BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

THE RENEGADE RIP

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Photo Essay

'Spring Jam' rocks crowd for BC Foundation

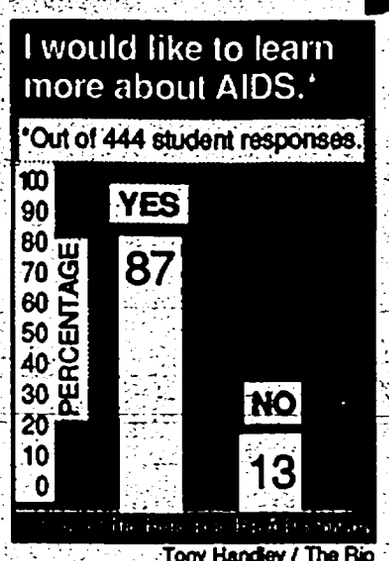
—Page 3

Special Report

Student survey reveals attitudes, fears about AIDS

—Page 4

Survey shows BC lacks AIDS education



Tony Handley / The Rip

Editor's Note: The stories about AIDS in this edition are the first of a two part series. Part two will be published next week.

By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Editor in Chief

SPECIAL REPORT / PAGE 4-5

Forty-six percent of Bakersfield College's students who answered a recent *Renegade Rip* AIDS survey said they haven't received any AIDS education while attending BC.

The survey also showed that nearly 20 percent described the AIDS education at BC as below average or poor, 23 percent described it as average and 11 percent described it as above average or excellent.

Although the percentage of those who have not received any AIDS education may seem high, BC health professor Norm Hoffman said that the number may be higher than usual because his health classes hadn't gotten to the section on AIDS yet when the survey was conducted.

Some students who answered the survey felt differently.

One student wrote on her questionnaire that she had received AIDS education at BC, "but relatively little. Sex and AIDS are bad words at BC."

Many of those answering the survey also said that their high schools did not offer AIDS education. Sixty-two percent of the 455 people who answered this question said they hadn't received any AIDS education in high school.

Most students surveyed said they wanted to learn more about AIDS.

The survey was conducted by *The Rip* in April and was answered by a total of 470 students, although not every student answered every question.

The poll's demographics mirrored the makeup of many BC day classes. Those surveyed were predominantly white, single and between the ages of 18-21. Most said they were heterosexual and sexually active.

The poll was distributed and answered in various history, political science, English, journalism and health classes. The purpose of the 48-question survey was to find out students' attitudes about AIDS, what AIDS education they had received and how the virus has affected their lifestyles.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome is a virus that is transmitted primarily through sex and drug use, according to medical reports. It has no known cure.

While students want to learn more about AIDS, the survey showed that many know how the disease is transmitted. Some key results included:

- Sixteen people, or almost 4 percent of the 449 students who answered, said that they were infected with the AIDS virus. Of these, nine were men, six were women and one did not state gender. All were heterosexual. Fourteen were single and two were divorced or separated.
- Almost 19 percent knew someone who has the virus or fully developed AIDS. (Response: 452 students)
- More than 40 percent of 366 students surveyed said that they never use a condom. Nearly 80 percent of those who do not use condoms are single.
- About 96 percent knew that they could catch AIDS by sharing needles. (Response: 467)

See SURVEY / PAGE 4

Concert attracts 6,000 fans, few problems

By Jill Ferdinand
News Editor

"SPRING JAM '92" / PAGE 2-3

Christopher Acosta / The Rip

Color Me Badd headlined Sunday's 'Spring Jam '92' concert to benefit the Bakersfield College Foundation.

Afternoon heat and heavy security didn't stop more than 6,000 fans from enjoying the seven-hour "Spring Jam '92" at the Bakersfield College Memorial Stadium Sunday.

Promoted by KKXX radio station and Friday Night Live, the benefit for the BC Foundation featured 14 acts that agreed to perform for reduced fees or for free.

According to Pat Shaffer, the foundation's director, transportation and other expenses were paid for the artists, but only Color Me Badd and Eddie Money were paid to perform. He declined to say how much these performers were paid.

Sixty private security officers hired from Contemporary Services Corporation in Clovis assisted campus security officers and plainclothes Bakersfield police officers in keeping the crowd under control.

Officers conducted a wand metal detector search and opened purses and other bags as fans entered the stadium, confiscating all bottles and cameras.

"That's a medium-level search," said John Rivera, Contemporary operations manager, adding that one of the few problems was that KKXX announced on the air that fans could bring in empty water bottles, but campus security would not allow any inside the stadium.

"It's a well-behaved group," said BPD Sgt. Tony Ennis. "Our only enforcement has been for drinking."

Ennis said that officers made one arrest for driving under the influence and issued more than 15 drinking-related violations.

"People were trying to bring beer into the concert," said BC security officer Ray DeLeon. "But when we asked them to throw it away, they did."

"Spring Jam" was the first concert held at Memorial Stadium and the first major concert on campus since Michael Obee, a BC student, was shot to death outside of the Outdoor Theatre during a rock concert last summer.

The Kern County Sheriff's Department made one arrest during Sunday's concert, when a stolen car was seen driving into the parking lot. Rudy Amavizca was arrested for grand theft auto, according to Sgt. Kirk Stewart. His two passengers were released.

"They said they were going to the concert, but they did not have any money," he said.

A crew from Hall Ambulance was on hand during the entire concert and a nurse's station was set up inside the stadium to treat ill or injured fans.

The most common complaint was heat exhaustion, according to Jeff Heinle, an emergency medical technician field supervisor for Hall, although the crew transported a pregnant fan who went into labor during the concert to Kern Medical Center. Hospital officials said they had no information about the woman or her baby.

"We did have one 16-year-old girl who got really excited and passed out when Color Me Badd was playing," Heinle said.

As of Monday, preliminary figures show that total attendance reached 6,114, according to Becky Hawthorne, director of the BC ticket office. Of those, 4,741 were paid admissions, she said.

Although financial figures will not be available until next week, both Hawthorne and Shaffer said they believe the concert was a success.

However, Shaffer said he felt bad that the concert ran late by almost two hours.

"Artists stayed on stage longer than they were scheduled to, and some didn't arrive on time."

He said about 600 letters were delivered to houses near the college, informing residents that the concert would end by 8:30 p.m.

Christopher Acosta / The Rip

Security officers search fan at entrance.

Forensics ends third in nation

By Jill Ferdinand
News Editor

Dropping two places from last year's top finish, the Bakersfield College debate team ended its season ranked third in the nation.

Advised by John Giertz, head of the BC communications department, the team earned sweepstakes points from competitions throughout the year and competed at the Junior College National Tournament last month in St. Louis, Mo., finishing third in both championships.

Giertz said he is pleased with the season, especially considering the team was made up primarily of freshmen.

"We'll have a lot of students returning next year. That's encouraging."

Giertz said that freshman Doug Djordjevic had an amazing spring, losing only two of his last 48 judges' decisions.

Djordjevic won gold medals in team and Lincoln-Douglas debates and extemporaneous speaking, and a silver for impromptu speaking at the national tournament.

Other BC winners include Keith Brennan, Steve Crow and Michelle Wheeler, gold, team debate; Bryan Eldredge and Nathan Cathcart, bronze, Lincoln-Douglas debate; and Michelle Wheeler, bronze, impromptu speaking.

"It's been an up and down year," Djordjevic said. "But it had a strong finish. We took a lot of lumps in the beginning."

He thanked both Giertz and assistant coach Bob Lechtreck for helping the team prepare for competition.

"What I like about them is they're so different. One is super intense about the actual competition," he said, referring to Giertz. "One is a little more laid back. Both care."

Dole featured at seminar

By Jeremy Meadors
Sports Editor

Keynote speaker Elizabeth Dole told the 1,300 women attending the Bakersfield Women's Business Conference that her husband, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, is the one who makes the bed every morning.

Dole elaborated on the story, saying that in a *People* magazine article about the couple, a photo was taken of them making the bed. When her husband was asked who makes the bed every day, he replied, "Of course it's me."

Dole, the president of the American Red Cross and a former White House Cabinet member, spoke about equality in the workplace, the advancement of career choices for women and the danger of male employers discriminating against women as part of the conference, which was co-sponsored by Bakersfield College.

"Progress of women in public life is like climbing trees with the branches just out of reach," she said. "Now we can grab onto those branches and pull ourselves up."

Dole said that women should be involved in politics.

"Women can start in grassroots organizations like churches, the PTA, then can make the transition into politics. MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) is a perfect example of women who are influential. MADD is a group with dynamic views and are the most important ally in the fight against drunk driving."

Dole

Some women who move up the ranks view power with mixed emotions, especially political power, she said.

"But power is a positive force when used in a positive way. If good causes are to move forward, then we must use that power."

Dole also talked about women being discriminated against in the workplace.

"We have to send a strong message to employers that women have a place in business. We have to break down that glass ceiling," said Dole, referring to the invisible barrier that halts the progress of women's careers. "The glass ceiling should meet the same fate as the Berlin Wall."

Dole hoped the conference would send a message to local, male-dominated businesses.

"The need to recruit and train skilled workers makes child care more important than ever before," she said. "Employers cannot afford to discriminate and ignore women's needs. The coming decade should bring unprecedented growth for women."

Northwest Center to shut down

By Jeremy Meadors
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College opened up another outreach center, this time at the Olive Drive firefighter training facility in northwest Bakersfield, but if you blinked, you missed it. The center will close at the end of this semester.

The Northwest Center began operating on Jan. 28 and was intended to give students who work or live in the area the ability to attend classes away from the BC main campus. Instruction in sociology, economics and literature is offered along with fire training.

Dr. Robert Allison, BC's dean of instruction, said that six classes were being held at the center, but the number of students registered were "not as good as it could have been." Allison said he would rather see a move back to the southwest part of Bakersfield.

"We need to remember that if we keep opening and closing centers, the community will not have much faith in us," said Allison at a recent Academic Senate meeting. "We have a commitment to ourselves, as well as the community. If we keep jumping around, the community will lose their faith in us."

Allison also said that the state attendance funding for the center was less than expected, so it will be closed as a site for general education classes. The facility will continue to be used for fire technology training.

"This campus is centrally located so we can draw from this area as well as northern communities such as Delano and McFarland," said Batallion Chief Gary Turner, a 12-year veteran firefighter and one of the night supervisors of the center.

The facility, jointly owned by the county and city fire departments, is routinely used for firefighter training and drills, but BC asked to use the facility in exchange for $2,400 in new audio/visual equipment.

The money for the equipment came from the continuing education fund, according to Dr. David Rosales, associate dean of instruction.

Sociology professor Rocky Maraccini said he is better suited to teach at the Northwest Center because it provided for his "free-flowing" teaching style.

"This is close to my day job at Cal State (Bakersfield)," Maraccini said. "There is a lot of room to move around in. I might add that there are very good quality students coming out here. I would love to teach here in the fall if it is still open."

Dr. Robert Allison
...said BC is commited to community

That will not be the case, as the Northwest Center will be scrubbed in favor of an outreach center in the southwest.

The West High campus was used last year for BC students to attend general education classes in the evening, but was discontinued because of increasing rental costs.

News

'Spring Jam '92' highlights pop performers

By Andrew McKnight
Rip staff writer

After being shifted around the schedule a few times, Cause & Effect ended up closing out last Sunday's "Spring Jam" concert at Bakersfield College's Memorial Stadium.

This did not bother the Sacramento-based band, even though members sat back stage all afternoon.

"We were very amused by all the star trips being played out," said the band's lead singer Richard Shepherd. "We were told that we were going on at 7 (p.m.) but we didn't think they meant 7 (a.m.) in the morning."

"I guess we just don't have that Color Me Badd sex appeal," quipped Sean Rowley, the band's keyboardist, in reference to the concert's headliner.

Things didn't get out of hand backstage, but there were occasions when egos clashed among the 14 bands that performed.

It seems Timmy T did not hit it off with Eddie Money.

"I had just finished my set and I was hot and thirsty, so I went back to my dressing room to clean up, but this big burly guy from Eddie Money's band got in front of me. My bodyguards stepped in but I didn't want any problems so we left," said Timmy T. "Eddie Money sucks. He thinks he is Michael Jackson."

About 10 minutes into Money's set, Timmy T decided that it would be a perfect time to go out into the crowd and sign autographs. This was not as effective as Timmy T probably hoped it was because many of those in the crowd were not listening to Money anyway.

Unfortunately, Eddie Money was not available for comment.

Apart from Color Me Badd's appearance and quick disappearance, most of the performers got along well and on the whole enjoyed themselves, they said.

It was obvious singer, songwriter Chris Walker had never been to Bakersfield because of the sports coat, long pants and turtleneck he wore, despite the warm temperatures.

"The crowd was great. As an artist on stage, you never know what to expect from the audience, and it is great to know that you were liked. I would definitely come back here to perform," said Walker.

The Minneapolis-based group Natural Selection thought their performance was "pretty fair," said Ermel Andrews, a band member.

"At the start of the set we were just feeling out the crowd and they were not being very receptive," he said.

"Yeah, but by the end of the set we had them jumping all over the place," said Jason Williams, another member of the group.

For the rap duet PM Dawn, Bakersfield was a rare live performance.

"We only perform live for benefits like this because we have not been able to perfect our stage show where we can fully project the aura of our music onto the audience," said Prince Be of PM Dawn.

Despite the heat and the many people with backstage passes, most of the performers said they enjoyed performing at the concert.

Briefly

New student body officers elected

Diana Thuai was elected as the 1992-93 ASBC president during voting Monday and Tuesday. As president, she will receive a salary of $80 per week. Other officers and their weekly salaries are:

Vice president, Martin A. Guerrero, $70; business manager, Michael "Chad" Curry, $65; chief justice, Mario Hernandez, $65; and secretary, Kalena Handley, $55.

Other ASBC positions are unpaid. Those elected include: commissioner of student activities, Lupe Guzman; commissioner of public relations, Doug Patrick; associate justices, Jodi Walls, Rebecca Slayton, Jodie Spraberry, and Wanda Conway; sophomore president, Cynthia Gilliam; sophomore vice president, Mario J. Mota; sophomore representative, Mark Van Neman; and head cheerleader, Rita Faz.

Re-entry Center will hold yard sale

The Bakersfield College Re-entry Center will hold a "spring cleaning" yard sale 7 a.m. to noon Saturday in the Humanities Quad just off Panorama Drive.

Clothes, tools, toys, books, small appliances, sporting goods and furniture will be among the items for sale. Proceeds will go to the Re-entry Center Scholarship Fund.

Those wishing to donate items can call 395-4582.

BC's 'Oklahoma!' opens next week

The musical play, "Oklahoma!" will be presented May 7, 8, 9 and 14, 15, 16 in the Outdoor Theatre by the Bakersfield College Theatre Arts Department.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are $5 and may be purchased in advance at the BC Ticket Office or at the Outdoor Theatre prior to the show.

