

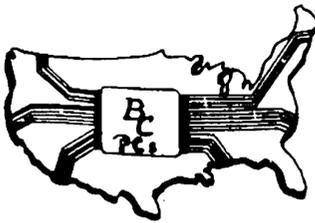
Marathon man

Rip sports editor takes on 26 grueling miles in the Los Angeles Marathon. Opinion, page 3



Lack of Macs

PC dominated campus fails to meet the needs of Macintosh industries. Opinion, page 3



Down to Earth

Bakersfield College modern dance class takes to the campus in search of different ways to express themselves. Features, page 5



THE RENEGADE RIP

Vol. 70 No. 6

Bakersfield College

April 9, 1999

Classified contract struggle continues

Both sides hope issue will be resolved at April 22 negotiations meeting.

BY DAVID LAWLOR
Editor in Chief

Janet Skibinski says it's not fair. After watching Kern Community College District instructors successfully lobby for a pay raise and new contract last fall, she believes the district's classified staff should be next in line.



However, with classified contract negotiations at a stalemate since October, Skibinski questions the district's commitment to the issue.

"They (the district) usually drag their feet on every issue," said Skibinski, vice president of the local California School Employees Association chapter. "They think that maybe if they stick their head in the sand that the problem will go away."

Discussions concerning a cost-of-living adjustment with the district began in October. Since

then, KCCD informed CSEA they would have to balance the annual budget before allocating funds for a raise.

"That hurts when they balance their budget on our backs," she said. "It seems like they don't value us that much. Sometimes people who have higher education walk around thinking people without degrees have no brains. They think all we do is type and answer phones."

CSEA is asking for a 6 percent cost-of-living increase spread out equally over two years. See CONTRACT, Page 2

KCCD may lose Hall if elected mayor

BY ROSARIO ORTIZ
Rip staff writer

The Board of Trustees of the Kern Community College District will have an empty seat if Harvey L. Hall, owner of the Hall Ambulance Co., is elected mayor in next year's election.

When Hall knew his friend Mayor Bob Price wasn't running for a third term, he decided to start his own campaign and get support from the community.

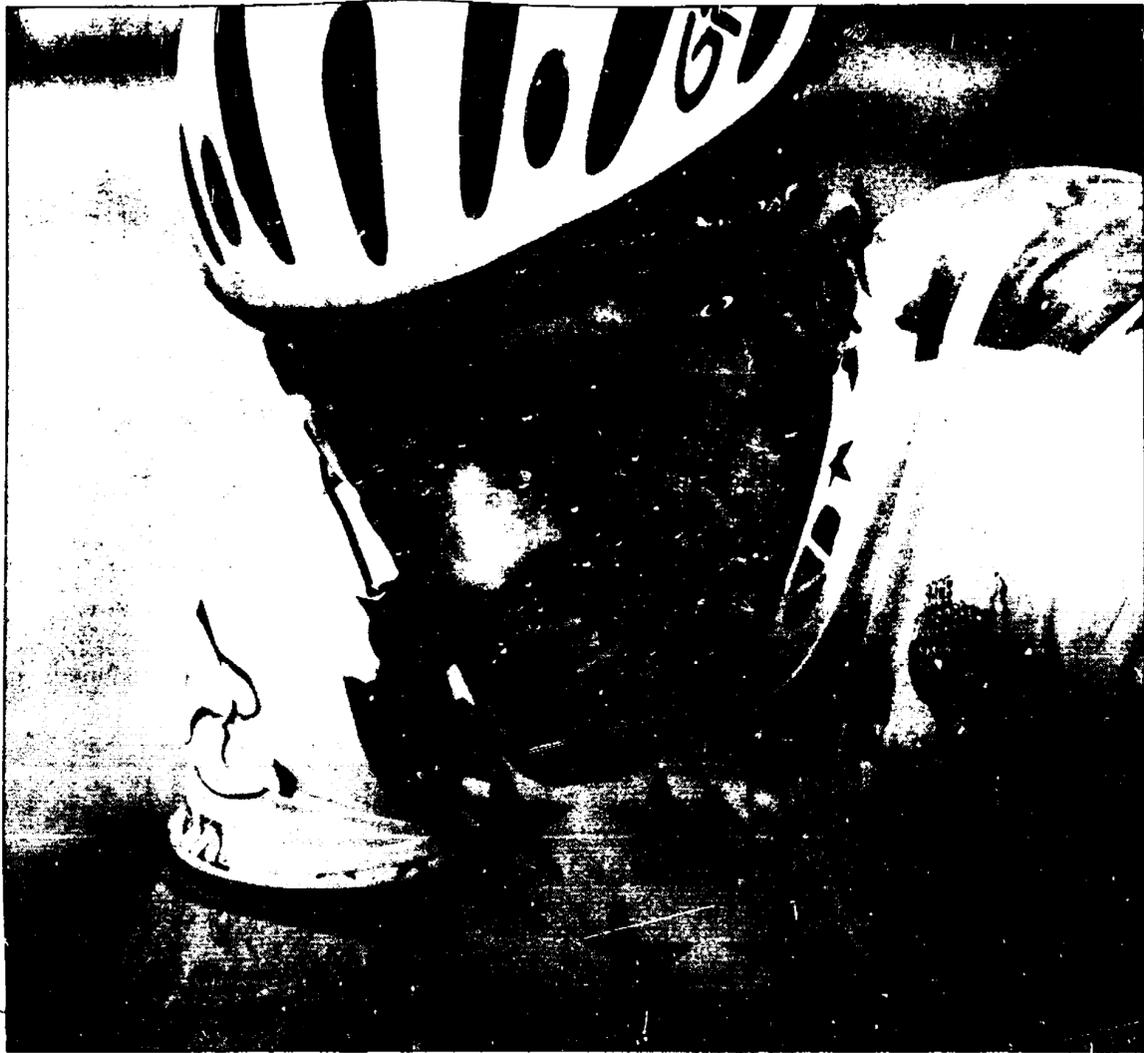
"I spent three days talking to people and asking them if they would support me if I were to run for mayor," he said.

