



The Bakersfield College

Archives Newsletter

May 2010

Volume 9, Issue 1

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RICHARD MILES:

B.C. Student, Foreign Service Officer, Ambassador

By John J. Collins, President Emeritus, Bakersfield College

Dick Miles came to Bakersfield College in the spring semester of January, 1958, 52 years ago as the College was feeling its way on the new campus after 43 years on the Bakersfield High School campus. He had just finished a four year tour of duty in the Marine Corps aboard the USS Lexington and since he wanted a university education, he had to recover from dropping out of high school after a two year stint. It turned out that Dick and Bakersfield College were suited for each other; Dick yearned for all the secrets between the covers of books, and BC was noted for providing students with a second chance in life. So it was a partnership that has sustained him even until these later days.

As a veteran he was in a student body with a cadre of older students with military experience. Along with others he was an excellent student and became active in student government, and with the student court as his area of interest, he rose to the office of Chief Justice. Many of these older students took student government seriously not just as an activity for fun and games. I was

their advisor who often strove mightily to stay one step ahead of them. Dick distinguished himself as a student while attending B.C. and became the Valedictorian at the 1960 Commencement.

He also developed an interest in politics for the first time in his life.

After attending UC Berkeley and receiving a Masters Degree in East European History at Indiana University, Dick became active in the Civil Rights Movement and in 1968 joined the U. S. Foreign Service, eventually earning assignments at the ambassador level. He and I stayed in contact over the years through letters, email, and his occasional visits in Bakersfield. His experience in the State Department took him all the way from the early days of the Cold War to a recent assignment in Turkmenistan, a country between Iran and Afghanistan near where the war on terrorism is taking place. He had been on assignment in Berlin during the 1988 Soviet Union collapse and in 1992 was sent as Ambassador to Azerbaijan. Then, with things heating up in Yugoslavia, he was assigned there as Chief of Mission during the Bosnian War and the subsequent fall from power of Milosevic. Later he was assigned as Ambassador to Georgia, one of the Soviet Union's breakaway states.

See **MILES**, page 2



Bakersfield
COLLEGE

MILES continued

Dick Miles felt being called Consul General in Leningrad was probably his best assignment. In a recent letter to me reviewing his years on assignment he wrote about his experiences in Leningrad as follows:

“By 1988 there were clear signs that the Soviet Union was breaking down, the infrastructure was deteriorating, basic food items were scarce, and democratic forces were openly challenging the Communist regime. The end was near for the Soviets, and a new fresh breeze was stirring in Europe. I was not only witness to all of this, I was a player. I am proud of my service in the State Department during this time of wrenching change on the world scene, and I am thankful that my education and training gave me the

opportunity to represent my country at a significant level, and for a substantial number of years”.

Writing to me in 2010, fifty years after he received his degree at B.C., Dick cites “[It] was the important role which you and all your colleagues at Bakersfield College played in preparing me, not just in terms of knowledge, but also in character development, which I called on down through the years of my professional life”.

Dick Miles has had a long and tumultuous ride, having been assigned as he was to a succession of cold and hot war sites that required the best efforts he could muster. He is an eminent graduate of Bakersfield College and a great credit to his country during times of great need. ☞



DEVELOPING ART CURRICULUM AT BC

By Albert Naso, Art Professor, Retired

Months after Dr. Simonsen interviewed me in New York in 1968, and my acceptance of a position at BC, my wife, Fabiola, our two children, and I eagerly began our journey by car to California. I arrived at the college two weeks early to set up a graphics lab in the Audio Visual Department, and it was finally decided that I would teach classes in art and industrial drawing, develop graphics and visual aids for the college and the district, and within a reasonable time introduce and teach courses in graphics at BC. The breadth of this work offered me the opportunity to meet, not only staff from the Art, Physical Science, and Audio Visual departments, but also staff from the entire college and district who would be using my graphic design services.

I soon developed four new graphics courses: Perspective Drawing, Graphic Illustration, Graphic Design, and Advertising Graphics. Later, Chalita Robinson introduced a course in lettering. The College offered these courses for many years until Nelson Richardson, an applicant for a part-time position with strong graphic design experience at a local television station (Channel 17) appeared, so I asked him if he would teach graphics



in my program instead of the drawing class he was applying for. He agreed and proved to be an excellent teacher. Since he used the computer on his day job, he was asked to eventually teach computer graphics when the college could afford the program. It took about ten years to do it, but the course was successful, and today Computer Graphics has become an important offering of the Art Department.

