



**First look:** The new military humvee came to Cerritos College. The new model is environmentally friendly.

## New military humvee visits Cerritos College

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A 12,000-pound armored vehicle, known as the M114 visited Cerritos College on Feb. 6. It represents the next generation of combat vehicles for the U.S. military.

According to Allen Turbel, army researcher and developer, the prototype vehicle is visiting schools across the south land to get students excited about "science, engineering, technology and mathematics."

Associated Students of Cerritos College President Lance Makinano, said, "For students to actually get this close and see things like this is pretty impressive."

The U.S. military is looking to go green by developing more fuel-efficient vehicles such as the M114.

According to Turbel the M114 is, "70 percent more fuel-efficient than the standard humvee."

It achieves this fuel efficiency by having light materials in its construction such as carbon fiber and aluminum.

Its engine also has the ability to use both standard diesel and bio diesel fuel.

Former Cerritos College student and army captain Victor Shen stresses that the importance of fuel efficiency is huge.

"A vast majority of convoys in combat operations are for logistical supplies such as fuel. If we lessen fuel consumption, we have less people on the road in danger," Shen said.

The bottom of the vehicle is v-shaped to lessen the effects of road side explosives and the seats are spring loaded to absorb explosive energy.

The weapons that the M114 can be fitted with include, remotely operated weapons systems that can be used from the safety of the vehicle's armored cabin.

According to Turbel, this vehicle is also easier to maintain since changing the engine "would only take three or four hours" compared to the twelve hours that a current humvee requires for an engine swap.

Aside from good fuel mileage, the M114 comes fully loaded with LED headlights, touchscreen displays, air conditioning and all-wheel drive.

Its top speed is just under the freeway speed limit and it has an operational range of 350 miles.

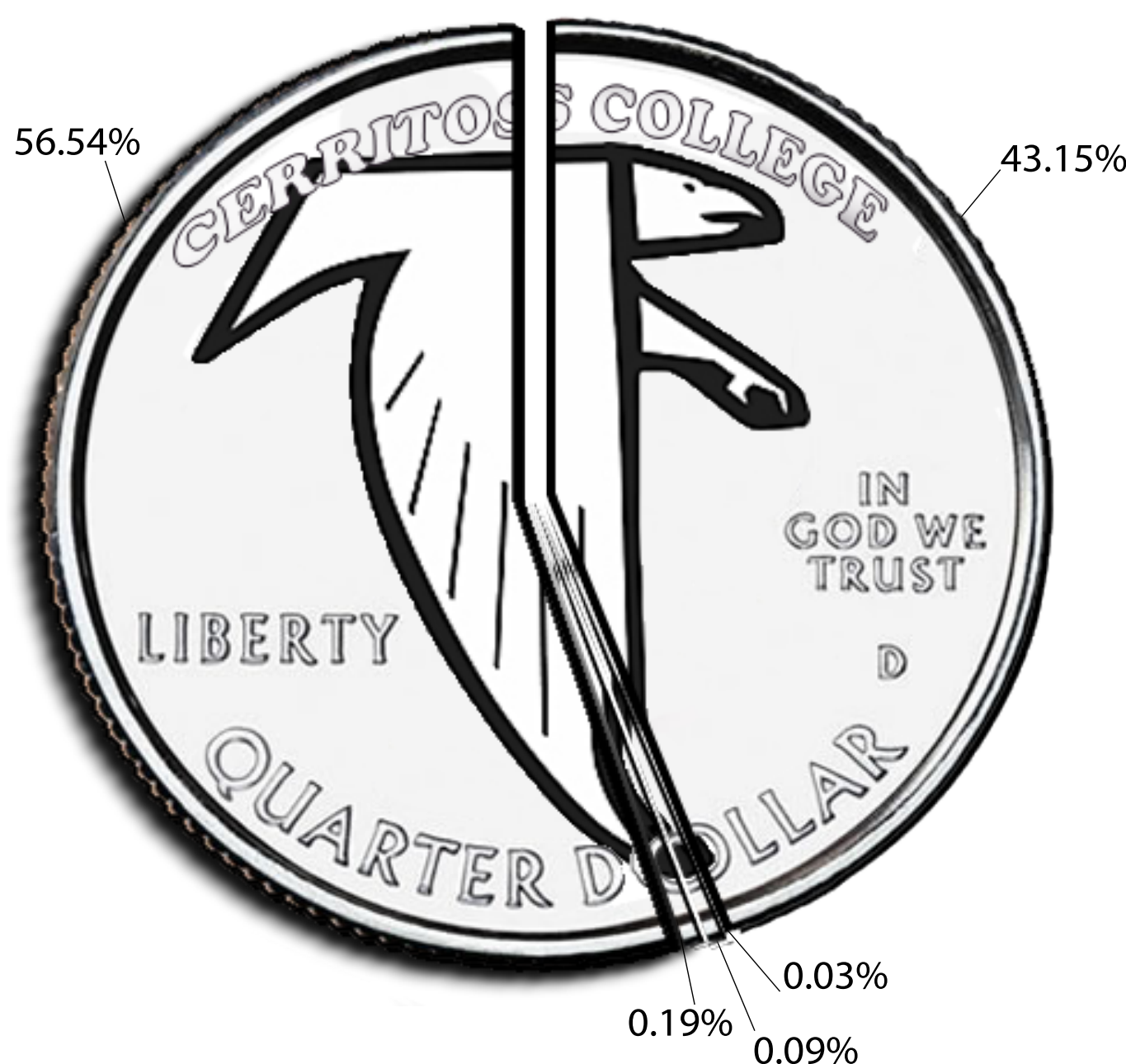
Using standard diesel, its engine produces 200 horsepower and 560 ft/lbs of torque.

