



# Tax the rich for schools, we say

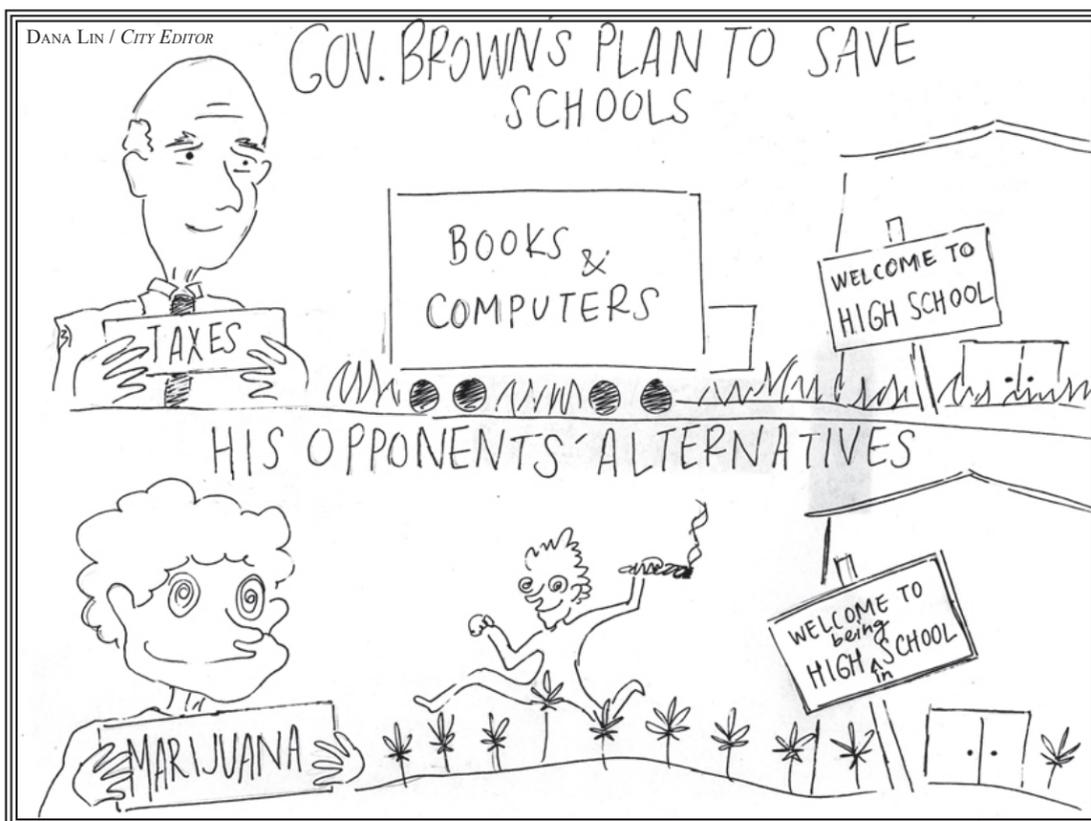
## Editorial:

As a result of the poor U.S. economy that has led to numerous cuts throughout the state of California, Governor Jerry Brown recently proposed a tax plan involving \$7 billion tax hike from 2012 to 2017 to help relieve the \$371 billion state deficit. Those who earn more than \$250,000 every year would have a one percent tax increase, \$300,000-\$500,000 per year a 1.5 percent tax increase, and more than \$500,000 per year a two percent tax increase. Everyone will also pay an additional half-cent in sales tax.

"Without new tax revenue, we will have no other choice than to make deeper and more damaging cuts to schools, universities, public safety, and our courts," Brown said.

*The Olympian* supports Brown's tax plan. Nobody likes raising taxes (after all, everyone likes to have more money), but it's necessary. Ultimately, there are two choices: cuts or tax increases.

Those who are rich would be able to pay the additional one to two percent. Some people may say that that isn't fair if only the wealthy are taxed more. However, some people make barely enough to eat and pay rent. If income taxes



were raised for everyone, these people wouldn't be able to eat or have shelter. Also, the half-cent sales tax affects everybody, which makes Brown's proposal more fair.