The musical is the story of the ups and downs of young love set in the pioneer days of the Oklahoma Territory amid the rivalry between the area's farmers and cattle ranchers, according to Hank Webb, director.

The outdoor production is the combined effort of the theatre arts and music departments. Band director Robert Martinez is musical director.

For ticket information, call 395-4326.

Professor will give lecture on Incas

Bakersfield College art professor Al Naso will give a free presentation on "Machu Picchu: Lost City of the Incas," 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday in Fine Arts 30. The public is invited to attend.

Naso has photographed and explored the site extensively during his trips to the area. He will use slides to accompany his talk.

For more information, call 395-4404.

Students may earn seminar credit

Bakersfield College students can obtain one unit of credit for attending all seminars being presented at the 19th Annual Sexuality Seminar Monday and Tuesday at the Dore Theatre at California State University, Bakersfield.

Sponsored by BC, Taft College and CSUB, the seminar covers a variety of topics including sexually transmitted diseases, rape, AIDS and sexual preferences.

To find out course requirements for class credit, call 395-4319.

Corrections

"Spring Jam '92" is not the first concert performed at Bakersfield College since the shooting death of a BC student last summer outside a rock concert at the Outdoor Theatre, as stated in the April 26 edition of *The Rip*. According to Dr. Claire Larsen, associate dean of administrative services, Friday Night Live held a concert in the Outdoor Theatre two weeks after the homicide.

Photo identifications of two Bakersfield College baseball players, Brian Teeters and Jon Valenti, were inadvertently switched in *The Rip's* March 13 edition. *The Rip* apologizes for any inconvenience these errors may have caused.

Concert crowd soaks up music

By Jeremy Meadors
Sports Editor

J. Alan Walters / The Rip

Fans enjoy Sunday's concert despite hot weather. Temperatures fell later in the day.

Seventeen-year-old Jose Reyes of Phoenix watched from his front row seat at the parade of performers at the seven-hour-long "Spring Jam '92" held at Bakersfield College's Memorial Stadium.

It was a day of firsts. This was Reyes' first concert and the first concert of its kind in Bakersfield College history.

The concert, which featured 14 acts ranging from pop to rap, to rock, attracted approximately 6,114 people. All the proceeds went to the BC Foundation.

"This is really neat," said Reyes, a Phoenix native who will attend California State University, Bakersfield in the fall. "I really love Angelica and that Keedy girl. This is really wild. I love Bakersfield, now."

The crowd was a hodgepodge of every demographic group in the county.

"This is great," said 15-year-old Salena Castruita. "I've never been to anything like this before. I came to see Color Me Badd and PM Dawn but there were so many good people that I don't know who was best."

The concert capped a day of high expectations for one group of fans, ranging from 15 to 33-years-old, who had a tailgate party in the stadium parking lot starting at 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

"I can't wait to see Color Me Badd," said 24-year-old Sara Solorio. "I just wish there were some older bands here because there are a lot of people here in their 30s and 40s who like the music, but like older things, too."

Solorio and her group said they did not expect any gang presence at the concert.

"Gangs aren't a threat at this concert because there won't be any beer served," she said. "It's going to be a very mellow crowd."

"Yeah, and how many of those little gang punks can afford a $20 concert ticket?" added tailgater Ralph Villanueva.

Inside the concert, the crowd was restless from the beginning, occasionally chanting "CMB," for Color Me Badd and groaning from the 90 degree-plus heat, even in the upperdeck, where the best view of the concert was, according to Louis Gonzales and Scott VanZant.

"It's better on top because you can see everything," said Gonzalez.

"We bought seats down below, but they aren't as good as these are," said VanZant.

Several of the spectators who sat to the stage's left leaned over the retaining wall trying to get autographs from performers who wandered all over the stadium. Many signed T-shirts for fans and threw sweat-covered towels into the stands.

Sylvia Ramos, 28, got a towel, an autograph, and a hug from singer Chris Walker.

"Oh, I can't believe this!" screamed Ramos. "This has got to be a dream. It's better than I expected."

After the concert, 16-year-old Eddie Rodriguez and 10-year-old Sergio Morales said the event was orderly.

"It was a lot safer because there was no alcohol," said Rodriguez. "Whenever I go to a concert, there are people getting stupid and crazy. This time it was a lot more fun."

Many short acts 'jammed' into long day

In Concert
With Jeff Young

"Spring Jam '92" was promoted as the hottest concert ever in Bakersfield. It certainly didn't live up to its expectations, despite some great performances of some very different artists. The major shortcoming of the show was the extremely short period of time each performer was allowed to play.

Headliner and crowd favorite, Color Me Badd, wooed the teen-age girls with their short two-song set. The quartet blazed through its two songs, accompanied by a couple acoustic guitars, to the screams of the fans. Though many of the artists involved played short sets, fans of Color Me Badd had to be disappointed in the fact that as a headline act, they were on stage only 15 minutes. The group did manage to sing their hit, "I Adore Mi Amor" with an a capella encore to finish its performance.

Longtime rocker Eddie Money, no stranger to performing in Bakersfield, played one of the longer sets. Considering he was the first act to perform with a full back-up band, Money delivered a spirited, acoustic-tinged set featuring such hits as "Two Tickets to Paradise" and "Baby Hold On." Many of the older members of the audience tried to persuade Money to come back out for an encore, after he finished his set with two songs from the new album, "Right Here."

Chris Walker sings at 'Jam.'

PM Dawn was the act that caught the crowd's attention. The sitting crowd was soon on its feet as Prince Be and DJ Minutemix performed their hits, "Reality (Used to be a Friend of Mine)" and "Set Adrift on Memory Bliss."

PM Dawn blazed the way for Color Me Badd and the energetic Latin rapper, Gerardo. Gerardo enticed the screaming fans to dance with him during his four-song set, which included his big hit, "Rico, Suave."

Some of the less memorable acts included Will to Power featuring Suzy Carr & Marco, singers Angelica, Keedy and Stacy Earl and the Australian/English band Colorhaus.

Many of the teen-age fans received their treat in the form of singers Timmy T and Chris Walker. These two performers brought the young ladies to their knees with their frequent trips into the audience.

Five female performers brought their own styles to the "Spring Jam," the best of which was Ce Ce Penniston.

Penniston's deep, soulful voice echoed throughout the stadium. She also displayed her dancing talents, coaxing a stage crew member on stage with her.

The Bakersfield College Theatre and Music Departments present the musical play

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+ + + + + + +

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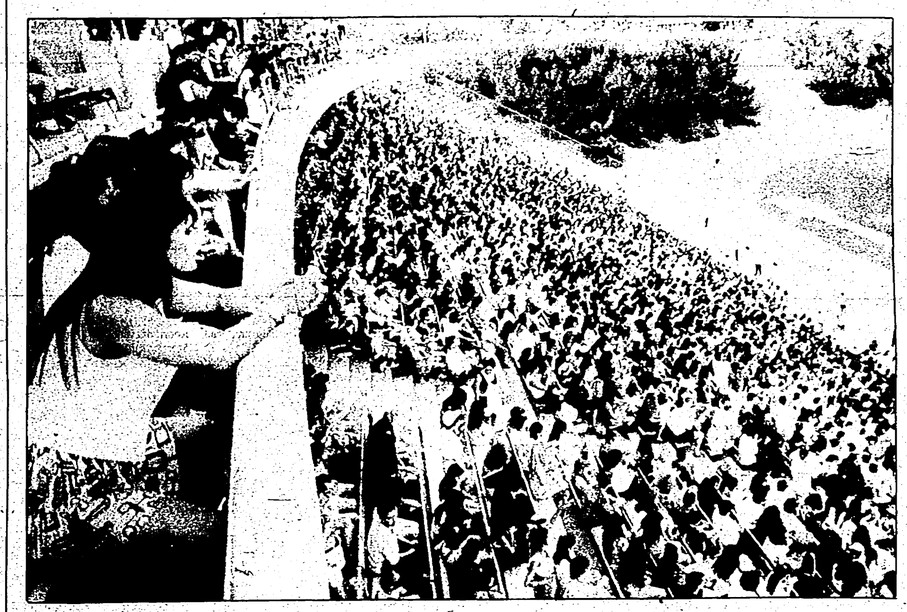
The Renegade Rip's last edition will be May 8. All ads and letters to the editor must be received at *The Rip* office in Campus Center 1 by 3 p.m. today.

Just Jammin'

Bands heat up concert crowd

Top left: Nancy Nikkel dances to songs by Gerrardo.

Top right: R&B artist Chris Walker rouses the crowd during his performance at BC.



Center left: Spring Jam '92' attracted crowd of more than 6,000. They were entertained by acts Color Me Badd, PM Dawn and Cause & Effect.

Center right: Keedy brings her Wisconsin-style to Bakersfield.

Bottom left: Badd Boyz sign autographs for the crowd.

Bottom right: Suzy Carr dances with Marco/PJ during her performance.

Photos by J. Alan Walters, Sara Fuess and Christopher Acosta / The Rip

Former student fights battle with AIDS

Editor's Note: The names of those interviewed for this story have been changed at their request.

By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Editor in Chief

Tracy was issued a death sentence six years ago. She was told by a Kern County Health Department official that she had the AIDS virus, only had two years to live and would never have children.

"It was so brutal," she said. "I cried hysterically hard. I just couldn't control myself. I never thought in a hundred years that it could happen to me. If I had not been as emotionally stable as I am, I probably would've committed suicide."

Since that time, Tracy has received counseling, has seen doctors in Los Angeles and has learned what it means to live with HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS.

"There is so much hope these days," she said with a determined tone in her voice. "Bakersfield is ignorant on this disease. Just because you have HIV doesn't mean you're going to die in the next two years. If people with HIV keep being told that they are only going to live a few years, then that may be all they live, but it doesn't have to be that way.

"I've taken on a whole new way of living. I eat healthy, exercise and have learned how to take care of myself. I know that if I'm tired, I don't have to push myself to do that last load of laundry. It's OK if I just close my eyes, put my head back and rest."

> "Just because you have HIV doesn't mean you're going to die in the next two years."

Tracy is a 27-year-old former BC student who had never used intravenous drugs.

"I never thought I was in a high risk group because I never used IV drugs. I never even had a lot of boyfriends."

Tracy believes she caught the virus when she went to Hawaii to celebrate her 21st birthday. Her older sister, Anne, now a Bakersfield College student, had won the trip and offered to take Tracy along with her.

"I was having the time of my life," Tracy said. "I was in Hawaii enjoying the sun and partying. What could possibly go wrong?"

Tracy met a man while the two sisters were vacationing.

"I think I got it from that one sexual encounter," Tracy said. "He was a serviceman and had probably traveled around a lot."

She said that had she been more educated, her life would be different.

"At that time, I didn't know anything about using a condom. Condoms were only for birth control, right? That's what's really terrifying now. There are all of these high school kids having sex and not using condoms. They still think it's a gay disease or something they can only get through IV drug use."

Tracy, who works part-time, is taking medication and has begun to feel some of the effects of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome virus, including fatigue and Kaposi's Sarcoma, a type of cancer. The brownish to purple sores usually begin on the feet and eventually work their way up to the lymph nodes. Kaposi's Sarcoma is rare in women, except women with AIDS.

"Sometimes I realize I get a little overly tired, but for the most part, I think my mental strength keeps me going. That's really the key."

Anne has noticed more of Tracy's physical illness.

"When she got the (Kaposi's) Sarcoma, she had to have some radiation treatment and it caused her hair to thin and she's also lost some weight," Anne said.

Both Tracy and Anne agreed that Tracy's illness has had a huge impact on their family.

"I know that she's not always going to be around and that makes me appreciate the time I have with her and my family a little more," Anne said. "It makes me appreciate my health a lot more, too."

Tracy said that the illness has brought her closer to her family.

"They do everything they can for me. Sometimes my sisters will come and help do a little extra house cleaning that I really don't feel like doing. Grandma sometimes brings me soup that I can eat for a few days. We've all really realized just how precious family is."

For her, the hardest part of having the AIDS virus is facing the stereotypes.

"When people find out you have it, they just assume that you're less of a person or your morals weren't right. People with HIV have enough to deal with. Most of the people who have it are afraid to admit it. You cannot imagine the impact this has on your life. We don't need to be judged."

Tracy is engaged. She and her fiance practice safe sex, she said.

"He was willing to give up natural sex for someone he loves. You know, a lot of people still won't use a condom because they are too macho. They are risking their lives. Here I am and I have a man who would do whatever it takes to be with me and to protect himself."

She was afraid at first to tell him of her illness, she recalled.

"I knew as soon as I told him, there was a 99 percent chance that I would never see him again. Luckily, because we had gotten so close before I told him, it was enough to save our relationship. He is willing to stand by me and fight this together. His strength made me fight that much harder."

FACTS ABOUT AIDS

WHAT IS AIDS?

- AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is a disease that destroys a person's defenses against infections.
- AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV.
- People with the AIDS virus may stay healthy for years, showing no symptoms. A person who is infected can spread the disease to others, even if he or she has no symptoms.

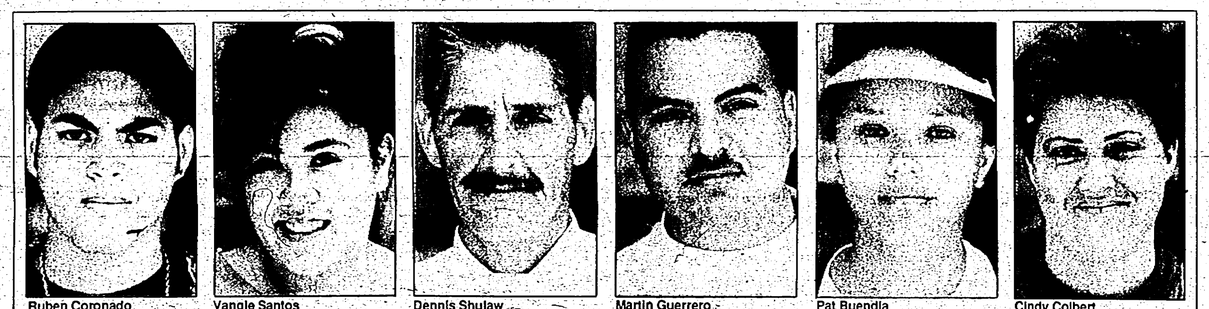
HOW COULD I GET AIDS?

- Having vaginal, anal or oral sex with someone with the AIDS virus.
- Sharing drug needles and syringes with an infected person.
- Receiving blood products prior to 1985, before donors were screened for AIDS.
- Being born to a woman infected with the AIDS virus.

HOW WON'T I GET THE AIDS VIRUS?

- Everyday contact or even kissing an infected person.
- Saliva, sweat, tears, urine or excrement.
- Clothes, a telephone or a toilet seat.
- Food handled, prepared or served by someone infected.
- A mosquito bite or other insects.

