that things will worsen with the current policies. People are still laughing at him and his predictions.

Among the problems Schiff sees is the Federal Reserve. At the beginning of President Bush's first term in office the country was facing a recession. Alan Greenspan was the chair of the Federal Reserve and decided to lower the interest rate to 1 percent to try to stimulate growth. It worked, but the price of borrowing money being that low led to the creation of a bubble - the housing bubble. The housing bubble burst right as Obama was coming into office and the current chair of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke, has been doing exactly what Alan Greenspan did under Bush: lower the interest rate. This time the interest rate is even lower than it was before — it's near 0 percent. Such an interest rate is made possible by the powers of the Federal Reserve. Low interest rates encourage spending over saving, but that's exactly our problem: too much spending and not enough saving. The housing crisis was caused by too many people buying homes they couldn't afford, made possible in part by the Federal Reserve but also through government guarantees to institutions like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, that would later hemorrhage taxpayer money.

Interestingly, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs is Dodd, who is from Schiff's home state of Connecticut Schiff sees a lot of policies coming out of Congress and Dodd's committee in particular as being integral parts of the crisis we are currently facing, a crisis that will become even worse if we don't turn things around. This has created an opportunity for Schiff to step up to the plate, go to Congress and try to change the things he sees as harming the American public. It seems nobody in Congress is willing to do the reality of our recession. Instead, they're trying to re-inflate the bubble again by creating more spending through programs like the stimulus plan and cash for clunkers. Both these programs have put America deeper into debt, which is digging our hole even deeper. It's time we work our way out of this hole through savings.

If you're interested in learning more about what Schiff thinks about the economy and the government's effect on it, he posts video chats regularly on the YouTube channel SchiffReport. He explains time and time again how he looks at the current economic and political situation and understands how the actions we are taking now will affect our future. Sometimes the truth can be difficult to face, but the sooner we do the better we'll be in the long run.

Aaron Berk is a computer engineering junior and Mustang Daily political columnist.

Diversity suffering due to economy

Diversity has always been a major goal of Cal Poly With drastic budget cuts and measures to limit enrollment, it can become harder to maintain the small populations of women and minorities among higher education faculty and students which will also diminish.

CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed has said that the percentage of minority students is not expected to drop if the CSU system cuts the number of transfers and existing students by almost 1,600. But increasing education costs will lead to the options for many non-white students with limited incomes. They will be forced to live at home or attend community college. And by putting off acceptance to a university, they could hinder the chances of being enrolled as their application will be placed in the transfer pile that is already long looking to be cut.

Even if minorities do decide to go to the school of their choice, the limited federal funding could be a factor. Beginning in 2006, caps were placed on the amount of money available through financial aid and scholarships. According to the 2008 Cal Poly Fact sheet, only 34 percent of the teaching faculty were women and only 13 percent were non-white. However when examining statistics of those working as lecturer non-tenure position, 45 percent were women and only 6 percent were non-white. Ultimately, if the furloughs are not extended to next year CSU's qualified minorities and women working as associate professors and lecturers will be among the first let go. By following the "first hired, first fired" protocol, Cal Poly student and faculty can expect to see less diversity.

On a campus such as Cal Poly where diversity is already a major goal, just the presence of a diverse faculty reminds students of the contribution of minorities and women as well as the conflicts in existing policies. As individuals they bring new ideas to develop an opportunity for Schiff to step up the plate, go to Congress and try to change the things he sees as harming the American public.

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Men’s basketball falls to Saint Mary’s

Wallace Matthews

From throwing a pick-six to Leighton Baddoo fumbling the ball away, or to the Jets’ final possession, no player did more to ensure the Jets’ sixth loss of the season than Sanchez.

The game is not slowing down for him, it is speeding up. Never did he look more like an overmatched rookie than on his fourth and final interception, but not turnover, of the day, when under pressure from three Patriots defenders, he blankly flipped the ball downfield like a man hoping to persuade a pack of hungry pit bulls to play “go fetch.”

Sanchez coughed up the football a fifth time while being sacked, but it no longer mattered. Way before he had lost it for good, the Jets had put up a quick score, plenty of time to put up a quick score, he chose to have Sanchez do nothing more risky than hand the ball to Thomas Jones. It was like a trainer telling a fighter who had lost the first 11 rounds to box in Round 12.

Whether this was done to protect Sanchez from further humiliation, or because Ryan no longer trusted him to throw the football, or a public admission that Clemens really was not a viable alternative anyway, the effect was the same, a concession speech on the game and the season.

Sanchez’s final stats, 8-for-23 for 136 yards with a touchdown and a 37.1 passer rating, were not his worst of the season.

“It’s hard to see in the stats, but I’m learning a lot,” he said. “I just need to play a lot smarter.”

“I think he’s getting better,” Ryan said. “I don’t think he’s regressed to the point where we would even consider benching him. He’s our quarterback for now and he’s our quarterback for the future.”

A quarterback whose benchmark was a stunningly impressive start to his rookie season, including a win over the Patriots in Gillette Stadium in Week 2, it is clear to anyone not drawing a Jets paycheck that Sanchez is regressing.