Fortunately, said Hall, he found a lot of positive feedback from friends, family and the community.

If Hall were elected, his position on the board would be terminated in Nov. 2000. That same See HALL, Page 2



Hall



Left, Norm Hoffman has been a world class cyclist for 15 years. He still rides competitively despite being hit by a car while cycling in 1995. Bottom, Hoffman rides near the bluffs in northeast Bakersfield. He is training to compete in an upcoming race this fall.

KRIS DALE / THE RIP



Fighting an Uphill Battle

BY KRIS DALE
Rip staff photographer

After being diagnosed five years ago with a rare liver disease, Norm Hoffman is fighting back with his own brand of medicine.

World-class athletes aren't supposed to die. Norm Hoffman, a professor at BC since 1966 and a world record-holding cyclist, was diagnosed five years ago with primary sclerosing cholangitis, a fatal disease that inflames the liver-making a transplant inevitable. After reading in a medical journal about PSC's dismal outlook, Hoffman dug, scratched and sniffed for anything that might help his condition.

The result of his research was the discovery of a new weapon to combat his disease. His attack plan consists of daily exercise, a controlled diet and a ladle full of horse-sized pills and vitamins.

"I don't want people thinking I'm taking snake oil remedies that offer a shimmer of hope through unproven documentation," Hoffman said. "All that stuff you see in my cabinet has been documented for efficacy that addresses some aspect of this (disease)."

Serving as a sponsor for a vitamin research company has given him an opportunity to supplement his body with the products they provide him at no cost. He also utilizes the advice his doctors offer him and often suggests changes in dosage.

Dr. Ed Fisher, a retired Bakersfield surgeon, describes the dis-

ease as similar to arthritis in which a patient's improvement doesn't necessarily reflect a reaction to the treatment.

"Norm's approach has been intelligent because he's analyzed the disease and formulated effective treatments through common sense," Fisher said.

Hoffman's exercise routine allows for more blood flow to the liver and helps the transportation of bile. An avid cyclist, it was natural for him to incorporate his bike-riding into his effort to beat the illness.

Cycling professionally for 15 years, he suffered a severe bike accident in 1995. The crash with a speeding car left him with minor scoliosis in his back. Fortunately, his son, also his current roommate, moved in with him after he learned of his father's disease. A chiropractor, he is always on call to give his "pops" a straightening out if his back needs an adjustment. This helps Hoffman with his illness, too.

"The nerves in his upper back that send messages to the liver were really tight," Grant Hoffman said. "So, an adjustment helps bring the brain-liver communication back to 100 percent so it can work at its best."

Hoffman's kitchen has an abundant supply of health food. A bag of trail mix sits on the counter, a box of flax cereal is in the cupboard and fat free mayonnaise rests on the first rack of the See HOFFMAN, Page 2



Students speak with the BPD during BC's annual J-Day. SEAN JONES / THE RIP

Police K-9 demonstration highlights annual 'J-Day'

BY MELISSA DABRUSHMAN
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College's High School Journalism Day went to the dogs.

J-Day, which is co-sponsored by the BC Journalism Program and *The Bakersfield Californian*, took place March 25 on campus. About 170 students from nine area high schools participated in the event, which featured a Bakersfield Police Department K-9 demonstration as a news writing event.

Police Sgt. Glen Grundeis, coordinator of the K-9 unit, along with Officers Kevin Hock and David Cox, demonstrated for the students how the dogs are trained.

"Worldwide, 90 percent of police dogs are German Shepherds," Grundeis said. "That is because they're the most trainable."

Grundeis gave a 30-minute demonstration for the students. He had the dogs demonstrate a fake muzzle attack, sniff out drugs and apprehend a "suspect."

"These dogs went through exten-

sive training," Hock said. "They are reliable and don't miss a thing."

Photographers had the chance to take photos of the K-9 unit in action and attend a seminar given by *Californian* photographer John Harte.

Reporters could choose from five writing categories, including editorial, a feature story on BC wheelchair athlete Cal Campbell, critical review, or news. Judges included staff members from *The Californian*.

Photographers and reporters also mailed in photos and stories ahead of time for mail-in categories.

David Lopez, a senior at Arvin High School, enjoyed the canine demonstration most.

"This is my second year at J-Day," said Lopez. "It was fun interviewing the officers, and learning about how the dogs help in the community."

Alex Robb, journalism adviser for Tehachapi High School, said the event is exciting for students.

"I have been coming here since 1995, and I like the fact that *The Californian* is involved with it," he said.

