

Weather: WEST COVINA, CA | Now: N/A°F | High: 67°F | Low: 52°F | 5-Day Forecast

Live Traffic: 10W 210W 57S 605S 710N 110N 60W

Search bar with 'Search' button and radio buttons for 'This Site' and 'Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH'

Home Delivery | E-Edition | Subscriber Services | Login | Newsletter | Alerts | RSS

Home News Sports Money Opinions L.A.COM Entertainment Info Marketplace Place Ad Jobs Homes Autos Obits Directories



Most Viewed Most Emailed

- 1. Diamond Bar liquor store sold winning Lottery ticket
2. Database: Local school districts issue layoff notices to more than 500 teachers
3. West Covina woman arrested in connection with stabbing released without charge
4. Woman struck by big rig in Industry hit-and-run
5. HBO cancels horse racing series "Luck" after third horse death at Santa Anita
6. Police: Man used transmitter to track wife's sex
7. Two new restaurants to open this year
8. Hacienda Heights church makes deal with insurance company
9. Thousands gather for Inwindale job fair
10. Makers of super fast, blimp-like craft expand into new building in Montebello

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this. Share Tweet 0

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize

Our View: Harvard cheaper than a Cal State?

Posted: 03/15/2012 12:16:57 AM PDT

Any student knows that a fuzzy concept is easier to grasp with the help of a vivid illustration. Last week, every student in California's state universities - and everyone else worried about the higher price of higher education here - got such a vivid illustration in the form of a newspaper headline.

"Believe it: Harvard cheaper than Cal State," our sister paper the San Jose Mercury News reported.

Unfortunately, readers had no trouble believing that attending a California public university is less and less affordable for the average young person. They'd just never viewed it in quite such an eye-catching way before.

If the news that attending, say, Cal State Los Angeles now costs more than attending Harvard comes at a shock, well, good. Maybe the state needs to be jolted into considering new ways to deliver affordable education.

For years, kids with good grades and solid aptitude-test scores knew they could go to UC and CSU universities. It wasn't the Ivy League, but it was a first-rate learning and tuition was relatively cheap.

Nothing less would do in a state whose huge, modern, technology-rich economy needed all the finely honed brains it could employ.

All that's changed for California state universities in the past decade is the cost and quality of the education.

The recession's impact on the tax base has forced the state to cut back on its support for the universities. In one result, tuitions have had

to rise, pushing the system over the tipping point where it is funded more by students' fees than by state money. In another, campuses have been forced to cut back on class offerings, faculties and upkeep.

The cutbacks mean it's harder for students to get the classes they need to graduate in four years, so they're not only paying higher fees but paying them for longer.

Those fees? According to the Bay Area News Group, which figured out the California-vs.-Harvard comparison, a family of four with an income of \$130,000 a year should expect to pay nearly \$24,000 for a Cal State freshman's tuition, on-campus room and board, supplies and other expenses.

Although Harvard's advertised annual tuition is \$36,305, the family described above would actually

Advertisement

end up paying \$17,000 to send an ultra-high-achieving son or daughter to the United States' most prestigious university.

The reason is that Harvard charges higher tuition to richer families so that it can offer game-changing financial aid to middle-class and poor students. That's a judgment call Harvard can afford to make, being a private institution unaffected by the shrinking tax base and blessed with lush endowments.

Is there some version of this strategy that public universities can employ? Should California weigh ideas such as varying tuition at CSU and UC campuses - allowing, say, UC Berkeley and San Diego State to charge more than less in-demand locations? Opponents of the proposal say it would ruin the reputations of the "cheaper" campuses and destroy the egalitarian spirit of California's two university systems.

CHEVY TRUCK MONTH advertisement featuring a 2012 Silverado truck and a 0% APR offer for 72 months.

More News

- Our View: Harvard cheaper than a Cal State?
Another View: Tide's biggest fans
Another View: Bin Laden's family still under arrest
Our View: Poor choices on tobacco bonds
Our View: Food-truck ban is simply silly
Our View: Jack Scott served the Valley well
Our View: Whittier forums and prior restraint
Six more long years of Vladimir Putin
Our View: Driving plain-wrap L.A. sheriff's cars
Return of Bob Kerrey for Nebraska seat

support taxing millionaires to pay for higher education. They'll have to get in line behind those who favor taxing millionaires to pay for K-12 education.

It's easy to say the state's universities must eliminate overspending such as exorbitant salaries for top administrators. Reining in all of those salaries, though, won't solve the problem.

Last year, a study determined that in the next decade and a half, California will produce 1 million fewer college graduates than the economy demands, portending a further spiral for the tax base and state education funding.

Something has to change, and here's hoping that Harvard headline will be the impetus.

Meanwhile, more of California's brightest kids presumably will be going to Harvard. Maybe they'll learn the answers there.

[Return to Top](#)

### RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

- ▶ [LAX air quality study enters final phase](#)
- ▶ [Local school districts issue layoff notices to...](#)
- ▶ [Fight over Indian rail ticket prices turns nasty](#)
- ▶ [Beasley might be on his way to Lakers](#)
- ▶ [Palms area woman reportedly uses chainsaw to...](#)
- ▶ [Diamond Bar liquor store sold winning Lottery...](#)

-- SPONSORED LINK --

Iowa takes a step toward legalizing some online poker | Reuters  
(From DailyMe.com)





Know more. Enjoy more.

[\\$100 off any purchase of \\$1499](#) from John Bloeser  
Carpet One of Long Beach

[Carson Dental Specials](#) from Carson Dental &  
Cosmetic Center of Long Beach

[Celebrating 40 Years](#) from College of Continuing and  
Professional Education of Long Beach

[Douglass & Zook Chapel of Remembrance  
Funeral Home](#) from Douglass & Zook Mortuary of  
Monrovia

Find:

in:

[Dining](#) | [Ads/coupons](#) | [Claim Your Listing](#)

• Readers: [Let us know what you think of the new commenting system](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



Facebook social plugin

### Related Results

[Woman is 51 But Looks 25](#) Mom reveals simple wrinkle secret that has angered doctors...

[2.37% Mortgage Refinance](#) Calculate New Payment. Secure - No Hidden Fees. 3.1% APR

[CD Rates That Don't Stink](#) Click to see which bank takes 1st place for 1, 2, 3 & 5 yr CD Rates.

Ads by Yahoo

[ConsumerLifestyles.org](#)

[eLendingSaver.com](#)

[RateCatcher.com/Top-5-CD-1](#)

Get up to  
**30% off**  
Budget  
rentals at  
**sears**  
locations.




BOOK NOW



### Recommendations

**Login** You need to be logged into Facebook to see your friends' recommendations.

 **Embattled Bassett resident Rose Gudiel now facing criminal charges for Pasadena rally - SGV Tribune.**  
One person recommends this.

 **Tap water safe again in Baldwin Park, La Puente areas following contamination**  
One person recommends this.

Facebook social plugin






## BIG DEAL SALES EVENT

Saturday–Sunday, March 17–18 • Quick move-in homes. Amazing prices.



---

Copyright | Privacy Policy | Info | Subscriber Services | Site Map | RSS    
| AutoTrader.com Partner | Find San Gabriel Jobs | MNG Corporate Site Map  
A  MediaNews Group WEBSITE

For more local Southern California News:

Copyright © 2012  
Los Angeles Newspaper group

Powered by  Google™ Translate