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Minimum wage increase hurts earning power

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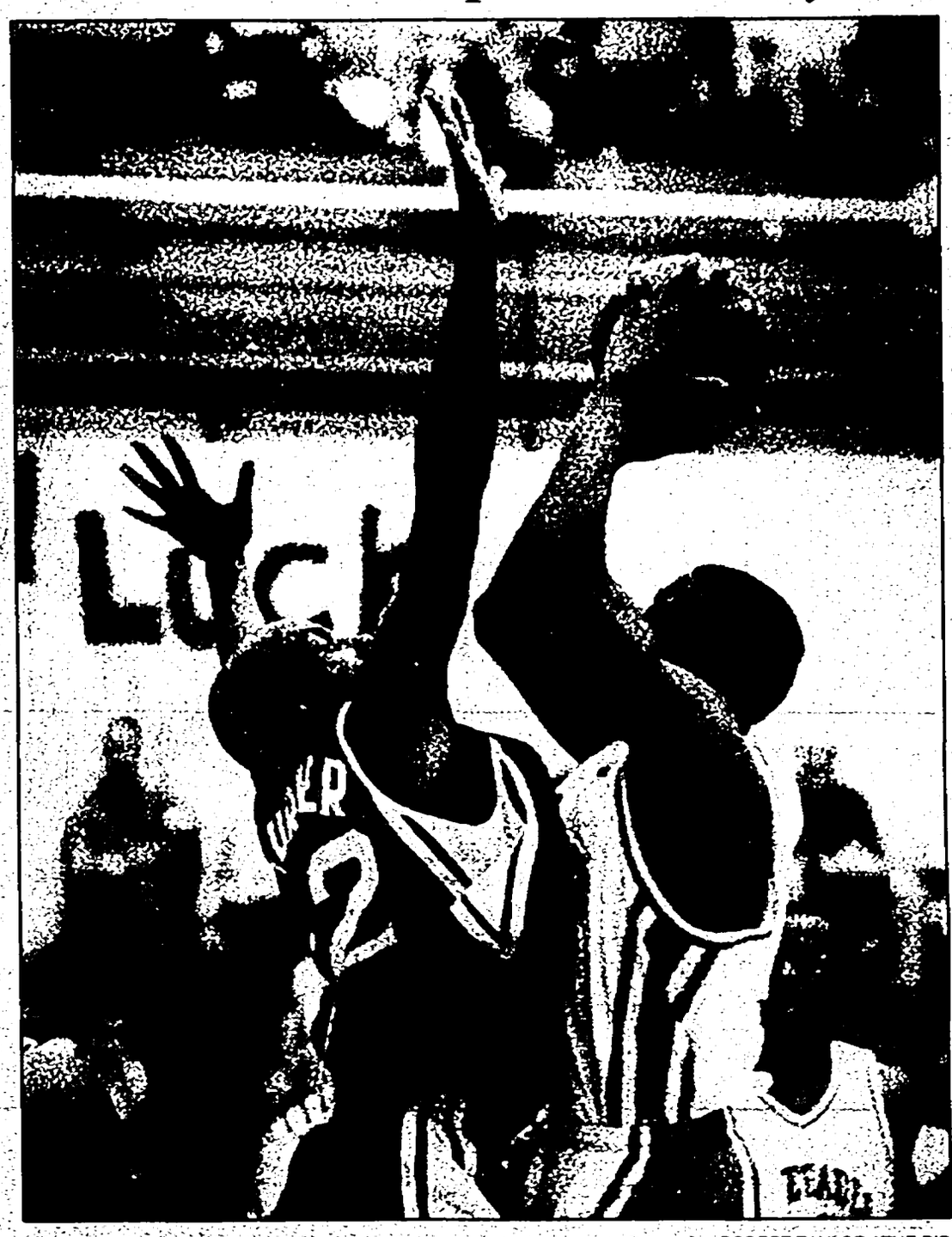
Vol. 69, No. 4 | Bakersfield College | March 6, 1998

'Gades slam Imperial Valley



ROBERT TAYLOR / THE RIP

Deionta Hagwood shoots over an Imperial Valley defender. See story, page 3.

Professor's 'gaze' sparks investigation

CSUB educator writes district trustees alleging sexual harassment

BY DAVID LAWLOR
News Editor

"I feel that there is no substance to it (the claim), and I feel it will run its course."
— **Dr. Rick Wright**
BC professor

Bakersfield College has started a sexual harassment investigation concerning claims that a male professor gazed at two female colleagues in a "sexually affrontive fashion."

The claims stem from a Jan. 13 meeting between Dr. Rick Wright, chair of the Behavioral Science Division, BC behavioral science professor Laura Lowe and Jacquelyn Messinger, a student at California State University, Bakersfield. According to a letter written to the district Board of Trustees by CSUB professor Dr. Jane Granscog, Lowe and Messinger were meeting with Wright to discuss a new psychology class on gender issues being offered at BC.

Lowe was to teach the class while Messinger was to act as a teaching assistant. The meeting was designed to introduce Wright to Messinger.

"When Professor Lowe and Ms. Messinger arrived to meet with the Division Chair, he did not acknowledge the fact that the meeting had been scheduled a week in advance, made them wait almost 20 minutes before seeing them, and then left them standing during the entire meeting while gazing at their bodies in a sexually affrontive fashion," Granscog's letter to the trustees states.

Wright said he couldn't comment on her specific allegations.

"She (Granscog) obviously has an agenda and is using her First Amendment rights to try to carry it out," said Wright. "However, I feel that there is no substance to it (the claim), and it will run its course."

After the meeting, Messinger informed Granscog of what had transpired. According to Granscog, Messinger wrote a letter to Wright asking for a written apology. After receiving no response, Granscog wrote a letter that was distributed to board members and local media representatives at the Feb. 25 board meeting.

"I felt obligated to do something," said Granscog. "It's important to bring to the public an awareness of sexism in our community because it is so pervasive."

Granscog said that Wright acted in an unprofessional manner, never making eye contact, but "spending most of his time staring at her (Messinger's) breasts" for the majority of the meeting. Messinger could not be reached for comment on this story.

Lowe also declined to discuss specifics, but said she is pursuing administrative avenues at BC.

Prior to the Jan. 13 meeting, another incident involving Wright was brought to the attention of Granscog. According to a letter written by Granscog to the board of trustees, a display was placed on Wright's office door.

It consisted of a red negligee tacked to the door, a red flier and a balloon, she said in an interview. According to Granscog, Wright's face was pasted onto the balloon along with a caption reading: "Hi honey. New in town? Want to ride in my Porsche?"

Granscog said that Anna Allen, a BC professor who teaches in the behavioral sciences area, sent pictures of the display to Granscog, who then wrote a letter to BC Interim President Dr. Robert Allison, Granscog said. The letter informed Allison of the display on Wright's office door and asked that the matter be investigated. Granscog states in a Feb. 1 letter to the board, "on the 21st of January, I received a call from Ms. Serrano and was told that an investigation had been carried out, that there were 'a number of findings and resolutions made, and that the matter had been resolved.' "

However, Granscog feels that the matter was not resolved.

"Whatever resolutions were made, Dr. Wright did not take them seriously," said Granscog.

According to Wright the BC Human Resources Office is looking in to the matter. Mary Hodges, interim director of personnel did not return phone calls from *The Rip*.

"The First Amendment can be a sword that cuts both ways. You don't have to justify your claims and nobody really knows the truth. This is just one of those things," Wright said as he shook his head about Granscog's claim. "Who knows, who knows?"

PROFILE

Eso 'psychs' students by bringing humor to complex subject

BY ROSARIO HERNANDEZ
Rip staff writer

Stephen Eso admits women played an important role in his career choice.

"When I was back in high school I was debating between psychology and engineering. And what I saw in the engineering classes at Cal Poly was all men. And what I saw in the psychology classes was mostly women and a few men," he said.

That's how Eso, a new psychology instructor at BC, realized psychology was the thing for him. But, "it turns out to be a good decision overall," he said.

Eso majored in behavioral science and received his B.A. from Cal Poly, Pomona. Then, he went to the University of Victoria in Canada, where he lived for about nine years. He received his master's degree and is now finishing his Ph.D.

A native of Southern California, Eso, 33, found a job advertisement for BC while surfing the Internet. He decided to apply to move closer to Orange County, where he grew up.

He teaches five classes at BC, one of which is statistics.

His decision-making technique might explain his philosophy about life.

"Don't take it too seriously. It's important and you got to get through it, but a sense of humor is a good thing. I find that often times, the times that I get myself the most stressed is when I take myself too seriously. So, if I relax a little bit, things generally work out a lot better."

As a teacher, Eso emphasizes debate. He likes the fact that people disagree with each other at some point because that leads to learning different points of view.

"My job as a teacher is to kind of set things up so that students learn. I don't really believe in the idea that somehow I'm the one with all the information and I just kind of pour it into everybody's head. I don't buy into that," he said.

"My idea is that we talk about psychology. Everybody does this stuff and knows about the stuff every single day."

He said that people use psychology all the time even though they don't notice it.

"My job is just to try to make them more aware of it and have them start thinking about it in an organized way and make them realize how much they already know about psychology but didn't know they knew it."

And for those of us who are a little skeptical about Bakersfield, Eso might seem an exception.

"I was a little wary of Bakersfield's reputation. But since I've been here, I'm not exactly sure why Bakersfield had a bad reputation because, so far, I think it's great."

He said that he and his wife "couldn't have hoped for a better situation. I'm really enjoying it.

"My experience at BC so far has been tremendous. Students have been actually fantastic. And the faculty and the staff, everybody has been great."

Besides working full-time at BC, he finds some spare time to coach a basketball team, do community work and sing with Masterworks Chorale.

He said he always knew teaching was for him.

"I always knew that I wanted to teach from a long time ago. I found that I really enjoyed being in front of people and sort of leading them, kind of directing them and doing different activities. It came very naturally to me and I know that a lot of people get nervous and anxious in front of people. I don't."

A psychology professor back in college once told him, "'Well, Stephen, you're never going to get rich being a teacher, but it sure beats working 9 to 5 for a living fifty weeks a year. It's great. You end up doing something that you really do enjoy and watching people learn and helping them to move along is very satisfying and reassuring.' And he's right," said Eso.

NICOLE ARTIAGA / THE RIP

Eso took a job at BC to move closer to where he grew up.

Despite counselor concerns, college plans registration via Banner

BY MICHAEL D. ROSS
Opinion Editor

Bakersfield College students should be able to register via computer in April for summer and fall sessions, but some BC faculty and staff are worried about the complexity of the new Banner data system.

"The counseling department is very concerned about what's going to happen when it goes live in the biggest registration period of all," said Academic Senate President, Kate Pluta, during an interview. "They're afraid they won't be able to register them."

The upcoming registration period is the busiest of the year. Not only are BC students registering for summer classes and fall classes, but many new high school graduates also will register for the first time.

"The counselors have scheduled just under 1,800 appointments for high school students in half-hour intervals because they figured, under the old system, they could meet with the new student for half an hour and get everything taken care of," said Pluta.

Counselors are concerned because they feel they have not had enough time to properly learn the system.

"It's a large, complex and very powerful system and for that reason, it's taking awhile for people to learn to use it properly," said Dr. Robert Allison, interim president of BC, during an interview.

Staffers are working to prepare the student portion of the Banner system, but the clock is ticking. This week, mock registrations were held for the second time. Pluta said that the first mock registration attempt was less than successful.

"People are working really, really hard to prevent the nightmare from happening, but the deadline is coming up real soon and I don't know what's going to happen," Pluta added.

Due to the quickly approaching registration period, concerned counselors submitted a request to the Academic Senate asking that the district postpone student registration via banner until spring registration for 1999.

"Until they brought the first resolution to the senate, there hadn't even been any response to the banner software on their computers," noted Pluta. "Not only did they see problems with it, but they couldn't even access it."

A resolution requesting postponement of the system's implementation until fall 1998 was unanimously passed by the Academic Senate Feb. 4 and submitted to Allison and the district Board of Trustees on Feb. 19. The resolution would give counselors another six months to become familiar with the system.

The board took no action on the resolution.

Unfortunately, Allison said Banner registration is needed now.

"The old system, the one we've been using is just about to die. It's on life-support so to speak," he said.

Staffers also are concerned that the old computer system would crash.

"I don't know if the Banner system is the right system, but we sure have poured a lot of money into it by now, so we've got to make it work," Pluta said. "The problem is the timeline.

"Any new system is going to have problems. There will always be wrinkles to work on. That's not the issue," added Pluta.

"There's so many things that don't seem to have been considered ahead of time."