People who disagree with Brown's proposal say that the wealthy work hard to earn their money and deserve to keep it. Although this is true, if they do not pay more taxes and more

cuts are made, they too will eventually suffer. For example, when they are old and need to go a hospital, they want the doctors there to know what they are doing and not using Google to learn things like "how to do hip surgery" or "how do you perform heart surgery?" They would want architects that design strong, safe buildings to live and work in. By paying taxes,

they not only help others, they help themselves now and later.

Everyone wants their children to succeed, to be able to go to school, to learn, and to obtain the knowledge needed to reach their dreams. Millions of kids rely on the public school system. If cuts are continuously made to education, schools would not have enough money to provide their students with the materials

they need to learn.

Eventually, some schools may be forced to close, creating larger class sizes in other schools.

Others may suggest making money elsewhere, like by legalizing marijuana. However, this change will have very harmful effects. True, the taxes from marijuana would help the state budget, but more people would be able to easily obtain and use it, including teenagers and young children.

Some people may argue that if the wealthy are taxed more, they won't be able to provide job opportunities. More people would be unemployed. However, the tax increase is not that much; corporations should still be able to hire people. Rather than helping just a few families, the taxes paid would go to areas like public safety and education, which will help thousands of people throughout the state.

Brown's proposal is the best solution for California's budget crisis. It has the potential to yield good results without having many harmful effects. Voters will decide its fate during the election occurring later on this year. We at *The Olympian* agree with it, and hope voters do too so the proposal can be initiated. Hopefully, it will alleviate the state's agonizing budget crisis.

## Asians conforming to western styles



By SangEun Choi  
A&E EDITOR

Around 8 p.m. I go out into the living room to hear the familiar sound of tahe television. Since the members of my family prefer knitting and chopping wood and baking potatoes, we basically have only one Korean channel. On the television screen are contestants for a show where the goal is to become a star. Why does it look like a single person has been copied and pasted onto the screen multiple times?

There have been stories that surfaced in the past about celebrities in Asia who had to undergo plastic surgery before making their first appearances as stars. The before-and-after pictures are absolutely horrible. One perfectly unique and normal person transformed into a horrid copy of all the other bug-eyed creatures.

There had also been an article

a while back about a girl who had received eyelid surgery for her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. Oh, what a great present worth a couple grand and a permanent loss of natural features! I received a muffin for my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**"Why do people feel so pressured to change their appearances to fit Western standards?"**

I am not accusing everyone of altering their appearances, but the truth is that many people feel the need to find ways to completely modify their looks. When I visited Korea two summers ago, I felt very uncomfortable while walking down the streets. Practically every single female had brassy bleached hair and crazy contacts that literally covered the whites of their eyes in unnatural colors. None of them had any distinctive features that distinguished any individual from the others.

Why do people feel so pressured to change their appearances to fit the Western standards of beauty? Why has Western beauty become the goal? I know many

people who have monolids and less defined noses, and they are gorgeous. Nobody needs blue eyes or green eyes and blond hair to be beautiful. There are many people with those features who are attractive, but having brown eyes is fine. Having no eye creases is fine. Having darker skin is fine. Having a wide jaw is fine. Having a flatter nose is fine. Each person is beautiful in his or her own way.

I am not saying that dyeing hair from dark to light is a bad thing -- how is that any different from a natural blonde going brunette? I would be a hypocrite if I said no one should dye his hair different colors. But the desire to completely reconstruct one's physical appearance (hair, eyes, nose) to look Western is wrong. If dark hair were really that awful (turns into crisp in the sunlight or something), everyone would have light hair.

I personally would much rather see a natural face with real features than an artificial face. Airing only "beautiful" people to the public eye only places more pressure on those who feel the need to be pretty under these ridiculously harsh standards and only causes further insecurities. We should be happy with the way we look and who we are, and we should stop comparing ourselves to others.

## PHOTO OPINIONS

By: Alex Gao

What do you think about Gov. Brown's tax plan?



"We should not be increasing the taxes on the middle class at the moment because they are struggling enough already."

-Gabriel Koo,  
senior



"Though the increase may cause some trouble, it serves its purpose by raising money for the government. However the impact it has is debatable."

-Sabrina Li,  
junior



"I don't think anyone should pay more than they already do, but if the government requires it, then they must have a reason."

-Kelly Chan,  
sophomore



"I think that it's a fair trade. People need to pay more taxes. But I don't think that it should be such a big increase for the poorer people."

-Sunny Zhou,  
freshman