Ten games into his pro career, the game was not slowing down for him. Never did he look more like an overmatched rookie than on his fourth and final interception, but not turnover, of the day, when under pressure from three Patriots defenders, he blankly flipped the ball downfield like a man hoping to persuade a pack of hungry pit bulls to play “go fetch.”

Sanchez coughed up the football a fifth time while being sacked, but it no longer mattered. Way before he had lost it for good, the Jets had put up a quick score, plenty of time to put up a quick score, he chose to have Sanchez do nothing more risky than hand the ball to Thomas Jones. It was like a trainer telling a fighter who had lost the first 11 rounds to box in Round 12.

Whether this was done to protect Sanchez from further humiliation, or because Ryan no longer trusted him to throw the football, or a public admission that Clemens really was not a viable alternative anyway, the effect was the same, a concession speech on the game and the season.

Sanchez’s final stats, 8-for-23 for 136 yards with a touchdown and a 37.1 passer rating, were not his worst of the season.

“It’s hard to see in the stats, but I’m learning a lot,” he said. “I just need to play a lot smarter.”

“I think he’s getting better,” Ryan said. “I don’t think he’s regressed to the point where we would even consider benching him. He’s our quarterback for now and he’s our quarterback for the future.”

A quarterback whose benchmark game had come and gone, and with it the hopes for yet another Jets season.

Mark Sanchez should be benched
Who's afraid of Peyton Manning?

Scott Silvey
ON THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Every once in awhile there is a game so epic that you can't help but watch it. The game goes down to the wire with both teams fighting desperately for a big win to keep their season alive. Then something amazing happens and the game is remembered for generations to come.

OK, so Cleveland and Detroit wasn't all that, but it was close. If these teams were a combined 16-2 instead of 2-16 coming in, this game would be remembered as one of the great games of the decade.

Matthew Stafford throws a last-second Hail Mary, getting almost killed in the process, and draws a pass interference call.

After he is peeled off the turf, Stafford gets up with triple zeroes on the clock and throws a touchdown with what appears to be a broken arm. He then limps off the field pointing to his arm, unable to even pump his fist because his arm is probably shattered and will require career-ending surgery.

It was one of the most amazing finishes ever, even if it was between two of the worst teams of all time. Here is a short transcript of the entire call from the broadcasters.

Keep in mind; they don't raise their voices in the slightest.

"Throws, touchdown Detroit. They did it; the Lions came back and did it."

It was like he was reading from a cue card or something. We need to get Gus Johnson into some of these terrible games.

If there's one way to spruce up a bad game, it's to have Johnson screaming at the end of it. He has a talent for making boring things interesting, which is why he calls a lot of New York Knicks games.

Still, even without Johnson, this game was amazing. The Browns scored four offensive touchdowns on Sunday. In its past games combined, Cleveland had just five offensive touchdowns.

So in one game, we got an entire season's worth of offensive production. Could you imagine if that happened to a team like the Colts or Cardinals?

Final score from Tempe, Indianapolis 448, Arizona 384.

The Manning Complex

The Colts have been treading on thin ice in their past four victories, winning by a total of just 10 points. Teams are so scared of Peyton Manning's two-minute drill, that they do stupid things at the end of all of these close games to give them away.

In Week 10, Bill Belichick went for a fourth down on his own 28 to try to keep Manning off the field. It failed, and even the unflappable Belichick was forced to defend himself to the media all week.

In their game against Baltimore, John Harbaugh decided he didn't want Manning to see the field with 2:30 to go in what would likely be a one-point game.

Trailing 17-16 with 2:30 to go, Harbaugh called a third-and-7 pass play from the Colts' 19. The pass was intercepted and any realistic chance of a Ravens win went out the window.

You have to wonder, are teams giving Manning too much respect? As Herm Edwards said, "Hello, you play to win the game."

That means having faith that your defense can go out there and stop Manning from driving 60-70 yards for the winning score.

The Ravens have always had one of the better defenses in the league. They gave up just 17 points to the Colts. But you mean to tell me that Harbaugh had so little faith in his defense that he thought it would be worth it to throw that ball on third down instead of just running it and kicking a field goal and Ray Lewis, I'd be having some words with my coach about now.

Con-Grad-ulations Raiders

Maybe Oakland finally figured it out. If you bench bums who don't give a damn about your team, the morale will jump and you'll get a solid all-around effort.

Bruce Gradkowski did not turn the Raiders into world champs all of a sudden. But he infused them with passion, and they all played like they had something to actually play for.

Gradkowski knows this is probably his last shot at a starting job for a franchise. He realizes that the Raiders will likely try to bring in someone better in the offseason.

But that's not going to stop him from playing like every down means something. Teams pick up on that kind of mentality.

While they beat Cincinnati, which was playing without Quarterback Carson Palmer even for two touchdowns,

So this was an impressive win for the Raiders. They could play a major spoiler role coming down the stretch with games against the likes of the Cowboys, Steelers and Browns.

While Tom Cable probably won't be keeping his job after this season (and frankly, nor should he), I applaud the move to Gradkowski.

It's hard to give up on a No. 1 overall draft pick.

We see that going on across the Bay right now. The 49ers keep going to former No. 1 overall pick Alex Smith, despite his many failures. While most San Francisco fans would say Smith is the quarterback only because he's the best of the worst on that team, there is still a stigma with these players.

People see what "could be" with a former top pick, not usually "what really is."