OPINION

JAY MOUSER AND PAMELA LIASCOS / THE RIP

Minimum wage hike hurts students overall

BY MICHAEL D. ROSS
Opinion Editor

Beginning this month, the national minimum wage rate increased from $5.15 per hour to $5.75. Many students have gained from the unexpected pay raise, but others are losing jobs and losing patience.

Jim Cox, an associate professor of economics and political science at DeKalb College, has raised the question: why stop here? Why stop at $5.75 when raises seem to be helping workers so much? Why not increase the minimum wage to say $20 per hour?

Anyone who took economics realizes that for every increase in supply (labor), there must be a decrease in demand (available jobs). While Cox jokingly suggests a dramatic increase to $20 per hour, he also is the first to point out many companies would be forced to close and many people would lose their jobs.

Surprisingly, however, a $1.50 raise in the minimum wage rate in the last two years has not disturbed economists. That's a 35 percent increase in the minimum wage since late 1996. This should displace a substantial portion of the American labor force. But according to Cox, these workers are minorities who don't speak out against the wage increases.

"In short, these people just don't count in the political process. So politicians and special interests can posture as the saviors of these low-income people while actually destroying their prospects for attaining upward mobility," noted Cox in his guide "The Ugly Truth About the Minimum Wage Law," an Internet article he's posted.

For many students, the minimum wage laws are substantially hurting their upward mobility in other ways. A student who may be working a part-time job, but has been there for two or three years, could be making the same as a new employee with no experience. The reason is because the minimum wage increase has been too dramatic. While it has helped some, it hurts most students overall, because raises are denied to long-standing employees.

When employees feel frustrated or angered, they are often less productive. An employer's most valuable employee is one who knows the company and its policies and has shown devotion to the company. Long-standing employees, however, are less content with their jobs due to their lack of advancement. But small business employers can't afford to increase everyone's pay rate in the company without dramatically increasing prices, so it becomes a conflict between happy employees or happy customers.

The only way to keep both parties content is to keep the minimum wage at a reasonable level and increase the rate only when absolutely essential. The minimum wage should be raised no more than once every few years. Increasing the rate in increments, as in the past year, will only discourage students as they attempt to advance.

College should install phone lines for Code Blue towers

BY MARY HELEN BARRO
Rip staff writer

While crisscrossing the campus I noticed the Code Blue towers and thought... "What a great idea!" But I was concerned that all the towers I saw have "OUT OF ORDER" signs on them. As weeks went by, and I still saw those signs, the Mexican Yenta in me got to thinking... Why don't they work after all this time? Are they defective? What about the warranty? Should BC ask for a partial refund?

Then two of my "hats" kicked in.. Mexican yenta *and* investigative reporter. So I called on BC's able head of Security, Sgt. Jess Soto, to ask about the delay. Nice guy and very helpful. Soto showed me how the Code Blue tower system is *supposed* to work, and gave me a map with all the tower locations.

It turns out that only two of the 11 towers are currently working. The two that work are the ones that were installed as prototypes during the summer of 1997 when BC decision-makers were evaluating their effectiveness. One is mounted on the wall next to the entrance to Soto's office, and the other is located just south of the Student Services Building. When the decision was made to go ahead and install the system, nine more were ordered. Those puppies cost about $2,800 each for the wall mounts, and $4,500 for the stand alones. A good investment, if they work.

Next, I talked to Dr. Claire Larsen, dean of facilities and operations. Larsen explained that the towers arrived earlier than expected, so he took advantage of the fact that a lighting contractor was working on campus and had the towers installed ahead of schedule. This way, he saved the college some money. The problem is, we now have to wait for the campus telephone system to be augmented to accommodate extra phone lines for the towers. Then, depending on the weather and scheduling on other campus construction projects, the towers are projected to be wired up and, hopefully, running in about six to eight weeks.

My feeling is that getting the blue towers operational should have a much higher priority. Since the college has recognized the need for purchasing the big blue boys, let's get them working ASAP.

In the meantime, Soto has been working with other BC officials to improve campus security. Hedges have been cut back; trees have been pruned so that light can filter through the branches at night and patrols have been increased.

Soto is also working on enhancing the services provided by the blue towers. He wants them to be there for assistance as well as 911 emergencies, like if you need an escort, lock your keys in your car or leave a purse behind in a classroom. They're trying to come up with different wording for the towers, so they won't just say "Emergency."

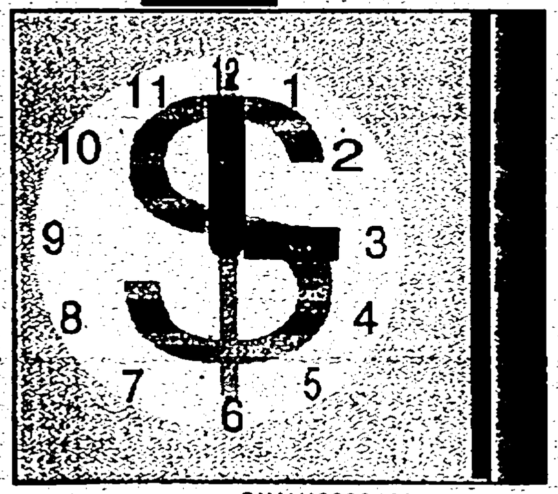
Another security problem flared up on the south side of the campus recently, when one of the contractors working on the stadium accidentally cut through some electrical wiring. Result-we're without adequate lighting in the two south parking areas. That problem should be fixed within a couple of weeks.

Until the Code Blue towers and lighting in the south parking lots work, Soto has asked his officers and cadets to keep extra-sharp eyes and ears out for any sign of a problem.

Folks who use the working Code Blue towers after hours will automatically be transferred to campus police radio telephones and/or patrol cars.

What can we do? Walking in pairs would be a good idea.

If you do have an emergency during the next few weeks, and you can't make fast tracks to either one of the two working Code Blue towers, scream your lungs out.



PAM LIASCOS / GRAPHIC ARTIST

Labor laws eliminate daily overtime pay

BY MICHAEL D. ROSS
Opinion Editor

For many students, the new labor laws calling for a change from daily overtime to weekly overtime have become a hassle.

Many employers, particularly those in the food service industry, are taking advantage of the new laws to overwork underpaid employees. Students are particularly being hurt.

Proponents of the new laws maintain that the law was created to benefit employees rather than employers.

Pacific Employers, a monthly guide for small businesses, states that the new laws "will permit employers to provide flexible scheduling for individual workers, thereby giving them the opportunity to balance their work and personal lives."

But who would honestly desire a pay cut? Previously when an employee worked a shift longer than eight hours in a day, he or she would receive overtime pay for any time after eight hours.

If the individual worked for more than 12 hours in a day, he or she would receive double pay after the twelth hour. But because of the new laws overtime pay doesn't begin until after an employee completes 40 hours in week.

Wait, it gets better. The employer also may define his or her company's work week. If an employer's work week is defined as Monday, 12:00 a.m. through Sunday 12:00 a.m. and a student works a shift that extends past midnight on Sunday, the student begins a new week.

Any time acquired after midnight would go toward the next week's hours.

In addition, double pay has been completely eliminated by the new laws, so students get further cheated out of a higher paycheck.

Students could be considered slave labor in some countries. Demanding school schedules prevent them from getting full-time jobs.

In many cases, they're forced to work part-time jobs making minimum wage, with little chance of advancement.

Overtime and double time pay are their only chance of getting a decent paycheck. The new labor laws have virtually destroyed a chance of making a decent living for full-time students with part time jobs.

THE RENEGADE RIP

Winner of the 1997 JACC Pacesetter Award

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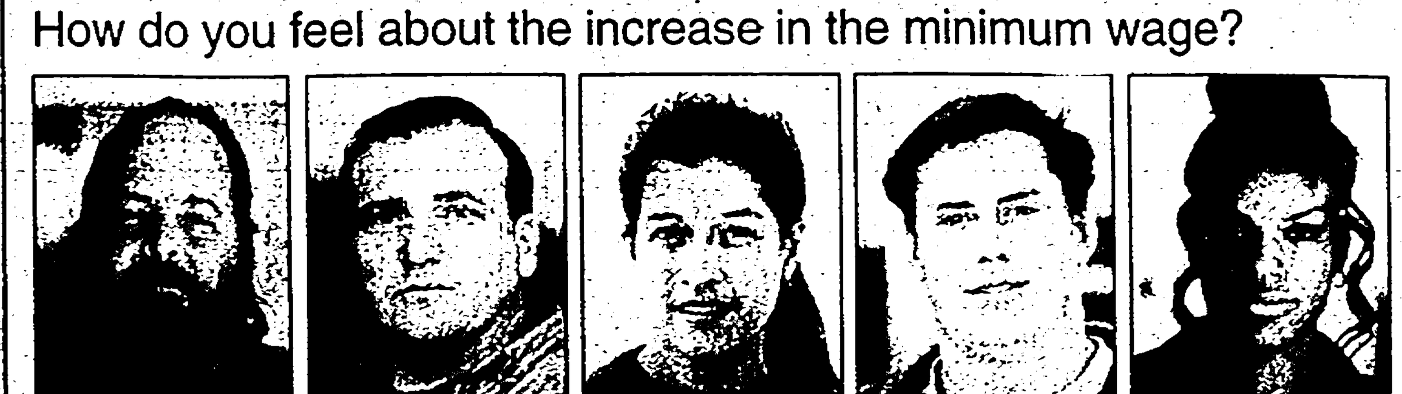
GADE FEEDBACK

Mike Cunningham / The Rip

How do you feel about the increase in the minimum wage?



Dana McCoy, Computer Systems: "An increase in minimum wage is meaningless. The only answer is to get a good education and a well-paying job."

Bret Lackey, Administration of Justice: "Minimum wage jobs are for young people entering the job world. I feel minimum wage was high enough before."

Angie Carrillo, Liberal Arts: "I think it's good, but it will also increase the price of everything else, so it will level out."

Mike Lodien, Architecture: "For me, it sucks because I started at $5 and all the new guys are getting paid better."

Tamekia Brown, Nursing: "I think it's great because it will help a lot of college students pay the bills."

SPORTS

SPORTS CALENDAR of EVENTS

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Thu/3-12/3:30pm ....Here
Santa Barbara
Thu/3-19/3:30pm ....Here
Santa Monica
Thu/3-26/3:30pm ....Here
L.A. Pierce
Tue/3-31/7:00pm ....Here
L.A. Valley
Sat/4-4/TBA ....Here
Mini Tourney
Sun/4-5/TBA ....Here
Mini Tourney
Tue/4-14/3:30pm ....Here
Glendale
Tue/4-21/3:30pm ....Here
Santa Monica
Sat/4-25/2pm ....Here
L.A. Pierce

MEN'S BASEBALL

Sat/3-21/1pm ....Here
Moorpark
Thu/3-26/2:30pm ....Here
Ventura
Tue/3-31/2:30pm ....Here
Cuesta
Sat/4-4/4pm ....Here
Glendale
Thu/4-16/2:30pm ....Here
L.A. Pierce
Sat/3-18/11am ....Here
L.A. Valley

WOMEN'S TRACK

Fri/3-6/2pm ....Here
Santa Monica
Fri/3-13/3pm ....Here
BC Relays
Sat/3-14/9am ....Here
BC Relays

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Tue/3-10/2pm ....Here
Cuesta
Thu/3-12/2pm ....Here
Ventura
Tue/3-17/2pm ....Here
Santa Monica
Thu/3-19/2pm ....Here
Allen Hancock
Tue/3-31/2pm ....Here
Glendale

MEN'S TENNIS

Sun/3-15/11am ....Here
L.A. Trade Tech
Thu/3-26/2pm ....Here
Santa Barbara
Thu/4-2/2pm ....Here
Ventura
Thu/4-9/2pm ....Here
L.A. Pierce

MEN'S GOLF

Mon/3-23/11am ....Here
@ Country Club
Mon/4-20/11am ....Here
@ Country Club

Softball team struggles in tourney

ROBERT TAYLOR / THE RIP

BC's Erin Eucce slides into third base during tournament last weekend. The Renegades hosted the tourney.

BY RICHARD D. WHIPPLE
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College softball team hosted the BC Classic Tournament held at North Rosedale Park last weekend.

In Friday's opener, BC lost to the eventual tournament champion Solano College 5-2 as Michelle Briggs drove in four runs for the northern California school, three of them coming on a first inning bases-loaded triple. According to BC coach Sandi Taylor, Briggs' hit was the difference in the game.

On Saturday, BC played three games, winning once and losing twice. In the opener, BC lost to Cosumnes River College in a thrilling 9-7 game. According to BC player Erin Eccue, BC played hard and never gave up.

"We played our best," said Eccue. "All we needed was a couple of more hits and we could of beaten them. Nothing to hang our heads about."

Fellow BC player Cristal Brown echoed those same sentiments.

"That was a good hitting ball club that we played," she said. "We were hitting the ball."