This kind of power allows the M114 to climb slopes that are up to 60 degrees steep.

The M114 will not be intended for battlefield use since it is only a testing platform for components that might be used in future combat vehicles.

# Money problems

## FINANCIAL AID DISBURSEMENTS



### 2013 Cerritos College Award Totals Report

56.54 percent of students received state awards of **\$14,407,748.78**  
 43.15 percent of students received federal awards of **\$27,959,787.47**  
 0.19 percent of students received other awards of **\$68,937.31**  
 0.09 percent of students received institutional awards of **\$15,358.58**  
 0.03 percent of students received private awards of **\$2,675.00**

ILLUSTRATION BY JONATHAN GARZA

# How financial aid helps

## Construction of Liberal Arts Building causing commotion

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Psychology major Cynthia De La Torre struggles to focus during her science class located in the science lecture halls due to the recent construction of the new Liberal Arts Building.

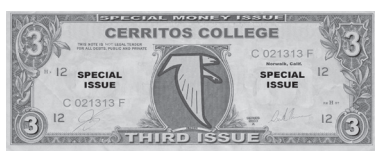
"It's really hard to focus during the lecture at times. You can hear loud beeping noises and at times you can even hear them drop things."

De La Torre says that although she can hear the construction going on during class she tries to ignore the noises and tries to focus on the lecture as much as she can.

"What I try to do is get to class early and try to sit near the front of the class just to try to minimize what I hear from the construction. It's really hard to focus during class when there's construction going on right outside."

The new Liberal Arts and DSPS Building will be right next to the Science Building, which is set to be on the north-west side of campus that runs on Alondra Boulevard and Studebaker Road and will cover around 40,000 square feet.

Students who tend to have class in the **See Noise Page 2**



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Ruben Gonzalez is one of the student workers hosting the financial aid workshops in front of the library throughout the month of February and encourages students to fill out applications to receive financial aid.

"There are a couple reasons why students should fill out their applications early," he said.

"One is because there are extra grants that are given out. The second is they will be able to get their funds on the first day of school and they won't have to wait to purchase their books."

When students submit their applications online by March 2, all they need to do is wait for their award letter to come in the mail.

There is also another added incentive to fill out an early FAFSA application.

Gonzalez adds, "We have financial aid awareness drawings. If (students) fill out the application early during the priority dates their names

When is my disbursement coming?

- 1) Sign on to MyCerritos using your Student ID and your birth date
- 2) Click on the "Student Center" link
- 3) Halfway down the page click "View Financial Aid"
- 4) Select what year you are looking up
- 5) Under the section labeled Terms click "View Scheduled Disbursement Dated"

are entered into a drawing and they could either win a \$500 scholarship or a \$100 scholarship and we also give away Kindles."

Liberal Arts major Samuel Udo-Udoma just received his financial aid Feb. 5 and was very happy and relieved when it came in. "I was jumping up and dancing in my room, it was amazing. If I didn't have financial aid I wouldn't be able to get books or pay for my classes."

Udo-Udoma continued, "It's hard without financial aid, especially if you're like me and you don't have a job."

"My main expense is probably books for classes because they are not cheap at all."

Other students like Zoology major Kyle Umeda do not qualify for financial aid.

Umeda says that it is a struggle to pay for books and other daily expenses. He has the help of his single mother, who pays for his classes.

"It's not only the financial aid because if I got the fee waiver, that would be great too. But if I got the financial aid I wouldn't have to worry about books or supplies and even commuting. It would help out a lot."



Noise:  
Construction  
creates new sounds  
for Cerritos College

science lecture halls are not the only ones who have noticed the construction noises.

Zoology major Mario Hernandez says that he is also able to hear some construction noise going on early in the morning during his sociology class in the Social Science building.

“I have a sociology class early in the morning and I am able to hear some construction during class,” Hernandez said.

Hernandez also pointed out that the noise he hears during class does not occur very often, pointing out that his class is located in the highest floor level of the Social Science Building.

“My sociology class is all the way on top, so I can only hear the construction noise at times when it tends to be quiet in class.

The times I do hear the construction, it’s completely annoying because I’m trying to learn the material in class. I did not spend money to come sit down and listen to men use heavy machinery to dig into the ground.”

The new building complex will feature two floors. The first floor will host the DSPS Program and faculty offices, not to mention liberal arts classes. The second floor will host the liberal arts staff with additional classrooms as well.

Although some students may be complaining about the noise caused by construction workers, some don’t seem to mind it all.

English major Crystal Garcia stated that although the noise seems to be bothersome at times, it’s all worth it for a new building at school.

“I don’t see the point of complaining if you can hear the noise, in the end we’ll get a new more modern building for all of us to use.”

The Liberal Arts/DSPS Building that is currently under construction is set to finish by the end of summer 2015.

David Moore, Director of Physical Plant and Construction Services at Cerritos College could not be reached for comment regarding the construction noise.



Winning with words: President of the Phi Rho Pi Club, Matt Hamilton, sits with other members of the Cerritos College forensics team after the Sunset at the Beach Tournament held at Point Loma Nazarene University on Feb. 2. and Feb. 3. Two of the Cerritos College teams reached the top 8 at the tournament.

Speech, debate, success

The Cerritos College Forensics team and the Phi Rho Pi Club work together to prepare for this semester

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Vice President of the Phi Rho Pi Club, Analicia Avila, has made it into the quarterfinals in the junior parliamentary debate of the Sunset at the Beach Tournament and plans to go further with her club in other competitions this semester.

The Sunset at the Beach Tournament held at Point Loma Nazarene University was one of three competitions the speech and debate team has participated in.