HOFFMAN: Football star thanked him for advice

Continued from page 1

refrigerator. Obviously, he's a health vigilante. "Eating a low fat diet is common sense because it lessens the production of bile which is necessary when the body takes in fatty foods," he said.

Hoffman has found other support through the Internet. He belongs to a PSC support group of about 40 members. There, they exchange new information and help each other out.

Since bringing his disease to the forefront, Hoffman has received attention from people with PSC and even former students. He has taken on an unofficial role as a health czar, lending advice to others with the disease. People also write to him about losing weight or ask about hepatitis.



Norm Hoffman takes 30 pills a day to try and stay healthy.

the disease that would have killed most by now.

Despite his positive attitude and health conscious routine, Hoffman recognizes while the disease may be fading, it's still a part of his life. A reminder of that fact comes in the form of fatigue and cholangitis attacks which entail severe chills and shaking.

Today, Hoffman remains a world

CONTRACT: CSEA members stage protest at board meeting

Continued from page 1

Mike Noland, chapter president, said the district had \$900,000 leftover for a retirement fund that could have been used to supplement a raise.

Feeling the district was not addressing the contract issue seriously enough, CSEA members staged a protest at the March 23 board meeting. Noland estimated 75 union members marched through downtown Bakersfield to the meeting.

At the board meeting following the protest, trustee Harvey Hall spoke about the importance of the contract issue. He stressed an expedient solution to the problem and said he did not want to experience another situation similar to that of the instructors' contract negotiations.

Hall said, "I thought these kinds of things were behind us. After I got there I started thinking, 'Oh, no, not this again.'"

An April 22 negotiations meeting between the district and CSEA has been scheduled. A hired mediator will take part, trying to bring the two sides to an agreement.

Noland also has a positive outlook and hopes the meeting will go well.

"The longer this goes on the more frustrated people get," Noland said. "I'm ready to get in there and duke it out all day if that's what it takes to get this thing solved."

Now."

"The protest went great. We had a lot of support and it was a lot of fun to get out there and be heard. I'm feeling pretty positive about the response we've had from our members," he said.

At the board meeting following the protest, trustee Harvey Hall spoke about the importance of the contract issue. He stressed an expedient solution to the problem and said he did not want to experience another situation similar to that of the instructors' contract negotiations.

"When I walked into that meeting I felt a knot in my stomach when I saw the red shirts all over again," Hall said. "I thought these kinds of

things were behind us. After I got there I started thinking, 'Oh, no, not this again.'"

An April 22 negotiations meeting between the district and CSEA has been scheduled. A hired mediator will take part, trying to bring the two sides to an agreement.

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HALL: Primary election will be March 7

Continued from page 1

month, the board will have elections and his seat will be available unless he fails to win the election.

The board is not worried that Hall may leave and is yet to discuss the issue.

Both are ploys Hall will use during his campaign. Hall says running for mayor

to work with. This year's Board of Trustees has become very close. Our ideas, our visions are just about the same for what's best for the Kern Community College District... I will miss that."

The primary election is March 7, 2000. By the time of the election Bakersfield will be familiar with the slogan, "Unity in Our Community," and the smiling face on the letter "O" in Mayor.

Both are ploys Hall will use during his campaign. Hall says running for mayor

to work with. This year's Board of Trustees has become very close. Our ideas, our visions are just about the same for what's best for the Kern Community College District... I will miss that."

OPINION

PC campus needs Mac support

BY ALEC ORRELL Rip staff writer

Nobody really notices the computer until it crashes.

When it does, though, grinding of teeth and weeping ensue. What does one do when the computer dies? Well, if the operator knows about such things, then he or she repairs the sick box and puts it back online. No problem.

If not, though, a technician must be alerted to save the crashed machine. Where does one get a silicon surgeon? That's the trick. Those who are using campus personal computers, IBM-style machines and their relatives, simply call the technical support that maintains the Bakersfield College computers, and somebody takes care of the headache.

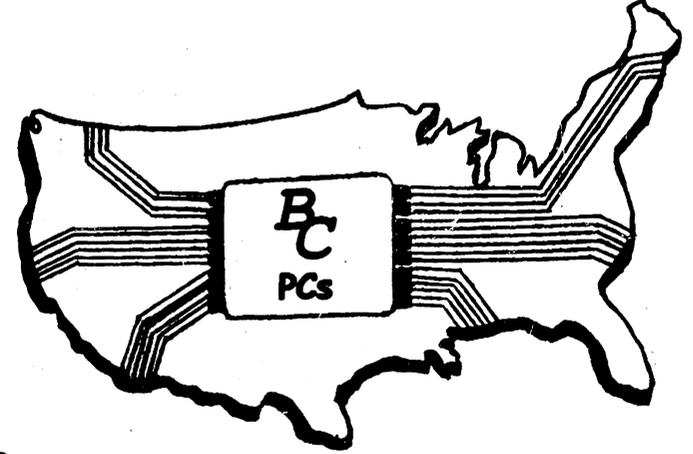
But if the unfortunate user possesses a Macintosh, that's just too bad. The personal computer (PC) is the designated platform (tech-speak for "computer") for the Kern Community College District, and the 40 or so Macintoshes on campus are not supported.

Now, Macintosh computers are used frequently in graphic arts and in journalism, to name just two careers. BC trains students in those two fields, and Macintosh experience is considered an industry standard in either career. So the campus departments that use Macintoshes call off campus and hire their own technical support.