Brown added that BC played aggressively in their at-bats.

In the later games, BC lost to Pasadena College 5-2 before winning against Chabot College 2-0 as Tracey Hilvers pitched a shutout. That victory assured them of playing on Sunday, where Hilvers pitched another shutout in beating Santa Ana College 9-0. The 'Gades then lost to Fullerton College 5-0 as Fullerton's Michelle Harrison tossed a no-hitter.

Overall, the Renegades went 2-4 in tournament play. As of Wednesday, BC is 8-5-1 after winning 5-3 at Cuesta on Tuesday.

Pitcher leads 'Gades to victory over Glendale

Henry strikes out three Vaqueros during 1-0 game

BY RICHARD D.WHIPPLE
Rip staff writer

One thing that is rare in community college baseball is a pitchers' duel.

The Renegades opened up the Western State Conference season by beating the Glendale Vaqueros in a pitcher's duel 1-0 recently at Gerry Collis Field. According to BC's baseball coach Tim Painton, good defense and Todd Henry's pitching were the keys to victory.

"From a defensive standpoint, we turned four double plays that got Todd out of some trouble in innings," said Painton, adding that Henry had good movement on his fast ball and good location with his pitches.

Henry, the winning pitcher, went the distance, allowing five hits and striking out three. According to Henry, his complete game shutout did not come easy.

"I was getting tired toward the end," he said. "But I just battled and kept on throwing."

> "I was getting tired toward the end. But I just battled and kept on throwing."
> – Todd Henry, BC pitcher

Painton commended Henry's determination.

"He's a real aggressive kid by nature and he's just very aggressive on the mound," he said. "He's able to make pitches and get ahead of hitters."

Glendale's Wes Hutchison also went the distance, allowing six hits while striking out eight. However, it was his throwing error that led to the only run of the game. According to Glendale coach Denny Barrett, that error was the difference, but BC played a superb game.

"Give a lot of credit to Bakersfield, they did a great job," said Barrett. "They're a good coached team and they have a good program."

BC scored the only run of the game in the first inning. Lead-off hitter Tim Hooper hit a tapper that Hutchison fielded, but his throw pulled first baseman Mike Bench off the bag. After Hooper advanced to second on a ground out, Anthony Acevedo singled to left-center field to drive in the run. According to Acevedo, he did not find Hutchison overpowering.

"I didn't think he had that good of stuff," he said.

As of Wednesday, the Renegades are 2-0 in conference play after beating L.A. Pierce 6-5 on Tuesday at Gerry Collis field. The Renegades will play a doubleheader at College of the Canyons on Saturday.

Basketball takes aim at title

BY KRISTEN HUNTER
Sports Editor

ROBERT TAYLOR / THE RIP

Brandon Kurtz helps team win during first playoff round.

Defense was the key to the 'Gades victory against Imperial Valley Wednesday night as Bakersfield College won the second round of the state basketball playoffs.

The 'Gades held the Imperial Valley Arabs to 14 out of 32 shots in the first half of play. The Arabs came out very physical and played a full contact 90-minute game that ended with some Valley players in tears following BC's 83-76 victory.

"We just had to hold them off," said BC coach Mark Arce about the last half of the game.

The 'Gades will play Saturday 7 p.m. at the Gil Bishop Center for the third round of the playoffs. If the 'Gades win the round, they will advance to the state playoffs.

"This could have been my last game as a Renegade," said center Brandon Kurtz after the Wednesday game. "I just wanted to come out and play."

Kurtz was out sick all week with a 103-degree fever and inflamed tonsils.

He did not start in the game but came in early in the first half.

"I am feeling a little better but I still have inflamation on my tonsils," said Kurtz.

According to Arce, there was no discussion if Kurtz wanted to come out and play, because Kurtz simply showed for the game. He added that this showed a lot of character.

The 'Gades were trailing in the first half, but by halftime, the team had a six-point lead.

The team shot a better game in the first half, shooting 18-30 baskets. By the second half, the the 'Gades had brought it together on passing, which much improved passing.

Late in the second half, Imperial's Rashard Harris, guard, was poked in the eye by forward Shawn Daniels. Harris went off the floor throwing his towel, only to come back into the game minutes later.

In the last couple of minutes the game became crucial for the 'Gades as Tye Hammond was fouled out. Hammond received two fouls in :38 seconds, forcing him to leave the game.

"They (referees) were calling some ticky tack fouls on me," said Hammond.

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CAMPUS

'GADE NEWSLINE
WHAT'S HAPPENING WHERE & WITH WHOM

Art to be exhibited in library gallery

"Painted Prayers," an exhibit by artist Joyce Johnson, will start on Thursday, and run through April 10 at the Wylie and May Louise Jones Art Gallery in the library.

Gallery hours are Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

There will be an opening reception Thursday, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Career Center to sponsor book fair

The Career Center will sponsor a book fair in the Fireside Room on Monday and Tuesday.

The event will take place 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days and 5 to 8 p.m. Monday evening.

Books will be sold for 20 to 40 percent off the retail price.

African art to be presented in showing

The Martin Luther King Jr. Center is collaborating with the Kern County Holloway-Gonzales Library to present an art showing in an effort to extend the celebration of Black History Month into March.

"A Celebration of African Art, Past and Present" will run on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call Dr. Wilhelmina Anthony at 395-4570.

Fog hosts Bakersfield College Night

Friday, March 20 will be Bakersfield College Night at the Fog game at the Bakersfield Convention Center. The Bakersfield Fog will play opponents the Reno Rage.

The game starts at 7:05 p.m. and doors open at 6 p.m.

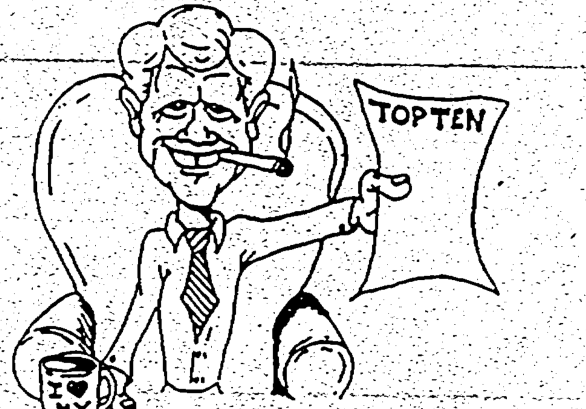
Students and faculty will pay $4 admission with their school ID.

Lupus Association to sponsor seminar

The Kern Lupus Association and Office of Instruction are sponsoring a Lupus Seminar tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m in the Fireside Room.

Daniel Wallace, chief of rheumatology at Cedars Sinai in L.A. will be the guest speaker.

Admission is free.



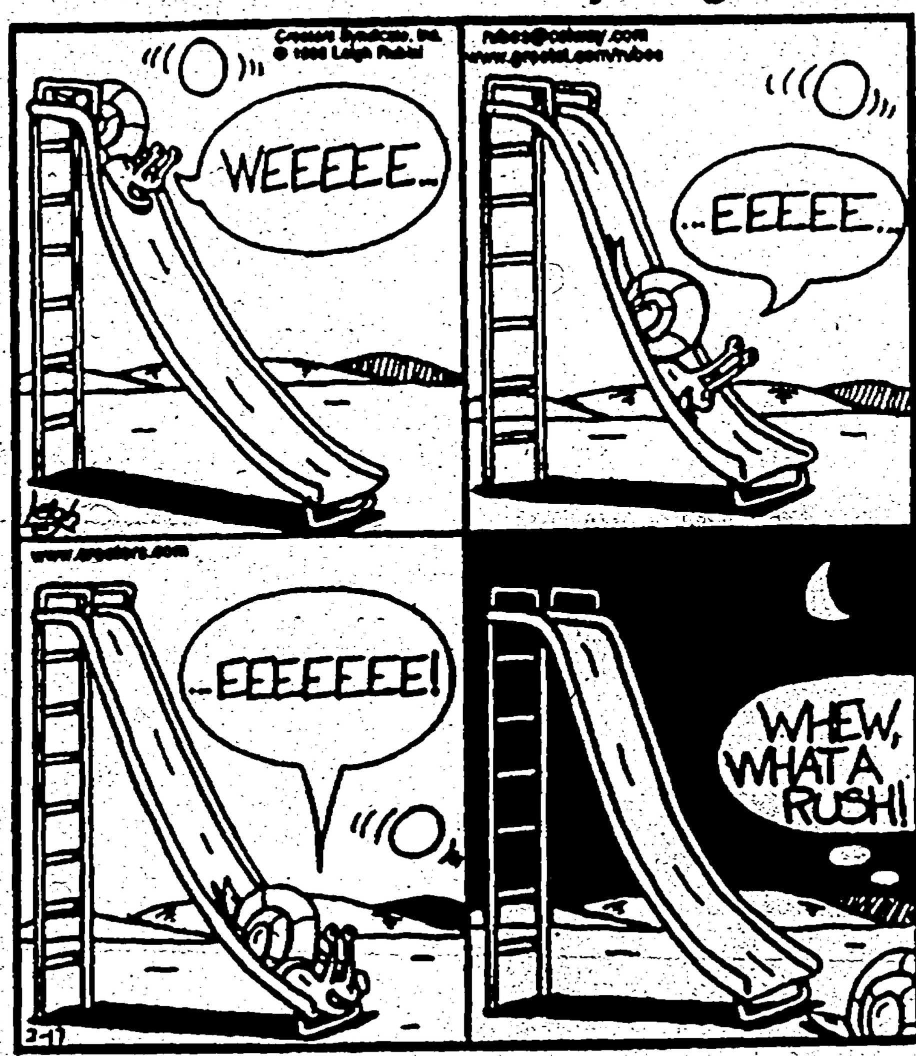
MARK RILEY / THE RIP

TOP 10 WAYS OPRAH IS CELEBRATING HER VICTORY:

10. Shouting, "I'm going to buy Disneyworld!"
9. Jell-O shots with Ricki Lake.
8. Starring in new Broadway musical: "Oprah-Homa!"
7. Surprise appearances on Jerry Springer to beat the crap out of a Holstein.
6. Losing another 200 pounds by dumping that deadbeat Steadman.
5. Tipping each juror a crisp new billion-dollar bill.
4. Taping new episode entitled, "Eating Pork Will Make You Gay."
3. All-night bender with Canadian snowboarding team.
2. "Oprah's Book Club" presents: "Kiss My Ass, You Texas Beef Monkeys."
1. Did somebody say McDonald's?

Reprinted with permission from 'The Late Show' with David Letterman

RUBES® By Leigh Rubin



CRIME BEAT
KEEPING INFORMED

BY NICOLLE LUSICH
Rip staff writer

Student's car vandalized in southeast parking lot

A Bakerfield College student reported to the campus police that her car had been vandalized Feb. 19.

The student said that she had parked her vehicle in the southeast parking lot. When she returned to her car, she noticed the damage.

Both sides of the vehicle had scratch marks across the entire length and there was a dent five inches in height in the left panel.

Student reports items taken from BC locker

A student reported to campus police that several personal items were stolen out of his locker in the Bakersfield College locker room on Feb. 25.

The student left his locker to play basketball, and when he returned, found his pair of Levis, a watch, a pager and $60 missing, he reported to campus police.

The student noticed that his keys, which he had locked in the locker, were sitting out on the bench.

Stereo stolen from truck awaiting repairs

A stereo cassette player was reported stolen out of a 1959 Chevy truck parked in the auto tech building area. It had been parked there since the summer of 1997, while waiting to be repaired. Along with the stereo, two crescent wrenches and a vice grip were taken.

Loss is estimated at $120.

Art Attack
CALENDAR of All the ARTS

BY JOSH SANTORA
Rip staff writer

Anybody who says there is nothing to do in Bakersfield has no excuse for not joining the audience of BC's own fine arts activities. This semester is the perfect time to expose yourself to some of the most culturally enriching and entertaining events that are happening in the next couple of months.

Dr. John Gerhold, BC's Music Department chair, said that he was very excited about Peter Gach's piano recital on Thursday. Gach is a world renowned concert pianist who was the recipient of a fellowship from the Kosciuszko Foundation and is currently the artist-in-residence at Palomar College.

Gerhold said that this is a prestigious event for BC to be hosting and highly recommends checking it out (the recital costs $3).

If your taste is a little more jazzy than a piano recital, then there is the performance by the Bakersfield College Jazz Ensemble, "Jazz a la Carte" on March 20 at the BC cafeteria.

The Bakersfield College Wind Ensemble is performing "The Winds of Spring" on March 29 at St. John's Lutheran Church.

The choir department will be hosting the Seventh Annual Multicultural Choral Music Festival on Friday, March 20. Ronald Kean, BC's choir director, stated that, "about 50 percent of students in California are of minority ethnicity, yet that's not reflected in our music," so he started the Multicultural Choral Music Festival seven years ago and it's grown every year.