In the summer of 1974, I and my family visited my wife's family in Quito, Ecuador I was able to meet Ecuadorian artists and be



“Homage to Gaudí, by Albert Naso” An example of a computer color print based on an ink line drawing recalling the sense of Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí’s landscape design of Guell Park in Madrid.

exposed to Ecuadorian architecture and pre-Columbian sculpture. When I returned to BC, Dean Frank Watron encouraged me to develop a six-week course on the Art of Ecuador. The following year, I returned to South America on a sabbatical with the goal of expanding the Ecuador course and creating another one on the Art of Peru. Ultimately, these became nine-week courses and qualified for multi-cultural credit as ethnic studies.

After a visit to Spain I developed another nine-week course titled The Art of Spain. Some years later, I took over the whole Art History program at BC, and expanded the existing three courses to four, which made a full two-year program. As the small program grew, Nancy Magner was hired part-time to assist in teaching these courses and also Art Appreciation. Later when I became Division Chair of Fine Arts and Communications, Nancy taught the full art history program and eventually was hired full-time.

I retired in 2000 and throughout my tenure, including my

seven years as Division Chair, there certainly were many problems, especially with the on-going problems of reduced budgets, but I can look back now at those times as having been some of my best. In 1990 I began writing memoirs, which I continue to do today, and in that process learned much about using graphic software for home publishing my memoir and also creating new and revised art on the computer. Throughout my career, I always practiced and exhibited my drawings and paintings, and now I have been expanding that interest into computer painting.

I’ve had a ball at BC and had many chances for personal development with many opportunities to share those gains. Much of this joy was due to the support I received from all levels of the College, and I continue now to present short courses in art and writing for the new Levan Institute, which is a great new adjunct to BC’s offerings. ☺

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We have MANY volunteer opportunities. These are just a few. Call us at 395-4949 or send us an email at bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu. We will arrange for a time that is convenient for you and see that you get a parking permit.

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Make Lists | • Our Files |
| • Identify Photos | • Scan Images/Documents |
| • Transcribe Oral Interviews | • Input Data Onto The Computer |
| • Help Organize and Reorganize | • Conduct Oral Interviews |

Volunteer Jeri Haner, Business Education, Retired



RICHARD LEAKEY VISITS BC

By Robert Schiffman,
Anthropology Professor, Retired

In 1974, Bakersfield College had the pleasure of presenting a lecture by Richard Leakey, a renowned paleontologist, who discussed recent discoveries made in the search for our earliest ancestors. Richard is the son of Louis and Mary Leakey, the famous husband and wife team of paleontologists whose life work yielded numerous important fossil hominid discoveries in east Africa, most notably in Tanzania. Richard, who was born in Kenya, spent much of his childhood accompanying his famous parents on paleontological excavations in east Africa and eventually followed in their footsteps.

As part of his presentation he reviewed portions of his paleontological efforts, beginning with his first major foray into paleontological research in 1967, when he was part of an international team to the Omo River region in Ethiopia. Results of that work yielded the oldest example, up to that time, of Homo sapiens, dating to 160,000 years B.P. along with specimens of Homo neanderthalensis. Then in 1969 he led an expedition to Kooba Fora in Ethiopia, eventually resulting in the 1972 discovery of a 1.9 million year old Homo habilis. He explained that the significance of that Homo habilis specimen was that it was the oldest direct ancestor of man yet discovered.

When Richard Leakey came to speak at Bakersfield College in 1974, his chief competitor and adversary in the search for the earliest "human" was Donald Johanson, who had very recently discovered a 3 plus million year old specimen nicknamed Lucy in the Afar region of Ethiopia. The rivalry between the two that developed was based on different interpretations on the lines of evolution and the human family tree.

During his lecture Richard Leakey presented descriptions and slides of various fossil forms and provided a synopsis of his (and his parents) interpretation of human evolution. From the Leakey perspective, at that time, the human lineage went back millions of years and had nothing to do with Australopithecines. The Leakeys held that the human line evolved from such individuals as Homo habilis, to later Homo erectus and eventually towards modern humans.



Richard Leakey, 1978, holding a beetle-browed Australopithecus (left) and a 2-million-years old hominid, (right).

Leakey then went on to describe Johanson's Lucy, explaining his views of how he saw Lucy as an earlier example of the Genus Homo, and perhaps a forerunner to Homo habilis. He countered Johanson's position that modern humans evolved through the Australopithecus line, giving a variety of reasons to support his claim. It should be noted that the controversy between Richard and his mother Mary on one side and Don Johanson on the other, lasted for more than a decade.