There are three groups on campus that are associated with speech and debate.

“There is the class which is taught by April Griffin and Katrina Taylor. The (forensics) team is (made up of) anybody who goes to tournaments and competes.

“Then there is the club which is a student-run club.” said Matt Hamilton, President of the

Speech and Debate Club.

The club members have the option of participating in tournaments. As for the team members, they are required to compete in at least one competition.

At the beginning of the fall 2012 semester, the forensics team consisted of entirely new members except for Avila and Hamilton.

All members are preparing for the upcoming Tavor-Venitsky Tournament.

The tournament will be held at Cerritos College from Feb. 15 to Feb. 17 with schools from all over California competing.

Debaters’ preparation consists of practicing their impromptu, researching topics and arguments.

According to Griffin the first two days of the tournament are the Tavor-Vensitsky Tournament, and the last day is the Southern California Lincoln Douglas Championships.

“The first day on Friday we are going to have four rounds of debate with two elimination rounds,” Griffin said.

Every round students will be given a different topic to debate about. Students will be awarded depending on their performance.

Individual events on the second day will include a variety of events from “informative speaking, persuasive speaking, expatriating

speaking and interpretation events.”

“(The) last day of competition, there will be a one-on-one debate and a research-based event on the topic of reform in agriculture,” Griffin said.

Students can only participate in the last event if they’re part of the open/varsity division.

As for the number of members that will represent the Cerritos College team in the tournament, “We still have some people who are getting back to us, but we have a least 15,” Griffin said.

There will be more tournaments that the speech and debate team will compete in, including: PSCFA Spring Championship on Feb. 22 - Feb. 24, the State Championship on March 14 - March 17, and the National Championship on April 15 - April 20.

A fundraiser is also being planned by the Phi Rho Pi Club on Feb. 21.

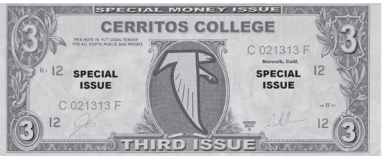
Avila said, “It’s possible we are doing a bake sale.”

Another event planned by the club is to take a trip to local high schools that will take place from May 6 to May 9.

Avila said the purpose of the club is to present students the benefits of joining a speech and debate team in college.

Club meetings are held every Friday from noon to 12:30 p.m.

Parking kiosks add  
to students’ problems



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Child development major Diana Gonzalez has to arrive 30 to 40 minutes before her class to make sure she is never late due to needing to buy a parking permit.

Gonzalez says there isn’t a day that goes by where she doesn’t have to wait in a long line to buy the permit from a parking permit kiosk. But on top of that sometimes the machine runs out of paper or takes her money without dispensing a permit.

“I didn’t buy the permit for the whole semester because I don’t have class everyday, so I think it’s more effective (financially) for me this way... As for having to wait in long lines just to buy the permit I think they (cam-

pus police) can do something to fix that,” Gonzales said.

On the other hand Maria Tapia, child development major has her permit for the semester.

“I have class every day so if I paid for a permit every day I would be wasting more money,” Tapia said.

Biology major Chayden Var doesn’t have financial aid so it represents more of a problem for her when the machines are not functioning properly.

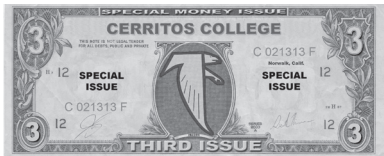
“They (parking permit kiosks) are so not reliable at times.”

Cerritos College Campus Police Chief Richard Bukowiecki said that Campus Police have already replaced two machines and they plan on replacing the other in the future. But they have to look into the financial side also.

“Ultimately we would like the replace all of the old permit dispensers, but they are about \$14,000 each and they also have monthly fees that are associated with them” Bukowiecki said.

Project HOPE continues its help

Scholarships, counseling and more are offered to students through this program



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Project HOPE, led by director Maggie Cordeiro and program assistant Danylle Williams Manser, is a program at Cerritos College dedicated to help students during their college experience.

This program provides support for students who complete healthcare-related or science-related certificates and/or degrees.

The HOPE in Project HOPE stands for Health Opportunities and Pipeline to Education.

Packed with a supporting system to help students by providing academic support, leadership skill-building activities and scholarships among many others.

Project HOPE aims to help students transition from high school to college and college to university.

“Project HOPE is open to any student that wants to go into any health-related occupation.” Williams Manser said.

There are two kinds of scholarships that Project HOPE offers. One is for students who are close to transferring but have another year at Cerritos College. Those students are eligible for scholarships awards of up to \$1,000 per year.

The other scholarship it offers is for those



students in the program who are transferring to a four-year university. Those students are eligible to apply for scholarship awards of up to \$5,000 per year.

To help with the scholarships Project HOPE will hold a fundraiser all throughout the semester. Its next fundraiser will be Feb. 22 from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) located at 310 Los Cerritos Mall, Cerritos, Calif.

William Manser explains that among the other services Project HOPE provides is counseling for its students with designated counselors involved with the program.

“Project HOPE students can make one hour or 30 minute appointments with the designated Project HOPE counselor throughout the year. The designated counselor reserves three hours a week for Project HOPE students”

Project HOPE is under the SEM Division who is overseen by Dr. Carolyn Chambers.

“The project began through a Title 5 grant received in 2002. The grant ended in 2007 and since then was institutionalized by the college.”

Also Project HOPE provides community service opportunities with organizations like Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Red Cross.

Those students who are interested in signing up can do so by downloading the application online at www.cerritos.edu/hope, or they can pick up an application from the Project HOPE office located at the main office of the Business Education Building.

“Project HOPE accepts applications year-round.”

