

## 2015: Vamping Education and Healthcare for a New California

### CROSSING THE CAROLINE LINE

#### The Sad Part About Sadies



**CAROLINE REN**  
Editor in Chief

As the Sadie Hawkins dance rolls around once again this year, I cannot help but rethink its traditional role as a “girl-ask-guy” event; the establishment of these gender roles assumes that every relationship consists of a girl and a boy. It seems innocuous enough at first glance, but the reinforcement of heteronormativity—the assumption that every individual is straight unless stated otherwise—proves to be significantly detrimental to LGBT youths.

Heteronormativity is the reason that people have to come out of the closet in the first place; those who do not match the heterosexual identity they have been assigned from youth have to work up the courage to reveal their actual orientation, something straight people never have to do. Although heterosexuality may be the majority, that does not make it “normal,” which is to say, heteronormativity portrays other identities as abnormal.

Sadies is only one small instance that perpetuates the difficulty of coming out, and though the advertising is most likely meant to be harmless, I nevertheless am discomfited that I am told who I’m supposed to ask or want to ask to go with me. It’s easy to ignore this expectation once or twice, but the understanding that adolescents like myself are a little less safe for daring to challenge this assumption is something I cannot fail to acknowledge. Changing wording to be more inclusive at this one event may seem like a minor issue, but taking the initiative now is crucial to solve the problem of heteronormativity, which is built up over a lifetime filled with presumptive events just like this one.

### KAYIU WONG

Opinions Editor

In our personal lives, it is no lie that we all aim to accomplish new goals and ambitions every time the new year rolls around. As far as 2015 goes, California is very close in creating effective change in two areas we have targeted for so long. The state already has reforms in place for public education and health care, but we are lacking the action to implement real, legislative change. California’s biggest resolution this year should be to build on these reforms once and for all and ultimately progress the state.

According to the Los Angeles Times, California has taken the largest steps

in providing underprivileged students with more resources than any other state in the nation. Though we should commend ourselves for progressively closing the state’s education gap, the next change needed is to ensure the gap closes permanently. While Proposition 30 channeled \$6 billion to under-funded schools in 2012 and Governor Jerry Brown’s current Local

Control Funding Formula is increasing classroom funding to \$8 billion for the next eight years, Cali-

fornia’s school finance system is still categorized as inequitably distributed according to the California Department of Finance. As a solution, California needs a method to ensure flexibility when funding resources based on student demographics and accountability of funds on the local level. Only then will we fully achieve the state’s goals in helping destitute schools grow and manage the allocation of funds altogether.

In terms of health care, California has a chance to show the nation the importance of ensuring coverage to all civilians. According to New America Media, California Senator Ricardo Lara’s Health for All Act guarantees all Californians access to health care, regardless of their immigration status. Health care has always been a hot button topic for

the nation, but the extreme situation of those without coverage is sometimes understated. California, for example, is comprised of millions of undocumented immigrants, meaning millions of state residents still remain without access to health care. Implementing the Health for All Act in the state will not only fuel a well-sustained population, but inspire other states to advocate for greater health care access as well.

2015 has the potential to be a significant turning point for California. In terms of expanding health care and education funds, it is time for the state to stop talking about the reforms we have made so far, and finally get down to the doing.



### FASHION INDUSTRIES PLAYING 'INDIAN'

#### PAULA KIRYA

Staff Writer

The Native American community suffers from its history of distress. Many left in this population honor the traditions and rituals of their ancestors; thus seeing a Victoria’s Secret model sporting a traditional Native American headdress with revealing lingerie, or Urban Outfitters’ “Navajo” collection, featuring the “Navajo hipster panty,” is bound to cause offense.

A large portion of the Native American population still continues to venerate their culture’s practices as they would have years ago,

so exploiting a traditional headdress could be just as offensive as depicting the Holy Cross or the Star of David in an explicit manner.

Native Americans are generally attached to their past and do not find their past as ancient as many contemporary Americans do. Due to the gradual reduction of their population, Native Americans do not have many remnants of their past; Pawnee artist Bunky Echo-Hawk is convinced that their cultural identity is “all [they] have left.” Designs representing Native Americans in a poor light taints their gen-

eral image, especially since it is usually done without their consent. It somewhat lets society disregard or determine who they are.

Many Native Americans do not necessarily want to prohibit the depiction of their culture in the fashion industry, but want corporations to work with them when representing them in their work, as very few do. When companies like Nike or NATIVE(X) seek input from Native Americans, they are often welcomed with a sense of respect, showing that simple communication can go a long way.

MOOR graphic by LESLIE HWANG



**JACQUELYN LOI**  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 9, President Obama outlined a proposal, known as America’s College Promise, to offer tuition-free classes for two years for students who attend community college. The plan will be highly beneficial because it will give America the economic boost it needs.

The new plan will contribute to a much larger skilled workforce, which is crucial for economic growth. According to the Huffington Post, a recent analysis found that a small increase in people with a bachelor’s degree and associates degrees will result in 174,000 new jobs, \$20 billion in additional economic input and \$1.2 billion toward additional state and local tax revenues.

The plan will also open the opportunity for many individuals who come from low-income households to attend college, resulting in higher graduation rates. According to the New York Post, a main reason why some students do not graduate is because of financial issues.

America will greatly benefit from the free two-year community college plan. It will not only help the economy but it will also help low-income families allowing them to earn more money. Free education is something that is valuable and advantageous.



**REBECCA ZENG**  
Staff Writer

While having two free years of community college could be beneficial to various individuals, the U.S. would benefit more if the focus was put on lowering university and college prices instead.

Free community colleges would be able to provide opportunities for low-income students, but the benefits of attending a four-year college or university differ from the benefits of attending a community college. While learning at a community college is cheaper, community college graduates potentially face more difficulty in the nation’s competitive job market.

Moreover, community colleges’ already long wait lists may stretch even longer if this program is implemented. Other problems could include campus overcrowding, long waiting lists, large classes and fewer class choices.

In addition, Obama’s plan is a pricey proposal. According to Cable News Network (CNN), a budget of \$60 billion will be needed over the course of ten years. The money would be more useful if it was used to lower the costs of various universities and four-year colleges instead. This could benefit students’ futures more since larger universities will offer higher education and easier job searching.

MOOR graphics by LESLIE HWANG

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