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 $3.1 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 in 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 ASI’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 is partially due to the block scheduling of freshmen.

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The games cover all six areas.

"Exposed"
HR games
continued from page 1

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Singh's visit an effort to reassure India about partnership

Steven Thomson

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 glam­ or 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 re­ lationship 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 re­ cent weeks has focused intensely on countries on either side of In­ dia — 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 rela­ tions with China during his visit to Asia last week.

Still, the U.S. looks to India as a regional counterweight to China
Visit
continued from page 3

C. Schaffer, a scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a center-right policy organization, said: “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. officials said.

The two leaders are expected to resume talks in Washington, D.C.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh discusses the importance of bilateral trade and investment between the two largest free market democracies in the world in a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

Flu fears prompt many Muslims to skip Hajj

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 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.

“We booked about 450,” said Willie Anmar, 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.

“The 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, said Naii 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 US economy or the swine flu, we don’t know. However, some Muslims are casting aside concerns about the flu and attending anyway.

Mufeed 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.”

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad throws stones to the Jamarat column symbolising the Devil as he performs his religious duties during the annual Muslim hajj pilgrimage, in the Mina Valley near the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Ahmadinejad is the first Iranian leader to take part in the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

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WORD ON THE STREET

"What are your plans for Thanksgiving break?"

"Catching up with family I haven't seen all quarter. I'm excited for the food especially pecan pie and it will be a nice break from school." — Amee Warner, mechanical engineering sophomore

"I'm going home to hang out with family and friends. I'm going home to hang out with my mom's good cooking and pecan pie and it will be a nice break from school."

— Austin Hemming, aerospace engineering senior

"Every year we go to Nipomo with family and friends and have a huge feast. It is the best holiday of the year."

— Brandon Sheek, recreation junior

"I'm going home to the Sacramento area and going to eat with my family and a family from church."

— Kyle Bernham, journalism junior

"I'm going home to see the family and sleep."

— Greg Strother, aerospace engineering senior

"I'm going home to eat some of my mom's good cooking and bringing back the leftovers."

— Tyler Benham, mechanical engineering sophomore

Support gathers behind proposal to split up too-big-banks

Jin Puzzanghara

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 carries 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 financial firms has come from former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan at the first Voice, 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 government needs the ability to break up companies engaged in risky behavior 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 Kangener, D-Pa., who wrote the breakup provision.

The concept is simple, supporters said. The bigger you are, the harder you fall.

"When small guys screw up, we shut them down," Johnson said. "We're good at managing failure. What we can't do is deal with the failure of big guys."

Kangener's proposal would require regulators to give special attention to the 50 largest financial institutions, those with more than $17 billion in assets.

The conclusion followed testing at 51 homes in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Virginia that found "a strong association between the importation of material and problems with corrosion in homes that have been abandoned."

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The plan goes further than the Administration's, 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 '90s, 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.

Locker room 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 tribal Africans. The exposed glans of the foremost African was greatly exaggerated and brightly colored, as the Greeks...
Talk show queen Oprah to end her run on broadcast

John Tinipane

This is not the end of Oprah Winfrey.

Maybe not even the end of her TV show.

True, in a tearful announcement Friday, the self-made media mogul — host of the highest-rated talk show — confirmed for her audience that the show would be ending.

"I love this show," said the 35-year-old Winfrey. "This show has been my life, and I love it enough to know when it's time to say goodbye."

But when she ends her run at ABC on Sept. 9, 2011 — 25 years to the day since she began — she'll be taking her stuff to cable. To the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), to be exact, which will debut in 80 million homes. At OWN, she'll try to extend the Oprah brand as far as she can.

But it may well be the end of broadcast Oprah. And that says much about her and the state of conventional TV.

 Betting on the future: This move amounts to a big wager on the future of TV. Winfrey is betting that the migration of viewers from broadcast (free and open to all) to cable (not free and not not) will continue.

Every Oprah's sizable audiences — an estimated 42 million U.S. viewers a week — is eroding. It's still the most popular talker on midday TV, but its viewership is half of what it was 10 years ago. Doubtless Winfrey is pondering ways to keep growing her empire.

So what will she do in 20 months? She and her company promise big, vague things. The original announcement Thursday by Tim Bennett, president of Harpo Productions Inc., Winfrey's company, said, "If you think the last quarter century has been something, then don't touch that dial as together we plan to make history in the next 20 months ... and beyond."

Cable TV presents many tantalizing options. She could do a daily or weekly show. As Robert Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University, put it: "It's hard to imagine that you'd launch an Oprah Winfrey Network, without having 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 prevents 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 Rust is a biology junior and Mustang Daily's column editor.

www.mastangdaily.net

ARTS

THE PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

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Sandra Bullock steps out of comfort zone in "The Blind Side"

Rick Bentley

McClatchy/Tribune

LOS ANGELES — Despite her lofty Hollywood status, Sandra Bullock's ready to take a break from acting.

She's had a very busy year with "The Proposal," "All About Steve" and, now, "The Blind Side" hitting theaters.