Source: Kern County Health Department — Tony Handley / The Rip



Ruben Coronado ...no fear of friends with AIDS
Vangie Santos ...people need more education
Dennis Shulaw ...abstinence should be promoted
Martin Guerrero ...education should start earlier
Pat Buendia ...couples should discuss AIDS
Cindy Colbert ...unkown is worst fear

'It's not just a gay disease, it's an everyone disease'

By Garland Testa
Opinion editor

Ruben Coronado lowered his voice slighly when he said that some of his friends had died of AIDS.

The 20-year-old Bakersfield College student said that his friends were infected with the virus in the early '80s.

Coronado and other BC students interviewed agreed that they would not be afraid to come in contact with a friend with the AIDS virus. The students' views supported the findings of a *renegade Rip* survey which found that about 70 percent of students polled would be friends with someone who had AIDS.

"They're still my friends and no matter what I do about it, I still cannot change my friendship with them," he said. "I'll still hang around them."

Vangie Santos, 19, agreed.

"I'd stick with (a friend with AIDS) through it," she said. "I'm not going to have sex with her so I don't think I'd get it. I'd support her the whole way. I think people need to become more educated. Some people think that by using the same toilet or by drinking (from) the same cup they can get AIDS."

Most students said they would like to learn more about AIDS.

"I think they could stress a little stronger what (you) can do not to get it," said Dennis Shulaw, 37. "I heard this saying a long time ago. 'They preach too much birth control and not enough self-control.' They go to all these people saying use this to protect yourself instead of saying, 'Just say no.'"

Nellie McPherson, 40, said people in Bakersfield need to learn how to live with the virus and its victims.

Martin Guerrero, 24, said that AIDS education should start in elementary school.

"Kids are trying to be cool (in elementary school)," Guerrero said. "Some parents won't even talk about sex with their kids and they grow up not knowing."

He said people slowly are realizing that anyone can catch the AIDS virus.

"It's sad that we have to see celebrities like Magic Johnson and Arthur Ash come out with it and finally accept that it's not a gay disease. It's an everyone disease," he said. "I guess I was kind of crazy in high school as we all were. It's sort of opened my eyes. It's like, 'Hey, you need to take care of yourself. You're not only hurting yourself, you're hurting a lot of people you care about.'."

Pat Buendia, 21, said AIDS should be discussed by couples.

"Be responsible and if you are going to have sex with your partner you should talk about AIDS," she said. "If you try to hide the subject, it's not a good way to be honest with your partner."

Those interviewed agreed that the most frightening part of AIDS is how fast it is spreading.

"It's real serious and scary," said Cindy Colbert, 28. "The scary part about it to me is that you can have it, not know it and spread it to others."

SURVEY: Results divided on teachers' disclosure of AIDS

Continued from Page 1

Students disagreed about disclosing the illness and if people with AIDS should be allowed to teach.

More than 73 percent said that teachers with the AIDS virus should be allowed to teach, 10 percent said they should not and 17 had no opinion.

While most students felt teachers with the virus should be allowed to teach, they were not sure if teachers should disclose their illness to students.

Of the 464 who answered that question, 37 percent said teachers should not disclose their illness to students, 36 percent said they should and 27 percent had no opinion.

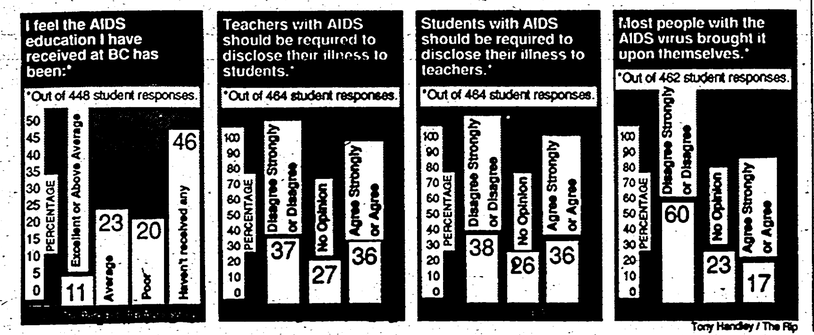
Those surveyed also disagreed if students with the AIDS virus should have to disclose their illness to teachers.

About 38 percent of the 464 who answered this question said students shouldn't disclose their illness, 36 percent said they should and 26 percent had no opinion.

Most students were aware of how AIDS is spread, with the majority of those polled saying it cannot be spread through casual contact such as hugging or sneezing.

About 60 percent of 462 students polled disagreed with the statement that those with AIDS brought it upon themselves, while 17 percent agreed. About 26 percent had no opinion.

Most of the 466 students polled said they would be friends with someone with AIDS, but that belief varied among men and women. Sixty percent of the men and 78 percent of the women said they would be friends with someone with AIDS, while 15 percent of the men and 7 percent of the women said they would not.



Tony Handley / The Rip

RIP SURVEY BREAKDOWN

Ethnicity: 55 percent were white; 17 percent Hispanic; 10 percent Asian; 3 percent black; 7 percent other; and 8 percent declined to state.

Gender: 56 percent were women, 44 percent were men.

Marital status: 77 percent single; 15 percent married; and 8 percent divorced or separated.

Sexual preference: About 92 percent were heterosexual; 3 percent were bisexual or homosexual; and 5 percent declined to state.

Sexual activity: 63 percent were sexually active. Of these, 51 percent had one partner in the last year. About 9 percent had four to five partners in the last year.

IV drug use: 97 percent have not used IV drugs other than insulin.

Age: 3 percent were under 18; 63 percent were between 18-21; 14 percent between 22-25; 13 percent between 26-35; and 7 percent were 35 or older.

Tested for HIV: About 19 percent had been tested for the AIDS virus. Of these, almost 4 percent tested positive.

Getting tested

Reporter screened for virus

By Jeremy Meadors
Sports Editor

I walked into the tiny counseling room at the Kern County Health Department and David Martin shook my hand. Before I even had a moment to think about claustrophobia, Martin shocked me with a blatant, cold statement.

"You are going to come back next week and I am going to tell you whether or not you have HIV. If you do, then you have to deal with it."

I did not expect to hear something like that, especially at 9 a.m.

But Martin, coordinator of the department's AIDS program, is a plain-speaking man who gets to the point quickly.

He explained that the test tells a person whether his or her body has the antibodies to fight the HIV virus.

Martin then asked me questions that would tell him what risk categories I could be placed in.

He asked about sexual orientation, sexual history, history of intravenous drug use and any known blood transfusions.

Martin said that he assures everyone who takes the test that the process uses numbers so their anonymity is protected.

After the questioning period, we went to the lab where the test was to be done.

I thought about the other 45,000 people who had sat in the same chair since 1986, and the 945 that he had to tell that they had HIV. The people sitting in that chair had the same chances I had of dying, except some took more risks in how they led their lives.

Martin stuck the needle in my arm and drew blood.

"Good, strong, healthy looking blood," I said, trying to find any bright spot in my uncertainty.

"Actually, it is," he said.

Those were the best words I had heard all day.

He showed me the health department's procedures that explain how the blood is cared for after it is drawn, where it was stored, tested and disposed.

He gave me some paperwork and told me to return in a week for the results.

I left feeling more uncertain than when I walked in. I had taken the test two years ago, and was not nervous. I should feel completely confident of my health, since I haven't put myself at any risk, but there was a glimmer of a doubt in the back of my mind.

When I went back the next week to face Martin and my results, I was happy to find that my worry was all for nothing. Luckily for me, I tested negative.

Christopher Acosta / The Rip
Jeremy Meadors was tested at county health department.

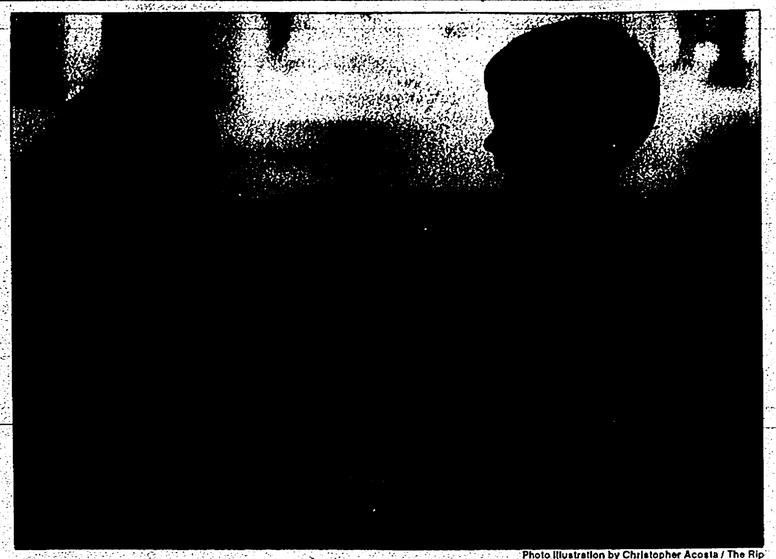


Photo illustration by Christopher Acosta / The Rip
Parents of children with AIDS virus are not required to report illness to childcare center operators or teachers.

Daycare centers face HIV dilemma

By Jill Ferdinand
News Editor

Officials at Bakersfield College's six child development centers may not know if children in their care are infected with the AIDS virus.

Because of the Right to Privacy Act, parents are not required to inform teachers or caregivers of HIV infection, according to Mardi Evans, Community Connection for Child Care respite care coordinator.

"Centers have to treat everyone as if they have HIV," she said.

There are 18 known cases of HIV-positive children under the age of 18 in Kern County, according to Dave Martin, AIDS program coordinator for the county health department. Of these, he said, half are preschool age children.

The county, along with agencies such as the Community Connection for Child Care, is working to educate caregivers about how to prevent the spread of HIV from infected children.

> "Children must be taught that if another child is bleeding or has vomited, not to touch anything."
> —Mardi Evans
> Community Connection for Child Care

Evans said that education is the only hope against AIDS, and that children must be taught how to prevent the disease.

"Even in the preschools, children must be taught that if another child is bleeding or has vomited, not to touch anything, to get an adult. The sexual aspects are taught later."

BC's child development centers, which care for children from the ages of three months to prekindergarten, follow the HIV policy of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, according to Nancy Clark, director of the centers.

This policy states that factual information and training will be provided for all staff, parents or guardians regarding HIV infection, and that procedures shall be established to provide a safe and productive educational environment for each affected child.

Each case shall be considered on an individual basis, according to the policy, based on factors such as the concerns of the child's parent or guardians; the medical condition of the child; and the health protection of the affected child, the center's other children and staff.

Dr. James Atolagbe, coordinator of the Kern County Health Department's AIDS Education and Prevention Program, spoke to local child care center directors at a luncheon last week at BC.

Atolagbe said he advises caregivers to wear gloves whenever contact with body fluids is possible and to use mouthpieces when administering CPR.

For centers that care for infants, such as BC's Grace House, Atolagbe recommends that special care be taken when handling breast milk, which can carry the AIDS virus.

BC educators challenged by disease's changing information

By Andrew McKniff
Rip staff writer

AIDS is a young person's disease, said Bob Covey, Bakersfield College health professor.

But getting that message across is one of the challenges facing teachers in AIDS education efforts, he said.

"Students should know how testing is done, and that the condom is potentially the best way to limit the spread of AIDS," he said. "Abstinence is not a bad idea. No one has ever died from abstinence."

Covey and other health professors teach a segment on AIDS as part of BC's AIDS education efforts.

Despite these classes, a *Renegade Rip* survey found that almost half of those polled had received no AIDS education at BC. Of 448 people who ranked the college's AIDS education, 46 percent said they had not received any; 20 percent described it as below average or poor; 23 percent described it as average; and 11 percent described it as above average or excellent.

Trying to teach the complex subject of AIDS is difficult, Covey said, adding that staying on top of medical advances is not easy.

"With all the new information around, it is the teacher's problem to stay updated," he said.

Christopher Acosta / The Rip
Professor Norm Hoffman discusses facts about AIDS as part of health education classes.

Covey said he spends about two and one half hours on communicable and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

He cited recent statistics that 60 percent of people contact AIDS when they are teen-agers. Most class time is spent on trying to change students' perceptions of the virus, he said.

While he and other instructors rely on discussions and lectures, they also turn to guest speakers, such as Dennis Hendrix, a speaker on AIDS for the Community Health Center of Kern County. Hendrix said government AIDS agencies are focusing more on changing people's behavior than just handing out leaflets.

"Changing a person's attitude is the hardest thing to do," he said.

Hendrix said that students in college are old enough to make their own decisions, but need to know that they are not immune to AIDS. When speaking he stresses personal experiences to get this message across. He added that telling students to refrain from sex is not a good approach to AIDS education.

"Students should be familiar with how the virus is transmitted, how to prevent transmission, and to understand that they are at personal risk," he said.

Health professor Sandy Bowers finds that an outside expert like Hendrix is a good way to keep up with new information. She said she tries to create an open atmosphere in class so students can ask questions without feeling embarrassed.

"I try to steer away from preaching on sexual behavior to my students and just teach them all the facts on the virus," she said.

"At the college level, I hope that they are wise enough to make their own decisions."

Bowers said that two to three weeks could be spent talking about the virus, but there is just too much other material to cover.

Norm Hoffman uses a method called incidental learning to open up discussions on AIDS in his classes.

"I bring out names like Magic Johnson, and now Arthur Ash to stimulate interest, which in turn stimulates question asking. This gives me a chance to address the most important issues," the health professor said.

Hoffman said discussion is the key to AIDS education because lectures don't allow students to ask the important questions.

"I feel that it is a teacher's responsibility to inform the students, but it is also the teacher's responsibility to stimulate behavior," he said.

The three teachers agreed that it is important for students to learn the biological facts on AIDS to be able to understand the physical and social ramifications of the disease.

"If students understand how the virus affects the immune system, and get the straight facts on how it is transmitted then they will have a better idea on how to prevent contracting AIDS," Hoffman said.

Official warns students of illness' rapid growth among Kern County residents

By Victoria Chacon
Rip staff writer

When Dave Martin came to Bakersfield seven years ago as the Kern County Health Department's AIDS coordinator, the county had 16 cases of the AIDS virus.

Now he has 945 cases of Kern County residents with the AIDS virus, which is more than a 1,000 percent increase in the number of people infected, according to Martin.

In 1986, Martin's entire budget was $49,000.

Now it is at $480,000. But more money has not stopped people with AIDS from dying.

Martin

"To date, I've watched 128 people die, personally," he said to about 30 Bakersfield College political science students during a recent campus presentation. "Two of which were under 5 months old."

"Right now, I'm watching an 8-year-old girl who's lost 13 pounds in 26 days and she will die of the disease."

She is one of 18 children infected with the AIDS virus in Bakersfield, along with 927 adults.

Martin reeled off these statitistics: Sixty-six percent of all males infected with the AIDS virus since 1981 have contracted it through homosexual and bisexual contact, making sexual contact the predominant way the disease is spread among Kern County males. Among women, intravenous drug use is the most common way that AIDS is spread, with 53 percent of all females infected this way. Three-fourths of those with the virus are men, the rest are women.