I had the pleasure of greeting Richard on his arrival to Bakersfield. During lunch he inquired about Sharkstooth Hill, a deposit rich in late Miocene marine fossils, of which he had heard about. He asked if it was possible to visit the area. That afternoon, we drove out to the Sharkstooth Hill area, where he and I spent a couple of hours looking around. During the visit, we found several sharks teeth and bone fragments and came across several amateur paleontologists who had unearthed portions of a whale's vertebral column.

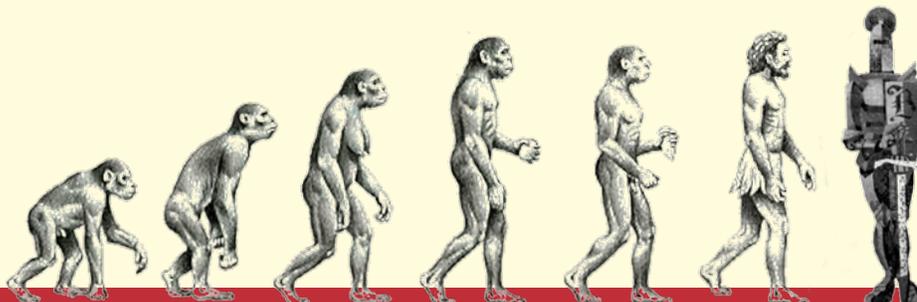
Richard Leakey continued his quest for early human fossil remains into the late 1980's when his attention turned to wildlife conservation in Kenya. Today, Richard Leakey is on the faculty of Stony Brook University in New York and Chair of Wildlife Direct, a Kenya based wildlife charity. 🐾

From the notice to faculty about Leakey's Lecture:

RICHARD LEAKEY—LECTURE; Wednesday, March 17

Although he has no formal university education, he has received practical training in paleo-anthropology from two extremely gifted teachers, his parents, Mary and Louis Leakey. Richard has been leading his own expeditions since 1964 and has made several significant finds.

8 p.m. in the College Theatre, Admission \$1.





They were first – The BC Ski Club, with the theme “Ski The Mountain of Time” was the first place winner in the Homecoming parade. Photo by William Walker



Georgene on Ski Hill

GEORGENE BIHLMAN 1925 - 2010

By Bob Covey, BC Track Coach, Retired

George Bihlman taught and coached at BC for an incredible forty-six years, retiring in 1991. She taught swimming, badminton, basketball, tennis, volleyball, and golf to both men’s and women’s classes, but one of her most remarkable accomplishments was the teaching of skiing on a ski hill at the Bakersfield College campus. With a Bachelors Degree from San Jose State in 1941 and a Masters from Stanford, Georgene coached team sports for the high school Girl’s Athletic Association (G.A.A) and the college Women’s Athletic Association (W.A.A.). She seldom missed a winter weekend of snow skiing, a sport in which she became quite proficient. By 1952 she was one of the favorites to compete for a position on the U.S. Winter Olympic Team, but an automobile accident injured her before the trials. She never again followed that dream.

In 1966, Bihlman wanted to teach snow skiing and planned a dry-land ski hill on the BC campus. She used the hill that dropped down west of Memorial Stadium’s north stands toward where the Romain Clerou Fieldhouse now stands. She groomed the hill and, at her own expense, bought cottonseed hulls and spread them out to make the hill slippery. She was not satisfied, so she next purchased Italian plastic used on other dry-land ski hills, pieced them together by herself, and found this to be better. For the final exams, she arranged field trips to Shirley Meadows on Greenhorn Mountain so her students could test themselves on real snow.

She started the BC Ski Club and assistant track coach and

Health Education Professor Norm Hoffman was elected club President. A favorite destination was Mammoth Mountain. Faculty members not in the club, like Professor Pete McKay and I, arranged to meet Georgene at Mammoth for “graduate” instruction. Her coaching was serious stuff. Anyone who didn’t like to be yelled at didn’t enjoy her “drill instructor” style. She knew what she wanted in her students, and she’d yell, “Keep your skis together.” “Un-weight your uphill ski!” “Bend your knees!” “Lean down hill, NO, DOWN THE HILL!” When she yelled at me, I could almost hear her say “dummy,” but she never said anything like that to anyone.

Once she asked Pete McKay to follow her to the top of Mammoth and to follow her off the cornice. Pete shook his head and watched Georgene blast off the top, a near vertical drop. She was fearless. A year or so later, she asked me to follow her and I replied, “No way!”