Calendar  
of events

- Feb. 14
- Valentine's Day
- DJ at 11 a.m. in Falcon Square
- Last day of Blood Drive in Falcon Square
- Feb. 15
- President's Holiday  
Campus Closed
- Tavor-Venitsky Tournament at Cerritos College
- Feb. 16
- Day two of the Tavor-Venitsky Tournament at Cerritos College
- Feb. 17
- Day three of the Tavor-Venitsky Tournament at Cerritos College
- Feb. 18
- President's Holiday  
Campus Closed
- Feb. 19
- ASCC  
Presidential and Trustee Applications available at 9 a.m.
- Feb. 20
- ASCC Senate meeting at 2 p.m. in Room BK 111/112
- Feb. 21
- ICC Meeting 11 a.m. BK 111/112
- Feb. 22
- Project HOPE fundraiser at 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at California Pizza Kitchen in Los Cerritos Mall
- Black History Celebration 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Student Center



CLUB MEETINGS

Catholic Newman Club

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in room SS-138 (Social Science Building) at 4 p.m.

Talon Marks Press Club

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in room FA-42 (Fine Arts Building) at 3 p.m.



•EDITORIAL•

# Where's Dorner?



ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN GANDARA/TM

## Be a hero, not a vigilante

Christopher Dorner has become, in less than a week, the face of the criminal underdog.

By taking the law into his own hands, he has created a following of people who view him as a hero.

Having murdered four police officers and injuring another two to achieve his goal of revenge and bring to light his apparent mistreatment, Dorner has become a vigilante and the most wanted man in California.

No murderer should be supported, especially one who is willing to put innocent families in danger.

Even Dorner himself admits to this in his manifesto.

"No one grows up and wants to be a cop killer.

"It was against everything I've ever was."

Yet the support keeps piling in from citizens who want to follow his

lead of "social justice".

Men and woman will use the actions of one angry mad man to justify their own quest for revenge.

While they may feel like all of the problems in the world can be solved with a few bullets, the damage caused by taking revenge is not worth any feeling of satisfaction derived from these actions.

Every person injured or killed has loved ones who suffer because of another's selfish actions.

Innocent family members who don't deserve to hear news that someone with no authority to play judge and jury decided that murder was fair.

If you killed a officer like Dorner, you'll be hated by the public and LAPD. No jury will see you as anything more than a cold-blooded killer.

For the past few days, a man with a gun and a twisted sense of justice has

kept an entire state on edge.

Families of accused officers have cowered in their homes and have been waiting for everything to be over.

Online through Facebook, his manifesto is free to the public and those with a difficult life see it as a call to arms.

Calling him a "Dark Knight" and an "Anti-Hero", Dorner's supporters have added the term martyr to whom they can now call to for all the wrong reasons.

Christoper Dorner is not a hero by any means.

Heroes do not threaten unarmed spouses and children, nor do they kill cops.

This is the work of a killer who has used his military training to become a homegrown terrorist.

How anyone would see this man for anything beyond that is confusing.

## Students should be able to park their vehicle

Students should be allowed to park in the surrounding residential areas surrounding the campus.

A lot of students don't have the time to be searching for a parking spot on campus without it making them late for class, especially after they have just gotten off of work or after running errands.

Furthermore, the parking permits which allow students to park on campus are not cheap.

Single semester permits are available at the Cerritos College website for \$30 dollars, plus a \$3.25 shipping and handling fee, which is non-refundable.

Not everyone might be able to afford this.

The first few weeks of a new semester, finding a parking spot on campus almost seems like an exercise in futility.



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Students are likely to find themselves stuck in traffic, seemingly forever.

The outcome is usually stress, anxiety, and being late to class.

Many of the residential streets to the north and south sides of campus are also "permit only" parking.

Students should be able to feel free to park on the surrounding residential streets, without the fear of being towed or ticketed.

There should not be restrictions when it comes to parking on nearby residential streets off-campus.

Streets surrounding the campus should not be "permit only" parking

and needs to be reconsidered.

It's much simpler and stress-free for students to park off-campus and make the quick five minute walk to class.

This option should be widely available for Cerritos College students.

It is also known that people have taken another route by parking in business lots.

It's a violation to park in the lots off of Alondra Blvd., such as the Home Depot and CVS lots.

These parking lots, which are privately owned, do reserve certain rights.

Until the day comes that the surrounding streets are all made available for students parking needs, many people will still be forced to purchase semester permits and will continue struggling to find a parking spot.



"As a college student what do you spend most of your money on?"

COMPILED BY:  
EDUARDO ALVARADO  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY: ROSAURA MONTES



**ESPERANZA ALVARADO**  
Medical major

"I spend it mostly on school stuff and of course on getting something to eat."

**ANA FELIX**  
Special education major

"On school, on my computers, my printing papers, my books and gas."



**MATT EDNACO**  
Graphic design major

"On books, pretty much it."

**MICHAEL RAMIREZ**  
Undecided major

"I would have to say books and transportation."



**MIGUEL DE LA ROSA**  
Kinesiology major

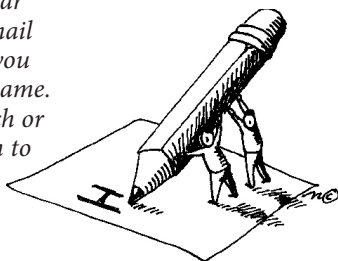
"For the most part it's books and transportation really."

**PAUL PEREZ**  
Architecture major

"Food and books."