Martin told students that if they didn't already know someone with the AIDS virus, they will.

About 66 percent of these infected in Kern County are white; 21 percent Hispanic; 11 percent black; and 2 percent Native American.

Martin said that one reason the disease is so widespread is that nobody knows who is infected.

"That's the problem right there," he said. "We don't know who is infected. You don't, either."

About 10 million people in the world have the AIDS virus, he said.

One-half of all the new infections will occur in rural areas.

Martin told the students that AIDS also affects them economically, saying each AIDS patient costs an estimated $85,000 to $145,000 in medical costs.

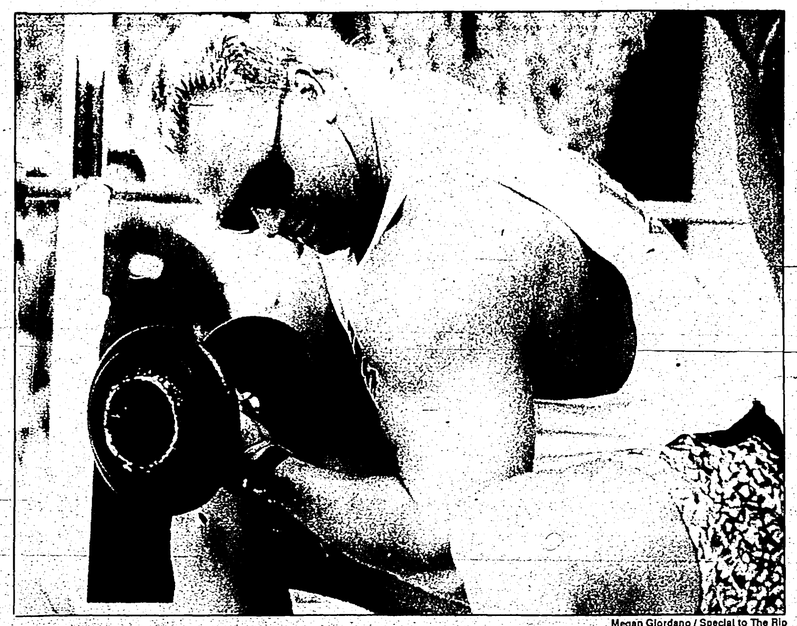
Acquired immune deficiency syndrome causes the body's immune system to fail, making it susceptible to a host of life-threatening diseases.

The health department offers free anonymous testing to determine if a person has the AIDS virus, which is primarily spread through sex or sharing drug needles.

Martin said he knows of only one person for sure who is not infected.

"I take a test every six months," he said.

FEATURES



Megan Giordano / Special to The Rip

Weightlifter Gary Harwood demonstrates his daily routine as part of High School Journalism Day at Bakersfield College.

Weightlifter turns life around

By Jeremy Meadors
Sports Editor

Six years ago, Gary Harwood's life ambition was to get high. Now, he is a body builder who brought his anti-drug and anti-alcohol message, with a religious twist, to Bakersfield College.

Harwood, who until recently operated a Bakersfield fitness center, is now a fitness assistant at Dominick's Fitness Connection. He speaks to children about the positive aspects of body building and the lows he experienced before he started in the sport.

"I was the worst influence that anyone could have had in high school," he said. "I went to seven high schools and juvenile hall."

Harwood made his comments during a recent presentation at Bakersfield College. He demonstrated weightlifting and talked about his life as part of the recent High School Journalism Day, which attracted about 100 students.

Harwood said he used virtually every drug available and drank alcohol often, even after getting married and having children.

The turning point in his life was when he was 25.

"I got tired of doing the wrong things," he said. "Body building and weightlifting has dramatically changed my life."

Three years later, Harwood was crowned Mr. Kern County, proving to himself that his hard work paid off. The change in his physique was drastic en route to the title. He went from 6' 3" and 160 pounds to 251.

"I owe it all to Christ," he said. "If it wasn't for Jesus, I would not be here today. He makes it all happen."

Harwood urged all youngsters to start a personalized body building program.

"If you work out in a health club, everyone has the same mental focus," he said. "When you body build, you see the physical results quickly and it helps your self-esteem."

Daniel Poehner

Columnist responds to 'HST'

Dear Daniel Poehner,

Get your own style or I will have my pack of rabid lawyers eat your newspaper and cut your throat so you scream like a pig in a slaughter house. I'll be in touch.

HST

I have become a media giant.

I have received a letter threatening myself and *The Rip*, giving us a vague description of what will happen to our collective legal anatomy should I not completely comply with this person's demand. This only happens to important people.

So I felt I owed both my readers an assurance that everything will be all right.

I've retained my friend Martin as my lawyer. I've put deadbolts on the doors at my house. I have my pizza, videos, lecture notes and *National Enquirer* delivered to my back door, so I'm not missing a beat.

I must back up a bit and fill you in on some of the details. Our instructor received the letter Monday morning and gave me a call, asking me if there was anyone I knew with the initials "HST." The only one I can recall with those initials is a famous journalist, somewhat deranged, but considerably much more read: Hunter S. Thompson.

You must first understand, this man is dangerous. He could ruin someone's life with a little more than a sentence printed in *Rolling Stone*, which he has done. But I don't think he is the person who wrote the letter.

For one thing, the envelope is postmarked April 13 from Bakersfield. Thompson, the last I knew, was living far from Bakersfield, if on earth at all. What Thompson might be doing in Kern County during Easter week, I haven't a clue. I can't imagine this guy sitting in the glow of a neon "Let's Eat" sign with a laptop computer-writing, "Fear and Loathing in Bakersfield." It couldn't happen.

Having discounted Thompson as the culprit, I've begun making a list of people who have a grudge against me. I've had to make sub-groups since the list is so long, but I'm confident I'll be able to narrow it down by the end of the week.

I'm being very thorough. I study acronyms, for I feel this is the most likely way to pinpoint the author. I've dropped "Home Sick Tourist," but I've kept "Has Six Toes," which would imply an inside job since one of our photographers has this deformity on his left foot.

Martin has been a great friend to me. Very supportive. His one suggestion I have a problem with is the wig, but I'm getting more comfortable with it now. We had to have the dress taken in a little. Being from a conservative Baptist upbringing, I had never worn eye liner, but I love it! Kind of reminds me of the time my sister showed up at a church costume party as a pregnant nun.

The Rip office has received so many letters that they've had to get a P.O. box. Much of the support has come from the local T.V. news stations, though I've noticed they've been a little afraid to quote me directly.

I'm guessing this is just in case I've memorized some obscure Hunter Thompson essay and can repeat it verbatim. They wouldn't want to encourage plagiarism or deal with "rabid lawyers"—and, HST, I apologize for directly quoting your letter, whoever you are.

The letter writer probably does not realize he is suspected of Impersonating A Journalist, which is only a misdemeanor but carries with it the penalty of no glamour whatsoever.

Rip staffers receive 44 local, state journalism awards

Members of *The Renegade Rip* staff won a total of 44 local, regional and state honors in reporting, photography, cartoon, graphics, editing and page design categories this academic year.

This marked a second banner year for journalism awards for the campus weekly. Last year, *The Rip* won 42 local, regional and state honors.

Stories honored this year included coverage of last summer's homicide of a Bakersfield College student and coverage of the "palimony" lawsuit filed by the lover of Dr. James Mason, BC chairman of the Division of Fine and Performing Arts, who died of AIDS.

Van Schuyver

The Rip staff competed in mail-in and on-the-spot competitions at the Southern California Journalism Association of Community Colleges in the fall, winning 16 regional awards. Staffers went on to compete in April at the state mail-in and on-the spot JACC competition in Fresno, winning 17 awards. Staffers also won 11 Kern Press Club Awards.

Kern Press Club award winners were: Sports photo: first place, Larry L. Pruett; news/feature photo: first place, Larry L. Pruett; page layout/design: first place, Christopher Acosta; second place, Krista Denio; sports story: first place, David Patterson; second place, Krista Denio; features: second place, Marla R. Van Schuyver; editorial: first place, Devin Rambo; second place, Krista Denio; news: first place, Jill Ferdinand; second place, Marla R. Van Schuyver.

At the state competition in Fresno, *Rip* staffers competed against 2,000 students in the mail-in entries and approximately 500 students in the on-the-spot competitions.

Award winners in the statewide mail-in competition were: Features: first place, Marla R. Van Schuyver; headlines: honorable mention, *The Rip*; front page layout: honorable mention, *The Rip*; features: honorable mention; Olivia Reyes; features: honorable mention, Krista Denio; photo essay: honorable mention, Marcus S. Johnson; editorial: fourth place, Marla R. Van Schuyver; investigative news: fourth place, Jill Ferdinand; investigative news: honorable mention, Marla R. Van Schuyver, and editorial cartoon: honorable mention, Marcus Ball.

Award winners in the state on-the-spot competition were: Editorial: first place, Marla R. Van Schuyver; sports photo: first place, Larry L. Pruett; hard copy editing and headline writing: second place, Marla R. Van Schuyver; bring-in photo: honorable mention, Sara Fuess; bring-in photo: honorable mention, Larry L. Pruet; news photo: honorable mention, Marcus S. Johnson; and bring-in infographic: honorable mention, Tony Handley.

"I think the variety of categories we placed in exemplifies the abilities and talents of my staff," said Marla R. Van Schuyver, *Rip* editor in chief.

Exhibit depicts Ethiopian Jews' exodus

By Olivia Reyes
Features Editor

Freelance journalist Cookie Lommel spent one week in Israel last May during Operation Solomon, a 33-hour airlift of Ethiopians to Israel.

"As an African-American person, it struck something inside of me when I saw the emotion and sensitivity with what the Israelis treated the Ethiopians," said Lommel, adding more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews were rescued from the capital of Ethiopia, Addis Abada. "I feel more of a connection to Israel because they are our brothers."

Photographs of Operation Solomon were a part of a three-day Bakersfield College Art Gallery exhibit last week. The photographs depict Ethiopian Jews and family arriving in Israel. The photographs reveal struggles Jews went through to arrive at their "promised land."

Lommel said she had talked to many Ethiopian Jews who shared similar responses.

"They said, 'Israel is the place for Jews,' " Lommel said during her opening lecture of the exhibit. "It was their 2,000-year-old dream."

Ethiopian Jews were known as the lost tribe of King Solomon and Queen Sheba. Other scholars say Ethiopian Jews were the descendents of the lost biblical tribe of Dan which was exiled when the Kingdom of Israel was destroyed more then 2,500 years ago, according to Ronit Naim, officer of cultural affairs and Consulate General of Israel, which is based in Los Angeles. The consulate general's office provided the photographs for the exhibit.

Because of their religious beliefs, other non-Jewish Ethiopians would call them "falashas," a derogatory name for strangers, she said.

"These people maintained their religion. They were called falashas - strangers persecuted by their faith," Naim said.

In 1989, Jewish Ethiopians who were descendants of one of 12 tribes of Israel were allowed to migrate.

Lommel said having this exhibit at BC would be enlightening for the students.

"Not only is this an historical experience, but an emotional experience."

J. Alan Walters / The Rip

'Operation Solomon' photograph shows crowded airlift.

Aviation classes gain more students, status

By Daniel Poehner
Rip Staff Writer

Bakersfield College's aeronautical classes will get a lift in the near future, if instructor Steve Cummins has his way.

Cummins' Monday night aviation fundamentals class already has been deemed transferable to the California State University system, and Cummins is seeking transfer status to other schools as well. His aviation meteorology class also is being considered for transfer status.

Not only are the courses gaining in transfer status, they also are becoming more popular. Almost 40 people crowd into the fundamentals class for simulation flight training and basic knowledge and theory of aviation, some hoping to pass an important written exam for the Federal Aviation Administration, some simply curious about the topic of flight.

"We give the aeronautical knowledge requirements to enable the student to pass the FAA private pilot exam," he said. "We do a thorough job in our classes. The aeronautical knowledge has to be up to requirements.

"I treat the class as if all students are actually enrolled in a flying program (independent of BC). We offer the ground school. BC does not offer flight school, but kind of a support to all that."

Cummins is certified as a flight instructor and instrument instructor and holds a commercial pilot's license and advanced ratings, including multi-engine.

To obtain a basic license to fly under cloud cover requires training of 40 hours of flight: 20 hours with an instructor and 20 in solo flight. Cummins' task is to prepare students for the written exam also required for a license.

"We stress safety and try to build good habits, teaching fundamental things. I pride myself on not telling a bunch of war stories," Cummins said.

"We have all kinds of students in terms of their goals. Some are preparing for the FAA exam. There are those who are taking it as an elective class, so I try to cater to that person. The enrollment is increasing, and we're not turning people away. If the school will accept a qualified student, it's my policy not to drop any."

OPINION

Harris' execution fitting punishment

By Garland Testa
Opinion Editor

What about the victims? Wasn't it cruel and unusual how these two boys were murdered? Isn't it cruel that taxpayers' money kept the murderer alive during the countless appeals Harris went through?

The execution of double murderer Robert Alton Harris was not "cruel or unusual punishment."

It was justice.

Harris was put to death in San Quentin's gas chamber after 14 years on death row. He was convicted in 1978 of murdering two San Diego teen-age boys.

California's first execution in 25 years has inmates and anti-capital punishment followers screaming that the gas chamber was a "cruel and unusual" way for Harris to die.

Yet in all of the eyewitness accounts of the execution from journalists all over the country, Harris was calm and even mouthed the words "I'm sorry" to Steve Baker, the father of one of the victims.

And what about the victims? Wasn't it cruel and unusual how these two boys were murdered? Isn't it cruel that taxpayers' money kept the murderer alive during the countless appeals Harris went through?

Capital punishment is totally justified. When a person takes the life of another, he deserves to die. Murderers should not enjoy the right to live when they took that right from another.

After Harris' execution, California lawmakers are moving toward a more palatable means of execution, death by lethal injection.

Two bills have been introduced so that California will substitute lethal injection for death by lethal gas.

Called the $7 solution in Louisiana, injection supporters contend that this is a cheap and painless method if administered correctly.

Kill them by lethal injection, or better yet, throw them off the side of a building— that would only take about three minutes. As long as those convicted of murder are put to death, then justice is served.

Sociologists contend that you could learn a lot about crime when you look at it from a criminal's point of view.

We can learn more about crime when we look at it from the victim and the victims families' point of view.

The victim's in this case, Michael Baker and John Mayeski, both 16, never had a chance to finish high school, go to college or raise a family.

Now, Robert Alton Harris won't have those chances, either.

Isn't turnabout fair play?

Marcus Ball / The Rip

Rip editorial board adopts new letter to editor policy

By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Editor in Chief

Like all newspapers, *The Renegade Rip* attempts to print all sides of issues covered in its stories.

This same standard also is applied to Letters to the Editor.

When *The Rip* receives a Letter attacking the actions of a student, administrator, staff or faculty member, we attempt to reach that person before publication so he or she can respond.

This policy has been the paper's informal and unwritten practice until recently.