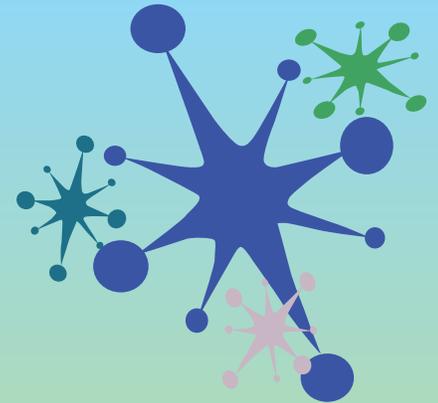
In 1979, Bihlman was inducted into the Bob Elias Kern County Sports Hall of Fame. Her acceptance speech was one of the longest on record, as she wanted everyone in attendance to know how important the induction was to her. In 1998 she was awarded the N.A.S.I.A. Outstanding Competitors Award, an honor she shares with many of America’s top skiers. That year she was seventy-three years old and the oldest woman ever to receive the award. On February 15, 2010, Georgene Bihlman passed away in Truckee, California. She was just ten days short of her eighty-fifth birthday. ☹



A VOICE FROM THE PAST: WILL ROGERS, JR.

[From the 1976 Raconteur, p. 77]

By Forest Phinney, Raconteur Activities Director



Will Rogers, Jr., son of the late cowboy-philosopher, has never been one to avoid controversy. The former congressman, newspaper publisher, and actor had some pungent observations about Indian affairs when he spoke before a Community Lecture audience at BC last fall [1975].

In a pre-lecture conference, Rogers who is part Cherokee Indian, said, "We've got to remove the large number of bureaucrats from Indian reservations....the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs should either be abolished or replaced by a more effective agency.

He predicted Indians will continue to be "kicked from agency to agency unless they organize efforts to control their lands." Incidents like the disturbance at Wounded Knee, S.D. aren't effective until they (Indians) quit doing public relations tricks and get down to the difficult task of organizing, as Cesar Chavez has

done., he said.

In his lecture Rogers emphasized that "Only Indians should form Indian programs, other people should keep out." And although he is part Indian by blood, Rogers said he doesn't consider himself in the same category as those who live on the reservation.

"I'm a member of the Cherokee tribe. When they receive money, I do too. When they vote, I do. But other than that we really have no connection." He described the controversial Indian Movement (AIM) as the best thing that could happen to Indians, even though many reservations have been discrediting the organization.

"Indians had a lot of good will, but they lack power. Congress was a major stumbling block," he said.

His father was famed comedian, philosopher, political pundit and newspaper columnist in the 1920's and 1930's. ☺

MYSTERY ? PHOTO



Judy Wilson Fleagle was able to give an approximate date to this photo which helped us discover it in the 1958 Raconteur on the divider page introducing the Freshman section. We think, from comparing portraits, that this may be Joan Yeakel. Can anyone confirm this for us?



For many years, mascots for the Bakersfield College football team have been representatives from McKinley School. This photograph of Renegade mascots first appeared in the 1963 Raconteur and later in a November, 1966 football program dedicated to all the mascots through the years. Player number 23 is Dan Costello from Shafter. Can you identify the two young men who were the mascots?

BC MEMORIES: THEATRE AND FINE ARTS

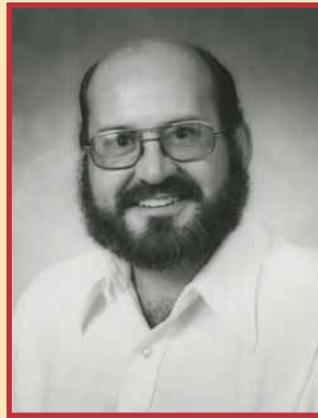
By Henry "Hank" Webb, Retired

When I got out of the navy in January 1960, after serving two years as a hospital corpsman, I wanted to be a doctor, so I came to BC as a pre-med major. The only problem was, I was lousy at math. I am a mathphobe and barely got a D in bonehead algebra. A friend of mine, Karl Murray, talked me into trying out for a play and said, "Its fun! You'll enjoy it." So I tried out, got a little nonspeaking role standing behind a tall plant. I did have fun, and tried out for the next play. I got to say a few words and by the next year, I was president of Delta Psi Omega, the drama club. So much for medicine.

