

•EDITORIAL•

Books weigh down our wallets

The cost of textbooks at the Cerritos College bookstore are way too expensive. Not only for the financially strained students, but seemingly for the financially comfortable students as well.

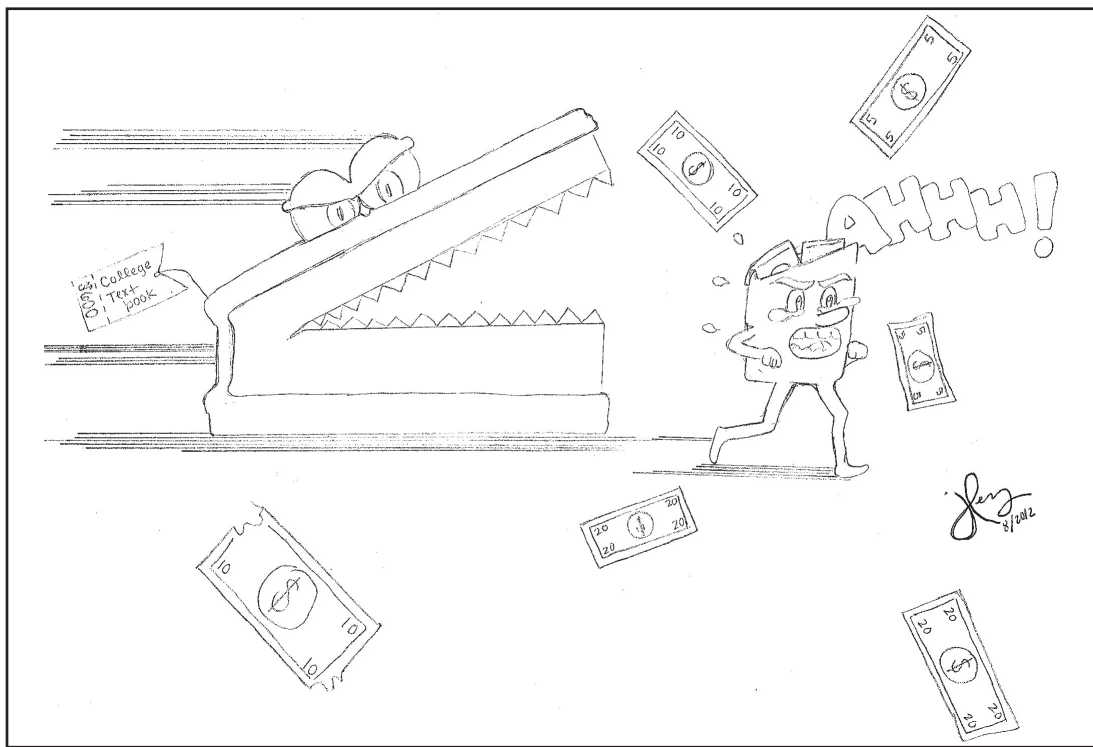
As students, we don't have to simply "grin and bare it". We don't have to just accept excessively high prices for textbooks that we need for our classes.

The campus bookstore does have a rental program that allows students to rent textbooks to use for the semester at a lower cost than what it would cost to buy a new or used textbook, but that option is only available for some books.

Students can use tools such as Google shopping, which is located in the Google search engine that allows people to search specifically for things that they want to buy and lets customers compare prices in one place.

However, the blame is not specifically on our campus bookstore. They are not the ones that set the price of the books. That blame would be on the book publisher.

An argument can be made



ILLUSTRATED BY JESSICA PEREZ/TM

on any potential mark-up in pricing once the bookstore inventories the book to sell, but it is a business and as such should make a profit.

This problem with the price of books on campus is not only limited to students. Professors feel the strain as well.

Knowing full well that the price of books is out of control, professors are faced with a dilemma.

They can either require cheaper textbooks that will save the students money, but

very possibly lack a good portion of the necessary material needed to pass the class, or professors can choose to require the more expensive books which best assist them in educating students but risk students dropping the class or failing due to not buying the book.

The student's goal should be to complete the classes that are required to either graduate or transfer, but a lot of students are in essence forced to take classes that require a textbook that is affordable

rather than take classes that will lead to that student's particular educational goal.

The Cerritos College administration and faculty pushes and motivates students to work toward graduation or transfer. How can that be accomplished if as students, we can't even afford the very books that are required to reach that goal that we are being so eagerly reminded that we need to accomplish?

If students consider other options for their textbooks, the bookstore gets upset be-

cause we are taking money out of its pocket.

If students focus on taking classes that have books that they can afford, the Cerritos College administration and faculty get upset because students aren't working toward graduation and if students just accept that textbooks are expensive and deal with it, the students get upset because there is only so much financial aid to go around.

And what about the students that don't receive financial aid? It should not be assumed that if a student does not qualify for financial aid that it's because he makes too much money. There are a lot of low income students that may qualify for a fee waiver, but not financial aid. Those students deserve the same opportunities to purchase decently priced textbooks as any other student.

