



## SCA 5 Proposal Aims to Balance UC Demographics

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On Jan. 30, the California Senate approved Senate Constitution Amendment No. 5 (SCA 5), a proposal that would allow schools in the University of California (UC) system to factor in an individual's race and gender into the admissions process. SCA 5 would negate parts of Proposition 209, a ballot created in 1996 that prohibits the consideration of race, gender and national origin during admission procedures.

SCA 5 was proposed in December 2012 by Senator Ed Hernandez of West Covina. Hernandez also created the controversial Senate Bill 185 (SB 185) in 2011, an earlier attempt to repeal Proposition 209 that was ultimately vetoed by

Governor Jerry Brown.

"A blanket prohibition on consideration of race and gender was a mistake in 1996 and we are still suffering the consequences today," Hernandez said in a public statement, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The purpose of the bill is to create a balanced demographic in higher education in California. According to the Washington

Post, within the minority groups, Asian-Americans make up the majority of the current freshmen at UC schools at 36 percent, twice the percentage of Asians in California. Furthermore, a 2011 survey by The Public Policy Institute

of California discovered that 75 percent of California respondents found it either somewhat or very imperative to have racially diverse demographics in public universities.

"If we do not consider one's eth-

nicity in terms of college admissions, we [would] not be considering the disadvantages they have had to go through and the [amount of] self-motivation needed for them to succeed as much as they possibly could have," junior Mo-

nying Dominguez said. However, Hernandez's proposal has sparked much controversy and debate. Some argue that SCA 5 is in violation of the 14th Amendment, which maintains that no state can "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Several online petitions, including one from Change.org and the White House website, have circulated and garnered thousands of signatures against the proposal.

In addition, opponents of SCA 5 argue that the bill will not be a solution for the underrepresentation of minority groups in universities

and colleges, and that it empowers public institutions to discriminate.

"[Admissions] should be awarded based [by] merit, not demographics. By placing a limit on the amount of Asians that are allowed to go to college, we are denying proper education to a large sum of the population," junior Jonathan Ngo said. "This bill was created for the purpose of having racial equality. However, [it] is counterproductive [because] it is unfair and discriminatory to one race. The chance to go to college is one that should be earned; every individual has the ability to perform well academically, regardless of race."

If SCA 5 does not reach the 2014 November ballot, it will potentially go on the 2016 ballot to correlate with the next presidential election.

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- Jonathan Ngo

## AHS' Red Cross Takes a Shot at Blood Drive Goal

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On March 6, AHS' Red Cross, along with Key Club, is hosting a blood drive in the Small Gym. The club is a branch of the American National Red Cross, a humanitarian organization that provides care to those in need, according to the Red Cross website. Members of Red Cross share a mission of preventing and relieving suffering all around the world.

One of the key service areas of Red Cross is blood donations, which are one of the largest suppliers of blood and blood products in America.

"The American Red Cross provides blood products for many hospitals on a constant basis. The blood drive allows for us to gather large amounts of blood donations so that we may assist the hospitals and their patients that may need it," Red Cross President Bowen Xie said.

Last semester, Alhambra's Red Cross had collected 148 pints of blood, and they intend to surpass that amount at the

### American Red Cross Blood Drive



upcoming blood drive. AHS' Red Cross hopes to beat San Gabriel, who has challenged them to a pint collection competition.

"This semester, we hope to at least get 250 pints to beat San Gabriel. The blood drive will be larger because more juniors will be eligible to draw blood. [...] We also have been advertising outside of school this semester so we can get more adults this time," Red Cross advisor Debora Blais said.

Despite the underlying competition, Red Cross members aim to spread awareness about disaster preparation and safety.

"The Red Cross club aspires to continue to provide youth volunteers that can lend their hands to the American Red Cross and spread their message about preparedness and disaster safety," Xie said.

MOOR graphic by SYDNEY LI

## Get Lit 'Ignites Words' to Increase Teen Literacy

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Get Lit is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization that uses spoken poetry help improve teen literacy rates through "igniting words." Founded in 2006, Get Lit intends to bring the power of spoken poetry and expression to at-risk teens throughout Southern California. The program has reached out to about 20,000 at-risk teens in about 60 schools, including AHS. Get Lit is currently expanding the program and reaching out to teachers, who can give their stu-

dents an opportunity to participate. For eight years, California teen literacy rates have been the second lowest in the nation, while Los Angeles teen literacy rates have been the second lowest in California, according to Get Lit's official website.

"We haven't collected a specific amount of data for the total percentage of teen literacy rates, but we have anecdotally increased the excitement of certain students for school," AMPS co-adviser Dorothy Burkhart said.

Every year, Get Lit hosts a competition for students around April, which is National Poetry month. The Classic Slam began as

an effort to raise declining school budgets for art programs and to help increase teen literacy in Los Angeles. Today, the competition is the largest poetry event held for teens in Southern California's history. The Classic Slam starts with roughly 40 teams and narrows down to the top four teams, who receive scholarships as rewards.

"Get Lit has reminded me that I went into teaching to empower kids. The goal for the program was to make kids feel empowered by poetry, and I think you will be surprised this year with what our team has to offer," Burkhart said.

## Sweet Labels Attack Sugary Drinks

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On Feb. 13, California senator William Monning introduced the California Sugar Sweetened Beverage Safety Warning Bill (SB 1000), which requires bottling companies to place warning labels on sodas, energy drinks and any other types of sweetened drinks with 75 calories or more.

State bureaucrats conduct checks on the businesses to check if labels are utilized. If a business is noncompliant, then the distribution of its product will be halted.

"The goal of the warning [...] is to give consumers the right to know [...] well-established medical impacts from consuming these beverages. We're talking about a public health epidemic that will take more lives than gun violence," Monning said, according to the website Food Manufacturing.

This bill has been backed by many health organizations, such as the California Medical Association and the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. Drinking these sweetened drinks can lead to health disorders, such as obesity, diabetes and tooth decay. According to the Central Disease Control and Prevention, half of the U.S. population consumes sugary drinks on any given day.

However, some believe that the warning labels are superfluous and will not affect the rate of soda consumption.

"[I]t would be unnecessary to have warning labels because of all the ingredients that are listed on the can already," sophomore Brian Nguyen said.

### In Other News

Snake-handling pastor dies from snake bite

Large bag of marijuana donated to Salvation Army

Genetic selection may allow parents to pick their smartest embryos

Couple stumbles upon \$10 million in rare coins