It never crossed my mind that I would ever come back to teach at BC. After I left in the spring of '63, I wandered around, finally came to my senses, and got degrees in theatre at Cal State Fresno. And, mirabile dictu, Bob Chapman hired me to teach at BC! What a stroke of fortune or destiny or whatever you choose to call it! Frank Wattron was a dean then and so was Phyllis Dabbs. Mary Lou Garfield was the designer and Henry Horwege.

At that time Dr. Frank Wattron was chairman and a director. Dr. Robert Chapman and Henry Horwege were directors, plus all three were great teachers as well, If you ever met Frank Wattron, there was no surprise that he was in theatre because he was nothing if not theatrical. If he directed a play, you always waited for the moment a week or so before opening when he would get frustrated with our progress, fling his clipboard across the room, and storm off the stage. But he was a great director.

At that time Willie Lowell and Steve Rice handled the technical functioning of the theatre. They were the best technicians ever. They knew where everything was, how it worked, and how to fix it. Both left the theatre department later and eventually took over the entire campus. They were the indispensables of that time and available 24/7. After they left the department, Dave Hicks, a true Rube Goldberg with



an amazing mind, replaced them. If we could not afford something, Dave jury-rigged a device that would do the job.

In the spring of 1984 I was incapacitated, and Randy Messick was hired to fill in for me. He was a dynamic young man, still is, albeit not quite so young now. He continued on in the department and later created the Kern Shakespeare Festival, which has run successfully ever since. Unfortunately, the last performances were ended in fall, 2009. So that was the end of the Festival.

In the 1980s with money woes plaguing the department, we decided to compete with the local haunted houses, which earned many dollars at Halloween. Then, as now, everything at BC was the Renegades; Rene-this and Rene-that. So we called our haunted house, Renegore! We created the best, most horrifying haunted house ever produced in Bakersfield! We did Renegore for several years until we burned ourselves out because it took so much effort to put on. Yet it was great FUN! As I ended my career in June of 2000 as chair of the Fine Arts Division, I felt I was among the most blessed of men: I got paid to do what I loved doing! ☺



Hank testing out the fog making machine when he was the Technical Director/Senior Technician for the production of Dracula, November, 1975



Student workers Jason Haffner, Mary Ann Goycoochea, and Danny Medina are shown with our new scanner and connected laptop.

Come See The Archives

The BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE ARCHIVES has photos and memorabilia on display and a wealth of fascinating old documents on BC's history. We are located on the 2nd floor of the new Grace Van Dyke Bird Library.

Director: Jerry Ludeke

Archives Assistant: Rosalee Pogue

Email: bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Phone: 661-395-4949

HOURS FOR FALL 2010

Tues, Wed and Thurs :8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Other hours available by appointment

Consciousness Raised In 1969

By Ray Gonzales

Upon my discharge from the Marines in 1959, I enrolled at Bakersfield College and have fond memories of my two years as a student. After attending BC I spent a year in Spain, and then went to San Francisco State, graduating in 1963. Later I earned an M.A. in 1964 at the University of the Americas. While teaching at a private high school in the Bay Area and taking graduate classes at Stanford, I was interviewed by Dr. Ed Simonson who offered me a teaching position in English and Spanish beginning fall of 1965.

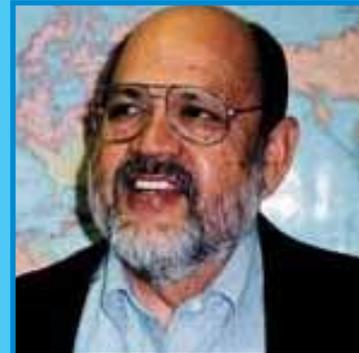
As a student at BC I was among the handful of Latinos enrolled at the college. As I was an English major, I recalled not having a single Latino in any of my second year English classes. In 1965 when I arrived as a teacher, I was among the only three minority faculty: one Latino, one Asian, and one African American. I taught Spanish and English, Pat Lee taught math, and Willie Pearl Mdoona taught home economics. While we appeared to be tokens, I did not feel like a token, as both faculty members and administrators were nothing but kind and supportive. There was no sense of any racial animosity or bigotry. We seemed to be a very happy family with only typical faculty and administrative frictions occurring occasionally. But we were in the mid-Sixties, and the country was beginning to experience dramatic cultural and political changes.

So little by little, as the enrollment of minority students at BC increased, I began to have concerns about the lack of diversity among faculty. After major civil right legislation passed in 1965, the Watts Riots occurred, the Vietnam War escalated, and with the assassinations in 1968 of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, I felt the need to act. Several BC faculty members motivated me into getting involved, so at that time my wife Judy and I became founding members of the National Organization for Women in Bakersfield. One of the goals of NOW was "consciousness-raising." For me, this applied to more than just improving the role of women in society. I wanted to improve the role of minorities in the area as well.