This year is exceptionally special because of the presence of wellknown conductor, Maria Guinand from Caracas, Venezuela.

The eight schools performing will be: Highland, Foothill, Centennial, Wasco High, East High, Yavapai Community College (Ariz.), Cal Poly San Louis Obispo, California State University Bakersfield and of course BC's own choir. Admission is free.

So many of today's movies are just a compilation of computer effects and lots of edited, touched up film and not a whole lot of real acting. There needs to be a return to the stage, where acting was born.

"'Ubu the King' is an elaborate production with lots of sight and sound effects," according to Randy Messick, BC theater professor. "We've got a great cast that really captures the lunacy of the play nicely."

"Ubu the King" started out as a puppet play written in 1896 by Alfred Jarry who was an addict who died when he was 34.

"It is a satire of despots, self-centered bureaucrats, pseudo-scientists and inept pedants ... Due to some strong language, the play is not recommended for children under 14 years of age," Messick wrote in a department newsletter.

The play costs $3 for BC students and senior citizens who purchase tickets in advance and $6 for everybody else. Opening night is March 26.

For tickets to BC Fine Arts events, call the Ticket Office at 395-4326.

Lupus Seminar
Saturday, March 7
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bakersfield College
Fireside Room
(Campus Center)
The guest speaker will be Dr. Daniel Wallace, Chief of Rheumatology at Cedars Sinai and professor of medicine at UCLA
No Cost To Attend
Sponsored by: BC Office of Instruction & the Kern Lupus Association

Beginning Internet Orientations
BC Technology Center
Mar. 11, Wed. 2 p.m.
Mar. 20, Fri. 11 a.m.
Mar. 26, Thurs. 2 p.m.
Mar. 31, Tues. 9 a.m.
Space is limited so please call 395-4462 to register.

Send your CLUB NEWS to ripmall@aol.com or drop by *The Rip* office in Campus Center 1.

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A Celebration of Technology
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• Keynote Address
• Technology Sessions
• Hands-on Demonstrations
• Hardware/Software Displays
You are welcome to attend this free event . . .
Vendors' Fair
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BC Cafeteria
Register for *FREE* workshops
Saturday, 8 a.m.-9 a.m.
East entrance to BC Grace Van Dyke Bird Library
For info call: 636-4547 or 636-4833
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Crosstown Express
save time and money!
Ride any Crosstown Express bus for just 10¢
Tuesday, March 3, 10, 17
You can hop on the Crosstown Express at the Valley Plaza, Downtown Transit Center or BC
GET Golden Empire Transit District
A Pollution Solution
869-2GET
www.getbus.org
GET Representatives will visit BC on March 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to answer questions & give away fun GET stuff!

THE RENEGADE RIP
Vol. 69, No. 5 Bakersfield College March 27, 1998

OPINION
Faculty defends Wright on claims of harassment
—Page 3

FEATURES
A review of Hollywood's biggest night
—Page 4

Board selects Serrano as new college president

BY MICHAEL D. ROSS
Opinion Editor

Dr. Sandra Serrano was named Bakersfield College's first woman Hispanic president at a recent Board of Trustees meeting.

"Technically, Grace Van Dyke Bird was the first (female) leader of Bakersfield College and although my recollection is that she did not carry the title of president, I kind of see her as the first woman leader of Bakersfield College," said Serrano.

The motion to appoint Serrano as president came from trustee Rose Marie Bans during the board meeting. The motion was seconded by trustee Harvey Hall and passed unanimously by the board.

Some students, faculty and community members in the audience whispered comments of surprise about the board's decision. Dr. Robert Allison has been interim president this year after Dr. Rick Wright was fired by the Board of Trustees. Some had believed Allison would be appointed to the position permanently.

On July 1, Serrano will move into the seat of the president, replacing Allison, who has served as interim president since July of last year. She becomes the second woman to head the college since Grace Van Dyke Bird, who began her tenure in 1921 as dean of the college.

She later was given the title president emeritus in 1976 by the Board of Trustees.

"I think the board made a good decision," Allison said of Serrano's appointment. "There was a number of decisions they could have made. They considered the situation carefully and made a decision they thought was the best."

Allison will return to his permanent position as vice president of instruction in July.

This return will, in turn, cause many other interim position holders to be bumped backed down to their former positions. Allison, however, expressed no concerns about the board's decision.

"Bob is a very gracious gentleman, as we all know, and going in he said, 'Jim, I'm going to give it my best shot and if I don't get it, whoever gets it, I'm going to be there to support them,' " Chancellor Dr. Jim Young said during the March 19 board meeting. "Earlier today he said, 'I'll give Sandra my support.' "

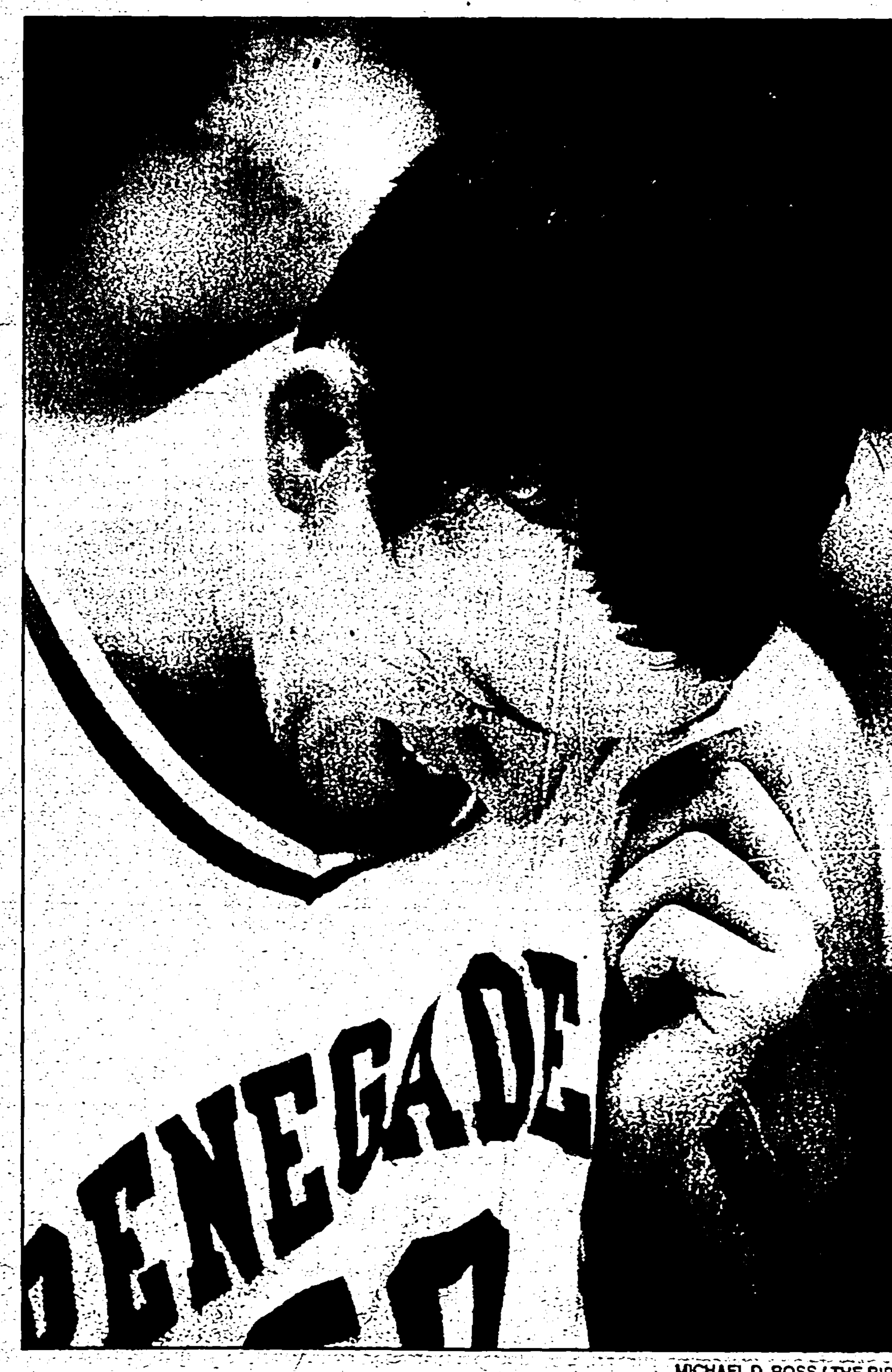
Serrano will be entering the of-

See SERRANO / Page 2

R. LEO STEWART / SPECIAL TO THE RIP

Dr. Sandra Serrano smiles at board meeting after trustees announce that she will be the president of BC.

Heartbroken



MICHAEL D. ROSS / THE RIP

Brandon Kurtz weeps following BC's state basketball title loss. See story page 5.

Investigation clears Wright on claims of sexual harassment

Attorneys look into legal aspects of CSUB educator's 'gaze' allegations

"In my view this is defamation of character and slander. Libel may also be an issue. Right now I'm talking to an attorney, but I'm just not sure what's going to happen yet."
–Dr. Rick Wright BC professor

BY DAVID LAWLOR
News Editor

A Bakersfield College professor has been cleared of claims of sexual harassment stemming from a Jan. 13 incident that allegedly occurred in his office.

But the California State University, Bakersfield professor who initiated the complaint made no apologies when told of the investigation's outcome.

The incident in question involved Behavioral Science Chair Dr. Rick Wright, a BC psychology professor Laura Lowe, and Jacquelyn Messinger, a student at CSUB. According to a letter written to the Board of Trustees by CSUB professor Dr. Jane Granskog, Wright gazed at Lowe and Messinger's bodies in a "sexually affrontive fashion" during a meeting that was designed to introduce Messinger, a teacher's assistant, to Wright.

Granskog's letter led to an investigation by the Human Resources Department at BC. On March 6, Wright was informed that the investigation had concluded and that he had been cleared of any wrong doing, he said.

"I knew that I didn't do anything wrong," said Wright.

Interim President Dr. Robert Allison gave Wright written proof that the investigation had ended, finding Wright innocent. While Wright was satisfied with the outcome of the investigation, Granskog said that she was sticking by her accusations.

"The only reason that I addressed this issue is because I think that sexism is so prevalent," said Granskog. "No, I don't feel that I have wrongly accused him (Wright). I just think that the way that I see things and the way that the college sees things might be different."

According to Granskog's letter, aside from the alleged incident on Jan. 13, Wright was involved in another incident that resulted in a complaint alleging sexual harassment filed by BC professor Anna Allen. Allen complained about a display on Wright's office door during Homecoming week. The display featured balloons, crepe paper and BC memorabilia. A negligee with Wright's face pasted above it was also part of the display. Next to Wright's face was a caption reading: "Hi honey. New in town? Want to ride in my Porsche?" Allen found the negligee offensive and after she informed Wright that she did not approve of the display, it was removed. Allen filed a complaint and an investigation by the Human Resources Department followed.

BC psychology professor Sally Hill said in an interview that she placed the negligee on Wright's office door.

Hill had originally planned the decoration as a joke. However, after the investigation concluded, Hill was subject to numerous sanctions to resolve the situation.

The four-step process included removing the display, having Hill attend a sexual harassment seminar in Santa Barbara, having a formal letter of unprofessional conduct placed in Hill's file and prohibiting all those involved in the incident from teaching gender-related classes, she said.

"It was important to me to resolve this investigation as quickly as possible so that all involved could focus our energies on the education of our students," Hill said in a written statement to *The Rip*.

While Hill had taken responsibility for the prank, Granskog cited it as an example of "locker room mentality" in her letter about Wright to the trustees.

Wright said that a dispute involving Allen may have prompted her complaint about the decorations. During the time that Wright was president at BC, Allen was Behavioral Science chair.

Due to a vote of no confidence by a majority of the faculty in the Behavioral Science Division, Wright was required to initiate proceedings that would eventually replace Allen with professor Jim Whitehouse.

"Hell, yeah, that creates bad blood," said Wright. "It wasn't my fault that she was replaced, though. I was just doing my job."

Wright has contacted an attorney and is looking into legal aspects of Granskog's allegations.

"In my view this is defamation of character and slander. Libel may also be an issue. Right now I'm talking to an attorney, but I'm just not sure what's going to happen yet," he said.

Arvin High School takes top honors at J-Day competition

'Never in a million years did I think we'd win it'

BY LEXEY SWALL
Editor in Chief

Tears of joy were shed by a journalism adviser when the first place general excellence award was announced for High School Journalism Day at Bakersfield College. The Arvin High School newspaper, *The Bear Facts*, took first place over nine other high schools competing in the general excellence category.

"Never in a million years did I think we'd win it," said Candice Irby, Arvin high school's journalism adviser.