Did one of us write something that ground your gears? Do you want to congratulate us on the great job we're doing? Whatever the case may be, we would love to hear from you, our readers. Send a **LETTER to the EDITOR**. We accept electronic mail at **editor@talonmarks.com** and boring regular mail at our office in **FA-42**. If you want your letter or e-mail to be printed, you must proudly sign it with your real name. Letters in poor taste will not be printed. This means we don't want any hate speech or conspiracy theories (unless they're hilarious). We only edit your letters for length to print them, but they appear in full online. If the subject of your letter is campus-related, then it will be given priority.



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## Music has lost its voice



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Despite the quantity of genres and artists available, the condition of the music industry is worsening.

Musicians don't seem to care about what they're putting out on the air waves nowadays.

They could care less about what the lyrics say and are focused instead on going platinum.

Compare those songs to ones that came out decades before, and you'll hear a notable difference in quality and passion.

This decrease in quality is a result of the way we as a society need music. In the past we viewed music as a form of art, with each generation having its own style.

Now we view music as something we play just to pass the time as we drive around town. There is no coherent style for this generation's music.

Musicians and bands would spend days working on one song, while the album took months or even years to complete.

Today's artists, however, seem more concerned making noise with the same chord progression to a different beat.

This cannot be pinned on a sole style of music though, as bands across all genres seem prone to this habit of repetition to gain success.

The change occurred when the music industry realized that it could make more money and gain more fame by creating songs that address a certain audience.

Pre-teen girls go just crazy over bands like One Direction, as most teens enjoy blasting the latest 2 Chainz single.

Each audience has a constant need for the latest and greatest songs. They don't care what it is, what band creates it, or how well-crafted it is.

Today, all that matters is quantity over quality.

Record companies are at fault as well, since they pressure and limit the artist on what they can create and when it needs to be out.

This is nothing new, as even famous bands and musicians like The Beatles and David Bowie felt pressure from their superiors to churn out hits.

The difference between now and then is the freedom bands have over what label they choose, and how that label affects the style of music they produce.

A new factor coming into play in the music scene, "The underground artist movement".

Bands and singers from a multitude of genres have slowly but surely started to rise from obscurity and into the spot light.

These artists usually produce their own music under their own label, allowing them to be creative as they want without having to worry about what executives think is popular.

Hopefully these little, so-called "Indie" artists bring a new breath into a seemingly stale and dying art.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK ABBRUZZESE  
**Rocking Out:** Professor Mark Abbruzzese (left) teaches Anthropology at Cerritos College during the week, but at night rocks out with two of his bands. Abbruzzese's band "Ghost Electric" was recently signed with Wright Records.

# Abbruzzese's best of both worlds: professor by day, rocker by night

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During his seven years of teaching anthropology at Cerritos College, professor Mark Abbruzzese not only grades papers during the weekend, but also has band practice with two different rock bands.

Abbruzzese has been singing for alternative metal band Ghost Electric for five years. The band plays a mixture of sounds such as Pink Floyd, its biggest influence, Led Zeppelin, Queens of the Stone Age and others.

The band has written around 80 songs.

"Ghost Electric has a strong element of Sound Garden and Red Hot Chili Peppers, it's really diverse. Many influences creep into the music," Abbruzzese said.

Since June 2012, Ghost Electric has been signed to Wright Records.

The person who directed the band to Wright Records is its producer, Franki Doll.

"To have somebody in the position to produce an album, distribute it and have a deal... it's a nice feeling."

The band released an album, with the title as the band's name, and has now released its second album "All Of Us Here" through the record

company.

The next Ghost Electric album will be produced in the summer.

Abbruzzese and the band almost had the chance to play a show with rock musician Ian Fraser "Lemmy" Kilminster.

"Chances like these come all the time," Abbruzzese said in a non-disappointed way. He understands there will be other opportunities to play with big time musicians.

Earlier in Ghost Electric's path, each member was doing his own project outside of the band.

Wanting to do work on his own project, Abbruzzese grouped a metal band Keeping Up With the Dead.

"It's metal meets a little bit of progressive and doom. There's also a bit of goth," he said as he explained how Keeping Up With The Dead sounds like.

As the singer, Abbruzzese also includes screams and growls in his singing for Keeping Up With The Dead.

At the end of October, Keeping Up With The Dead played a show with famous English heavy metal band UFO headlining at the Key Club.

"I liked UFO since I was a little kid. My friends and I used to listen to them..." Abbruzzese said with excitement.

Abbruzzese mentioned that he and the band may have a chance to play at the South By Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas in March.

"It'll be fun," Abbruzzese said, "Depending on peoples' work schedules, we will probably be there for two days. If we get into a really good situation we might play three shows. And if we get really lucky we will play two shows a day."

As a professor in a college in bands, Abbruzzese informs his students about his shows and has seen them support his music.

"It's nice (seeing students at my shows)," he said.

Although he sings for rock bands, Abbruzzese appreciates singers in all different genres.

As a musician, Abbruzzese can play the guitar, piano, bass and a bit of drums.

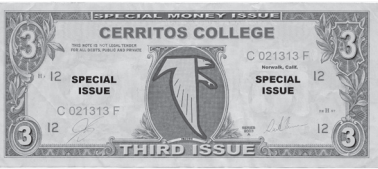
One may ask how a person can be a professor in a college and be in two active bands.

"In terms of having my regular job (being a professor), it's my inspiration, but I love music," Abbruzzese said.

"There's always a way to make this work. I'm pretty disciplined so that works out for me. I can see how that can be a problem if you weren't on it," he continued.

Abbruzzese learned from his father that work is a wonderful thing. It influenced him in building character.

# Literature Club hosts Endeavor Award for second year in a row



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The Endeavor Award is back to recognize those students who have demonstrated outstanding literature work.

The award, as well as the club, aims to "promote and celebrate the value and power of literature," said Josh Craft, vice president of the Literature Club.