As Vietnam veterans returned home and enrolled at BC, the number of minorities attending B.C. increased dramatically. However, I noted that nothing was changing among the make-up of the faculty. Certainly some consciousness-raising was called for. Supported by the UMAS students and the Black Student Union, I introduced a resolution to the Academic Senate on October 4, 1968 calling for an increase of 10 minority faculty members for the following year to join the three of us who had been the only minorities among the faculty in the three years I had taught at the college. The Academic Senate, led by Dean Close and other faculty members, such as Cliff Garrett and Greg Goodwin, supported the resolution and passed it to the Administration and the College Board.

In the late Sixties the country was in turmoil. Anti-war demonstrations were occurring across the country. Civil rights marches occurred in cities across America, and even in Bakersfield, students in high schools and at the college began to demand improvements in the educational system. The BC Board agreed to the resolution and authorized the hiring of 10 minority faculty members for the academic year beginning in September of 1969. They then asked us to help recruit this significant number of new faculty. We enthusiastically joined in the search, and consequently Jesse Bradford, Chalita Robinson, and Jess Nieto came to join the new minority faculty on campus.

Since that time the number of minority faculty and administrators has kept pace with the increase in minority enrollment, and now that a Latina woman was the President of the college and is now Chancellor of the entire college district. Bakersfield College, in my view, has never been an unfriendly environment for minority faculty or students. But this is not to say that "consciousness" did not need to be raised. I was always happy as a student and faculty member at Bakersfield College, to find an environment to be both accepting and supportive for minorities. I have always felt that the inclination of the college has always been to do the right thing, once it has become clear what the right thing is. ☺



RAYMOND GONZALES, BIOGRAPHICAL:

Graduated from BC in 1961; Taught at BC 1965 to 1969; Later taught at CSLB, CSUB, and CSMB; 1st Latino from Central Valley elected to CA Assembly in 1972

Defeated in 1974 by Bill Thomas, also from BC

Later served in Jerry Brown administration in Sacramento

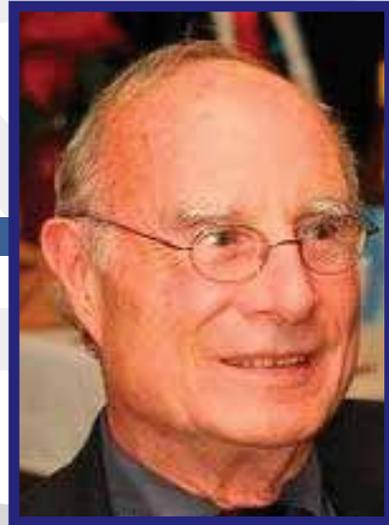
1980-89, political officer & labor attaché in the U.S. Foreign Service

- in Guatemala, Barbados, Belgium
- in Washington, DC Director of Latin American Refugee Program.

The Hallway Library bears his name

Dear Dr. Jack

by Jack Hernandez



As Dr. Jack of the Archives I occasionally receive emails asking for advice. Dr. Phil I am not, nor aspire to be, but I do feel obligated to respond to those emails that smack of desperation and are, I hope, of some universal interest. Two, in particular, about my Hottie and Diet columns, seem relevant to the anxieties of modern life to which I've applied my philosophical counseling.

Dear Dr. Jack:

Bummer—your Hottie Professor column pitched me into a gooey pond of despair. When I looked into my full-length walk-in closet mirror I realized, probably not for the first time, that, yikes, I'm not a Hottie of any kind! You see, genetically I was not gifted with either a Hottie face or a Hottie body. And if Hottiness is next to Coolness, as some believe (namely my office mate), then, hey, I'm lost. I've tried meditation and Napa cabernets, but neither has rid me of the feeling that, though silver tongued as I am, I, like, lack ultimate worth. What can I do?

Not A Hottie

Dear Not A Hottie,

I cannot deny it, you have a Hottie problem. Well, in fact most of us do. Yet we take consolation in the fact that most of the world is made up of Homelies, not Hotties. By Homeliness I mean radiating the comfort and naturalness of a home—think comfy chairs and big (I mean really big) screen TVs. Hotties aspire to Hoity-Toityness, Homelies to Heartiness. So who cares if you're not a Hottie; embrace your inner Homeliness!