When Irby started teaching journalism at Arvin High School four and a half years ago, she didn't know a thing about journalism, she said. The school didn't even have a newspaper.

"My students and I started from the very bottom and worked our way up," said Irby.

Each year Bakersfield College and *The Bakersfield Californian* hosts High School Journalism Day for journalism students throughout Kern County to compete in mail-in and on-the-spot contests in general excellence, writing, page design and photography. This year students also were able to attend a digital imaging seminar, presented by BC professor Greg Chamberlain, to gain hands-on experience with modern technology.

About 200 students attended this year's contest held March 19. Of all the events, winning the general excellence award is the greatest achievement at High School Journalism Day.

"Two years ago we didn't win one thing. It was really a bummer and we didn't go last year. I didn't feel we were ready."

According to Irby, the campus newspaper isn't funded by the school. Students put together fund-raisers to make enough money to publish, but they are provided with all the technology they need.

"I think we've always been ahead technologically and we play to our strengths. Writing is our weak point, but technologically and visually our students are strong in those areas."

For the last decade, Bakersfield High School's newspaper, *The Blue & White*, has won the general excellence award at High School Journalism Day. This year BHS took second place.

"They (the judges) like the bright new approach of Arvin and are tired of seeing the same old thing," said Margie Bell, Bakersfield High School's journalism adviser.

Overall, one major strength Arvin had was the appeal it had for the whole student body. According to Bell, looking at the BHS newspaper this year, one would think that the school was all honor students.

"Last year we were doing a lot of articles bilingually and Arvin is publishing bilingually, also."

Tehachapi High School's newspaper, *The Warrior*, won third place in the general excellence category.

Other On-the-spot awards included: news story, first place, Steve Perez, Bakersfield High School; second place, Catherine Lau, Bakersfield High School; third place, Dayla Richey, Centennial High School; editorial, first place, Kelly West, East High School; second place, Erin Lopez, Stockdale High School; third place, Alicia Gamez, Arvin High School; critical review, first place,

See J-DAY / Page 2

J-DAY: On-the-spot winners awarded

continued from page 1

Otto Cargill, West High School; second place, Camille Cloutier, Bakersfield High School; third place, Amber Garcia, Foothill High School; feature story, first place, Mary Chang, Bakersfield High School; second place, Catherine Lau, Bakersfield High School; third place, Lacey Warne, Bakersfield High School; feature photo, first place, Jaspreet Saini, Stockdale High School; second place, Sarah Carey, Stockdale High School; third place, David Morton, Bakersfield High School; bring-in photo, first place, Margarita Gamez, Arvin High School; second place, Carley Butler, West High School; third place, Tim Halberg, Tehachapi High School.

Mail-In winners were: Mail in news story, first place, Annie Wang, Stockdale; second place, Kelly West, East High School; third place, Mardi Morillo, Ridgeview High School; feature story, first place, W. Christian Flores and Kelly West, East High School; second place, Camille Cloutier, Bakersfield High School; third place, Tara Starr, East High School; editorial, first place, David Butkiewicz, Stockdale; second place, Amy Kushner, Bakersfield High School; third place, Mary Chang, Bakersfield High School; critical review, first place, Rhiannon Feehan, Tehachapi; second place, Christa Edwards, East High School; third place, Joseph Towery, East High School; sports story, first place, Corey Costelloe, Tehachapi; second place, Vanessa Jiminez, Ridgeview High School; third place, Catherina Lau, Bakersfield High School.

ROBERT TAYLOR / THE RIP

Students take pictures of performing DJs in Campus Center. Photographers then learned about digital cameras.

First place on-the-spot contest winners

Abstinence-only sex education sounds a lot like preaching

Editor's Note: For the editorial contest at Bakersfield College's annual high school journalism competition, students were given four possible topics to write about. This story was the first place winning entry.

BY KELLY WEST
East Bakersfield High School

When Gov. Pete Wilson decided to launch a battle against teen pregnancy with "abstinence-only" programs as his sole ammo, I think he forgot what it's like to be young.

Wilson's proposed program, part of his comprehensive sex education system entitled, "Partnership for Responsible Parenting," would in effect fund community-based programs that would encourage anstinence until marriage, and there would be no discussion of contraception. Under his plan, youngsters would be taught at their local health department or Boys and Girls Club that a "mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the contest of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity," and under federal mandate, the "social, psychological and health gains to be realized from abstaining from sexual activity." Sounds like preaching to me.

Proponents of the plan aimed at after-school programs say that by teaching abstinence only, they are eliminating the "mixed message" sent to young people and instead, in the words of Wilson's spokesperson Lisa Kalustian, giving them "a valuable tool."

This so-called "tool" is where the problem lies, though. While Wilson and his entourage believe that educating teens on abstinence is important, what they're forgetting is the true tool in education of youth: a wellrounded, unbiased presentation of facts on which they can use to base their own opinions. From this uncensored education, young people will do as they will need to do all their adult lives, which is to make decisions and deal with the consequences.

I understood the motives behind the proposal, being that Wilson desires to shield teens from the painful experience of pregnancy by encouraging them to simply not have sex. It's a good message, but the truth is that it is not the job of educators or politicians to instill moral opinions in students. That, in my opinion, is something that a person must do only for his or her self, based on the education they've received both at home and at school.

Kalustian was right when she said, "No single program or approach is the magic bullet that is going to solve all the problems." The government needs to invest its time and money in promoting programs that offer the students what they need: an education. Not morals, not opinions, not preaching, but a balanced education.

X-Ray and Slice offer unique brand of music

Editor's Note: Students were told to write a feature story based upon the Battle of the DJs during High School Journalism Day. This is the first place winning entry.

BY MARY CHANG
Bakersfield High School

Pumpin' out a mix of scratches, mixes and flares, The Butcha Boys made a statement in the Battle of the DJs: "You want a fresh style — let me show you!"

Competing against one another, DJs X-Ray and DJ Slice traded turns at the turntables and "wowed" the Campus Center stage crowd. With their distinctive styles meshing New York's harder edgier sound and L.A.'s lighter g-funk, X-Ray and Slice saved the competition from its earlier sound problems.

"I was nervous at first, but once the music starts — I just do it," said Slice.

Although the atmosphere was relaxed, Slice had every reason to be nervous. His competition was none other than his friend and Bakersfield's DJ title holder for the past four years, X-Ray.

Even though Slice showed off his talent with hardcore beats and defied mainstream Puff Daddy by his use of the "underground," the day belonged to X-Ray.

An eight-year-old veteran to the hip-hop world and DJ competitions, X-Ray is definitely not a stranger to victory.

"I get excited and get an adrenaline rush when I'm up there. You're all that much more confident especially when you know what you're doing," said X-Ray.

Refusing to stick to any one type of music, X-Ray expressed his "rough style" in "whatever people would dance to." Even though he said his performance, rather than his victory, mattered more to him, X-Ray admitted that he had been confident in his win.

"I got all my tricks in and I was definitely cleaner," said X-Ray.

Although competitions keep the DJs from really showing off their strengths, their sponsor, Street Level, says that it shows a world that "mainstream hasn't even touched upon."

After the hour was over, at least one thing in the music was clear: "You can't get fresher than this."

FIRST PLACE FEATURE PHOTO

JASPREET SAINI / STOCKDALE HIGH SCHOOL

DJ X-Ray cuts it up during his set.

DJs manage to make bad music even worse

Editor's Note: Students reviewed performances during "The Battle of the DJs," an event on the Campus Center stage, during High School Journalism Day. This is the first place winning review.

BY OTTO CARGILL
West High School

Proving again that bad music can be transformed into a devastating weapon in the hands of self-named artists, "The Battle of the DJs" dragged on for a seeming eternity. Like Dante emerging from Hell's blazing inferno, the end of the contest brought a sense of relief as well as a chance to again curse humanity for their crimes against real music.

While it must be noted that DJs Slice and X-Ray of Street Level Productions are skilled in their chosen styles, one must also question what has music today become?

First to perform was DJ Slice, who presented a strong beat and fast rhythm with his style. His first set had a beat and could be danced to; however, one must have previously suffered from severe head trauma and not fully recovered. The second attempt, which followed X-Ray's first, brought images to mind of a hapless feline desperately clawing at the vinyl shower curtain in an attempt to escape its watery fate.

DJ X-Ray followed his counterpart's performance, opening with the heavy beat but seemingly more mellow rhythm. While not as grating to the senses, it managed to conjure images of being struck with a mallet time and again. His following set could be called smoother and jarring if this writer had not been searching for the mute button by this time.

As the sets were completed, DJ X-Ray was named victor in this contest, though the excitement of the audience barely rose higher than a whisper. This lack of enthusiasm may force a relabeling of the contest from Battle of the DJs to the more appropriate title Battle of Who Could Care Less.

To rate these proceedings on a scale of one to nine, with one being the highest level of Hell and nine being the lowest, this writer would prefer baking on the sixth level as opposed to listening to these DJs again.

Grand jury set to announce indictments in armored car robbery

Editor's Note: For the news contest, students were given a fact sheet based on an actual news event. This is the winning entry.

BY STEVE PEREZ
Bakersfield High School

A federal grand jury is expected to announce a series of indictments today in an Oct. 4, 1997 armored car heist.

Two suspects, Steven Chambers, 30, a former FBI informant and convicted felon and David Scott Ghantt, a former Loomis vault supervisor, are among eight arrested for suspected involvement in the crime this March.

"This case will be presented to a grand jury this week," Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Whisler said during a March 10 bond hearing for Chambers, who is emerging as a key figure in the investigation. Chambers is being held without bond for his role in the robbery and for plotting to kill Ghant, his suspected accomplice.

Since the arrests, FBI agents have recovered $9.6 million in cash and property of the $17 million originally stolen from a Loomis, Farge & Co. Cash warehouse in Charlotte, N.C. According to court records, an additional $3.3 million was left behind when Chambers, Ghantt and Eric Scott Grant, another suspect, abandoned the Loomis van on a secluded road west of Charlotte. Up to $4 million remains missing.

Ghantt, who fled to Mexico following the robbery, was arrested March 1 by Mexican Interpol in a hotel on the Yucatan Peninsula. His alleged accomplices were arrested the next day in the Charlotte area. Court records state that Ghantt was caught on a hidden video camera unlocking the vault with his company keys loading more than a ton of cash, in stacks of $20 bills, into a Loomis van.

The seized property included luxury cars, a country club home, a furniture store, bank accounts, and several safe-deposit boxes controlled by the suspects.

It was reportedly one of the largest armored car heists in U.S. history.

SERRANO: First Hispanic female elected president of college

Continued from page 1

fice of president during a difficult time due to an abundance of student, faculty and classified staff concerns.

"This is a time of transition, not just in terms of the administration, but I think, in terms of the educational process itself," said Dean of Students Dr. Lou Farmakis.

The classified staff hopes that Serrano will help it obtain the recognition it desires.

"I hope that the new president would look at the status of the classified employees, the current job market, the trends that are going on and do what he or she can to improve the status of the classified employees here at Bakersfield College," said Merry Kay Ezell, the president of the California Schools Employees Association, before Serrano was appointed.

With the growing issue of low faculty salaries, many faculty members also feel at unease and hope Serrano will help in their struggle.

"Sandra's been the kind of person I could always talk to, very up front, direct, straight forward, and she listens, so I think that's a wonderful quality," said Kate Pluta, the president of the Academic Senate.

Although Serrano does not decide faculty salary increases, she has described herself as an advocate for teachers and students.

"She did say she could have an indirect effect, which is in, I guess, Chancellor's cabinet. They discuss these matters, advocate for the faculty and she could," said Dr. Jack Hernandez, the president of the Community College Associatic...

"Let's say Chancellor's cabinet, or if she's on a negotiating team, discuss these issues, she could take the part of the faculty and staff and recommend that the district change its negotiating posture with respect to the issues that we're at conflict over now."

Serrano said that she prefers a collaborative and participatory work environment.

"I've always felt it's important to work as a team, get as much information as possible because I think that informed decisions are the best decisions," she said during an interview.

"I've always felt it's important to work as a team, get as much information as possible because I think that informed decisions are the best decisions."
—Sandra Serrano
BC president appointee

OPINION

Got a name? BC streets need it

Would you like to help name Bakersfield College's streets and walkways and earn $25 for your effort?

According to Dr. Claire Larsen, dean of facilities and operations, folks working to improve BC campus security are thinking of giving all the streets and walkways on campus official names.

As it stands now, depending on whom you talk to, paved walkways and grassy areas are referred to in different ways. One exception is the Veterans Memorial Plaza just east of the bookstore. Students rallied to name the plaza in honor of Vietnam Vets in 1986.