The editorial board adopted a written policy which will be placed in the staff handbook for future *Rip* editors to follow.

The policy will ensure that if an attacking letter is written about someone's actions, that person can expect to be contacted by *The Rip* prior to its publication.

While *The Rip* will not hand out copies of the letter, the person will be notified as to its content and will have the opportunity to respond in the same edition as the one in which the original letter runs.

If those contacted do not return repeated calls or messages by *The Rip* or if they choose not to respond, then the letter will run without a rebuttal.

To write a letter to the editor, please type or write legibly, signing your name and telephone number. We need your telephone number to verify the letter or in case we have questions about it.

All letters should be received at our office no later than the Friday prior to publication.

Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length.

Anyone may respond to any letter that runs in *The Rip*. We encourage readers to respond if they are upset or pleased about issues on campus or our coverage of them.

We also encourage people to stop by our office in Campus Center to share their concerns or story suggestions.

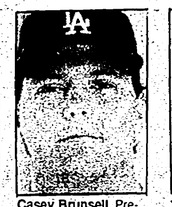
'Gade Feedback

Is the death penalty cruel and unusual punishment?

Debra Attebery, Interior Design: "No, I feel if the crime is brutal and unjust, then the death penalty is necessary. Yet it isn't necessarily moral."

Diana Thual, Communications: "It depends on the crime. I don't think it's wrong. If they don't have a problem with killing that way, they shouldn't have a problem dying that way."

Martin Barron, Human Services: "It's punishment. It it fits the crime. Now people are concerned about justice. If it's right or wrong, I can't say."



Casey Brunsell, Pre-law: "No, I think if they kill someone, they should get what they deserve."

Yoseph Demissie, Engineering: "No it's not because everyone who takes away people's lives should pay the price. I'm happy they executed Harris."

THE RIP RENEGADE

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Letters to the editor must be accompanied by a signature, address, telephone and Social Security number for verification. *The Renegade Rip* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, accuracy and taste. Writers shall be given the opportunity to review unacceptable letters. Letters should be limited to approximately 300 words.

Lightfoot remembered

Guest Editorial by Bruce Meier

Editor's note: Kodo Lightfoot was a BC guest lecturer. Her husband, Bruce Meier, teaches in the Social Science Department.

Dear Kodo,

A year has passed since that tragic day of your death. It has been difficult to imagine or live life without Kodo. Before going on to another plane of existence you were the delicate little lady with the untiring strength to embrace great causes and little children with equal fervor.

Many remember you as an involved activist in Native American rights. Your concerns also involved civil rights for all as well as involvement in environmental issues and children's and women's causes.

You touched at least as many lives as a teacher from preschool through university level classes. You gave your students the opportunity to walk a mile in the moccasins of the Native Americans.

I will always hold most dear other memories of you. You were the quintessence of what a Native American mother and grandmother is to be. Four children and 12 grandchildren carry forward into succeeding generations your soul lessons.

Lightfoot

As a wife and lover you were what poets and lyricists seek to describe. Words cannot describe what you so selflessly gave and were. Shilnzhoo Kodo. Difficult as it is to imagine life without you Kodo, so it is even more difficult to imagine an absence of your spirit. You talk through the whispering pines and sacred chimes; you are heard in the rustling leaves.

In keeping with the Apache way, there will be a gathering to remember and celebrate your life. It will be held at your home at 1613 University on Saturday, May 9 between 11a.m. and 1p.m. A dedication of a stained glass window in your memory will be held at BC's art gallery Monday, May 11. All who wish to remember and celebrate Kodo's life with us are welcome. Hondah.

Letters to the Editor

Photo display slants truth in Israel's favor

It is my opinion that the solicitation of the BC Art Gallery for political ends is appalling and should not be tolerated or permitted.

I feel that the photo display of the airlifting of 15,000 Ethiopians to Israel is misleading with political intent.

It is an attempt to evoke sympathy and support for the state of Israel. If a person views these photos in the context that is intended, they will assume that the Israeli government is benevolent and humane.

The airlift photos are being promoted now while the peace talks are in progress.

The photos will persuade the viewer to favor the victimized Jewish people and intentionally omit the true problem in Israel, which is the oppression and segregation of the Palestinian people. (If you are unclear as to who the Palestinians are, the state of Israel used to be Palestine before 1948. After 1948, the Palestinians were re-located to a separate area in the new state of Israel where the refugee camps remain to this day.)

The mass exodus of any group whether Jewish, black, Russian, or of any other origin will only further displace the already struggling Palestinian people.

This problem is not being addressed but is being drowned by pleas of sympathy and support for the very inhumane and oppressive government of Israel.

To quote George Antonius, author of "Arab Awakening," "No code of morals can justify the persecution of one person in an attempt to relieve the persecution of another people." Please consider this statement when viewing the plight of the Ethiopians. These people could just as well be the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and in the West Bank of Israel.

The only difference is the color of the man, woman or child's skin. Being a refugee is not really racial or religious, it is being homeless no matter how or where or why it occurs. If it happens to you or your family, it affects you for the rest of your life.

I am not unsympathetic for the plight of any people but I am offended by misleading advertising, aren't you?

Suzanne Suleiman
Bakersfield

Dirty cafeteria needs consistent clean up

As a fulltime student at Bakersfield College, a junior college whose curriculum and sports program are praised nationwide, I am singularly distraught at the often appalling state in which I often find our cafeteria.

It would seem that even in light of the current budget crunch, enough revenue is generated to better maintain an area used by arguably all students at one time or another.

Furthermore, it's embarrassing to think that visitors to our campus, often visitors from other colleges, some of whom are prospective students, should find our dining facilities so unkept and littered with loose trash. It is often difficult to find a clean table, or unnerving to have to clean one.

Of course, the daily maintenance of the busy cafeteria is the responsibility of both students as well as the food-service staff, this much is clear.

However, as a student who uses this and other facilities of this campus quite regularly, I feel something could be done to vastly improve the state of our cafeteria.

Sandi Gaona
Bakersfield

Women's history month a 'success'

The Women's History Month Committee would like to thank the faculty, students, staff and administrators of Bakersfield College who helped make our month-long celebration a success.

Overall, the events were well attended and feedback was positive.

Next March, we will again embrace and acknowledge the contributions of women in our culture.

We are anticipating many exciting performances, stimulating presentations, and empowering films.

See you next year!

Crystal Dea Moore
BC Instructor

SPORTS

Athlete hurt by wild discus at WSC finals

By Jeremy Meadors
Sports Editor

A Santa Monica City College runner was hit by a discus in the preliminaries of the Western State Conference track and field finals at Memorial Stadium.

Melinda DeCosta was struck in the back of her head with the discus after competing in a race on April 21. Her head and neck were immobilized by paramedics and she was taken to Memorial Hospital, where she was treated and released.

This is the second time in a month that a student athlete was injured at a Bakersfield College track meet by a throwing apparatus. A Mt. San Antonio College athlete, Vijitha Amerasekera, was struck in the leg, requiring stitches at the Southern California Relays March 28.

Bowers

DeCosta's accident happened as she finished running the open-quarter, said her coach Tommy Smith.

"She was clearly outside the boundary of the discus (event) 10 feet or more, at least."

Cuesta College discus thrower Mike Pap hooked a throw onto the track, and shouted "heads-up," according to Cuesta coach Darrell Rich.

"He quick-set his left foot when he released the discus," said Rich. "When you do that, the discus hooks hard. It was just a really bad situation because Mike is a nervous wreck. He feels terrible about hitting the girl. We're trying to reassure him that it was not his fault."

Pap was not availible for comment.

Smith said that Santa Monica is contemplating legal action, but declined to state who would be targeted.

"She has a concussion and will be out for the rest of the year," said Smith. "She has also missed quite a few classes. I really can't go into this because it will be discussed further legally at another time."

When told of Smith's comments, Rich replied, "He can have all the legal action he wants."

BC Women's Athletic Director Sandy Bowers said she did not expect legal action against the college.

"We are putting together a report right now," she said. "Any legal action will be decided by the courts but I don't think we were negligent."

Rich suggested moving the discus ring behind the bleachers or holding the event earlier in the day.

> "It's just a really bad area for discus because they are throwing into a highly congested area ...the safety of the athletes is top priority."
> —Darrell Rich
> Cuesta track coach

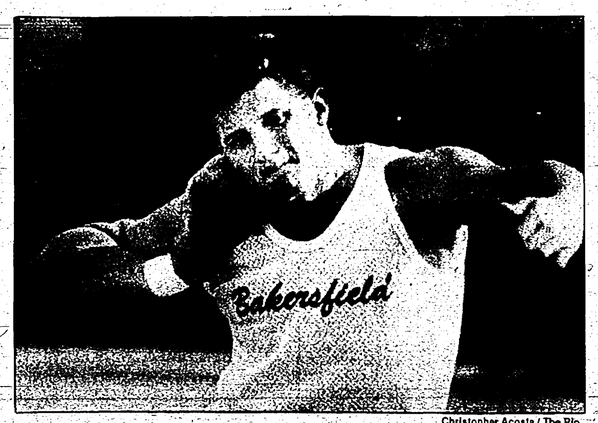
"It's just a really bad area for discus because they are throwing into a highly congested area," he said.

"I believe the safety of the athletes is top priority. One of my guys was nearly hit in the same spot about 10 or 15 minutes later by a Moorpark thrower."

BC's Men's Athletic Director Carl Bowser did not return several calls from *The Rip* requesting an interview, but in a previous interview about Amerasekera's injury he said that BC is following all NCAA safety rules.

"The areas where the discus and javelin are thrown are roped off and athletes are instructed to never go in that area," he said.

"We do not have the money to be holding the discus and javelin on different days. We are already having problems with money."



Christopher Acosta / The Rip
BC's Jon Frank readies himself to throw the shot-put April 21 at WSC Finals.

BC men set records en route to conference championship

By Andrew McKnIff
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College men's track and field team went into last Friday's Western State Conference finals at Memorial Stadium as the underdog but emerged victorious, winning the conference title.

BC finished with 223 points, Moorpark was second with 195 1/2 pointsand Glendale, third with 141.

"We knew we were going to need some breaks to win this," said Jon Baker, BC athlete who will go to the state competition. "But what happened is everybody made their own breaks."

Baker set a meet record in the long jump at 25-5 1/2. He was first in the high jump at 6-8, and placed second in the triple jump competition with a jump of 48-6 1/2.

Charles Wallace added to the effort by taking first in the 1,500 with a time of 3 minutes 53.9 seconds and finishing first in the 800 with 1:53.62, narrowly beating out Todd Scribner of Moorpark, who had a time of 1:55.43. Wallace also scored points in the 5,000 by taking fifth.

It was a good day for Jon Frank, who won the shot-put at 52-1.

Frank later sprained his middle finger on his throwing hand while throwing the shot put, but still went on to win the discus at 174-4, and placed second in the hammer.

Marcus Carter set a new meet record in the 400-meter hurdles at 51.42, and won the 110-meter high hurdles at 14.68, beating Moorpark's Martino Wesley by .02 of a second.

Several Renegades set personal bests during the meet.

DeAndre Robinson won the triple jump at 49-9 1/2, capping a four-man Bakersfield sweep of the event.

Baker was second, Mario Fisher was third and Brian Strickland was fourth.

Ryan Renz placed third in the 110-meter high hurdles at 14.86 and placed second in the 400 hurdles, just behind Carter with a time of 52.65.

Hampered by a pulled hamstring, and seeded eighth in the 400, Tony Morgan took third with 48.09.

Shane Clark finished third in the 100-meter at 10.79 and Shawn Weems placed fourth with a time of 10.86.

"The team lost a few runners in the last two weeks so that kind of brought us down, but everybody came through for us," Baker said. "It was a great win for us."

Women place fifth in league championships

By Brad Goodell
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College women's track team's season came to an end last Friday night when the Western State Conference Championships were held at Memorial Stadium.

With the top six athletes from each event moving on to the Southern California Championship in May, only a handful of BC track team members qualified for regionals.

As a team, BC took fifth in WSC, but some athletes stood out.

Krystal Kirkland led the way again for the Renegades by taking three first places at the meet. In the long jump, she had a leap of 17-5, more than a foot longer than her closest competitor. She cleared 5-4 in the high jump and had a jump of 36-7 1/2 inches in the triple jump. She received top honors in all her individual events.

"I did nothing special today than I do for every other meet," Kirkland said. "It just happened to come together for me today. I was pleased with my effort and hope for continued success at regionals."

Kawana Caddell finished behind Kirkland in two events. Caddell took a second in the long jump with a leap of 16-11 1/2 inches and a third in the triple jump with a hop of 34-7.

"My goal coming into today was to qualify for Southern Cals and I did that," Caddell said. "I was not overly happy with my marks, though. I have a lot of room to improve before the next meet."

Marcia Michael also qualified in two events. She took fourth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.3 seconds and a fifth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.3.

"I was in against some tough competition today," Michael said. "All I can hope for is to better my time next week."

Also qualifying for the Southern California track championships from BC was Roteisah Harrison in the discus, Roxanne Coughran in the triple jump and Lochrise White in the high jump. Both BC relay teams also qualified.

The Renegade Rip staff thanks social science professors Jack Brigham and Greg Goodwin for their time and invaluable help in compiling and computerizing the campus AIDS survey.

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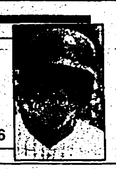
Sports
Baseball team takes second in WSC finals
—Page 6



Special Report
Campus AIDS education may be changed
—Page 3

Repairs to stadium may cost thousands

By Jill Ferdinand
News Editor

It could cost $250,000 to fix the cracks, broken lights and other problems with Bakersfield College's Memorial Stadium, according to a Bakersfield engineer.

At the request of *The Renegade Rip*, local engineer Thomas Roddy of the DeWalt Corporation, campus architect Chris Addington and Dr. Claire Larsen, director of facilities, conducted a visual inspection of the stadium last month to help determine if the structure is a potential hazard.

Exposed rebar, crumbling concrete and exposed wires can be seen throughout the stadium, which was built in 1955. The officials agreed that such cosmetic damage can progress to structural instability if not corrected.

"It's like a skin cancer," Roddy said. "If you remove it right away there's no problem. But if you don't, it can kill you."

He said the biggest problem with the stadium seemed to be rebar or steel reinforcement in the concrete expanding because of rust, causing cracks. Cracks let water get in, compounding the rust problem. According to Roddy, sections of concrete can be cut out and replaced after the rebar has been cleaned.

"You could spend a quarter of a million dollars easily," he said.

Sara Fuess / The Rip
Crumbling stadium concrete is a potential safety hazard.

Addington said that the visible cracks and exposed rebar are a concern of safety rather than structure. He said that the structure itself can remain sound even if pieces of concrete fall.

According to Addington, he already has discussed starting a maintenance program with college administrators.

"The longer you wait, the greater the potential to aggravate the situation."

One of the maintenance options is to reactivate the cathodic engineering system, which sends electrical impulses through the structure to prevent corrosion. The system has not been used in more than 15 years, he said.