The application process is open to any student who is currently enrolled in Cerritos College and is at least enrolled in five units and has a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The deadline to submit your application is scheduled for March 21.

For the applications, students will need to submit an original poem, narrative, screenplay, essay, or any other works that haven't been published and should not exceed 2,500 words.

The submissions will be anonymously judged based on originality, style, development, cultural insight, and correctness.

The first place winner is set to receive a \$150 scholarship. The second place winner will receive \$100, and third place winner will receive \$50.

The winners will also be asked to read their work. Certificates will be awarded to them.

Although the club is in charge of putting everything together, they appreciate the help that is offered to them.

"The Literature club is very grateful to the Cerritos College Foundation for their help with the Endeavor Award," said club President Vanessa Vega.

Last year's recipient, Eduardo Ramos, expresses that the award inspired him to continue writing.

Cierra Sorin, also recipient of the award, shares the same feeling as Ramos, as winning has also motivated her to keep pushing herself in her writing.

The winners of the award will be notified by May 1 with a congratulatory ceremony taking place a week before finals.

"The Endeavor Award challenges writers to submit their best work," said Ramos, who is trying to encourage and motivate others to apply.

"This award made me realize that getting published is a real possibility, and that meant more to me than anything," Sorin said.

The ceremony will be open to the public and welcomes anyone that would like to attend the event.

"Last year, it was a lot of fun! We had a poem, a narrative, and a screenplay as the winning entries" Vega said.

Applications to apply for the Endeavor Award can be found at [www.cerritos.edu/ccf](http://www.cerritos.edu/ccf)



**Apply at**  
[www.cerritos.edu/ccf](http://www.cerritos.edu/ccf)  
**or scan here now**



**From writing to banking:** The Cerritos College Literature Club is holding its Endeavor Award for a second year. The award is opened to anyone who wishes to submit a screenplay, poem, narrative, or any other work.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT  
**Gangnam stylin':** Psy performs at the Washington DC Jingle Ball concert at the Patriot Center in Fairfax, Virginia on Tuesday, December 11, 2012. (Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/MCT)

# Korean pop music inspires new Cerritos College club

**ROSAURA MONTES**  
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With love of listening to Korean pop music since 2009, undecided major Omar Alonso decided to make a club that will unite people who share the same interest as he does.

"It was pretty easy (to make the club official). A lot of the International Students Association Club (members) signed (the petition). They're really cool people, so they helped me out with that part of the club process," Alonso said.

He explained that any student who has an interest in Asian culture will enjoy the club.

"Everyone can join. Even if you are not into K-pop, I can find some aspect of Korea that everyone will enjoy," Alonso said.

Radio broadcasting major Peter Choi went to the first meeting, "I hope this club will teach people more about K-pop and Korean culture and let everyone know that there's more to K-pop than just Psy."

This will give fans a chance to meet other fans and

learn more about K-pop culture. Alonso hopes that this will lead others into making life-long friends.

For the K-pop club meeting attendance, Alonso said that there was less people participating than he anticipated.

"I really had fun talking with the few that came. It was really fun talking with people that had the same interest as me," Alonso said.

The club will feature different kind of activities. As club president, Alonso plans to show club members in meetings how to learn choreography from different K-pop music videos. He also mentioned that he will teach some Korean language to members and have trips to Koreatown.

But not all members are familiar with K-pop, "I have no set plans since the members are all so different in terms of how much the new about it. I prefer to see what they want to do," Alonso said.

He hopes that this club will be the most popular one on campus.

The K-pop Club meets every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon at Fine Arts Building (FA) 53.

## Top places to eat on a budget

<b>Alondra's Mexican Food</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 tacos with rice, beans and a drink \$3.99</li><li>• Breakfast burrito with a drink \$3.99</li><li>• Meat burrito with a drink \$4.59</li></ul>	<b>Chicago Harv's</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Egg and cheese sandwich \$2.99</li><li>• Cheeseburger \$3.49</li><li>• BLT sandwich \$3.99</li><li>• Philly sandwich \$5.49</li></ul>	<b>Taco Bell</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crunchy taco \$0.99</li><li>• Burrito Supreme with a drink \$4.99</li><li>• Meat nachos \$5.99</li></ul>
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**Practice:** Tennis Player Nathan Eshmade having fun and warming up for practice at the same time. Eshmade has only been in the United States for a couple of weeks.



**Distance:** Nathan Eshmade is nearly 8,200 miles away from his hometown of Adelaide, AUS. He's had to adjust to the new culture in addition to leaving his family and friends.



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# Australian tennis player adjusts to surroundings in the United States

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Cerritos College tennis player Nathan Eshmade is adjusting to life in the United States after coming from Australia and being in the new country for three weeks.

"I haven't been here very long. So far it's (been) really enjoyable," Eshmade said.

Eshmade was hesitant at first to come to the United States, but decided that he could not turn down such an opportunity.

"I was offered a scholarship when I was 17. But I was young and didn't want to go," Eshmade said.

"A year later they asked me again and I thought, I had nothing to lose and I might as well try something new. I thought it was a fantastic opportunity."

Eshmade had many choices on what school he would attend, but chose to play at Cerritos College.

"When I was talking to different coaches they introduced me to Alvin (Kim, head coach) who had been fantastic," Eshmade said.

"My parents (were) really happy with him."

Eshmade added, "This is all just a learning experience for me being in a JC. When I transfer, I want to make sure that it's a great school."

Eshmade has had to adjust to the different culture, in addition to leaving family and friends behind.

"Missing family and friends is the hardest thing for me as well as getting used to all the different culture. Tennis here is more serious and structured compared to where I come (from). It's taken seriously but we are more social. I liked that aspect about it"

Despite being here a short amount of time, Esh-

made is meshing well with his new teammates.