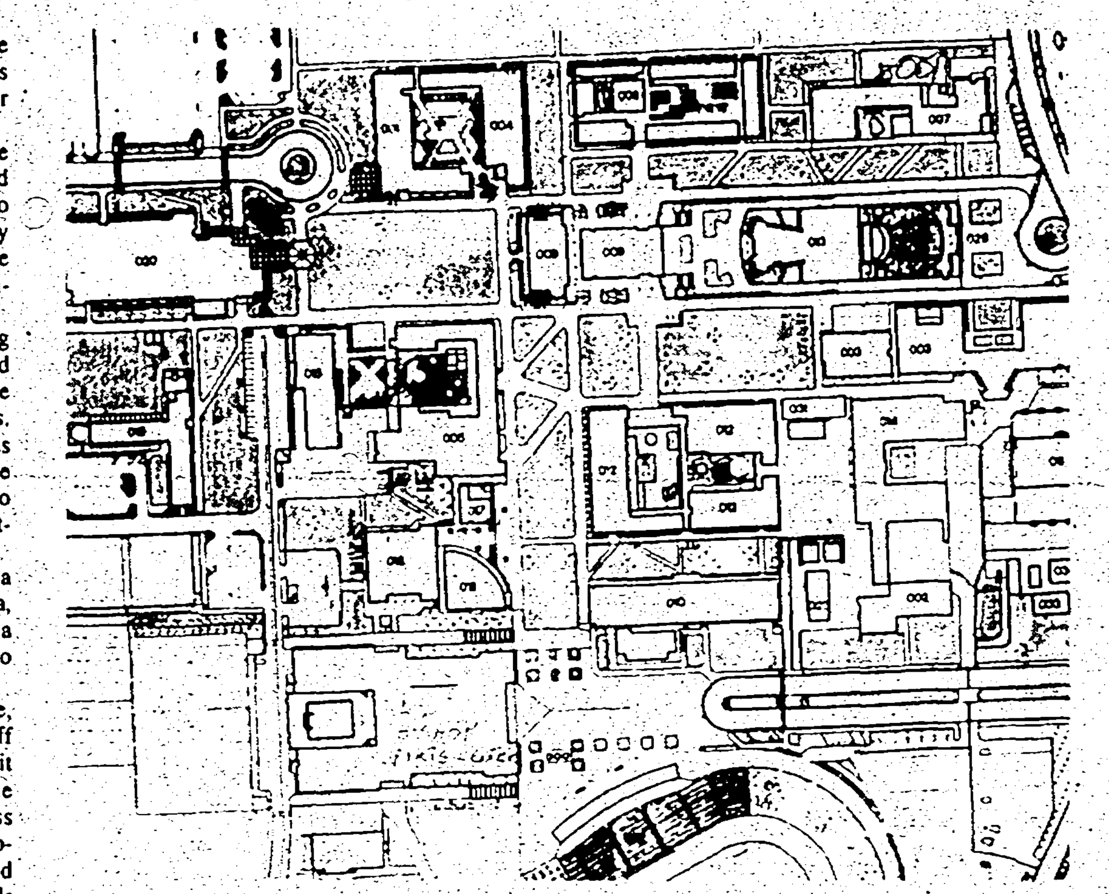
Since students did such a good job of naming the plaza, *The Rip* Editorial Board felt a contest would be appropriate to learn student ideas.

Faculty and student alike, with the exception of *Rip* staff members, are invited to submit prospective names for the streets, walkways and grass malls on campus. BC has approximately 38 streets and walkways and 16 grass malls and sports areas that need naming.

Submissions will be evaluated and judged by *The Rip* Editorial Board and the best name selected will be given a $25 prize.

Submit your recommendations to *The Renegade Rip* at Campus Center 1, or e-mail us at ripmail@aol.com. Be sure to include all the information on the form if you e-mail us.

We'll print the best suggestions and forward them to administrators and the Security Committee for review and consideration.



THE RENEGADE RIP

NAME BC STREETS CONTEST
ENTRY FORM

Name:______________________

Major:______________________

Daytime Phone Number: (___) ____ ____

Street Location:______________________

____

____

Suggested Street Name:______________________

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Faculty speaks out on Wright's behalf

Instructors describe conflicts within college department

As educators and fellow members of the Behavioral Science/Foreign Language Department, we feel it is our duty to respond to the March 6 article in *The Renegade Rip* regarding allegations of sexual harassment against Dr. Rick Wright, Behavioral Science Division chair. We would also like to point out that the entire article was based on hearsay, as Dr. Granskog was not present for the meeting.

According to the article, Dr. Jane Granskog, a CSUB professor, wrote a letter to the district Board of Trustees alleging that Wright "gazed at (Laura Lowe and Jacquelyn Messinger) in a 'sexually affrontive fashion.'" Without commenting on the accuracy of the allegations themselves, we feel we would be remiss if we did not clarify a few points from the article that might be misinterpreted. First, there was no mention of past problems between Wright and Lowe that may have contributed to the current complaint. This history of conflict between them is something which we feel is extremely important in attempting to understand the issues involved.

Also pertinent is the portrayal of CSUB professor Jane Granskog as an unaffiliated party. Her partnership status with Lowe is also important in understanding her involvement in the complaint by Messinger, a CSUB student, and Laura Lowe, a BC instructor.

Lastly, the reference in the article to the incident involving a nightie that was tacked to Wright's door was taken completely out of context. The nightie was part of a departmental decoration for the BC Homecoming celebration, "A Knight, Night, or a Nightie to Remember." It was placed there without Wright's knowledge. When a complaint was filed within the department, it was taken down immediately. Regardless, this was a totally separate and resolved issue.

In short, please do not interpret our silence as support for the portrayal of Rick Wright in the article, or for the allegations made against him.

As Dr. Wright put it in the article, "We feel that there is no substance to (the claim) ... it will run its course," as it has.

Caroline Webber
Becki Whitson
Sally Hill
R. B. Cazares
Alexa Martinez
Mita Dhariwal
Susan McQuerrey
Karen Eso
Vivian Lizalde
Margaret Lyman
Steve Eso
Cameron Miller
Maritza Carlisle
Luis Guajardo
Dora Danesi

Women defend colleague

In response to the March 6 article in *The Renegade Rip*, we, the women of Schafer Hall wish to speak out on Dr. Rick Wright's behalf collectively.

We have known Dr. Wright for many years, some of us as students.

At no time in our acquaintance have we felt uncomfortable around him, defensive, or compromised.

Rick has always presented himself in the most professional manner. We have been treated with fairness and respect.

In no way has Rick ever looked, touched, or spoken in a way that could be perceived as sexually offensive. We support him as an administrator, teacher, division chair, and friend.

Dora Danesi
Vivian Lizalde
Becki Whitson
Margaret Lyman
Sally Hill
Karen Eso
Susan McQuerrey
Mita Dhariwal
Karimeh S. Amin
Caroline Webber
Alexa C. Martinez
Maritza Carlisle

Professor is a 'model leader'

Enough is enough!? Come on people, wake up!

You can put a stop to all these stretched out lies! Admit it to yourselves that Dr. Wright has been a model leader. Count how many trustees, faculty, students and family members have come out to voice their concerns and remember Dr. Wright's positive influences on the education of the students. Well, go ahead! Do you feel a little guilty knowing that you could count on one hand the number of times you voiced your opinion about the concerns at Bakersfield College?

This is not to make anyone feel bad, but if the shoe fits, wear it. In speaking the truth, Dr. Wright, a man of big stature, has not only shown me his "random acts of kindness" in his everyday life, but he has lived the life of a man of integrity.

He is loyal and committed to the students. He doesn't keep himself separate from the students; he actually mingles with them. He wants first-hand knowledge of what is going on at Bakersfield College. Dr. Rick Wright has a proven record of honesty and integrity. To those who insist on constantly causing trouble for Dr. Wright, I ask, "Don't you have anything better to do?"

Rhonda Pierce
BC Student

Wright congratulates Serrano

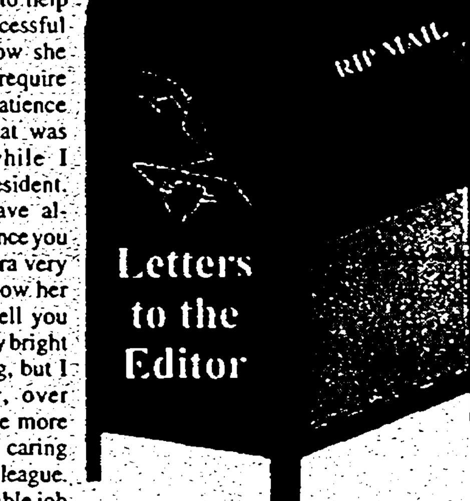
Editor's Note: This memo to all staff was written by former BC President Dr. Rick Wright, the day after Dr. Sandra Serrano was appointed president. The Rip *received permission to run this as a letter to the editor.*

Today was an important day in the life of our college. It was a day of ending and a day of beginning. While we came to this day not necessarily by our choice or under the conditions we may have wished, it is a time for us to move on toward making this college the best we can for our students and our community.

Any change in leadership usually creates a case of the "willies." My message is simple: We must each do what we can do to help Sandra be a successful leader that I know she can be. This will require the same type of patience and nurturing that was afforded me while I learned to be a president. Many of you have already called me since you don't know Sandra very well. I think I know her well enough to tell you that she is not only bright and hard working, but I have found her, over many years, to be more importantly — a caring and thoughtful colleague. She has a formidable job ahead of her. She needs and deserves our support.

I hope each of you will join me in welcoming Bob Allison back to campus this morning. Each of us owes him a debt of gratitude for his service to our college. Bob stepped into the breach and gave us his best efforts. He knows what it's like to make tough decisions and from my vantage point he used what he thought was best for our college as the yardstick for his decision making.

Dr. Rick Wright
BC Professor



THE RENEGADE RIP

Winner of the 1997 JACC Pacesetter Award

The Renegade Rip is produced by BC journalism classes, printed by Tony Reed Printing and distributed on Fridays during the school year. The Rip is published under the auspices of Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, however, sole responsibility for its content and opinions rests with student editors on The Rip Editorial Board.

The Rip's mailing address is 1801 Panorama Dr., Bakersfield, Calif., 93305 or rip mail @ aol.com. The newspaper is a member of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

Telephone: (805) 395-4324.

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GADE FEEDBACK Lily Szpoganicz / THE RIP

What is your dream vacation?

Brian Hendrickson, Economics: "Go to Rio de Janeiro to visit the beaches."

Emily Fajardo, Liberal Studies: "Go to Hawaii and then sail around the world."

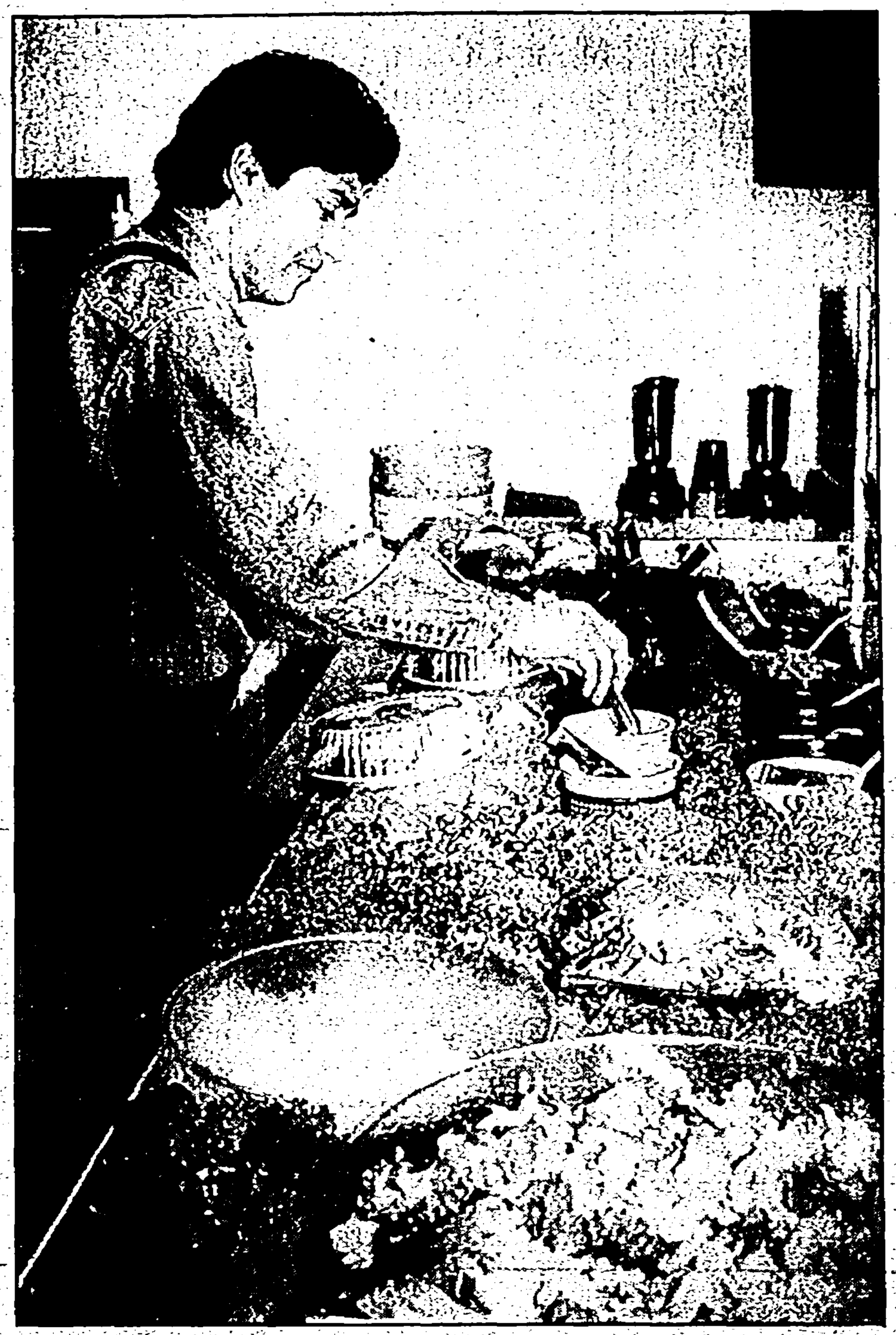
Miguel Orozco: Liberal Studies: "Go to Florida and party a lot and have a lot of fun."