And now the story gets worse: the Macintoshes at BC are not connected to the Internet. The absence particularly irks us in the news business because we are supposed to be on top of current events.

The Informational Services and Instructional Technology Committee just started a pilot program to connect a few Macintoshes to the Internet, so Internet service for Macintoshes is being evaluated.

But what about that technical support? Can the college afford it? Will it serve the



REMIGIO CERVANTES / THE RIP

students? Consider this: BC spent about \$11,600 on technical support for its PCs last year.

Now, Macs comprise less than 4 percent of computers on campus and are generally acknowledged to be stable machines—more so than PCs, all in all. That being the case, technical support for Macs should be relatively inexpensive.

Would \$3,800 a year be unreasonable

for these career technology tools? The district just spent more than \$8 million from taxes on the stadium renovation. (The stadium repair money would in fact finance technical support at the above-mentioned rate for 2,600 years.)

The money would be well spent. As a community college, BC will train more and more students in the expanding field of computer science and literacy. A

relatively small sum of money would service hundreds of students and possibly be the best money the college could spend since BC focuses on career opportunities.

The world of tomorrow will need graphic designers, journalists and other professions that rely on Macintosh computers. The college should give the technological future, and particularly the Macintosh, the support it deserves.

Carts don't solve parking problem

This is in response to an article that was printed in March 19, 1999's issue of The Renegade Rip, the article is, "A little walking won't kill you so stop complaining."

First of all, I would like to say that this article is irrational. Mr. Torino wants us students to stop complaining about the parking situation at BC.

Excuse me, but people pay to go to this fine college and since money comes out of our pockets we have every right to complain about things we do not like.

Yes, there are some people who are able to make the long walk to the classes. Yes, there are very "few" carts that give people a short lift to somewhere they do not want to go. Yes, ASBC has indeed spent some of their, I mean, our money to fund these carts. But who is this really benefiting?

I mean, Mr. Torino has a job where all he has to do is drive people around and look for the females who need a ride, which is discriminatory, but that is not what this is about.

I do not see that many people actually getting rides, except most of the ASBC officers. What about the people who cannot afford an ASBC sticker, because of their financial situation they simply cannot get a ride.

Correct me if I am wrong, but the shuttles stop giving rides at 1:00 or 2:00 in the afternoon. Am I missing something here? Do classes really end at these times? People all of a sudden do not need a ride because of supposed more parking spaces?

It is true that a "little" walking will not kill you. But some people have jobs which require energy that is used to do a little walking, or simply are unable to walk the distance necessary to get to their vehicles. Besides, when people complain, things get done.

So here's my advice, complain BC students but do not stop there, take action as well.

And to you Mr. Torino, stop complaining, stop checking for females who need a ride, and allow us to be dissatisfied with the parking. And one more thing, have a nice day!

Terry Cranfill BC Student

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Took My BREATH Away Rip sports editor tells his story of the L.A. Marathon. BY JOSE TORINO Sports Editor

Officers on horseback mark the race boundary as runners advance to the starting line. Everything was great with the exception of the pain and soreness. But then again if it was a simple thing to do, finishing would not mean as much.

THE RENEGADE RIP David Latorre Editor in Chief. Michael D. Ross Managing Editor, Robert Taylor Photo Editor, Mike Cunningham Assistant Photo Editor. Reporters: Melissa Dabrushman, Kristen Hurley, Francis C. Meyer, Paul Miller, Monika Morrison, Alec Orrell, Rosario Ortiz, Nichole Perry, Joe Simpson, Richard D. Whipple. Photographers: Stephanie A. Boff, Kris Dale, Laura Duriga, Sean Jones, Rebecca Piemonte. Graphic Artist: Remigio Cervantes. Kathy Freeman Adviser, Robin Johnson Business Manager, Rod Thornburg Photo Lab Technician, Casey Christie Photo Adviser.

SEAN JONES / THE RIP What were your best and worst spring break moments? Mary Blair, Biology: "My best was watching a taping of 'The Price is Right.' My worst was when my friend faked out and didn't call me." Sheen Daniels, Liberal Arts: "My best was getting out of Bakersfield for a week. My worst was having to come back." Marie Rangel, Human Services: "My worst was I had to work a lot of overtime. My best was relaxing the Sunday before school started." Art Villalobos, Criminal Justice: "My worst was having to work. My best was not having to go to school." Dee Quatraro, Speech Instructor: "My worst moment was when my dog died on its fourteenth birthday. My best was Easter dinner with my family."

ASBC plans Spring Fling

BY MONICA MONZON
Rip staff writer

Stand-up comedian Randy Riggle enjoys poking fun at college life. He will have the chance to do just that Wednesday, April 21 when he performs at BC as part of Spring Fling, a week of activities sponsored by the Associated Students of Bakersfield College.

He will perform at 11:15 a.m. either be at the Outdoor Theater or in the Campus Center. Riggle came to Bakersfield three years ago for Bakersfield College's first Fun Fest.

"He did a good job," said Bart Audrus, director of Student Services. BC's Spring Fling will be held Monday, April 19 through Friday, April 23. Events will include a dating game, giant twister game, hula hoop contest, hot pepper eating contest, obstacle course, tug of war and a partner water balloon contest. The events are open to everyone.

"The events will take place here in the Campus Center and in the grassy area next to the Campus Center," said Tracey Mitchell, vice president of activities.