"It's different having an Australian player on the team," said teammate Mathew Espiritu.

"His choice of words are very different. He's showed us a lot of things from Australia. He gets along with us very easily and he's a very friendly guy. He likes it here."

Eshmade's playing style is also different compared to the rest of the team.

"He's more of an attacker. He goes to the net a lot more," Kim said.

"We attribute it to the Australian way of playing which is a lot of certain ball movements."

Espiritu added, "He's more consistent with his play. He's very patient."

Eshmade had always had aspirations to attend the University of Southern California.

However, he is leaving his options open as his major is still undecided.

A good school, with a good community and a good tennis program is all he is searching for.

"The idea is to study, get used to the environment and keep training for tennis. Depending on all the results if I can keep going like this, more doors are going to open for me."

Whether or not Eshmade will make the decision to go back to Australia after finishing school is still up in the air.

"I'm not sure if I'm going to go back at the moment. There's not a night that goes by that I don't miss my friends and my family. All my friends and my teammates here have made it really easy for me with texting and talking to me. It's been really comfortable for me so far. It's very good."

“He’s more of an attacker. He goes to the net a lot more.”  
— ALVIN KIM  
Tennis Coach



**Attempt:** Point guard Anthony Holliday attempts a shot against Los Angeles Southwest College. Men's basketball plays its last away conference game against Long Beach City College on Wednesday.

## Confidence is key down the stretch for men's basketball

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As the final three South Coast Conference games approach for the Cerritos College men's basketball team, it looks to end the season strong after dropping two of its last three games.

After picking up a win against Los Angeles Trade-Tech College Feb. 6, the Falcons then lost to El Camino College on Feb. 8.

It was only the second conference loss of the season as the Falcons dropped to an 8-2 conference record, right behind the Mounties, who hold a 9-1 conference record.

Guard Kevin Conrad admits that losing didn't make them feel all that well and the team needs to stay motivated.

"It didn't feel good losing at all. (I need to) motivate myself and teammates to not fall asleep on any teams that we play and to step up our defense to finish off the season as strong as we possibly can," he said.

Forward DeAnthony Roberts also admits the team might've been a little over confident.

"We came into the game thinking we had the win before we even tipped-off. If we don't change the way we approach the game, thinking we are to good to be touched, we are going to have a long night."

He continued, "But if we can go back to our old ways and stay hungry we will be fine. If we play Falcons basketball I don't feel like they give us any challenge"

The Falcons will now travel to

face the Long Beach City Vikings in their last road game of South Coast Conference play.

The Vikings hold a 8-16 overall record and a 3-7 conference record. They will look to avoid their third straight loss when they host the Falcons on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Roberts notes that losing to El Camino College will set the tone for the last games of the season.

"El Camino (College) left a sour taste in our mouth, and we plan to take out our frustrations on our next three opponents."

The Falcons come back home to host their final home games against Los Angeles Harbor College on Feb. 20 and Los Angeles Southwest College Feb. 22.



Calendar  
of events

Feb. 13

Men's Basketball  
at Long Beach City  
College  
6 p.m.

Women's Basketball  
at East Los Angeles  
College  
6 p.m.

Feb. 14

Men's Tennis  
at Orange Coast  
College  
2 p.m.

Softball  
at Mt. San Antonio  
College  
3 p.m.

Feb. 15

Men's Tennis  
at Santa Barbara  
College  
12 p.m.

Women's Basketball  
at Los Angeles Trade-  
Tech College  
6 p.m.

Men's and Women's  
Track and Field  
Cerritos Invitational

Men's and Women's  
Swimming and  
Diving  
South Coast  
Conference  
Pentathlon at East  
Los Angeles College

Feb. 16

Baseball  
vs. Santa Ana College  
12 p.m.

Men's and Women's  
Tennis  
vs. Ventura College  
12 p.m.

Softball  
vs. Fullerton College  
1 p.m.

Men's and Women's  
Track and Field  
Cerritos Invitational

Men's and Women's  
Swimming and  
Diving  
South Coast  
Conference  
Pentathlon at East  
Los Angeles College

Feb. 19

Baseball  
at Golden West  
College  
2 p.m.

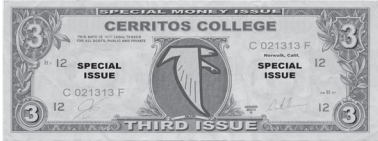
Softball  
vs. Pasadena City  
College  
3 p.m.



JONATHAN GARZA/TM

**Fresh start:** Football players signed their Letter of Intent to their four-year universities in the Falcon Gymnasium on Feb. 6. From left to right: Dominic Tiapula (Eastern New Mexico University), Theodore Chambers (University of Cincinnati), Kyle Peko (Oregon State University), Sean Rubalcava (Fresno State University).

# Players sign letters of intent



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Defensive tackle Kyle Peko, cornerback Theo Chambers and offensive tackle Sean Rubalcava were three Cerritos College football players that signed their letters of intent to Division I schools last Wednesday.

The other football player in attendance was defensive end Dominic Tiapula, who signed his LOI for Eastern New Mexico University.

The Falcons have a total of 11 players that have signed LOIs to continue their careers at universities around the country.

Head coach Frank Mazzotta is excited about the future for his young athletes.

"It's always a thrill, but that's kind of our job. To get the kids out (to the next level)."

He also added, "I've been here a long time, the trophies we have are the kids. You can win championships but the real trophy is seeing them go somewhere and play."

Peko, who's heading to Oregon State, had visited Nebraska, Michigan State, Utah and Washington State before making his final decision.

"When I took my trip (to Oregon State), I built a (good) relationship with the coaches."

