

LACC

WEATHER FORECAST

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

67/54

63/52

64/54

70/54

78/57

EARTH DAY

8

MARCH FOR JUSTICE

6-7

Los Angeles

Collegian

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NEWS BRIEFS

CORINTHIAN COLLEGES CLOSE
The LACCD has reached out to invite the displaced students of for-profit Everest College, one of the 30 Corinthian College campuses that will soon close in Southern California, to join their nine campus-wide district. The Department of Education says there are extra guidelines for debt-forgiveness for students affected by Corinthian closing.

SHOP FOR MOM AT MOTHER'S DAY ART GALLERY SALE
Donated ceramics and art pieces will be for sale to benefit the Da Vinci Hall gallery and the Student Scholarships Program. This sale will take place May 4, 5 and 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students are invited to shop for their mothers and support the art department by attending this event and purchasing art donated by LACC Alumna Merryl Alpert.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT HOSTS SPRING EVENING CONCERT SERIES
Student musicians will perform guitar, voice and piano, jazz and musical theater concerts every week throughout the month of May. The recitals will include jazz, modern and contemporary music, chamber music and more. For additional information, contact the music department at <http://www.lacitycollege.edu/academic/departments/music/>

LACC OFFERS NEW CSU TRANSFER DEGREES
Students can earn 14 new degrees available in multiple fields of study. Students who complete the required educational plan will receive an associate degree. Anyone interested is advised to talk to their counselors for detailed information and specific educational plans.

KEEPER'S CLUB OFFERS FREE MUSIC LESSONS
The Keeper's International U.S. Chapter invites students to discover and develop their potential. Instrumental and vocal lessons are offered to students by fellow students in an educational and enriching environment every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. in Room 108 in Franklin Hall. The Keeper's Club International aims to promote brotherhood without violence and to provide a sense of belonging to all youth regardless of their religious or cultural backgrounds.

Compiled by
Carlos Martinez and
Holly San Nicolas

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 100 MARCH FOR JUSTICE



April 24, 2015: More than 165,000 people march six miles from Sunset Boulevard to Wilshire Boulevard in remembrance of the Armenian genocide of 1915. The march ended in front of the Turkish Consulate at Wilshire Boulevard and South Crescent Heights Boulevard. Photos By Gegham Khekoyan

Many Share One Family's Story

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Helen Bezikyan

Over 100 years ago, the Christian Armenians endured the suffering and attempted extermination because of their race and religion. Before the 1915 Armenian Genocide, Armenian people endured other mass killings. The fall of the Ottoman Empire in Turkey and the rise of a new government began to unfold in 1908, and my grandmother, Sirvard Bezikyan remembers. She says Armenians soon learned that a group of Turkish reformers called the "Young Turks" had plans to eliminate those who were non-Turkish, the Christian Armenians. The Massacre of Adana in 1909 was a contributing factor to the Armenian Genocide. This was the first battle between the Turks and the Armenians. Between 15,000 to 30,000 Armenians were slaughtered during this period. Adana is where my great-grandfather, Hakop Karapeti Bezikyan was from, and he fought alongside his fellow Armenians to protect their city. April 24, 1915 was when the first several hundred Armenian community leaders were placed under arrest by the Turkish government. These leaders were the scholars and elites of the Armenian community in Constantinople, present day Istanbul.

"They raised a hand at our valuable people: Grikor Zorhap, Komitas, Daniel Varoujan, Siamanto," my grandmother wrote in her letter, referring to Krikor Zorhab, the writer; Komitas, the priest and composer; Siamanto, the writer and Daniel Varoujan, the poet. My paternal great-grandmother, Peruz Bezikyan, was from Izmir, West Armenia, which is now Turkey. Her father was the village leader and the wealthiest man. He was killed in front of his family before the Turks murdered his wife, son and daughter-in-law who were both teachers. However, my great-grandmother was forced to march along with all the other Armenians. While marching, my great-grandmother caught my great-grandfather's eye. He saw her and "fell in love" at first sight. They got married and had their first two children, who were both born in Turkey. Nonetheless, the Armenian Genocide was not over and the Turks were still trying to eliminate Armenians from the face of the earth. My grandmother, Sirvard Bezikyan, is Hakop's daughter-in-law. She knows the history and the event of the Armenian Genocide better than her husband, my grandfather, Sarkis Hakopi Bezikyan. Her mother, Flora Khachatryan, was originally from Turkey, and was one of the

many Armenians forced to walk through the Syrian Desert. Turkish neighbors who Armenians had known for years betrayed them. Families were torn apart. Men were separated from their wives and children. Young girls were abducted, and men were decapitated. The Turks would "stab and rip open the stomachs of pregnant women as they revealed the gender of the babies," my grandmother wrote. Then the marches began. My grandmother recalls how Armenians of all ages, young and old, were assembled and forced to walk through the Syrian Desert to their deaths. They were hungry, thirsty and barefoot. Those who stopped to rest were shot. The desert was filled with Armenian corpses. To this day, the remains of many are still in the desert. In 1922, the Armenian Genocide came to an end. Survivors were rescued and taken as refugees onto ships and to different countries. They were separated and scattered throughout the world, settling in Lebanon, Syria, Canada, New York, Los Angeles, Russia or Greece, like both of my great-grandparents and their families.

See page 4



INDEX

Opinion and Editorial	2-3
News	4
Arts & Entertainment	5
100 Years Protest	6,7,10
Campus Life	8
Sports	9



LAPD officials and firefighters restrained an elderly woman they believed to be mentally unstable after neighbors reported seeing her pacing her balcony and brandishing an assault weapon on April 29, 2015.

Photos by Curtis Sabir and Frank Vidrio

Kinesiology, Life Science Building Evacuated

A suicide threat led police to an assault weapon and a BB gun.

By Kyle Blaylock

A woman was seen pacing the balcony of her home in the 700 block of Heliotrope Drive carrying an assault weapon and talking to herself, according to neighbors who called the police on Wednesday April 29, 2015 around 3 p.m. The call came in saying she wanted to kill herself. At least 30 law enforcement officials and a few firefighters arrived at the scene

to calm her down and convinced her to surrender two weapons. Police say she threw two loaded assault weapons, a .44-caliber rifle and a BB gun, over the balcony and surrendered. Meanwhile, a block away on the northeast side of campus, L.A. County Sheriffs and cadets evacuated the Life Science and Kinesiology Buildings. Officials directed students in the opposite direction of Heliotrope Drive with little explanation.

"Police are familiar with the woman," Senior Lead Officer Iris Santin said. "When mentally ill people don't take their meds things like this can happen." When the woman was in custody, she told police and firefighters that it was hot and that she was having difficulty breathing. A firefighter suggested she be given water and moved into the shade. Despite the disruption, the woman was not arrested and was instead taken in for evaluation.