Dear Dr. Jack:

Wowie and zowie am I ever addicted to diets!!!! But alas and alack, they don't stop me from the munchies, and I mean MUNCHIES!!!! Morning, noon, and night munchies...I even have dream munchies...the BEST!!!! But, hey, I bet Socrates was pudgy and look how well he made out (and I'm not thinking of the Hemlock!). When I'm at college meetings I have to squeeze into those Lilliputian chairs, so I have a definite conundrum. What say you, philosophically?

In Munchie Angst

Dear In Munchie Angst,

I say make a leap of food faith!!! You know, *carpe diem*...live in the moment and seize the chocolate with gusto. Of course the dinky chairs are a problem, but you can't stay stranded forever between munchies and diets. I know, I've tried...I diet, therefore I am doesn't work, so embrace your inner and outer chunkiness with the fervor of one who has found the truth that will set you free...in larger sizes.

ENTER OUR NAMING CONTEST!

Send us a new name for the newsletter and WIN A DINNER FOR TWO, WITH WINE, AT THE RENEGADE ROOM. Our publication is much more than the usual organization newsletter. Perhaps you can think of something more suitable that reflects what we do in preserving BC memorabilia and events.

FROM OUR READERS

A BC MEMORY *From Judy Wilson Fleagle (sister of Harry Wilson), attended BC 1959-1961*

I was this hick kid from Kern Valley High. I was in the last class where the high school was considered unaccredited, so could not go to college anywhere else without challenging their entry qualifications by taking a test. I went to BC and was the first grad from Kern Valley to go on to college and graduate (at least that was what I was told back then). I loved BC when I was there, and I'm still friends with the two gals I roomed with both years in the dorm. They were best friends from Mojave. The dorms were built to hold two girls per room, but three were crammed into each except for an end room that only held two. Even though it was crowded, we had a great time. Wonderful memories!

RENEGADE BAND AND FOOTBALL GAMES

From Benny de la Cruz, attended BC, 1961-62

While a high school student at East Bakersfield High School, one of the great thrills in Bakersfield at the time was to attend the Saturday BC Football Games. Powerhouse teams, year after year, but as a band member, to witness the Renegade Band perform at half time was an integral part of the evenings event. [My] enrolling at BC following my high school graduation was a tribute to the fine band direction of Dr. Fahsbender, I could not wait to be a part of such an exciting band. Together with our new uniforms, with our high-topped Russian Cossack shackos, the thrill of entering the stadium with our entry of Quo Vadis, fan fared by heralding trumpets and our goose-stepping intro, then proceeding directly into the BC fight song just brought the crowd to its feet. Th[is]

excitement was without comparison to any other JC in the country! We were so well known, as a result, we were invited to represent BC at the Seattle World's Fair in 1962, [followed by] the Jr. Rose Bowl Game in Pasadena. A truly memorable time of my life.

THE WEEKLY BLATT AGAIN *(See November 2007, Newsletter From: Hank Russell, attended BC, 1959-1961)*

I was a supporter of the Weekly Blatt but I don't recall being a contributor. I did, however, have two friends who were contributors. Jack Reynolds (who showed me the Archives Newsletter) wrote the John Galt piece "Washing Town" in issue 12 of volume 2, and Gartley Parker was a regular with his "Uncle Joe's Dept." column. I have lost track of Gart over the years but stay in contact with Jack. We were older (Veterans Club members) than the majority of students and the principals of the Blatt. Stan Harbaugh and Bill Hulse were on the student court with me, and I believe they also wrote some things for publication. I graduated in 1961 and did not hear of the paper after that. My brief political experience on campus has come back to haunt me. After retiring from Kaiser Permanente and moving to the gold country in 1998, I ran for the city council and am now mayor of Sonora. College experiences continue to pay off.

Newsletter Readers: If you have an interesting memory or funny story about BC, email to: bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu, or mail to Newsletter Editor, BC Archives Association, 1801 Panorama Drive.

Interesting Acquisitions



Kelly Chamberlain got this 1973 band uniform (modeled by Rosalee Pogue) at a garage sale! A 1974 Raconteur article describes them as the first new uniforms in 14 years. The Renegade Marching Band, under the direction of Dr. Charles Wood, borrowed \$12,500 from ASB to fund the purchase. Car washes and activities, such as "Las Vegas Night" at the Police Pistol Range, earned the money to pay back the loans.

Bill Priddy donated maroon and white athletic letters from 1947 and 1949.

Tanya Hildebrand, head songleader in 1959-1960 donated her songleader outfit.