"I am so happy how I wake up now that I don't want to rush off and do something else. I am very happy being Sandy in Sandy's world. I want to enjoy her world for awhile," Bullock said during an interview at the Four Seasons Hotel to discuss "The Blind Side."

Bullock's especially happy that break comes on the heels of such a positive project.

"The Blind Side" is based on the book "The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game," is the story of a wealthy Memphis family — particularly the feisty matriarch Leigh Anne Tuohy — who takes a homeless teen into their home and how it changes all of their lives.

"The Blind Side," said Bullock, will entertain and has the potential to make a difference.

"I hope someone will walk away from this film and think that they have had a very good life and are now willing to share it with someone," she said.

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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 among them. I know 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 "predictor of the economic crisis," on either Google or YouTube, this economist will appear as the first listing. He is currently running for the U.S. Senate in Connecticut and is considered a good 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 icon in the freedom movement. He was predicting the current financial meltdown far ahead of the crisis and at the time he was laughed at for those predictions. Even leading economists laughed for saying that there was an imminent housing crisis that would go well beyond the sub-prime market. Time after time he was pushed aside as being off-base, inaccurate and even mildly crazy. We can now see 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 2006 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 houses 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 Chris 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 welcome the reality of our recession. Instead, they're trying to reinflate the bubble again by encouraging more spending through programs like the stimulus plan and cash for clunkers. Both these programs have put American 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 blogs 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 off 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 concern at Cal Poly. With drastic budget cuts and measures to limit enrollment, it can become even more evident that small populations of women and minorities among higher education faculty and students 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 numbers. Minority students will suffer.

According to the 2008 Cal Poly Factsheet, 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 positions, 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 to 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 hallmark, 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 the multicultural. Structural problems within the education system will also develop without faculty of various ages, genders and ethnicities who give the students a variety of material and teaching methods. Professors will be taken away from teaching their specialty in an upper division course and be asked to teach a more general lower division class. Also as more courses are being cut, overworked students will be forced to follow a one-size fits all curriculum.

Compared to other CSU campuses, Cal Poly's diversity level pales in comparison. As administrators cope with cutbacks while still providing a quality education, we may ask ourselves if diversity should be something we're willing to let go.

Jessica Barba is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily guest columnist.

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Men's basketball falls to Saint Mary's

Wallace Matthews

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — For the Jets and their emotional coach, Rex Ryan, this was their benchmark game.

As in, bench Mark Sanchez.

Because if you don't pull a struggling rookie quarterback early in the fourth quarter of a game like Sunday's, with only 10 points separating the two teams and the hopes, however dim, for an entire season hanging in the balance, when exactly do you pull him?

The answer, apparently, is never.

With 10:37 left in a must-win game, the Jets had all the necessary reasons, three interceptions accounting for 10 first-half Patriots points and one aborted second-half drive, and they had the perfect opportunity, a game still close enough to justify a move that might have resulted in a victory.

For whatever reason, Ryan chose to stick with Sanchez.

"No, absolutely not," Ryan adamantly said when asked if he had considered replacing Sanchez with Kellen Clemens before the eventual 31-14 loss got out of hand. "I don't think he's getting worse, I just need to play 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 stat, 8-for-23 for 136 yards with a touchdown and a 37.1 passer rating, were not his worst. It's hard to see in the stats, but I'm learning a lot," he said. "I just need to play a lot smarter."

Wallace Matthews

Mark Sanchez should be benched

From throwing a pick-six to Leigh Bodden to fumbling the ball away on the Jets' final possession, no player did more to ensure the Jets' sixth loss of the season than Sanchez.

After a stunningly impressive start to his rookie season, including a win over the Patriots at 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 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 blindly 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 was stripped of the ball, he already had been exposed.

Ryan seemed to realize it, or maybe not, but on the field, Sanchez clearly is getting worse. And getting the Jets with him.

You can talk all you like, as Ryan did, about the Jets getting outplayed by the Patriots, but not by Sanchez. Bill Belichick, the No. 1 reason the Jets lost was their own No. 6.

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Who's afraid of Peyton Manning?

Scott Silvey

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 and with triple zeros 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.

Matthew Stafford (9) completed a touchdown pass to tight end Brandon Pettigrew with no time left on the clock to propel the Lions to a win, while being hindered by an injury. Stafford became the first rookie quarterback to throw for five touchdowns in a game since Ray Buivid of the Chicago Cardinals in 1937.

“I'ma touchdown Detroit. They did it! The Lions came back and did it!”

Matthew Stafford

It was like he was reading from a cue card or something. We need to give him 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 Knick games.

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?

The Manning Complex

The Colts have been treading the shallow end 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 17-15 with 2:50 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 the field goal? You'd be better off, Ray Lewis, 'k I'd have some words with my coach about now.

Con-Graduals 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 and 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 Cedric Benson, they still played a dangerous Bengals team.

They got a Benson-esque game from rookie running back Bernard Scott and Carson Palmer even ran 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."