According to Peggy Brust, vice president of communications, the main reason why ASBC puts on Spring Fling is to help students let their hair down and unwind before finals in a socially acceptable manner.



Students can sign up for TV field trips

Bakersfield College students interested in being part of a television studio audience can sign up for field trips this week to the "Leeza" show or "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno.

Journalism classes will spend most of the day Wednesday at two tapings of the "Leeza" show as members of the show's studio audience. On Thursday, classes will attend "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno.

Students interested in attending can call 395-4344 for more information, or stop by *The Renegade Rip* office in Campus Center 1.

International club hosts fashion show

The public is invited to attend the International Students Talent-Fashion Scholarship Show, which will be held Friday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Indoor Theater. Tickets are \$5 and available in the International Student Center in the Student Services Building.



TOP TEN HISTORICAL INACCURACIES IN PETER JENNINGS' 'THE CENTURY'

10. Lincoln was not assassinated at a "Phish show."
9. Dogs were not "invented in 1963."
8. Prior to invention of the airplane, people did not "fly around by flapping their arms."
7. Eleanor Roosevelt never competed in a wet T-shirt contest.
6. World War I did not start because Fabio was hit in the face by a goose.
5. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were not the neighbors on "I Love Lucy."
4. Lyndon Johnson was known as LBJ, not "LL Cool J."
3. Turning point of World War II was not "that part where Tom Hanks finds Matt Damon."
2. Neil Armstrong's first words on the moon were not, "Pretty fly for a white guy."
1. Person of the Century probably was not "Peter Jennings."

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RUBES

By Leigh Rubin



Carnivore? Whoop! I thought I booked us on a Carnival Cruise!



BY SEAN JONES
Rip staff photographer

Campus police investigate Tuesday bomb threat

A bomb threat was phoned into Bakersfield College at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday. The caller did not say where the alleged bomb was located or when it was expected to detonate, according to campus police.

Officials evacuated buildings around most of the campus. No device was found.

Campus police investigate anonymous bomb threat

A 20-year-old woman reported to campus police her 1990 Chevy Camaro had been broken into and her CD player stolen.

Reports say the BC student parked her car on Wright Way Monday at approximately 6:30 p.m., locked the doors and went to class. When she returned, her CD player and 35 CDs were gone. Her loss was valued at \$880.

Kangaroo fur carrying case reported stolen from car

A 23-year-old Bakersfield College student reported that his truck stereo and a carrying case made of kangaroo fur that contained Bible scriptures was stolen from his car on March 18. The total value of the items stolen was more than \$250.

DANCE: Class teaches students to trust creativity

Continued from Page 3

to try see how they could get on these rocks and still be connected together and not treat the rocks as separate entities but to become the rocks as well in their shapes and designs," she said.

The project encouraged modern dance students to explore space, as well as the structure of the rocks and their texture as they created their own shapes above, around or next to the rocks.

Thomas said the project aimed to teach students how to interact with their environment in their own creative way and release any inhibitions they have. But, more so than just exploring the environment, Thomas said the project helped her students feel less ashamed of their reactions in front of

people.
"I find I'm more motivated to come to school since I started taking dance. I just think it helps to be more disciplined."

—Alvaro Gonzalez, dance student

"It (modern dance) helps you to open up and be creative. You do meet a lot of friends and become close. I've learned

not to be afraid to be goofy. Now, I see what art is all about ... I felt kind of funny outside because people were looking at me; but inside, I (knew) I was being creative. They just didn't know," said Ra Shonda Abbott, modern dance student.

Facing barriers, said Thomas, is one way to improve one's own ability to adapt to different circumstances.

"The structure of a dance room is intimidating compared to the outside environment. In the outside environment, students are faced with no limitations as far as movements. Yet, they are faced with obstacles, such as the benches, the rocks and people, which dancers have to find a way to adapt to," she said.

A native from East Central Africa, Thomas has taught at Bakersfield College for 16 years. Besides teaching ballet, modern and jazz dance, she also helps the men's track team with stretching prior to meets.

Thomas has a master's degree in dance education from San Jose State University and a bachelor of fine arts from the California Institute of the Arts in Santa Clarita.

Students say they have learned something positive out of this project as well as from the dance classes.

"I've learned to use my body correctly, be more flexible, more coordinated ... I find I'm more motivated to come to school since I started taking dance. I just think it helps to be more disciplined," said Alvaro Gonzalez, one of the few males in the class.

Thomas said that dance is beneficial for everyone. "Dance allows people to open up their minds. And for males, it reminds them that it's okay to take risks. It's not a sissified thing at all. In fact, since men are not as flexible as women, they would benefit greatly in a dance class," she said.

BC students interested in attending field trips to *The Leeza Show* on April 14 or *The Tonight Show* on April 15, please see Kathy Freeman in Campus Center 1 or leave a message at 395-4344.