Desiree Crafford, Computer Studies: "Go back to Key West, Fla. and go fishing, swimming, dancing and food tasting."

Candice Jimenez, Business: "I would go to Jamaica and just hang out on the beach."

FEATURES

Fat watchers take a healthy approach



ROBERT TAYLOR / THE RIP

Marcos Herrera prepares a healthy lunch in the campus cafeteria.

Calorie counters create appetite for lighter campus cafeteria foods

BY STEPHANIE A. BELL
Features Editor

On an average day at school, does anyone actually think about what they are eating? Does it ever cross their minds to wonder about the fat content of the burrito they are munching down while running to class or is it something they shove into the back corner of their minds like the gum they just stepped on outside their last class?

In today's more health-conscious society, people are starting to take more care with the food they eat, and on the BC campus the story is much the same. Recent changes to the cafeteria menu have brought some healthy alternatives to the student population. According to Pat Coyle, director of food services, the department looks for ways to cut down on the fat and calories in the food served on campus as well as coming up with more health food items to be served in the cafeteria.

The vegetarian deep-fried burrito, was introduced last summer to cater to the students on campus who do not eat meat. Both the vegetarian and meat burritos are deep-fried in a combination of cotton seed and canola oil. This gives the tortilla a dark color and crunchy outside, but leaves the contents wrapped inside the burrito a little dry. Despite its deep fryer beginnings, the meat burrito only has 17 grams of fat, while the vegetarian has only 10 grams of fat per serving. According to Coyle the burritos are among the top-selling items in the cafeteria.

Although it is the most popular, the burrito is not the only vegetarian option on the menu. According to cafeteria manager, Doris Williamson, many items on the BC menu have been retooled to cater to the non-meat eating public. For example all of the refried beans served on campus are prepared from scratch by the cafeteria staff, and are made without any beef or chicken stock in them. With these new options added into the traditional options of pasta, salad and fruit, the vegetarian population has a more varied selection.

"We try to have options for all dietary needs." said Williamson.

One new healthier option that was taken off is the fresh fruit bar. The bar was tested out over the summer, according to Coyle.

"We use summer school as a testing ground for new items," he explained.

The combination plates also were developed over the summer. These combo meals offer what Williamson called a "well balanced meal, with proteins, carbohydrates and vegetables."

According to Williamson, most foods at BC are nutritious, and many steps are taken during the preparation of the items served on campus to make sure of that. For instance, all the cooked vegetables are steamed, not fried, and when frying is necessary such as with a stir-fry item, the least amount of oil possible is used during the process. Several varieties of oils are used on campus food, including vegetable oil, olive oil and sesame oil, all of which are less fattening than frying in grease.

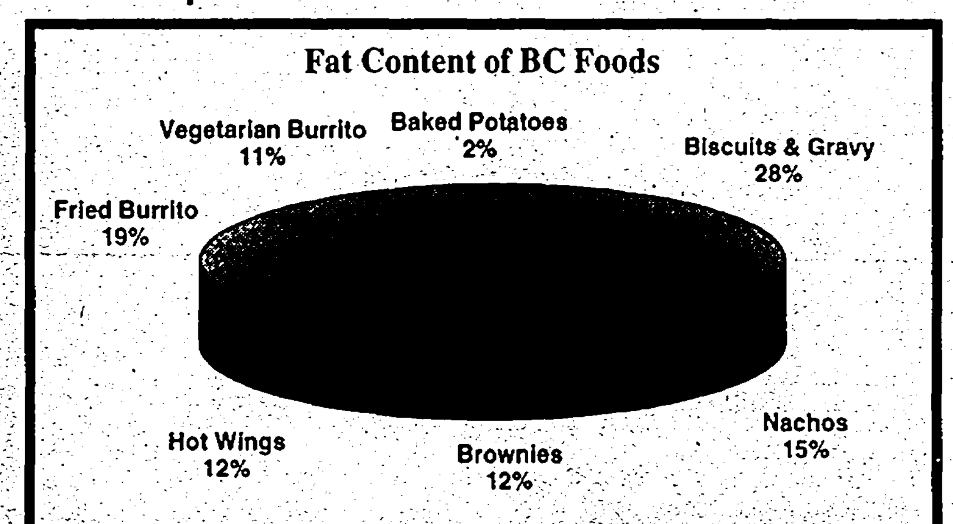
The fat content of the food does not depend solely on the way it is prepared, but also on the way that it is consumed. For instance a plain baked potato only has two grams of fat, but adding the traditional salt, butter and sour cream will raise the fat content considerably.

"You can eat as healthy as you want, or as unhealthy as you want, depending on what you decide to eat, and how you decide to eat it," Williamson said.

Consumer demand also weighs heavy in the minds of the food services department, which explains the excess of fried items on the menu.

"We serve a lot of fried foods because that's what the students like," said Coyle.

Williamson agrees, "We try to listen to the customers and tune in on what they're wanting."



BY JAY MOUSER / GRAPHICS EDITOR

Oscar night celebrates a remarkable year at the movies

JAY MOUSER

BY MEGAN R. MOORE
Rip staff photographer

REVIEW

In one night, in one place, the latest fashions, extraordinary talent, and dreams came down to one final moment. Yes, it was Oscar time once again. The three and a half hour extravaganza celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Oscars.

Return host Billy Crystal's introduction of the presenters was fabulous. His crazy antics of inserting himself into clips of the best picture nominees had everyone laughing. Other than lacking in well done dance numbers, I found the Oscars enjoyable.

But like all award ceremonies, there were some surprises. With the Oscars, it's not just the surprises of who actually won, but also what the celebrities wore.

Kim Basinger of "L.A. Confidential" was one of the best dressed. Her flowing pale turquoise gown was gorgeous. Ashley Judd, a presenter, also was dressed impeccably, handling an eight-foot-long train on her dress.

But others could win the worst dressed title. Madonna seemed to be going back to her material girl, '80s look. Elizabeth Shue wore a surprisingly ugly and extremely tight-fitting dress. It was shocking to see her so unattractive.

Cameron Diaz, "My Best Friend's Wedding," also looked horrible. Her dress was not formal enough for the Oscars. She looked as if she wasn't wearing any make-up although she was probably wearing a ton.

Robin Williams, "Good Will Hunting," gets my vote for beng among the worst dressed men. His tux looked like it was something out of the '60s, especially with his John Lennon glasses.

Celine Dion's performance of the hit song "My heart will go on," from the movie "Titanic" was wonderful. Dion wore the necklace from the movie, which added a nice touch.

Trisha Yearwood's performance of "How do I Live," from the movie "ConAir" also was wonderful. These were two of the best singing performances.

This year's awards also were emotional. The moment when the Academy awarded Stanley Donen the lifetime achievement award was very moving. Donen directed many famous movies such as "Singing in the Rain" and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."

It's people like Stanley Donen that add the magic to the movies and make the Oscars something truly special.

But perhaps the most remembered moment was when director James Cameron accepted the award for Best Picture for "Titanic." He asked everyone to observe a moment of silence for those who had died on the Titanic.

The Oscars celebrate the greatest movies, actors, directors, and many others who help create the movies we love to watch. This year's Oscars were remarkably entertaining.

Unsightly behavior

R. LEO STEWART / SPECIAL TO THE RIP

Sokrey Keo is blindfolded for a psychology exercise that helps students get in touch with their senses.

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Sound off! Write us at rip mail@aol.com.

Support the Bakersfield SPCA with your purchase of See's Easter Candy in the Campus Center Foyer, April 2, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
The cost will be between $3-5 per box and all proceeds benefit the SPCA!

Beginning Internet Orientations
BC Technology Center
Mar. 31, Tues. 9 a.m.
Space is limited so please call 395-4462 to register.

Read The Rip!

"UBU THE KING" continues this weekend at 8 p.m. in the Indoor Theater. Tickets are $3 students, $6 general.

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Cheap Tickets. Great Advice. Nice People
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Paris $698
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CIEE: Council on International Educational Exchange
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MISCELLANEOUS

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Thank You Jo Moore in the ASBC office for all your help during High School J-Day.
Kathy Freeman & *The Rip*

[illegible]

You can win $25! See The Rip's contest on page 3.

SPORTS

Cinderella season ends with loss

Basketball eyes rebuilding team in '99

BY KRISTEN HUNTER
Sports Editor

It was the basketball team's best season in 20 years. Now what?

According to this year's freshmen on the team, if they step up to leadership positions, Bakersfield College men's basketball should have another good run next year.

"I think it depends on how we work," said Tye Hammond, a freshman." If we work hard enough and come back in the gym we will be back in the same place as we were this year."

According to sophomore Deionta Hagwood, all the team needs is a big man to replace Brandon Kurtz, center. The men's basketball team ended its season with an 82-71 loss to Compton in the final round of the state championships.

"As a team I think we gave it all we had," said Kurtz. "We gave it all we had in the field tank and we came up a little short. Three games is real tough on you."

Kurtz was named Co-player of the Year for California community colleges after finishing the state title game March 14 with 25 points.

"I'm happy because we had a great season and I love playing with everybody that was on this team," he said.

Shawn Daniels was named honorable mention all-state pick after finishing with 17 points.

Both Daniels and Kurtz helped the 'Gades come back in the first half to go into the half with a 39-34 lead.

The turning point in the game was in the second half when Compton guard Jaquay Walls made seven steals from the 'Gades.

"I don't think our guys totally came out ready to play," Hammond said. "We were kind of shocked about the pressure they put on us. After awhile we got into it."

According to coach Mark Arce, the team turned over the ball more in the second half and gave up some layups and second shot opportunities, which cost BC the game.

"We've worked hard. We just couldn't come through when we needed to," said guard/forward Rodney Crawford.

The 'Gades had entered the state champ finals with some confidence after beating Porterville with a 82-71 win.

That win followed BC's first victory the day before, where the Renegades beat San Jose, 98-79.

"We struggled with the press at start and our guys adjusted to it and after half our guys didn't have a problem with it," said Arce about the San Jose game.

"It was a very emotional game. We wanted to come out and make a statement in the state playoffs right away and we did," said Hammond.

This year's team finished with a 32-4 record overall after being ranked No. 3 in the state and No. 1 in Southern California.

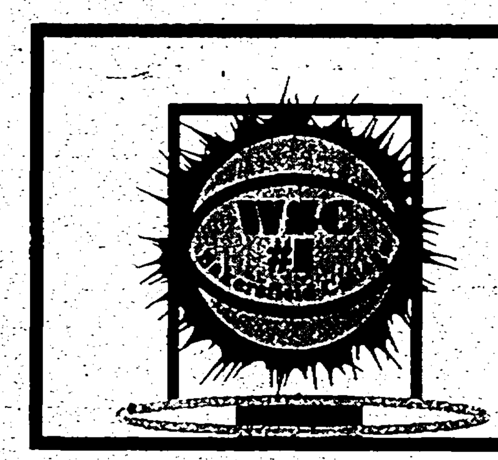
The team success was due to strong post play from Daniels and Kurtz paired with strong outside shooting.

Arce, head coach was named coach of the year earlier in the season.

Along with being named Co-player of the Year at the state championship game, Kurtz was named Most Valuable Player in the Western State Conference.