The students have a voice and can speak out against the high price of books, but it would be nice to know that our school had our back.

Column: Life of a returning student

The first week of classes for the fall semester has been interesting and long. I made the decision to take 16 units this semester, including serving as editor-in-chief for Talon Marks this semester.

I learned quickly that while that was a commendable goal, it was not realistic in any way.

The first week of the fall semester was absolutely crazy. It felt as stressful as it would feel if the DMV was giving away free money. Lines everywhere you look, tempers rising, and at no matter what time you went, it seemed like people continued to show up.

Even the professors seemed unusually stressed. A student asked a teacher if he knew where a specific class was while coming out of the library and the professor stopped, and looked so frustrated that the student said never mind and walked away.



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It was like ants at a picnic on campus during the first week of class.

In one of my classes, the instructor gave a student a verbal lashing for being late on the first day while that same instructor showed up to class a few minutes late.

It was obvious that it was the first week of class. Students scrambled to find classes sitting in on classes that they were not even enrolled in hoping to catch a break.

A girl even asked me what my major was. I re-

sponded that my major is Journalism, she jokingly offered to give me money to drop the class since she held the next waitlist spot but the class was full. I declined but felt horrible about it.

Even though I do not have a car, I noticed a tension filled back and forth battle in the parking lot as people all but got out of their cars fighting over parking spaces.

It was like a battle royal wrestling match in the parking lot the whole first week of school.

I set a new goal for myself as a returning student which I hoped to start working toward accomplishing this semester. That goal being taking only classes that I need to graduate.

Mission failed.

"Lines everywhere you look, tempers rising, and at no matter what time you went, it seemed like people continued to show up."

Higher One fees not something to complain about

Like everything else these days, financial aid has gone digital and of course, plastic.

The Higher One is a card for students who qualify to receive their financial aid money as opposed to the "old school" checks students used to receive from the state government.

Yes, the card has fees. Yes, it's inconvenient. And yes, everyone is complaining about it. Get over it. It's free money from the government that can help pay for school.

It's not like those complaining are



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illiterate and can't go on the Higher One website to read what the fees are prior to using the card.

Not only does Higher One provide a very easy to read "fee schedule", but next to every fee it gives a way to avoid that fee.

Instead of complaining that the fee exists, why don't you people just read the list over and watch the cute little videos on the website, which are actually very informative.

Okay, not everyone is complaining about the fees tacked onto the Higher One card, but those complaining need to take a step back and realize that it could be worse.

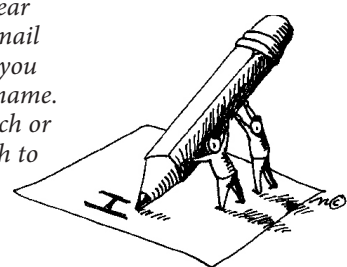
Maybe you would actually have to pay for college out of your own pocket like the rest of us.

There are some hidden fees which

Higher One is dealing with in court, but to complain about the fees that are staring you in the face on the website is just plain spoiled and irresponsible.

Students already have their free money, instead of complaining about a "foreign ATM fee" that's 50 cents, drive a little further down the street, like you do when you want to find your actual bank's ATM machines, to a Higher One ATM and then complain about how much gas you wasted instead.

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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Facilities and academic supervision are provided by the Journalism Program. Newsroom offices are located in the Fine Arts Building, Room FA42.

Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
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Vol. 57 © 2012 Talon Marks



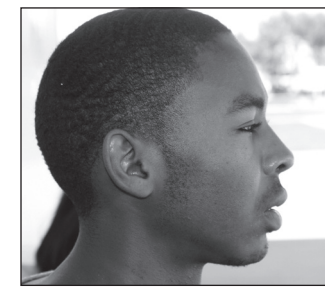
"How do you feel about Higher One account fees?"

COMPILED BY:
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PHOTOGRAPHS BY: ANITA VELAPATINO



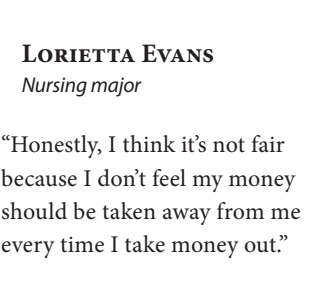
TIEQUESHA ATKINS
Administrative of Justice major

"I don't like when they charge me every time I put my pin in."



JAMEL BLACKMON
Administrative of Justice major

"With the 50 cent charge I feel that it is uncalled for because every time you swipe they take away 50 cents from you."



LORIETTA EVANS
Nursing major

"Honestly, I think it's not fair because I don't feel my money should be taken away from me every time I take money out."



JADE WEBBER
Undecided major

"If I take out money I use the Higher One account and not one like Bank of America that is going to charge me more."



BREANNA STONE
Administrative of Justice major

"It is a good advantage because you can use credit they don't charge you but if you use debit they charge you."

Online Poll

Do you feel that Higher One's fees are too excessive?

SCAN HERE TO ANSWER THE ONLINE POLL



WWW.TALONMARKS.COM

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