

Staff Editorial: The Dire Democratic Dilemma

Since midnight on Dec. 22, 2018, there has been a partial government shutdown revolving around the 5.7 billion dollars in funding President Donald Trump says is needed to build a wall on the southern U.S. border.

As stated in The Guardian, this issue has affected 25 percent of the federal government and has caused 800,000 federal workers to no longer receive paychecks for the hours they put in. Until the issue is solved, the government will continue to stay shut down for as long as the president wishes. Currently, the House of Representatives, which is run in majority by Democrats, is what stands in the way of President Trump and funding for the wall.

The Democrats should continue to stand their ground. The wall itself is useless and caving in now would make the Democrats look weak. While Trump vows to stop undocumented immigration using this border wall, according to the Center for Migration Studies, two-thirds of undocumented immigrants come to the U.S by overstaying their visas. Many

experts also say the wall would be ineffective, since many could simply climb over it with ladders, go around it, or dig under it. President Trump also wanted to use the border as a method to stop drugs, like heroin, from coming into the U.S. However, according to the Washington

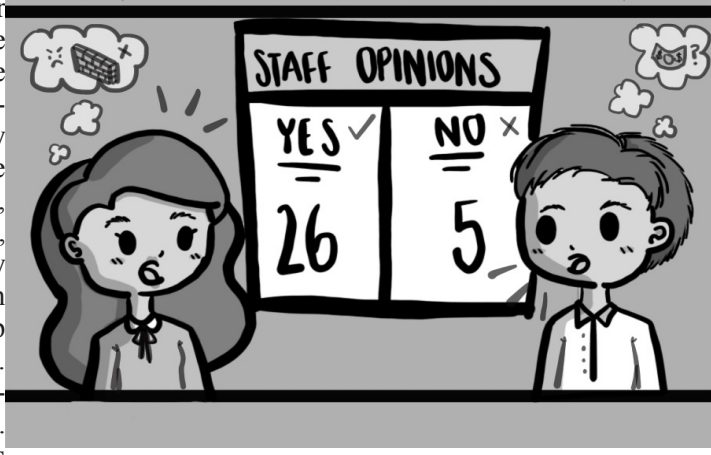
Post, most imported heroin comes into the U.S using legal entry points. Some believe that Democrats should try and negotiate a deal with Trump in order to end the shutdown instead of refusing to hand over any money, especially since 800,000 federal workers are suffering because of

these decisions. That option is practically pointless, however, since in a meeting with Democratic leaders to discuss funding, Trump walked out and ended the meeting because they continue to stand against him. He refused to sign any budget bill without the border wall funding, even though \$1.3 billion had already been approved for border security.

Although Democrats, like Senator Chris Coons, urged the president to support a bipartisan compromise with \$1.3 billion dollars going to border security, the stalemate continues. Democrats should stand their ground also because of what the funding cuts. Funding for the wall would mean that other programs that the federal government is funding will also have their budgets cut. In fact,

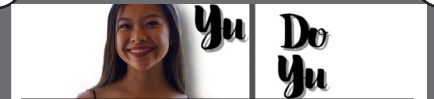
Trump's wall budget would even decrease funds for the coast guard and airport security, making them less effective in doing their jobs. Nothing good will come out of building the border wall, which is why the Democrats need to stand against the president and his border wall.

SHOULD DEMOCRATS STAND IN THE WAY OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S GOAL



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Goodbyes and Hellos

JANETYU

Opinions Editor

When you ask a senior what they think about high school, the average response is, "I can't wait to graduate!" followed by a relatable groan. With college apps over with, most seniors are just waiting for the arrival of acceptance or rejection letters and the long awaited graduation.

While I can't wait to graduate and become an adult, there are also many aspects of highschool that I'll miss. I'll miss the afterschool moments spent with friends on Main Street and even some teachers yelling at their students in class.

However, there are also parts that I will definitely not miss. I won't miss the immature freshmen punching each other in the quad, or the annoying couples in D building. I absolutely won't miss having to do all the work after group members fail to text me back. I'll gladly say goodbye to the annoying freshmen or sophomores that think that they're going to get into an Ivy League just because they got an A in Accelerated Math I.