Freshman Shawn Daniels was named first-team all WSC honors.

> "It was a very emotional game. We wanted to come out and make a statement in the state playoffs right away and we did."
>
> —Tye Hammond
> BC guard



CHRIS COOK / THE RIP

MICHAEL D. ROSS / THE RIP

MIKE CUNNINGHAM / THE RIP

Left, coach Mark Arce becomes emotional during the state championship game. Above, Brandon Kurtz tries to take the rebound during the first round of state playoffs as San Jose defenders Shawn Harris and Lynn Washington look on.

An emotional end

Players weep after title game

BY STEPHANIE A. BELL
Features Editor

COLUMN

It was a weekend filled with tension, as the BC men's basketball team fought hard for a state title. But all the weeks of hard practicing did not pay off when it came down to the last game.

For many sophomores it was the end of their Renegade career, and the heartbreak was visible in their eyes.

When the final buzzer went off, and it was obvious that nothing more could be done, many players openly wept at the loss of the title.

This was a team with heart throughout the three day tournament they played with the class and style of a championship team, despite the absence of BC fans.

A large number of the fans that did show up for the first round of play at the Bren Center in Irvine, were friends and family of the team, who were understandably proud.

"It's been a wonderful season and the team is great," said Sally Kurtz, mother of center, Brandon Kurtz.

As the team advanced, more fans turned out to watch the games, although the additional fans did not really help to rally the players.

In the last seven minutes of the final game, many BC fans got up out of their seats and left the arena, while the 'Gades stuck through it.

While the loss may have humbled the players, they stood up and clapped for Compton, the tournament's winners as they received their trophies.

Some player's faces were soaked with sweat, and others in tears, as they hugged each other and stood up, proud to have come as far as they did.

They leaned on each other for support then, as they have done all year throughout grueling practices and backbreaking games.

As the players filed out to meet their family and friends, Gerrie Herring, a guard on the team, was overheard saying,

"It doesn't matter it's been a cool year playing with this guy," as he pointed at Brandon Kurtz.

Special Thanks to Sycamore Cogeneration for their generous donation of Macintosh computers to the BC Journalism Program
From
Kathy Freeman, journalism adivser,
Lexey Swall, editor,
&
The Rip staff

Attention All Students
Nominate your favorite teacher for the Sam McCall Award and your favorite classified staff member for the Genevieve "Gene" Howard Award! Come to Campus Center 4 to fill out the nomination form before 4 p.m. April 1.
The top five finalists will be placed on the ballot for the election being held on April 22 and 23.

Enroll *NOW* for Computer Classes!
The following 6-week, one-unit courses begin the week of April 13.

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M/W/F 9-10 a.m. Ticket # 5364.03
Tue. 6-8:52 p.m. Ticket # 5364.52

Intro to the Internet
T/Th 12:30-1:52 p.m. Ticket # 5456.03
Mon. 6-8:52 p.m. Ticket # 5456.51

Intro to Electronic Presentations with MS Powerpoint
Wed. 6-8:52 p.m. Ticket # 5448.50

These courses provide an excellent way for students to learn: Computer basics, the Internet, and how to create electronic presentations.
No Prerequisites!
Questions - Call 395-[illegible]

LOOK for Telephone Registration Instructions in next week's *Renegade Rip.*

CAMPUS

'GADE NEWSLINE

WHAT'S HAPPENING WHERE & WITH WHOM

Birthday celebration to aid flood victims

The MEChA club, in conjunction with the BC Chicano Cultural Center will be holding the Cesar E. Chavez Day Commemoration at Mercado Latino Plaza del Pueblo. The event will be held on the evening of his birthday, Tuesday, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Speakers will be at the event, and flocorico and mariachi groups will perform. The commemoration will also serve as a drive for flood victims, and those who bring non-perishable food items, clothes, toys and toiletries will be entered into a raffle for prizes.

For more information, call the Chicano Cultural Center at 395-4532.

Tickets on sale for this year's FunFest

FunFest '98, an annual fundraiser, will be held on campus April 17 through April 19.

The event will include carnival rides, food booths, crafts and live entertainment. Tickets for the rides are on sale now. They can be purchased for $10 a booklet, or $7 in advance.

There will be a staff barbecue and tours of some campus departments on Saturday.

Academic Senate to hold forum April 1

The Academic Senate has invited the district Board of Trustees candidates to a forum on Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Students, faculty and staff are invited to hear brief remarks from the candidates.

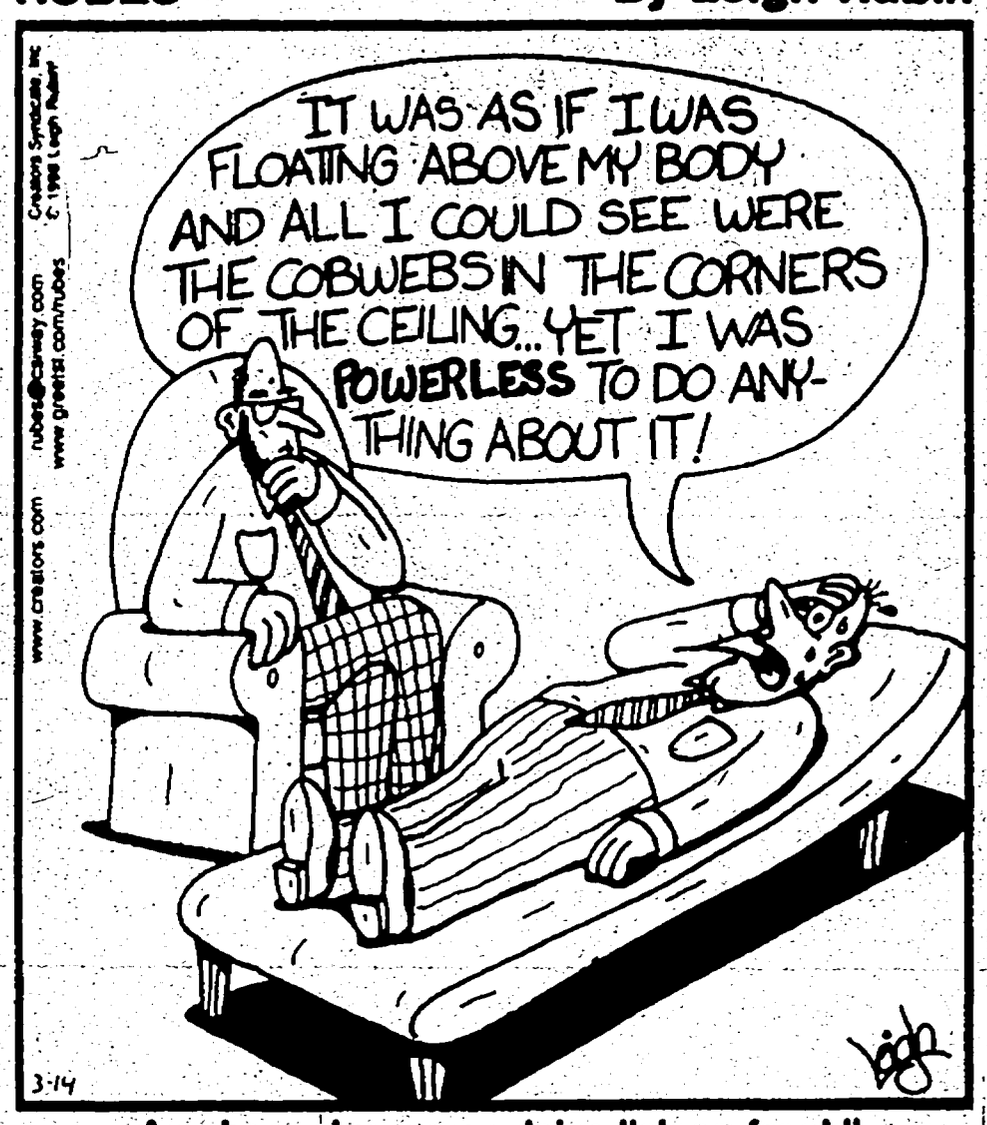
Wind ensemble to present concert

The BC Wind Ensemble's spring concert, "The Winds of Spring" will be performed on Sunday, at 7 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church. The wind ensemble will perform "Swarm," written by student composer James Sproul.

Tickets for the event are $5 for general admission, $3 for students and seniors, and admission is free for children under the age of 12.

All proceeds from the event will benefit BC music scholarships.

RUBES® By Leigh Rubin



An obsessive-compulsive "clean freak" recounts his terrifying out-of-body experience.

What's on the WEB?

TRAVELER'S GUIDE

BY AUDREY EDNALINO
Campus Editor

Here are this week's websites:

The Official Darwin Awards
http://www.officialdarwinawards.com

This is a site that records stupid people, or the stupid deaths of silly people. People who die from their ties being caught in paper shredders and the like are deserving of the Darwin Award. Remember, it is fright, fight, or flight.

Russian Amputee Women
http://www.frantana.com

The Internet is an efficient medium for desperate geeks to find dates and mates. This site features Russian bachelorettes who want a green card, and they are all missing a limb. Pictures and bios can help in making a decision about who to "hook up" with.

The Platform
http://www.platform.net

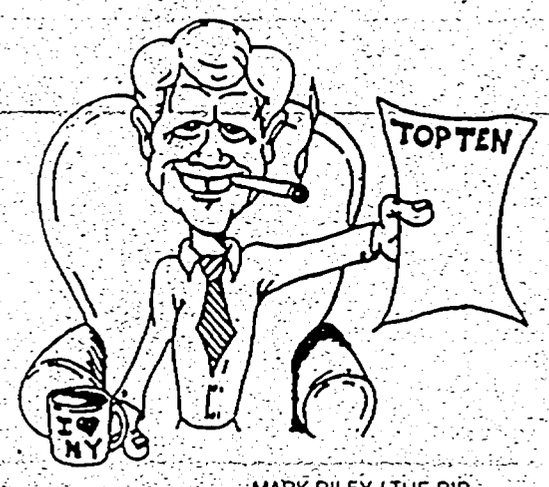
The Platform is a collective of on-line magazines, clothing lines, and music distributors which advertise on this site. The Platform advertises Wu Wear, along with a new line of skateboard products for the hip-hop skater fans.

The Institute for Global Communications
http://www.igc.apc.org/igc/

IGC is an international Internet provider. It provides web space and design help for progressive non-profit organizations. IGC is home to websites for organizations pertaining to women's issues and gay/lesbian rights.

Budget Travel
http://www.budgettravel.com/specials.htm

Since Spring Break is coming soon, and college students are usually hard up for cash, Budget Travel will help with planning an affordable vacation.



MARK RILEY / THE RIP

THE TOP 10 PEOPLE I WOULD LIKE TO THANK IF I WON AN ACADEMY AWARD

10. My best friend, Jack Daniels.
9. My wonderful kids, Cody and Cassidy.
8. The dozens of endangered condors who gave their lives during the making of the film.
7. Those makeup wizards who help me look like a 104-year old woman.
6. My patient and understanding wife, Ellen DeGeneres.
5. The entire CBS orchestra, with the rendition of Paul Shaffer.
4. Celine Dion, for her haunting rendition of "Diamond Dave and the Musical Burrito."
3. My co-star, Punchy, the field goal-kickin' mule.
2. Wally, my hairpiece wrangler.
1. Rappin' granny.

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CRIME BEAT

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ON THE CAMPUS

BY NICOLLE LUSICH
Rip staff writer

Chevy S10 Blazer stolen from parking lot

A car was reported stolen to the Bakersfield Police Department on March 3.

The burgundy 1983 S10 Blazer had been parked on University Avenue at 11 a.m.

The police noted broken glass on the ground surrounding the parking spot at 2:14 p.m.

Items taken from BC student's purse

A student reported to the campus police on March 5 that certain contents were gone out of her purse.

She had forgotten her purse on a table in the cafeteria. When she went back to get it, the purse was gone. The student asked around to others in the area.

She noticed two females coming out of the bathroom with a purse that appeared to be hers. She confronted the two women and they said that they had found it. They then returned the purse to the student and left quickly.

The student reported that the purse was missing $267 and a Target charge card.

Man throws chair at student in library

A confrontation occurred in the second level of the library on March 5.

According to a student, he was talking to his friend in the library. A man seated at the same table asked them twice to be quiet or leave.

The students felt as though they weren't talking loudly at all.

The man then told them to leave again.

When the students refused, the man picked up a chair and threw it at the students. No one was injured in the incident.

The man then decided to leave the library and told the campus police that the students had pushed his buttons.

Onlookers said that the students were't talking loudly.

Purse found in men's cafeteria restroom

A purse was turned into the campus police on Feb. 12. The purse had been found in the men's bathroom located near the cafeteria. The contents had been scattered all over the floor in the bathroom. The owner picked up the purse and reported missing items to campus police.

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