Carla Reyes on behalf of ASB donated many award plaques all of which have now been scanned and a list made of all the honorees. Eventually these will appear on our website.



The big red bird was the award given by the SGA during Homecoming to the department with the best decorations. It was awarded from 1986 through 1990 and then disappeared from circulation. Rosalee Pogue saw it on the desk of Leo Avalos in Shipping and Receiving. Leo said it was on the desk he inherited. Awardees were BL&CM in '86, Learning Center in '87 & '89, Business Office in '88, and the D.O. in '90. Departments wrote their names and dates on the bottom. Shipping added their name and date in 2003.

HOW THE HUMANITIES BUILDING GOT A WATER COOLER

By David Willard, English Professor, Retired



One hot summer in the 70's I was teaching summer school, earning a little money for a new refrigerator or something, as Si put it, and happened to notice that the Administration Building had two water coolers, but Humanities had none.

So I wrote a tongue-in-cheek letter to Burns Finlinson, saying that if we didn't get a cooler, I would come in the middle of the night and steal one of his. Well, weeks went by and there was no response, so I wrote a second letter, saying I would come in the middle of the night and steal both his coolers. A few days later when I ran into Burns, he said, frowning, "Dave, you know that's not the way we do things around here."

A few more weeks went by, and then Jack Hernandez told me that the water fountain inside the south-central entrance to Humanities had cool water (!) Burns had cleverly turned the problem over to Jack, and Jack had coolly hidden the cooling apparatus inside the utility room behind the fountain.

I was never sure about his motives... Was he saving money or preventing other departments from noticing Humanities had cool water and making demands for a cooler too?

But I can tell you that the staff and the students in Humanities were deeply appreciative for many hot summers thereafter, and full of admiration for the cool way the problem was solved. ☺

ARCHIVE ITEMS WE NEED:

- A Freshman Dink. (Please tell us if you have any memory of the dinks.)
- A "Junior Certificate," the first graduation certificates issued.
- A Scorpion (annual) for 1922 or 1923.
- A copy of The Scrutinizer, the first Bakersfield Junior College newspaper from 1921 and 1922.
- Football programs from before 1953 or after 1986. (Danny O'Neill's collection gave us most of the programs from 1953 to 1986. A few are missing, so please check with us.)
- Programs or memorabilia from all other sports except Track and Field and Cross Country. (Bob Covey donated his collection)
- Photos of cheer/song leaders. (We want to develop a chronological record of the names and the outfits worn.)



Freshmen were required to buy "dinks" at registration and to wear them the first week of school to develop their school spirit and to identify them to sophomores who wanted help in carrying their books.



BC PEOPLE WE WILL MISS

Georgene Bihlman was a dedicated P.E. teacher at BC for 44 years until her retirement in 1991 (see story in this issue).

Fred Bonner will be remembered by the many students he taught in Industrial Education over a span of 40 years—the first 20 at Kern County Union High School (now Bakersfield High School) and the next 20 at Bakersfield College. He retired from BC in 1985.

Sally Briggs was a teacher and counselor for 35 years at Bakersfield High, South High, and BC. She taught Business Education for 18 years until her retirement in 1983. She was the wife of Paul Briggs, a long-time, well-known Bakersfield High School Football Coach.

Robert Flaming was both a BC alumnus and a BC retiree. He was a member of BC's winning football team in 1953, and he was an electronics teacher in the Industrial Education Department for 26 years before his retirement in 1995.

Lillian Helson, a Department Assistant for many years in both the Health Careers and Industrial Education Departments, retired from BC and moved to Morro Bay where she resided until she died at 97.

Jinny Lawrence, wife of BC Life Science teacher George Lawrence. Jinny was very active in the BC Faculty Wives organization and was known in the community for being the chief menu planner and cook at the Guild House for many years.

Lula McClellan was employed at BC as one of the cooks in the Child Development Department who prepared meals for the pre-school children at Grace House from 1981 until her retirement in 2001.

Wilbur Rickett was an accomplished civil and geotechnical engineer. The Bakersfield College Memorial Stadium was one of his major projects while he was in partnership with the Tumblin Company. He was an avid supporter of Bakersfield College athletics.

Charles West, Sr. was a BC faculty member and Director of the Work Experience Program from 1989 until his retirement in 2005. Charles was also a retired 20-year Army Major before coming to Bakersfield College for his second career.

Readers Please Note: Send information about former BC people to Charlotte Cox at ccox@bak.rr.com