Peko admits it's a surreal moment and he hopes he can make a big impact during his time at Oregon State.

"My goal is (to) get better. It's (a) Division I football school so there's nothing you can do but get better and try making it into the (National Football) league."

Rubalcava is heading to Fresno State University and is anxious to get the next step in his career started.

"I'm really looking forward to going to Fresno, I graduate from Cerritos (College) in May and I'll be there (Fresno State) for summer workouts. I'm just really excited to get with the team and get this thing going."

Rubalcava also has goals set for him, as he is majoring in political science.

"I want to get my degree in political science. As for football, I want to be able to start for two years and help them win another Mountain West title, maybe even get into a BCS bowl (game)."

Chambers, signed to the University of Cincinnati, also feels he's ready to take the next step in his career.

"It's a big experience, I'm ready to go to a Division I school and get out there to get my degree."

He jokingly added, "My goal is to gain some pounds because I'm kind of light right now next to these big guys."

With all the excitement going on, Mazzotta notes the importance of education being a priority.

"(The) most important thing is for them to get the schooling done. If somebody is going to pay (for) your education that's most important, especially in this economy."

"But of course they all think they're going to play in the National Football League, but that's just a dream for them," he said.

Other players who have signed are defensive tackle Ma'a Brown (Brigham Young University), tight end Tristan Henderson (University of Alabama-Birmingham), and Sione Lavulo (West Texas A&M University).

## Sister act navigates women's swimming to top three finish

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The swimming season is off to a hot start for the women's team after the Gabayeron sister duo led the Falcons to first and second place finishes at the Palomar Pentathlon Feb. 8 and 9.

Freshman Raquel Gabayeron and sophomore Katherine Gabayeron helped make the first weekend of the swim season a successful one by placing first and second in the 100-yard individual medley.

Raquel took first place with a time of 1:05.18 while Katherine finished right behind her with a time of 1:05.36.

Katherine beat out 59 other swimmers in the pentathlon with an overall time of 3:05.94 and also took first in the 50-yard breast-stroke and 50-yard freestyle while her sister Raquel took first in the 50-yard butterfly and second in the 50-yard back stroke.

In the 100-yard backstroke freshman Carla Harvey finished in fourth while sophomore Yuridia Vela finished fifth.

On the relay side, the Falcons took first place in the 200-yard medley relay with Vela, Katherine, Raquel and freshman Angela Covarribos while the trio of Raquel, Katherine and Harvey won the 600-yard Iron Woman relay.

Overall, the Falcons scored a

total of 471 points, which was good for a third place overall finish.

"It was a great first meet for the team," said head coach Sergio Macias.

"We were fortunate enough to have two talented swimmers who finished first and second in Katherine and Raquel out of 70 swimmers."

Macias admits that the team had little rest in between events.

"The team swam tired since there was very little rest in between events but they swam hard. It's early in the season so the team still needs to continue on working hard at practice in order to improve its conditioning," he said.

Katherine feels that the first meet of the season was a good one.

"It was good. The Palomar (Invitational) is a good meet to swim in first because it isn't too serious and everyone has fun."

She admits that the team will improve as the season progresses.

"I don't think there is anything specific we need to improve on but everyone will get better as the season approaches."

The team will now head to East Los Angeles College for the South Coast Conference Pentathlon Feb. 15 where the team will be swimming the same events.

"Every week our goal is (to) improve our time from the previous week," said Macias



HANNAH BRADLEY/TM

**Decisions:** Marissa Rendon brings the ball down the court for Cerritos College against El Camino College on Feb. 6. The women's basketball team will have two-straight road games before returning for its final conference game.

## Staying focused is vital down the stretch for Cerritos women's team

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Sophomore forward Angela Peña and the rest of the Cerritos College women's basketball team are bracing themselves for an uphill battle in the final games of the season. This after a sluggish run has forced the team to drop four of its last six games.

Defense and composure are two of the main things on Peña's mind heading into Wednesday's game versus East Los Angeles College.

Cerritos College was victorious 61-56 in overtime on Jan. 11 at a game played on a neutral site at Cal Poly Pomona.

"I'm expecting that it's going to be a good game, as long as we keep up our defense I think we'll be able to beat them," she stated.

Starting point guard Marissa Rendon feels most of the team's preparations and issues have been addressed as of Monday, and is comfortable behind the coaching

staff in regard to leadership moving forward.

"We know what to expect (against East Los Angeles College)," Rendon assured.

"I think our coaches are very well prepared, and they help us get prepared by going through plays."

Head coach Karen Welliver has seen free throw shooting as a key issue thus far in the season, and has made certain that the roster gets plenty of shooting practice from behind the line to keep the team's free throw percentage going up.

"We had a slow start with our free throws this season, at 47 percent as a team, which is pretty bad," Rendon explained.

Freshman Alexis McCowan added, "They have (been a problem), but we have been progressing little-by-little."

"We just have to stay focused, keep our follow-through on the line, and encourage each other a little more."

Freshman point guard Priscilla Valdovinos has high hopes for the

final few games of the season saying that, "I hope we finish (the games) out like we did at the beginning of the season. I think if we just stay focused we can do really well."

Both Rendon and Valdovinos have no problem looking forward to next season already, as Valdovinos knows both she and her fellow freshmen have big shoes to fill once this season comes to a close.

"We have a good group of (freshmen) girls and we know what to expect next season, plus the sophomores have been teaching us really well, so I think we will be fine."

Rendon added, "It's not really about winning at the end of the day... just as long as my teammates get something out of it for next year, since there are so many young players."

The Falcon sophomores still have time to lead their squad above it's current 3-4 away record, and will put that plan into motion Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. at East Los Angeles College.