Adios to waking up early at six in the morning and going to six classes a day. Hello to independence and adulthood. So long everyone and good luck!

Unfair Drug Prices

SERENA LIN Staff Writer

Compared to prices of medicine in the past, today's medical costs are almost impossible to afford. In fact, these tremendous prices are caused by the manufacturers' simple want for more profit. High prices of some drugs have resulted in many consequences for the people who need them the most. The prices of drugs should not be up to the manufacturers to decide.

Currently, there are no realtively no regulations on the prices of medical drugs that companies demand. These manufacturers are able to set any price they believe is reasonable. Often times, this means that such drugs being marketed are overpriced and unaffordable.

For example, according to National Public Radio, the cost of insulin has become unbearable. Insulin is a common medicine used to help those with diabetes. Without it, many Americans with the disease will suffer immensely with fatal results. Despite such need, the drug's price has nearly doubled between 2012 and 2014. In fact, this price could already be blamed for the deaths of several victims who were rationing insulin in an attempt to save money.

Research also shows that the some companies demanding such high prices do not actually need to make them so expensive. According to the National Public Radio, only 17% of the profit generated is spent on researching and developing better drugs. Instead, these price hikes are actually benefiting the drug makers and insurers.

Drug manufacturers' greed has already impacted many struggling Americans.

Moor GRAPHICS BY JENNIFER SU



Take a Giant Break on Those Tax Prices

CURTIS LEE Staff Writer

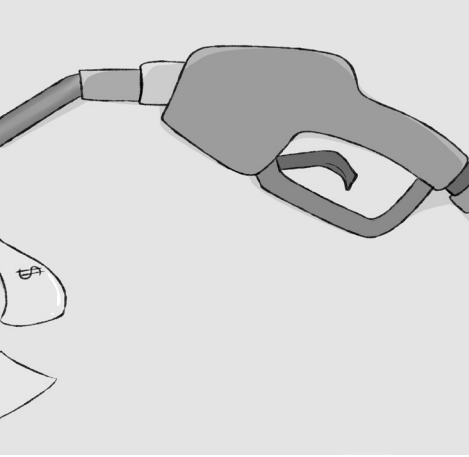
In the midterm elections of 2018, Proposition 6, the gas tax repeal, was passed with a 53% yes votes to a 47% no votes. Gas prices in California have been the second highest in the country with a hefty local and state sales tax on top of the federal tax.

The failed Senate Bill 1 of 2017, endorsed by former Governor Jerry Brown and the Democratic Party, is not entirely to blame for such high gas taxes. Even with the recent repeal of that bill, California continues to average over 60 cents per gallon on taxes compared to the national average.

Gas taxes cannot continue to increase because of the financial stress caused by such an expensive resource. The average California resident pays \$1000 a year in gas taxes alone versus the national average of \$1200 in total gas spending. Continued attempts to increase gas taxes will only force low income residents and

large corporations out of the state.

If the cost of transportation is too high, those who cannot afford it could be forced to move to states with lower costs for transportation and other living expenses. States like Arizona, Nevada and Texas are some examles of lower tax destinations. Accord-



ing to the Census Bureau, California lost more people due to domestic migration over the course of 2016 to 2017. The trend will only continue if gas taxes are continually increased.

The public transit system in Southern California needs to be invested

into so that transportation taxes can become less of a burden. The promise of funding additional infrastructure of the Senate Bill 1 was never fulfilled nor is the system currently dependable or used by many local residents. Gas taxes must remain at the current rate or lower if the state wants to keep its residents.

In addition to the loss of tax revenue from large companies that move out of the state, those in poverty will be placed under greater financial stress. People who are living in poverty are more likely to experience unemployment, both short and long term. The current conditions in California and high cost of living makes it harder for single income families and recipients of welfare to get by. Unlike the companies with the financial ability to move their headquarters

to other states, those living in low income areas will be forced out of their homes and onto the streets. As a state that claims to care for all people equally, the additional costs from any gas tax increases would prove detrimental to those with lower incomes.

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