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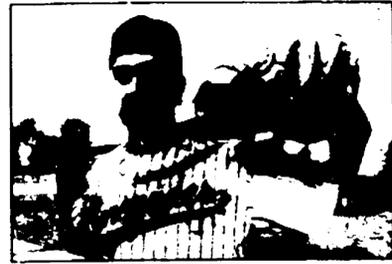


Kicking back on the eastside
Ethel's Old Corral and the Kow Palace cater to Bakersfield's country crowd with music, drinks and food.
Features, page 4

Pumping your wallet
Recent hikes in gas prices have left travelers with empty pockets. But is an alternative source available?
Opinion, page 3



Runners beware
Renegade catcher Octavio Martinez strikes fear in potential base thieves with his powerful arm.
Sports, page 5

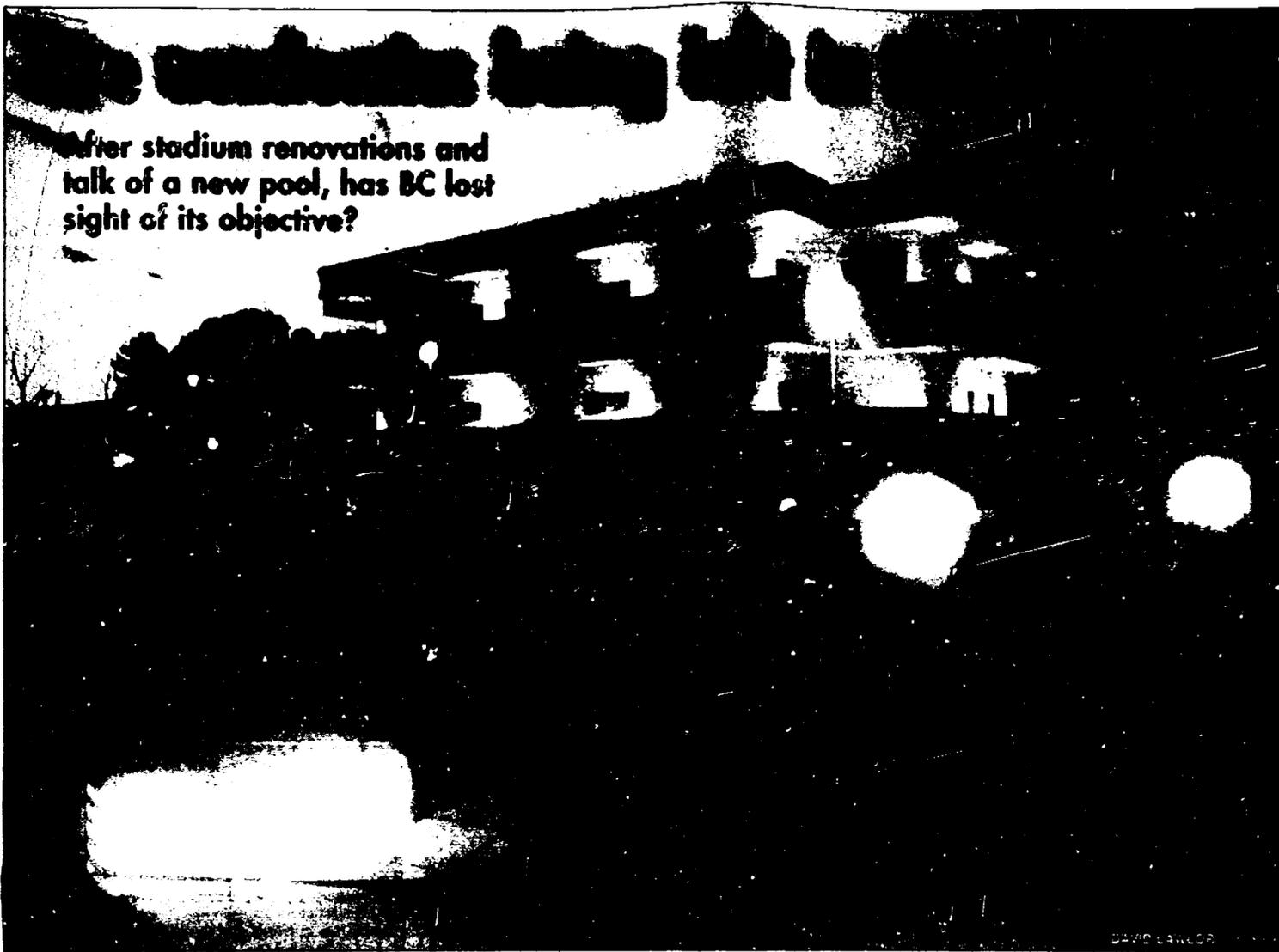


THE RENEGADE RIP

Vol. 70 No. 7

Bakersfield College

April 23, 1999



After stadium renovations and talk of a new pool, has BC lost sight of its objective?

Athletics battle with academics for priority

BY NICHOLE PERRY
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College has spent \$12 million of taxpayers' money on renovations to the campus, the bulk of this going toward funding the Memorial Stadium project.

While BC can proudly claim rights to one of the finest stadiums in the area, many other departments have been forced to live with no-growth budgets or have faced budget cuts.

Harry Wilson, a photography instructor at BC since 1971, sees a definite emphasis placed on athletics.

"I enjoy going to the games, but it's ridiculous," said Wilson. "I have real problems with an institution that places so much influence on athletics. Athletic programs are really expensive. Do you really want to sell out to this emphasis?"

Wilson, like a number of staffers, holds firm to the belief that money put into the renovation of Memorial Stadium, among other projects, was an unwise investment. Instead of funds being allotted to stadium-related renovations, Wilson questions the educational value of the projects.

