



The "B"  
Side

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## Task Force cripples community colleges

### Campus newspapers denounce recommendations

#### MONITOR EDITORIAL

*In conjunction with community colleges across the state of California, the Monitor is publishing an opinion editorial against the 22 recommendations made by the California Community College Success Task Force. For more coverage please see page 4.*

### All I want for Christmas is:

As I've grown older the magic of the Christmas season has gradually faded away and a deeply rooted cynicism has instead replaced old traditions.

I don't believe that life is like a fairy tale where every girl is a princess and receives her own fairy-tale ending.

Magic isn't real. It is an illusion.

Life at its very essence includes complexities that makes it so intriguing and that much more worth engaging in.

Santa Claus is the biggest seasonal farce of all.

The idea of a fat old man coming down your chimney is not cool.

That is some extreme creeper status. Seriously, hide your kids. Hide your wife.

As it is I'm a fun size (short) which would otherwise make me a good Keebler elf, but regardless of the season, I don't want any man telling me what to do.

During this season of giving, material items hold greater value.

I'm not pretending to put myself on a pedestal that I don't want something.

True, it would be easy to revert back to being a little girl and fill the rest of this space with a list of all the material things that I want, but I don't need a professor to teach me what I learned long ago.

Over time, possessions will in fact lose their luster.

In a way, it would be nice to have some of the magic back: the foundation that anything is possible if you wish it to be so.

Adults have become nothing but caged birds who lack the ability to ask and demand what their hearts truly long for.

Yet, children do it naturally.

The key to unlocking the present is in believing in the power that magic has. That is a challenge in the face of harsh realities.

So, in hopes of restoring some magic and perhaps finally getting out of the box of apathy, I'll suspend my attitudes of disbelief and be truthful that all I want for Christmas is you...



Over the course of this year, Community College Chancellor Jack Scott has assembled the California Community College Success Task Force or SSTF.

SSTF's agenda is to reform community colleges across the Golden State and the SSTF recommendations are compiled in a 75-page document.

The 22 recommendations that the Task Forces will present in January are problematic on every front despite claiming they're being made in the best interests of the 112 California community colleges.

Where we find ourselves is at a critical economic crossroads where education arguably plays a vital role in who we are and how we make our mark in an ever changing world.

The Task Force fails to address the problems that are in the community college system and effectively

wants to implement the destruction of the foundation of how community colleges function by shoving them into model of one-size-fits-all, which won't be beneficial towards long term success of students or adequately serve the community

Courses offered will be streamlined and have a primary focus on basic skills, leaving little to no room for specialized skills education.

These unprecedented changes within the community college system strip away self governance.

The recommendations are contradictory to the fact that California prides itself on the ideology of diversity.

We, at the Monitor stand united in opposition to the SSTF recommendations has made.

The SSTF fails to solve the problems that face community colleges and will mean more steps to climb in pursuit of higher education.