Similar systems are being used successfully on most oil pipelines in this area, according to Roddy.

Already planned, according to Addington, are regular inspections of the stadium by his office for both cosmetic and structural problems. The Bakersfield Fire Department does inspections, but only checks for safety hazards, such as making sure the stadium has proper exits.

Larsen said $75,000 to $100,000 could be spent each year for several years on minor repairs and maintenance to make up for the lack of maintenance in the past. He said funds from concerts such as "Spring Jam '92 may be used for stadium repairs.

Addington has been the college's architect for two years, working on such projects as removing hazardous PCB transformers.

"One thing with a stadium," Larsen said, laughing; "is you don't have to dig through asbestos to get to the problems."

Taking aim ...

Larry L. Pruett / The Rip
Tyler Sickels swings at pinata during Cinco de Mayo celebration. See story on page 4.

L.A. riots hurt chances of Prop. 153, new campus

Rebuilding may affect voters' approval

By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Editor in Chief

Riots in Los Angeles last week may have hurt the chances of winning voter approval for Proposition 153, a $900 million higher education bond measure, according to Kern Community College District officials.

"They are going to be busy rebuilding and getting organized down there," said Dr. Jim Young, KCCD chancellor. "There's a democratic stronghold in L.A. that we can usually count on to support educational bonds, but if they aren't organized by June 2, then those voters may not be there."

Bakersfield College's President Dr. Rick Wright said that the overtime costs of police and firefighters in L.A. may affect the general fund for colleges as well, possibly costing BC up to $100,000. If BC's funding is affected, some hourly positions would be cut.

The district may benefit by as much as $38.1 million if the bond measure passes. Proposition 153 will create 13,000 jobs, which will spur the economy, Young said.

> "...if they aren't organized by June 2, then those voters may not be there."
> —Dr. Jim Young
> KCCD chancellor

Of that, Bakersfield College could get up to $35.7 million for projects such as a new library, a nursing training facility, remodeling for an electronics facility to be moved to the main campus, and the planning for the southwest campus, he said.

Money would be used by the Porterville and Cerro Coso campuses to make buildings accessible for the handicapped.

But convincing voters to approve the measure will not be easy in today's anti-government spending climate. In November 1990, voters rejected a similar measure, Proposition 143, a $450 million higher education bond.

According to the legislative analyst in the California ballot pamphlet, it would be up to the governor and the legislature to decide how to spend the money, but the money cannot be used for the acquisition or development of new campuses. If all bonds authorized by the measure are sold at a 7 percent interest rate, Proposition 153 would cost $1.56 billion to pay off during its lifetime.

For these types of bonds, the state usually takes prinicipal and interest payments from the state's general fund for about 20 years, according to the legislative analyst.

The measure is opposed by the Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County.

It is supported by community colleges, university of California campuses and California State University campuses and could net around $300 million for each of those school systems.

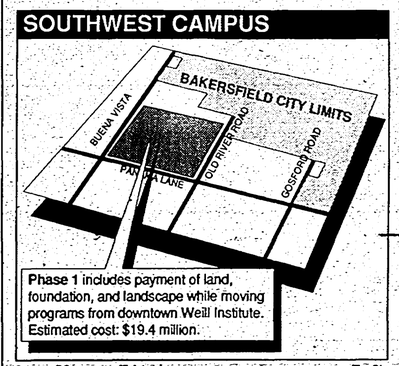
Young is not sure if the measure's passage would mean an increase in taxes for Californians.

"That's something they (the politicians) have to work out each year," he said.

State places southwest project on hold

By Tiffany Smith
Rip staff writer

Plans for the Bakersfield College southwest campus have been put on hold for at least another year, pending the passage of Proposition 153, said Dr. James Young, chancellor of the Kern Community College District.



Source: BC campus officials The Rip

If the June measure passes, funding will begin for the property and initial building of the southwest campus. This first phase will cost $19.4 million.

Waiting for the measure's passage is only one of the hurdles that must be overcome for the campus to become a reality.

The next hurdle is approval by post secondary education officials at the state level, according to Dr. Charles Carlson, chair of the southwest campus committee.

"They got involved very early on, because they were interested in what could be done with the campus," he said.

The plans for phase one of the southwest campus include moving most programs at the downtown Weill Institute to the campus, where the office skills and mathematics courses will be built around a "computer hub."

Tentatively, the location for the new campus is the corner of Panama Lane and Buena Vista.

The committee will look at another area if a developer is willing to donate property.

District drug screens not for bashful

By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Editor in Chief

Someone may watch you urinate if you are hired by the Kern Community College District.

Some potential employees must undergo a urine drug screen which is usually witnessed, according to Tom Sneath, president of National Toxicology Laboratories, the company performing the laboratory portion of the district's drug and alcohol screens.

So what happens if you have a "bashful bladder?"

"Although it happens very rarely, it can happen," Sneath said. "There are certain rules we follow. In a case like that we could allow the person to go in and then take the temperature of the urine. It's not foolproof because someone can bring in a sample and still have the temperature within the normal range."

Sneath said a lot of companies prefer witnessed testing because people will try to beat the drug tests.

> "They bring in other people's urine, they buy drug-free or even freeeze-dried urine."
> —Tom Sneath
> National Toxicology labs

"They do all kinds of things," he said. "They bring in other people's urine, they buy drug-free urine or even freeze-dried urine. They actually sell that stuff in magazines like *High Times*."

The district recently began requiring drug tests from new hires in child care, custodial, maintenance, grounds, security, mechanical skilled workers and bus driver positions. Potential employees give their urine samples at Valley Industrial Medical Group and National Toxicology Laboratories tests them.

After potential district employees give a urine sample, they can expect it to be put through a series of technical tests, according to Sneath.

Samples are picked up from Valley Industrial Medical Group four times each day and are brought to National Toxicology Laboratories. The samples are checked in, given an identification number and logged into the computer. A portion is tested for drugs and alcohol.

The first machine that tests for drugs of abuse, such as marijuana, barbiturates, opiates, cocaine, phencyclidine, psylocybin and others, is called a "Chem 1." It has the capability of performing up to 700 tests per hour, according to Speath.

The alcohol testing is conducted on a machine known as a gastromanograph. In this machine, the lab is able to determine quantities and types of alcohols used.

"This is designed to catch problem drinkers," Sneath said.

J. Alan Weiberg / The Rip
Rene Sreenivasm tests samples for drugs at National Toxicology lab.

News

Teen genius earns billions from computer designs

By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Editor in Chief

What would it be like to be 17 years old, have an IQ of more than 200 and be worth an estimated $2.3 billion?

"It's not a big deal," according to Kamden Dobbins, a Bakersfield College student.

Dobbins, a first semester BC student, attended an academy in Japan for her high school career and studied all over the world. While attending the academy, she learned about computers and the development of computer software and electronic equipment. The school focuses on teaching math, science and engineering.

"Every three months we would transfer to a different setting," she said. "They basically taught us how to design stuff people will want."

Dobbins said that the school helped students get involved with corporations throughout the world, but mostly with Japanese companies. Her high school class included eight students and four others who were in elementary school.

"The companies read about you and if they like the work you've done, then they recruit you," she said. "I keep in touch with my teachers because they work hand in hand with the companies and they'll recommend me to companies who I might be able to work with."

Dobbins' most recent development was a laser disk for Toshiba which earned her $750 million, plus 8 percent royalties for the next 20 years.

"The companies are really good about guaranteeing the royalties after the price we've agreed on."

Thus far, Dobbins, the adopted daughter of a doctor, said she has worked on dozens of projects ranging from her latest laser disk to electronics and arts and graphics. Dobbins said she loves what she does, so the fact that she hasn't been able to enjoy her money yet has not stopped her.

> "Basically, I just love to work on the computer. Some people like to go out dancing or to parties, but I like to have fun on the computer."
>
> —Kamden Dobbins
> BC student

"Basically, I just love to work on the computer. Some people like to go out dancing or to parties, but I like to have fun on the computer."

Dobbins will not be able to have the money she's earned until after her 18th birthday next February.

She is taking some time off from working with corporations on computer projects and is spending time with friends of her family's in Bakersfield. Since she was in town, Dobbins decided to take her general education courses and get them out of the way. Through her class load and College Level Exam Placement tests, which can be taken to waive college courses, Dobbins will finish her general education this semester, she said.

"I was taking 29 units, but I decided to drop one class," she said. "I decided to get this out of the way so I can go on and get into my science courses next semester."

Dobbins plans to finish her bachelor's degree and then to become a cardiovascular specialist.

"My ultimate goal is to perfect the artificial heart," she said.

Dobbins, a tall, thin, average looking teen with braces, said she prefers privacy to being noticed for what she does.

"I'm a private person. I like to do what I like to do and be like everybody else. I like to be a regular person. I haven't gotten to the point where I want all the publicity."

Dobbins said she never had to study before she came to BC.

"I actually have to study for health and history. The other courses are pretty boring."

She has enjoyed her time at BC, she said.

"A lot of people put down the JCs (junior colleges), but I really like it here. Had I not finished my general education, I'd still be here. I like the teachers here because they really reach out. It has a close knit (feel) about it."

Dobbins, an admitted loner, said she has made some friends.

"I kind of hang out and don't socialize that much, but I grouped up with a couple of people here and we play jazz music."

She has played the saxophone for about seven years.

She also participated on the women's track team this spring, but due to illness did not compete throughout the entire season.

She plans to resume work with the Japanese companies at the end of the semester.

Although she has been contacted by magazines such as *Fortune*, Dobbins said she is not eager to talk to people about herself.

"I have a publicist now who decides who I should talk to," she said.

Briefly

Flyer under investigation by FBI

The FBI is investigating a controversial flyer that was distributed at the Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield campuses this week, according to Joe Gallagher of the *Bakersfield Weekly Report and Roadrunner News*.

The flyer was placed on *Rip* newsracks and inside newspapers without permission. While it claims to be a publication of the *Bakersfield Weekly Report and Roadrunner News*, it is not, Gallagher said.

He did not know who who published the flyer, which has no connection with *The Renegade Rip*.

Concert earns less than expected

Although profits were about $12,000 less than anticipated, last month's "Spring Jam '92" brought in roughly $38,000 for the Bakersfield College Foundation, according to foundation director Pat Shaffer.

"We hoped to make more than that," said Shaffer, "but most important is that it was a safe concert and everybody enjoyed it."

"I will say this, we learned an awful lot."

More than 1,300 free passes were given out at the concert, something Shaffer claims will not happen at future concerts.

The amount earned in concessions at the concert is not yet known.

Bruker to leave BC; position vacant again

By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Editor in Chief

For five years the job of director of admissions and records remained vacant. Last spring, Bakersfield College found the man to fill the job.

Now, a year later, he is leaving BC.

Dr. Robert Bruker, who has been the director of admissions and records since January 1991, recently announced that he will leave BC at the end of this semester.

"I'm just too far away from my family," he said. "Except from eight to five, I'm alone. I have nothing negative to say about BC, it's all positive. The students, staff, faculty and administrators have all been very good. I'm really pleased with the way things have gone."

Bruker moved to Bakersfield a year ago from New Mexico where his wife and youngest son still reside.

"James is retarded, but he can travel by himself. The problem is that he can't change modes," Bruker said. "When they stopped having direct flights from Bakersfield, it became impossible for him to travel back and forth from Gallup."

Bruker has been instrumental in starting the telephone registration system that began last semester, according to Sandra Serrano, associate dean of students.

"He's done an excellent job of implementing that program," she said. "I regret his departure and will miss him. He's done a wonderful job."

BC President Dr. Rick Wright said that Bruker will be missed.

"He's a pro," he said. "He has a good understanding of staff and students," he said.

Karina Rivera / The Rip

Serious strummin': Fullerton students Luis Viramontes and Michael Brennan play at recent BC event.

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AIDS SPECIAL REPORT

District reviews AIDS education

Editor's Note: This is the second segment of a two-part series.

By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Editor in Chief

District and college officials differ as to what role Bakersfield College should play in educating students about AIDS.

Kern Community College District's Chancellor Dr. Jim Young said he believes that colleges in the district are going to have to take a more serious look at educating students on AIDS, in light of a recent *Renegade Rip* survey, that showed 46 percent of the students polled said they had not received any AIDS education while attending BC.

"I wasn't really surprised with the findings," Young said. "It's like we've always known there was a problem there because people know very little factual information. Now, we need to figure out what to do with it. We're at a point where we need to have a pointed discussion on AIDS instruction."

> "We've always known there was a problem there because people know very little factual information. We're at a point where we need to have a pointed discussion on AIDS education."
>
> —Dr. Jim Young
> district chancellor

But Bakersfield College President Dr. Rick Wright isn't sure what role BC should take in AIDS education.

"Who's responsibility is it?," he asked. "It is not just BC's responsibility to get the information out. It should start a long time before the students get here. BC needs to be a part of a comprehensive plan for communicable disease education, which it does through the health courses. ... Maybe, we'll add it into the life sciences, that might be a good platform for it, but the information really needs to come from a variety of sources."

BC offers a segment on AIDS as part of health courses, which students completing an associate's degree must take.

Although Wright and Young agreed that the survey showed that BC students need to be more educated on AIDS, they said that some of the other findings were significant. For example, 40 percent of students surveyed do not use condoms. Of these, 80 percent are single.

"I was a little bit awestruck that there's all this stuff out there on AIDS and yet there is a significant number of people who don't know it's out there," Wright said. "A lot just don't know about it or else they don't care. I can't believe they don't care when it's something that can cost them their lives. It certainly goes against human nature.

"... A lot of people know it's an STD (sexually transmitted disease), but they still don't protect themselves, that really surprised me. It's like seatbelts. People know they save lives, but they don't wear them. Things are going to have to change."

Young said that the district officials will discuss possible changes in AIDS education.

The Kern High School District also is planning to step up its AIDS education.

As a part of Assembly Bill 11, AIDS education is mandatory in high schools, beginning September 1992, according to Ron Valenti, project specialist for the KHSD.

"AB11 says that HIV/AIDS education must be presented at least once in the junior high and once in the high school levels," he said. "Before that time, there were no laws making that sort of education mandatory."

The Rip's survey showed that 62 percent of those polled said that they had received no AIDS education in high school.

Valenti said that may be in part because AIDS education was not mandatory until now.

"A lot of those people you surveyed are 21 or over and they probably didn't get the education when they were in high school that the younger students will be getting," he said.

Valenti also said that it is tough for the health educators in high schools to know what to teach.

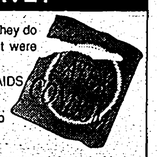
"Those who are not aware do not realize the tremendous strain the teachers are under to fit HIV/AIDS into their course plans," he said. "They only have 18 weeks to cover everything from brushing your teeth correctly, to childbirth and the STDs."

Valenti also admitted that a problem is that while AIDS education is mandatory for high school graduation, a passing grade is not.

