

Tuition hikes would be unjust

With rising costs of housing, costs for food, budget shortfalls and COVID aid in the rearview mirror, the time has come for educational institutions to start looking for new ways to finance their operations. And no matter how predictable, it's surprising to see that this time it's the California State University system ready to ask students to pay up.

CSU has increased tuition only once in the last 11 years, which has cemented the system's reputation as one of the state's most desired options for baccalaureate programs. While the university budget faces a \$1.5 billion gap, an annual tuition increase risks pushing out more low-income students and widening equity gaps for Black students.

Increases in tuition

today will further threaten a growing population of students coming to Cal State. And though CSU remains the most affordable option for students looking for a four-year degree, it's still too expensive. A 2022 report by Community Engagement for College Success Network noted that 40 percent of CSU students worry about affordability—by far their largest concern.

Even though a large population of students receive grants and institutional aid to help lower costs, it's not enough, and this inflating cost of attendance is no doubt impacted by California's overall affordability crisis. But it's important to note that the basic-needs crisis this creates leaves many students unable to fully invest in their own education. A system-wide report found that 41 percent of students face food insecurity and 10 percent of students experience homelessness in any given year.

Turning around to ask students to pay more for their education when it is already leaving students struggling to feed and house themselves is simply a cruel jest.

If that weren't enough, being able to

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THIS MODERN WORLD

BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS WEEK: OUR RECURRENT RAINY DAY* FUN GAME

SPOT THE MISTAKES

As always, we've inserted several deliberate errors throughout the following panels. Can you find them all? Answers at the end—but no peeking!

*Also provides a momentary distraction from the crushing ennui of human existence.

1. MAGA Republicans almost shut down government.

2. Elon continues to innovate.

JUST IN TIME FOR THE 2024 CAMPAIGN SEASON, I'M GUTTING WHAT REMAINS OF OUR ELECTION INTEGRITY TEAM!

3. Donald Trump remains the clear GOP frontrunner.

I COULD STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF FIFTH AVENUE WITH 91 FELONY CHARGES--AND STILL BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT!

4. Other Republican hopefuls keep tilting at windmills.

NO, SERIOUSLY, I'VE TOTALLY GOT A SHOT!

TRUMP COULD BE HIT BY A METEOR TOMORROW--AND THEN THE PATH TO THE NOMINATION WOULD BE WIDE OPEN!

DID YOU SPOT THE MISTAKES?

Panel 1: We have a system in which a handful of deranged nihilists regularly threaten to bring the country to a standstill. Ooops!

Panel 2: Elon's actual motto is "please say I'm funny, for the love of God, all I want is for everyone to think I'm funny."

Panel 3: Trump's hands do not have tiny Donald Trump heads on each finger; that we are aware of.

Panel 4: If Republicans had voted for impeachment after Jan. 6, they wouldn't have this albatross hanging around their necks now. Big whoopsie!

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