"I think it would be better to let the stadium become an old ruin and put the money where the students are," said Wilson. "Our building is
See STADIUM, Page 2

College looking to construct Olympic-size pool as it renovates existing one

BY JOSE TORINO
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College officials plan to spend half a million dollars on swimming pool renovations at the same time planners are working on building an Olympic-size facility on campus.

Work on the existing pool will begin sometime this year. According to Dean of Facilities and Operations Dr. Claire Larsen, a rough estimate for renovation cost will be close to \$500,000. Some of the repairs include new decking, fixing all of the pipe system as well as interior coating. The money used for the renovation will come from the maintenance assessment fund.

According to Larsen, a rough estimate for the Olympic-size pool will cost \$1.4 million. The project would be paid through outside funding.

"We are not looking for a student assessment fee or a tax on the community. The pool would be paid off entirely by funding," he said.

BC officials have discussed the project with swimming associations said BC President Dr. Sandra

See related graphic, Page 2

Serrano. "We have met with representatives from swimming associations who have shown interest in the pool project," she said.

BC is seeking community partners in building the Olympic pool, said Athletic Director Jan Stuebbe. "We're looking for partnerships in the community in order to build the expanded project plan," said Stuebbe. "We would like to make that decision by the end of this month."

If the new pool project comes to fruition, it would be built west of the gymnasium, between the tennis courts and current pool.

At this time, athletics does not have any swim team. It does offer swimming courses. Officials currently rent the existing pool to swim clubs and high schools.

"Bakersfield is a large swimming community. We have been approached by people in the community who have showed interest in the pool project," said Stuebbe. "I think

there is a need for a pool like that in Bakersfield. We would also like to expand our current programs here at BC."

According to California State University, Bakersfield Aquatics Director Pat Skehan, an Olympic-size pool would be great for the city.

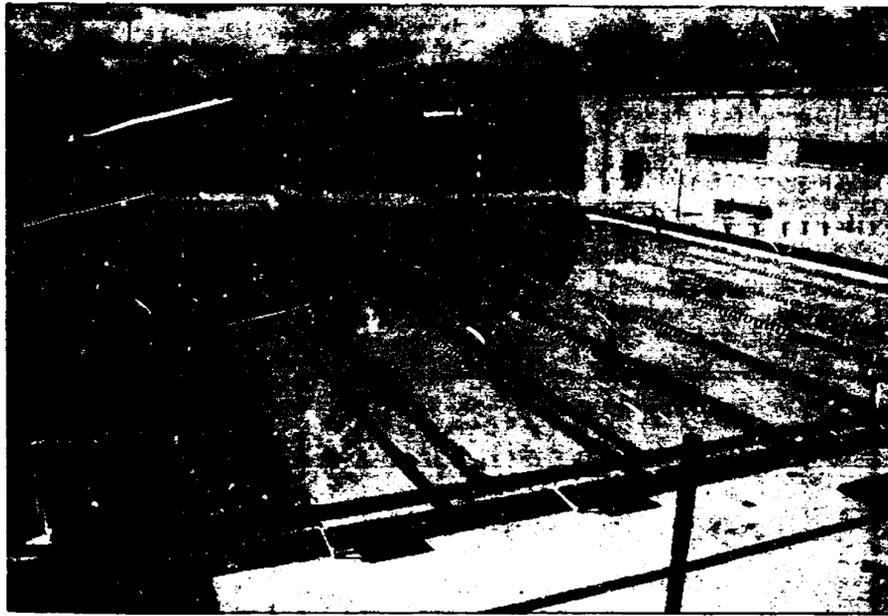
"A city like this should have two or three Olympic-size pools. In the summer at CSUB, we have thousands of people in and out of the pool. Right now, during school we have 500 to 600 people in every day."

But no formal study has been done on the need for another pool by BC planners.

Maintaining a new pool would be costly. According to Skehan, CSUB pays close to \$20,000 a year on chemicals for its Olympic-size pool.

But at BC, the pool would be self-maintained by the organizations that would use it, according to Larsen.

"The plan to renovate the existing pool will happen," said Larsen. "We are still not sure about the Olympic-size pool project. We are still trying to get funding for that project."



LAURA DURIGA / THE RIP

Bakersfield College's outdoor pool is visited by a swimmer. The pool is used by classes, high school teams and swim clubs for practice.

Tricycle race, bands highlight festivities at annual Spring Fling

BY MONICA MONZON
Rip staff writer

The tricycle race ended with Santino Medina, the champion, wearing nothing but his boxers and a diaper.

Medina, a Bakersfield College student, received a gray BC sweater and a lollipop for all of his effort. In the tricycle race, students wore diapers and had candy pacifiers in their mouths. The tricycles will be donated to the BC Childcare Center.

When asked what he planned to do next, Medina replied, "I am going to go and get some Huggies and go to Disneyland."

The tricycle race Wednesday was one of several events celebrating Spring Fling, a week of activities sponsored by the Associated Students of Bakersfield College.

The events for Monday were the hula-hoop contest and a mystery band. The Scholastics, BC student Zacchiani Hubbard-Blanche and Nicoshia Collins both tied for first place in the hula-hoop contest.

"We lasted about 15 minutes," Hubbard said.

"We both stopped at the same time because they asked us to quit."

The Scholastics were led by singer Brittney Jones with David Urquhart on trombone, Terry Tripp on guitar, Dan Ardis on drums, Hans Tullmann on bass, Josh Allen on rhythm guitar and Don Kileen on trumpet.