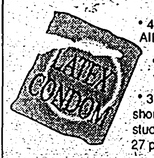
Although students, in *The Rip's* survey disagreed on whether or not students and teachers with the AIDS virus should disclose their illness, Wright said that issue will become a mute point in the future.

"The taboo that is associated with it is going to become less and less as more of the population gets it," he said. "I think all of us know or will know someone with AIDS."

HIGHLIGHTS OF SURVEY



- 40 percent of students surveyed said they do not use condoms. Of these, 80 percent were single.
- 46 percent said they had received no AIDS education while at Bakersfield College.
- 62 percent said they had received no AIDS education while in high school.



- 4 percent said they were infected with the AIDS virus.
- 19 percent knew someone who has the virus or fully developed AIDS.
- 37 percent said teachers with the virus should not have to disclose their illness to students, 36 percent said they should and 27 percent had no opinion.
- 60 percent disagreed that those with AIDS virus brought it upon themselves, 17 percent agreed and 26 percent had no opinion.

Source: *The Renegade Rip's* AIDS Survey · The Rip

Project polled 470 students

Since the AIDS-related death of Bakersfield College professor Dr. James Mason last spring, numerous questions have been asked about AIDS on campus. What do BC students and teachers know about AIDS? What's being done to educate students and faculty?

The Renegade Rip's editorial board decided to find out answers to these questions by conducting a survey on AIDS. We believe this is the first questionnaire of this type on AIDS conducted at BC.

The 48 questions used in the survey are the collective work of the editorial board and professors Jack Brigham and Greg Goodwin.

Our goal was to reach around 450 students. We succeeded in reaching 470. In April, professors Norm Hoffman, Helen Gordon, Kathy Freeman, Goodwin and Brigham allowed their classes to be used for the survey. Brigham and Goodwin also assisted *The Rip* in computerizing the results.

We believe this survey is important because it tells us what students know and don't know about AIDS. We thank all those who helped make this project possible.

Policy protects BC workers with disease

By Olivia Reyes
Features Editor

Employees with chronic communicable diseases such as tuberculosis or the AIDS virus can continue to work at Bakersfield College as long as they are physically and mentally capable, according to district policy.

"Our policy is that as long as they can perform their function or some function, as long as they are physically able, we would keep them on regular assignment," said Dr. Rick Wright, BC president.

Wright said the policy covers all communicable diseases.

The policy was adopted by the district in November 1988, according to the district chancellor's office.

Wright

"There's not anything distinguishing about AIDS that should be treated different from any other physical ailment an employee might have," he said.

He does not believe there should not be a policy for AIDS alone, he said.

"I think to set a policy for AIDS is A, discrimination and B, not necessary. It's not like you get AIDS from sitting next to a person. It's not transmitted that way."

Dr. James Mason, BC chairman of the Fine and Performing Arts Division, died of AIDS last May. He was the first known case of a faculty member with the illness. After his death a palimony lawsuit was filed by his former lover, Toby Anderson.

BC has not adopted any new AIDS policies since Mason's death.

A BC employee has the choice of whether or not to tell anyone at the campus that he has a communicable disease.

"There are certain doctor reportable cases," Wright said.

For example, if a doctor sees a patient who has a communicable disease, it is the doctor's responsibility to report it to the health department.

Wright said that the health department is not required to report it to the college.

"But if somebody has a problem, I will probably know," he said.

"This is still some kind of small family."

"If you have reoccurring headaches, you could be way out of line"
—Dr. Frank Aguilera

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Dear Bakersfield College Student,

On June 2, you and other California voters will have the opportunity to vote for a proposal that will have a direct impact on helping Bakersfield College and its students prepare for the future.

Prop 153, the Higher Education Facilities Bond Act, authorizes the state to sell $900 million in general obligation bonds to finance the renovation, planning and construction of facilities at California's 136 public colleges and universities.

California's colleges and universities are committed to providing quality, affordable education to everyone who wants it. To fulfill this goal, our college and universities must keep up with rising college enrollment.

I want to strongly urge you to vote "YES" on this proposition for the following reasons:

- *Passage of Proposition 153 will help our students at BC and other state public education institutions stay competitive.*
- *According to the California Post-Secondary Education Commission, 65 percent of the new jobs created in California in the next five years will require some college education.*
- *We must keep pace with rapid technological advancements in our society in order to produce an educated, well-trained workforce.*
- *Proposition 153 will help us offer every California high school graduate an affordable college education.*

In the next 13 years, it is predicted that enrollment in our public higher education system will increase by 700,000 students.

Our buildings, classrooms, laboratories and libraries have not even kept pace with past student growth. Many facilities built prior to 1960, like those of BC, are beginning to show their age.

Here at Bakersfield College, funding from these bonds would go specifically toward work on the planning stages of three projects: a new library, an Allied Health building, and the remodeling of our Electronics Dept. facility.

It is vital that these and other projects begin moving forward as our student population continues to rise.

Let's work together to pass this important bond measure on June 2.

Rick Wright
Rick Wright
President
Bakersfield College

FEATURES

Sara Fuepa / The Rip

Left to right: Ryan Moore, Matthew Justis, Stephen Overstreet and Shay Burke practice lines at a recent rehearsal.

Actors shine in 'Oklahoma!'

ON STAGE With Jeff Young

Despite some expected technical difficulties with the lights and sound, the dress rehearsal of "Oklahoma!" earlier this week provided some standout performances by members of the Bakersfield College Theatre Arts Department.

The singing of lead actors Brian Dragoo, who portrayed Curly and Jill Miller, who played Laury, was excellent with a few minor flaws. Miller's beautiful voice, coupled with Dragoo's soft tone, filled the Outdoor Theatre. Jennifer Barber, as Ado Annie, and Shay Burke, as Wil Parker, also shined in their singing.

The best acting performances of the evening were by Shawna Marty, as Aunt Eller, and Geoff Eubanks, as the Persian peddler Ali Hakim.

Marty's deep voice was easily understandable and her acting appeared natural.

Eubanks' performance set off many of the more dramatic scenes with some funny comic relief.

The play is a love story between young people in the Oklahoma Territory amid the conflict over land rights of the cattle ranchers and farmers.

During Tuesday's dress rehearsal, the set lent authenticity to the character's accent.

To hear the actors speak, you would swear you were actually back in Oklahoma.

The actors' wardrobe was also convincing, with the characters dressed in western wear and cowboy hats.

The choreography in the fight scenes was well done. The actors looked comfortable beating up each other. The dancing was sparse but well executed.

The three-hour musical moves along rather leisurely between each of the scenes, many involving movement of the set's props.

"Oklahoma!" opened 8 p.m. Thursday and runs through Saturday. It will run again next Thursday through Saturday.

Hank Webb is the director.

Tickets cost $5 for general admission and students with an ASB card will be admitted free.

Cinco de Mayo promotes culture

By Olivia Reyes
Features Editor

Music, poetry and food booths commemorated heritage awareness on the north side of the Bakersfield College campus Wednesday when the Chicano Cultural Center and M.E.Ch.A. celebrated Cinco de Mayo

"I think it gives a proud sense of being," said Cornelio Rodriguez, director of the center. "Cinco De Mayo is about people uniting together, to overcome and they can do it. Si se puede."

Cinco De Mayo marks the Mexican victory against the French in 1862. A Cinco de Mayo class studied the significance of the day and prepared for campus activities.

"Cinco De Mayo means to us a celebration of culture," Rodriguez said.

The co-coordinators sponsored food booths; pinatas; Latin jazz salsa music by "Caldo Azteca" and "Cana;" poet Henry Morales; a film, "Break of Dawn" that depicted Chicanos during the 1930s, and an open forum for the Fifth District county supervisorial candidates, which included Ray Gonzales, Charles Sedwick and current supervisor Mary K. Shell.

"We had a lot of positive response from students and staff," Rodriguez said. "We got support all the way from the president, dean and Dr. Rosales making sure everything was okay."

Children from elementary schools attended the celebration.

"We wanted to bring the community to see what the campus is like and the cultural involvement," said Roxanne Mondragon, who handles publicity for M.E.Ch.A. "It was really successful. I liked the participation of the faculty and the children we didn't expect."

Paul Garcia, M.E.Ch.A. president, thanked all those who participated especially Mondragon and member Silvano Vasquez.

Larry L. Pruett / The Rip

Sax player Richie Perez plays a David Sanborn tune.

Teacher's memory honored by window

By Rebecca Bryant
Rip staff writer

To attempt to capture in a work of art the strength, peace, gentleness and compassion of a single individual is an amazing challenge.

But that is exactly what artist Joseph Tracy has tried to do in his stained-glass window portrait of Dr. Kodo Lightfoot, which will be unveiled noon Monday at the Bakersfield College Art Gallery.

Lightfoot, a BC guest lecturer, died of cancer last May at the age of 54. She was married to Bruce Meier, a social science professor at BC.

An Apache Indian, Lightfoot was involved in the American Indian Movement and gave presentations to children and adults at all levels of schooling. She wrote numerous articles for newspapers including *The Houston Chronicle*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Bakersfield Californian* and *The Renegade Rip*. Lightfoot also wrote speeches for other national spokespersons and had unpublished Native American children's literature and cookbooks.

She met Meier more than 20 years ago.

"She was taking a class up here for the fun of it," Meier said, quickly adding, "and I wasn't teaching the class."

Lightfoot and Meier married, and had more than one ceremony, adhering to their different cultural backgrounds. She stayed active in Native American events and taught classes at Bakersfield College.

> "She was a hell of a lady. A very positive, dynamic little lady."
> —Bruce Meier
> history professor

In her memory, Meier's brother and sister-in-law, Carl and Barbara Meier, had a stained-glass window portrait made by Tracy, who is Barbara's brother. Tracy is a community college art teacher in northern California and owns a private business that features original art glass work.

The window he designed contains Lightfoot's portrait bordered by figures from Apache legends.

According to his written description of the design, the corners hold symbols of lightning, water, the earth and its creatures and the sky and its creatures.

He wrote that "the white throughout the piece represents the spiritual fullness in Kodo's life. The red her remarkable strength and courage." An Apache basket Kodo made inspired the circle design between the inner and outer squares.

"She was a hell of a lady," said Meier. "A very positive, dynamic little lady."

Rosa Garza
...said she'll continue writing

'Child of Aztec' wins state poetry title for re-entry student

By Olivia Reyes
Features Editor

Bakersfield College student Rosa Garza sat a bit nervously at the edge of the table, fiddling with a small black paper clip as she talked about her poem, "Child of Aztec," which received a statewide award sponsored by the California Association of Teachers of English.

The theme of the contest was "Growing up in California."

Garza's imaginative poem related the transition from a rural village to a highly urban area, according to Dr. Nancy Edwards, BC English professor and Garza's creative writing teacher.

Little did Garza know that her interests in Cinco de Mayo would lead to the award-winning poem.

I pictured you
In a rural village
Cactus in fields
Homes of Adobe
But here you are
In California
An Aztec princess
Child of the sun
Red, white and green
Sampling Carl's Jr.
In a land
To become your own.

"I took pictures and looked at them," Garza said referring to her poem. "I thought about them and then I wrote.

"It's hard but sometimes you can write things and see images."

The 40-year-old mother of two teen-agers has written diaries daily since she was a child.

Garza, who has a bachelor's degree in history from California State University, San Jose, will attend California State University, Bakersfield in the fall to work toward her master's degree in history.

Before attending San Jose in the 1970s, Garza was a BC student. After receiving her bachelor's degree in history, 20 years passed before Garza reentered college. During that time, the Wasco native traveled with her husband, Ramon, due to his work.

She returned to Bakersfield 10 years ago. Her pursuit of a master's degree led her to BC, she said.

Writing gives her personal satisfaction, she said as her gold-framed glasses focused on her deep brown eyes.

Wasco High School English teacher, Mr. Richardson, noticed her writing and encouraged her. Now her mentor is Edwards.

"I really want to say that if Dr. Edwards didn't have any interest in helping me, I wouldn't be doing this or getting any awards."

Writing will always be a part of her life, she said.

"I couldn't live without writing," she said. "I couldn't be me, if I didn't write."

Student recovers from bout with rejection after kidney transplant

By Olivia Reyes
Features Editor

Ken Pickens is the owner of three kidneys, but two don't work.

The Bakersfield College student received a kidney transplant last February. This semester he was forced to drop out of BC because his body began rejecting the new kidney. After staying home on medication for a month, his condition has improved.

"I feel great now that the worse is over with," he said during a recent telephone interview. "It's where rejection is going to remission and I'm almost normal, now. It's like going backwards."

Pickens said the symptoms for rejection are similar to those of the flu. But rejection is much more serious. He was advised by doctors to stay indoors and avoid others due to his weakened health.

"A rejection is a serious thing to happen," he said. "They've had people die from rejection. That's why it's very important for me to avoid people.

"When you have a rejection, you basically have to stay inside for about 30 days because your immune system is very weak and you can't risk being around other people."

Pickens, who is 24, plans to major in communications. He was born in Los Angeles and now lives in Bakersfield with relatives.

In 1987, one of Pickens' kidneys was infected and diagnosed with membranous nethrytic, a kidney disease.

"I was the type of person that was never sick, not even in high school. I never got sick. It was hard to believe at the time," he said.

Pickens experienced swelling in his legs and loss of appetite. His face also started to swell up because his body began retaining fluid.

"It was on one kidney and it spread to the other in 1989," he said.

By that year, both kidneys failed. Pickens was forced to stay on a dialysis machine for two years.

Last year, he was given a kidney transplant at St. Vincent Medical Center in the Los Angeles area. The transplant, which was from an organ donor, was paid through Medi-Cal.

"The first year of transplant will be the hardest," Pickens said, "because your body is not used to having a foreign object in it."

Although he has recovered, Pickens remains at home taking medication to gain strength.

"It affected my education in that I had to take a semester off, but I plan to go back in the fall, a lot more healthy and a lot stronger," he said.

Ironically, the rejection episode put him in contact with his brother and three sisters, who he had not seen for years.

While he was in the hospital undergoing a biospy to determine the cause of his illness, his family visited him.

Pickens was raised by his father, who separated from his mother and moved to Bakersfield. He was 2-months-old at the time. He lived with his father while his brother and three sisters stayed with his mother.

"They found me through research," he said. "It was great seeing everybody."

Ken Pickens
...said he will return in the fall

OPINION

AIDS education, condoms needed at BC

STAFF EDITORIAL

Bakersfield College, and the entire Kern Community College District should devise a plan to teach AIDS education to all students. If a recent *Renegade Rip* survey is any indication, such education is needed and needed now.

The survey showed that more than 46 percent of those students polled said they had not received any AIDS education while at BC. Another 20 percent described the education offered here as poor or below average.

Educators and the general public seem to be assuming that because famous people like Magic Johnson and Arthur Ashe now have AIDS, the public is aware of the disease and is acting more cautiously with regard to its methods of transmission.

But the students at BC aren't changing their lifestyles enough. More than 40 percent of the students surveyed said they do not use condoms. Of these students, more than 80 percent were single.

