

Success Fees Limit Opportunities for Low Income Students



Aigat
Your Back

'March' to a New Chapter

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Opinions Editor

"March madness" is a term that can apply to both the hype of the NCAA men's college basketball tournament and to the situation seniors find themselves in throughout the month. Although the former encapsulates competition within college, the latter refers to the competition to get into college, as March is typically the month in which seniors receive the most admission offers—and rejections—from their respective colleges.

The spring season is already one of stress, especially for seniors, who are expected to find the perfect prom outfit, apply for financial aid and maintain a decent GPA in spite of senioritis. On top of all that, college decisions are being sent out. All of a sudden we regret the choices we'd made just a few months ago, wondering why we didn't apply to fewer schools that seem ridiculously out of our league—wishing that we had increased our ratio of "safety" to "match" schools, eliminating the "reach" category altogether.

Although the idea of pieces of paper (letters or emails) deciding the possibilities of the next few years of our lives is terrifying, it is also thrilling. Receiving an acceptance is a gratifying thing, as it validates the struggle of our last four years. The desire for recognition is only human and there is no better feeling than when perfect strangers appreciate you. Even rejections, though temporarily painful, can at least end the anxiety of not knowing and guide us towards the institutions which are the best fit. Ultimately, "March madness" should be a time for excitement, as it is the beginning of a new chapter in our lives.

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Staff Writer

Since 2014, all California State Universities (CSUs) charge students annual fees, called student success fees, to fund classes, faculty, college programs and more. The fees were enacted as a solution to state budget cuts and as a way to avoid tuition increases. Yet, student success fees are more controversial than ever since the CSU Board announced they are considering increasing these fees. According to CSU San Marcos, the funds generated from increasing student success fees would most likely be used to provide more academic support, recreation opportunities and equipment; maintaining these programs through the fees will help facilitate the

on-time graduation of students. However, according to the Los Angeles Times, many CSU



students have protested to the Cal State Board of Trustees to repeal the current increasing student success fees. On March 4, the board listened to the students and approved of a plan that

would allow many campuses to limit the use of student success fees. Although that would mean that support classes would be funded less or stopped altogether, the limitation of the fees helps restrict students from paying more to their school than they have to. Lowering the success fees would especially help students who struggle financially, since the fee would have been a few extra hundred dollars to pay. Although Cal States give lower income students more opportunities to go to college and are more affordable than Universities of California and private colleges, the student success fees are somewhat contradicting this

feature of the Cal State system.

Whenever CSUs or other colleges make decisions that deeply affect the social or economic welfare of their students, it is important for them to factor in the thoughts and concerns of students, since students are the ones who are credited for the success and the well-being of the school.

The CSU board made a smart decision to limit the success fees. Many of their students had already disapproved of the fees and if the board had increased the fees, the schools would have gotten a lot of criticism from students and parents. Students were able to protest for what they thought was better for them and with that power they were able to persuade the Cal State Board of Trustees to make the right decision.



Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself

CAROLINE REN
Editor in Chief

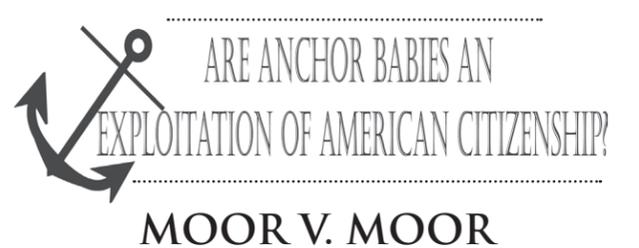
With the regular reinforcement of certain ideas throughout our lives, it becomes easy to feel self-righteous or defensive when anyone opposes these concepts. Yet each and every one of us must repeatedly examine what we say and do to consider whether we are perpetuating harmful standards, especially if someone has more personal experience in a matter. For instance, an individual without a disability does not have the right to dictate what is or is not offensive to someone who

has a disability; the former should listen attentively to the latter if something the former has said or done is problematic. This concept extends to other areas in which a majority has historically silenced the voices of the minority, including gender, sexuality and ethnicity/race.

"Political correctness" carries a negative connotation and it is true that it can sometimes impede honest discussion about very real issues that need to be addressed—but that doesn't mean that there is no merit to being careful about what

we say. We cannot call ourselves proponents of equality if we degrade other minority groups and refuse to fix poor behavior or apologize even after being informed that we were wrong.

If someone tries to correct our offensive or harmful language, we need to understand that they are addressing our actions, not attacking us personally, and we should constantly try to be open-minded. After all, a stronger sense of community and our progress as a society can only be forged once we start listening to each other, in earnest.



MOOR V. MOOR

DEREK WU
Staff Writer

In recent years "birth tourism" has been a popular method of immigration for many Chinese families. In this method, pregnant Chinese women come to the U.S. to give birth; the baby receives American citizenship due to the 14th Amendment. When the child reaches the age of 21, they are able to apply for green cards for their whole families.

The 14th amendment is interpreted in a way where people from other countries take advantage of this amendment for their own benefits. America has always been a country of opportunities, but the U.S. government can not provide for between 287,000 and 363,000 children of illegal immigrants born each year according to 14thamendment.us.

Additionally, housing prices are rising due to the buyers from China; for example, Arcadia house prices rose 18.5 percent and in 2013, Chinese buyers spent over \$22 billion on homes according to Bloomberg business. This will ultimately hurt American citizens as it will be harder for them to afford homes.

America has always been a land of equal opportunities; however, we should be able to see when a group of people are clearly exploiting an American policy and instead of turning a blind eye, we should regulate it.

JOSEPH NEY-JUN
Staff Writer

The 14th Amendment grants citizenship to any person born within the borders of this country. Immigrants who might not always be able to gain citizenship in the U.S. themselves may come to this country to give birth to their children. The child is then considered a citizen of the U.S. Some of these children are born as "anchor babies." Their purpose is to be able to bring their family overseas when they are older and help them become citizens.

Such people have been met with criticism for exploiting the system and concerns have risen about the cost of supporting these families as well as other immigrants. However, what must be considered is why they would choose to come here.

The U.S. is supposed to be a symbol and a safe haven. The first colonists were those fleeing religious persecution, while others fled from war, famine and poverty in their own homes. America is far from perfection and we have a whole host of problems of our own, but the country is still considered a place of safety.

To deny these immigrants the chance to achieve the American Dream, or maybe just a home and a roof, is giving up on the ideas that this country was founded on. Why does that stop at our borders?

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