

No Nickels for Knowledge

CINDY LUO Staff Writer

Nowadays, most students in Kansas are dealing with this situation: sharing one 36-people maximum occupancy classroom with over 50 students, lacking replacements for well-thumbed textbooks or teacher resources, but are still being asked to reach even higher academic standards or career readiness in the presence of these adverse conditions.

According to the New York Times, a series of educational budget cuts in Kansas was first issued in 2009. Benefiting mostly upper-income Kansas residents, Governor Sam Brownback proposed a \$1.1 billion tax break that accelerated the cuts. The proposal was enacted in 2012 and it triggered significant program reductions which led to repercussions as parents filed and won a lawsuit in Gannon vs. State of Kansas.

However, rather than comply, Governor Brownback appealed to the court and the Kansas legislators also denied any court order for increased funding.

The outcome of the lawsuit could send waves through state capitals across the nation. The issues addressed will not only be focused on educational budget cuts, but also on deeper concerns about the political system. Ignoring a state Supreme Court order is a violation of law and a denial of the elected branches' own responsibility and judicial independence.

Their action is undermining the basic principles and structure of our democracy, as legislators

Angeles are so crowded that students sit on the floor while teachers struggle to maintain quality and grade hundreds of papers. The cuts along with the tax break will also deepen the gap between higher-income students and the majority group.

At a time when students with the skills to master new technologies become extremely important to a country's prosperity and also the global economy, this decline in state educational investment is cause for concern.

In order to give every child the educational opportunity to meet his or her promise, and to strengthen and advance the core American value of equal opportunity, provisions for suitable school funding must be made because the government is responsible for the education for all children. Essential cuts on useless spending are necessary, but the cuts should not affect any teaching standard or the quality of education. More specifically, sufficient funding should allow the schools to hire enough faculty and prevent students from studying in overcrowded environments. Legislators must take the responsibility to provide and allocate adequate resource for education, for the young adults and for the country's economic competitiveness.

are not even following requirements set by previous legislation.

Along with 11 states including New York, Florida and Texas, California allegedly provides inadequate and unfair school funding. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, California has slashed public education funding to 13.8 percent from what it was in 2008.

Instead of solving any problems, cutting the budget is actually bringing new problems. To help districts cope with the cuts, schools need to reduce school days by up to five days a year. The New York Times reported that most summer school programs for students from elementary through high school were also canceled due to budget cuts. According to the Los Angeles Times, some public school classes in Los



Surrogate Living Invokes Potential

OLIVIA CHEUNG Editor in Chief

While the first few months of each year promises excitement from various awards ceremonies—namely the Oscars, Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild—the awards are, oddly enough, not always the center of attention. What's highlighted just as, if not more, often are the red carpet appearances.

Dior. Gucci. Armani. Naturally, the aforementioned brands aren't affordable for the typical consumer, so why do we care?

Though some believe that the attention placed on apparel is unnecessary and excessive, perhaps it's our need to live vicariously that drives such actions.

Living vicariously has long existed, even since the first Olympics that gathered thousands of spectators. We enjoy seeing others live life in ways we cannot, whether they're strutting down runways in thousand-dollar gowns or running 100

meters in under 10 seconds.

Collectively, as a society, we're supposed to better each other's lives.

While setting seemingly inhuman records and adorning lavish dresses cannot compare to a cure for cancer, it's the lessons such events teach that's important. Through athletics, we're reminded of how valuable devotion and endurance are and the vast potential we all have. Through celebrities, we're reminded of the lifestyles that we, too, are capable of achieving if we take risks and pursue our passions.

There's nothing wrong with living through others if we're reminded of our potential and inspired to work harder for our ideal lives.

Too often do we forget about the innumerable possibilities of life once we naturally nestle into comfortable routines. We need to be reminded of the seemingly impossible, but surprisingly feasible once we dedicate ourselves to a meaningful pursuit.

The Seventh Deadly Sin: Pride

JOSEPH NEY-JUN Staff Writer

"Overconfidence precedes carelessness," said Toba Beta, an Indonesian author. Hubris is one of the seven deadly sins in Christian ethics. Today we typically call it being cocky, something generally seen as excessive arrogance or pride.

Our past has been full of hubris. For example, our "most powerful nation" status went to our heads in the Cold War. We raced for arms and against another ideology rather than attempting to compromise, so sure of ourselves that we told the world democracy was the only way to go. An even earlier example was Hitler thinking he was strong enough to defeat Russia on their own soil. His confidence was warranted, given his success, but his success clouded his judgement in

the same way the Russian Winter cloued Germany's hopes.

With one breath, people tell others not to lack self-confidence and to never doubt themselves. However, if someone says they will never doubt themselves, it provokes a negative reaction in which people tell you to stop being cocky, to stop doing what they had told you to do in the first place. Then if the person begins to doubt again, it will begin the cycle all over again.

It is a hypocritical and endless cylinder that most people run in all of their lives. Note the cylinder, because there is a third side to this problem, and by far a better option between the two. It is a middle ground between the two. That is the middle ground where we all need to go. It is not any better to be over-cautious than it is to be overconfident.

TEA TIME WITH TINA First and Last Generation TINA CHEN Opinions Editor Many people would label students like me the "First Generation"—the first ones to attend college—but I believe the term "first" is misleading. Instead, I call myself and those like me the "Last Generation," the last ones troubled by poverty. My mother, who I affectionately refer to as my mama, is someone who has been through far more than the average American. With so little she could tangibly give me, she made sure I was and am nurtured and live a life paved with opportunity and good fortune. Though there is a gap that separates our generations, it is the shared ideals and influences that she passed to me that impact my life day after day. Therefore, it is unfair to call myself the first to break out. I grew up taking the comfort of an American upbringing for granted, while my mama is shadowed by a childhood of loss, change and disappointment. Day after day, she would come home exhausted, perpetuated by the long hours of manual labor and touted by what little she can accomplish with no education. It was her plethora of sacrifices that taught me skills no strangers in a classroom can. Despite the fine distinction between "first" and "last," the meaning between the words lies solely in the differences of our beliefs. Both words are respectfully valid, yet we only hear about the former perspective. First this and first that. As the first generation to attend college, it's my responsibility and privilege to be the last generation growing up with poverty. I have—in many aspects—acquired all the knowledge in the world to know the limitless boundaries I have yet to discover. Because I'm not the first generation nor am I the last.

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Comic strip panels. Panel 1: 'carmex' logo, a man asks 'WHEN will I get the chance?'. Panel 2: 'SADIES' logo, a man asks 'go with me?'. Panel 3: 'SADIES' logo, a man says 'sure.'. Panel 4: 'doobles' logo, a list for 'Spirit Week...' with 'THURS: WINTER WONDERLAND'. Panel 5: '79°F-84°F' logo, a girl says 'I'M IN SPIRIT!' on 'THURSDAY'.