When used effectively, condoms are one of the only methods of protection from AIDS during intercourse with an infected person, yet many students still do not use them.

BC officials should make condoms more readily available to students by placing condom machines in all men's and women's restrooms for a low price.

Currently, the BC health center offers condoms free to students, but students must sign a form to take them.

There are those who are still quite embarrassed about buying condoms and those same people probably are just as afraid to sign their names to take a free condom. Condom machines in the restrooms would provide the opportunity for students to buy condoms in some privacy.

While at the college age it is hoped that students already know about AIDS and how to prevent it, obviously some do not.

By teaching about AIDS not only in health courses, but in life science and social science courses, AIDS could become better understood by more of the students of BC.

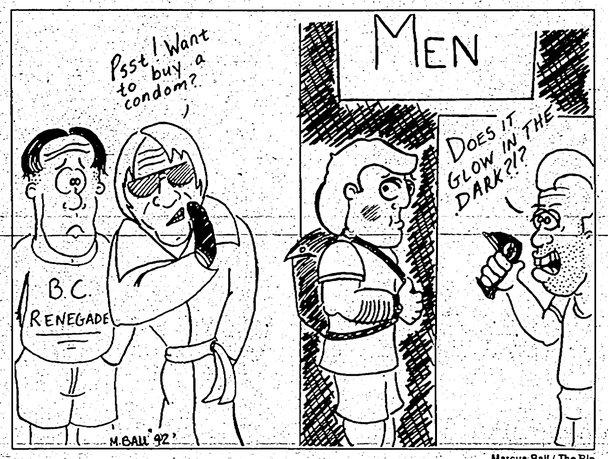
Although AIDS education should be started at the junior high and high school level, it must be continued throughout college, because the facts are continually changing.

As of September 1992, high schools will be mandated by state law to provide AIDS education to all students.

The community colleges and universities should be mandated to provide that same service. Teachers who discuss AIDS should have a regulated curriculum and also should be required to attend seminars at least once per semester updating them on the latest AIDS information.

Never before has a disease taken such a strong hold on our society.

Education is the key to its understanding and control.



Marcus Ball / The Rip

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LA riots spark emotion

I experienced many emotions as I heard the verdict of not guilty being read in the trial of the four police accused of excessive force against Rodney King. I felt rage, sadness, helplessness and shame. The one emotion I did not experience was surprise.

I know firsthand of the injustices against blacks perpetrated by the men and women who are paid to protect and serve. Growing up in Compton, police brutality was a way of life. Black children were taught early to avoid the police and not to trust them. I often wondered why white children viewed police officers as someone they could trust, while we black children were taught to avoid the police at all costs.

As I grew older I began to understand. I witnessed countless incidents of police brutality. I realized that there was clearly a different set of rules for blacks and whites where the LAPD was concerned. Blacks experience different treatment when dealing with police regardless if they were victims or perpetrators of a crime.

In black and white, America saw a man brutally beaten. They also saw the four men who responsible for the beating exonerated. A jury of 12 men and women saw nothing wrong with the vicious beating of a black man. The verdict of not guilty was a travesty, and justice was not served.

As unrest broke out in Los Angeles, I began feeling sad. Sad for my people who felt violence was their only recourse, sad for the innocent people who I knew would be hurt. I saw a truck driver beaten for no other reason than the color of his skin, which was white.

I felt so ashamed. Ashamed that my people saw no wrong in what they were doing. Ashamed that my people would adopt the tactics of the LAPD and viciously attack a defenseless man.

Both beating were without justifiable provocation. Both attacks were wrong. The only difference in these violent actions is that one attack was carried out by a group of people we pay to protect and serve us.

If the men responsible for the attack on the truck driver were caught, there is no doubt they would be tried and convicted as they should be.

Anyone who uses excessive force against a helpless person should be convicted, even those who were sworn to protect and serve.

The action in Los Angeles is not acceptable. Violence begets violence, it is not a solution.

We, as Americans, should not tolerate police brutality, but we, as Americans, cannot resort to violence.

Elaine Henry
Bakersfield

President says goodbye

I would like to take this time to congratulate fellow students who are Bakersfield College's graduates for 1992.

I know this must be an exciting time in your life— getting your degree, getting ready to transfer to a university to begin your undergraduate studies, or embarking on a new career.

For some, graduation is a closure of a chapter in their lives.

It is time to walk across the stage in cap and gown with family and friends watching you receive your degree.

It is a time when pictures will be taken that years from now will be shown to children and grandchildren when you "walk down memory lane." Yes, graduation is an honor. It is one you have earned and will offer you that closure to this part of your life, a time for goodbyes and new beginnings. I hope Bakersfield College has been as good experience for you as it has for me. May God be with you in the future. There are still caps and gowns in the bookstore if you haven't got yours.

Robert Bailey
ASBC President

Marcus Ball / The Rip

King verdict tips scales of justice

Racial progress, equality lost in Los Angeles destruction

By Garland Testa
Opinion Editor

The looters and rioters who destroyed Los Angeles last week also set race relations back decades.

Fifty-five people have died and more than 2,383 injured in the wake of the not guilty verdict rendered in the case of four white police officers charged with the beating of black motorist Rodney King.

The decision has many asking if blacks can receive equal treatment under the court system in the state of California.

The Rodney King trial was a miscarriage of justice. How any jury in the world could watch the videotaped beating and render a not guilty verdict is unthinkable. But that is no excuse for the violence and death that came after the verdict. More than 12,900 troops and other federal personnel were called in to help bring peace to the riot-ravaged streets of south central LA.

> It is time for racial strife in this country to stop. It is time that black Americans feel confident they will be guaranteed the same justice as whites.

The damage is estimated at $717 million and in an age where jobs are becoming fewer and fewer, hundreds of people were put out of work.

The violence that broke out is not in the name of Rodney King. Many of the looters were people waiting for an excuse to steal and demonstrate the oppression they've experienced.

Violence is not the answer.

Twenty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King asked that people be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content and quality of their character.

But isn't that what the scores of rioters did? Didn't the black youths that pulled a driver out of truck and beat him on nationwide television judge him by the color of his skin?

He is in the hospital now because he is white and happened to be in the wrong neighborhood.

It is ironic that the rioters seemed to be seeking equality and yet they did things that caused them to be stereotyped.

These were not rational thinking pillars of society. They were people who were so convinced that they are owed something that destroyed people's homes, businesses and killed family members. They burned their own neighborhoods, hurt their own people.

It is time for racial strife in this country to stop. It is time that black Americans feel confident they will be guaranteed the same justice as whites.

Instead of burning down buildings, we should work together to make changes in our court system to ensure that our blindfolded system of justice becomes colorblind.

'GADE FEEDBACK

Was justice served in the Rodney King, Offord Rollins cases?

Daniel Ortiz, Graphic Design: "The Rodney King case was unjustified. There's a difference between disciplining someone and taking advantage of them."

Maria Fuentes, Forestry: "No, because everyone could see how unjustified it was. There were only white people on the jury and they moved the trial to another county."

Jeanna Foy, Lab assistant: "It seems in the Rollins case the jury didn't listen to all the evidence. In the Rodney King case, he was lucky they didn't shoot him. It wasn't a racial issue."

Cynthia Brown, Student teaching: "Absolutely, positively not. I think Rollins was framed."

Perry A. Decker, Undecided: "Yes, it's mostly the press' fault because they didn't show the whole tape. If I was a cop and I ran into a guy in King's condition, I'd be scared half to death."

THE RIP RENEGADE

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Letters to the editor must be accompanied by a signature, address, telephone and Social Security number for verification. The Renegade Rip reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, taste and libel. Writers shall be given the opportunity to review accceptable letters. Letters should be limited to approximately 300 words.

Sports

Sports Briefs

Report of injury to be filed with WSC

Bakersfield College will file a report with the Western State Conference about a runner who was injured at a BC track meet April 21.

Santa Monica City College runner Melinda DeCosta had just finished running a race when Cuesta College discus thrower Mike Pap struck her in the head with a wild throw. DeCosta suffered a concussion and missed most of her classes, according to Santa Monica head coach Tommie Smith. Smith later indicated that legal action might be taken, but declined to specify against whom.

WSC Commissioner Dr. Aviva Kamin did not know about the injury when contacted by *The Rip* Tuesday.

Women's Athletic Director Sandy Bowers said that the report is being compiled and will be sent to Kamin.

Basketball assistant coaches named

Men's Athletic Director Carl Bowser announced recently that California State University, Bakersfield basketball players Beau Redstone and Wade Green are the new assistant basketball coaches for Bakersfield College.

Redstone and Green played under BC head coach Mark Arce when he was an assistant coach with the Roadrunners.

Redstone graduated from Bakersfield High School in 1988 and expects to receive a degree in physical education from CSUB in June. He is the Roadrunners' all-time leading scorer and rebounder.

Green holds an AA in journalism from Eastern Oklahoma State Junior College and expects a journalism degree from CSUB in the spring. Green was the 1990 CCAA Conference Male Player of the Year.

Dinner honors former track athletes

Seven athletes, from as far back as 1938 were inducted into the Bakersfield College track and field hall of fame recently at the Tenth Annual Bakersfield College 1992 Track and Field Alumni Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies.

Inductees included William "Bill" Trout, shot-put; Robert J. "Bob" Self, 1952 team captain; Ben Laverty, III, triple jump; Phillip Foster, 1973 track captain and cross country runner; Walter Pratt, a sprint hurdler; Erin Key, state high jump champion; and Brian Wicks, pole vaulter.

According to head coach Bob Covey, everybody at the dinner has a sponsor.

"At the track alumni dinner we try to get a track family from a long way back who have brought glory to BC," said Covey.

He also said that a dinner committee picks the inductees. The athletes chosen have to have been gone from BC for five years. The committee picks one athlete per decade, and tries to get an even representation of events and race.

Dell Whetsler, Lambert Valentyne, and Darrell Kalar were given special recognition for contributing to BC track and field.

Softball tournament set for today

The Bakersfield College softball team will play Palomar City College today at Palomar. The Renegades (18-20) are the fourth seed in the regional tournament.

"This is going to be a tough tournament," said BC outfielder Tricia Gay. "If we played like we played the last two games, we'll do alright."

The Renegades wrapped up their season with two straight wins last week over Cuesta and L.A. Pierce colleges, finishing in third place in the WSC.

Baseball clinches second

By Aaron Madison
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College men's baseball team ended its season by splitting the last two games of the year to finish with a 21-17 record overall and a second place finish in league.

The 'Gades entered the first of two contests against Glendale and Cuesta College April 25, needing a victory to remain alive in the playoff picture.

In the opening inning, Glendale came out strong, scattering several hits to open up a 3-0 lead, as starting Bakersfield College pitcher Matt Torres couldn't seem to get on track, leaving the game after only two-thirds of an inning.

The reliever, John Aleman, came into the game inheriting base runners on first and third with two outs. He wasted no time establishing himself, as he struck out the opposing batter.

"Aleman and the defense were the keys to the victory," said Ron Valenti, Bakersfield's assistant coach. "He was effectively changing speeds and throwing strikes.

"He slammed the door shut allowing us to peck away at the three-run lead."

Offensively BC's Gerardo Gonzalez continued to produce, according to Valenti, including two hits and two runs batted in.

"Bakersfield really seemed hungry for the win," said Glendale coach Steve Coots. "It was a big game for them, and they rose to the occasion."

The 4-3 win moved the 'Gades into a tie for second place with Ventura College at 14-6 in league.

This tie set the scenario for the April 28 matchup against fourth place Cuesta, the victor playing Ventura who had beat Moorpark that same day. The winner of this duel would be guaranteed a state playoff berth, with the loser bidding for a possible at-large spot.

This strange playoff procedure allows not only the league champions to advance but also an at-large team that is determined by the second through fifth ranked teams participating in a round robin tournament.

"Unfortunately, this can allow a team who didn't perform well in league to advance over team that did perform well," said Bakersfield head coach John Moncier.

Ironically, this playoff system was abolished at a league meeting the previous week.

"We can't have mental mistakes," said Gerrado Gonzalez before the game. "That could hurt us."

The 'Gades clearly made these mental mistakes in the April 28 game.

Starting pitcher Eric Ontiveros allowed five runs on five hits along with three walks and two hit batters.

It was this second inning that did the most damage, as Cuesta third baseman Alan Ross hit a double down the first base line after BC had loaded the bases on two errors and a hit batter. This was the begining of the four unearned runs of the inning.

Bakersfield never recovered, stranding eight baserunners on six scattered hits. This combined with six errors and five unearned runs led to the eventual 7-0 Cuesta win.

Christopher Acosta / The Rip
BC catcher Brian Teeters rounds third in recent WSC game as Glendale player looks on.

Diving Dutchman...

BC diver wins state title, plans to compete in Olympics

By Victoria Chacon
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College student Giancarlo Deiana traveled hundreds of miles away from his home in Holland to come to the United States and dive in competition.

Deiana captured the state diving championship in Long Beach last week, beating out a field of 18 other divers.

Deiana, 19, decided last year to pursue his diving in the U.S. on the advice of a friend who is also diving here. The wheels began turning when Deiana sent letters to different college's swim coaches.

That is how Deiana found BC, swim coach Brian Morrison. Deiana arrived in America Sept. 5, 1991, he said.

Morrison didn't send a standard letter of reply, but a personal letter.

Deiana is now taking an English and a math class at BC.

In Holland, Deiana attended school from 8 a.m. to around 10 p.m. because the [illegible] practice pool was [illegible], making practice [illegible]. He also said [illegible] not compete for [illegible] but for clubs, [illegible] adding that he [illegible] be better [illegible] United States."

Deiana has been diving for seven years and plans to try out for the 1996 summer Olympics.

The training is intense. He practices two hours a day every day at California State University, Bakersfield with his diving coach Larry Everingham.

Deiana lives with Morrison.

Deiana returned to Holland just weeks ago to compete in Holland's National Championship against all other divers in his age group, 18 and over. He finished second, and first and second place finishers move on to compete against other top divers in Europe.

Deiana said his most difficult dive is the 3 1/2 foward somersault off the 3-meter diving board. It has a difficulty of 2.8 on a difficulty scale of 3.5.

The higher the degree of difficulty, the better the score.

Deiana hasn't had much competition here because some of the colleges he has competed against have no divers on the team. But at a recent meet against Cuesta College, Deiana swept both the 1-meter and the 3-meter events.

He practices two to three hours a day, except on Sunday, and his workouts include jumping on a trampoline to practice somersaults.

The diver plans to try out for the Olympics in Atlanta in '96, but said that a lot can happen in four years, adding that he could either improve or get worse.

This summer he will return to compete in his national division in Holland where he will be competing in Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia and Germany after graduation. He has competed in what was formerly the U.S.S.R. and the Netherlands and throughout Europe.

He plans to return to BC in the fall.

"I want to continue [illegible] here in the U.S."

BC diver Giancarlo Deiana demonstrates his form

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