The barbershop quartet Genetic Blend performed on Tuesday in the Campus Center. They have performed together for three years and have been in a number of competitions. The group is headed by Ronnie Whisenant and his three sons, Tim, Shawn and Dustin. Whisenant and his sons serenaded a few BC students, including Nikki Etchevery.

"I felt so embarrassed, but at the same time I felt special," said Etchevery.

Lisa Terry and Band also performed in Campus Center on Tuesday. Her music was mainly country, blues and rock. Terry sang songs by Brian White and Shania Twain.

Pittsburgh comedian Randy Riggle performed on Wednesday in Campus Center. He has been a stage comedian for 17 years. His act focuses on life in college, high school years and dating.



REBECCA PIMENTA / THE RIP

Genetic Blend, a barbershop quartet consisting of Ronnie Whisenant and his three sons, perform in Campus Center Tuesday.

Irrigation system part of new landscaping

BY ALEC ORRELL
Rip staff writer

Have you ever seen a computer watering the grass? Bakersfield College has installed a new computerized irrigation system and it will be controlling the irrigation on campus from now on.



ROBERT TAYLOR / THE RIP

The new system was installed, according to Dr. Claire Larsen, dean of facilities and operations, to save labor hours, to water and to give the plants better irrigation.

Running on Microsoft Windows, the small gray computer electronically connects to stations throughout the campus.

Time charts in the computer program automatically turn on sprinklers throughout BC's approximately 150 acres of vegetation.

"If we had to do that work ourselves, we would have ten or twelve full-time guys going out there punching in numbers all day," said Moore.

The over \$1.6 million for the project came from a maintenance assessment district create by the

Students relax on the newly placed rocks, just one facet of BC's landscaping project.

Kern Community College District Board of Trustees nearly two years ago.

It is the same assessment that paid for the Memorial Stadium retrofit and upgrade.

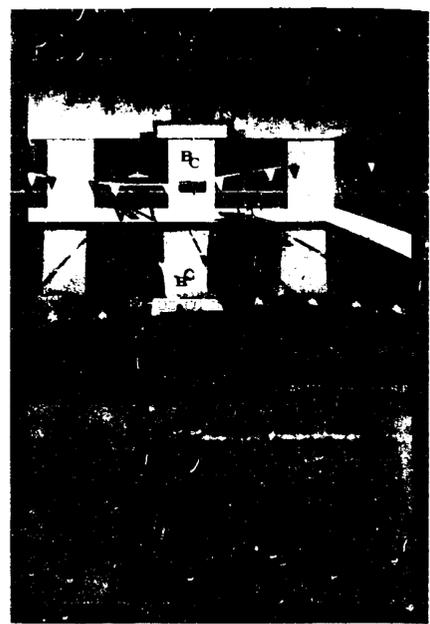
That money paid for computer software and new valves, which were the cause of most of the dig-

ging during the last two years. It also paid for the new sidewalks, groundcover and bushes around the periphery of the campus.

In addition to monitoring the time of watering, the computer program also adjusts the amounts given based on the weather.

"We have a weather station right

out here (next to Levinson Hall) that takes into account ... a factor called the ET (evapotranspiration) rate," said Moore. "What it will do is calculate the water content of the air and the temperature and the wind and the velocity of the wind. It calculates the rate that the water will evaporate when it hits the ground."



STADIUM: As district spends millions on stadium, other areas suffer cuts

Continued from page 1
falling apart, we don't have the equipment we need, but we have probably the most impressive stadium possibly in the country."

Wilson said memos have requested improvements such as new curtains and the replacement of lights in the Art Building. But little has been done to maintain a higher standard of maintenance.

"Administration makes it abundantly clear they don't care about teachers' opinions. That tells me that administration has sold out education. If athletics is a money maker, is that the way you want to fund an educational system? They like to think it's a business. Education isn't as important as enrollment figures."

The renovation of the stadium has happened during years when a number of programs on campus have made cuts or are preparing for future ones. Anna Agenjo, director of the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, said the library often is one of the first programs to experience budget cuts.

Each year money from the state is given to schools based on the number of students who attend classes.



JAY MAUSER / THE RIP

This program, known as the FTES, directly contributes money in accordance with enrollment figures. Though dealing with a heavy volume of students each day, the library does not have any actual students, therefore, the first place to receive cuts is its budget.

"It is really important to have an athletic program, just as important as an academic program, and the library is the center. I think it's important to have access to print material and data bases, so I'd like to see (administration) spend the money on that. Cutting the budget for the library is a disservice to the students," said Agenjo.

Although the library staff has no way of reflecting FTES, Agenjo

maintains the library staff keeps students in school.

"We feel we maintain FTES. We help students with papers and research. We believe we help students stay in class."

The communications department, which includes the ASL, journalism, and speech programs, is also often plagued with financial problems.

Dr. Mary Copelin, a longtime faculty member of the speech department, said while athletic teams must raise enough money to cover the expenses of one season, the more academically based teams, such as forensics, compete year round. When cuts are inflicted it is not the athletic teams that are hindered, said Copelin, it is the academic teams.

Copelin said that tournaments have been cut from the forensics budget, along with the number of students able to attend events as a part of the team.

"I don't begrudge them their money," said Copelin. "It's not about the money. It's the whole approach. The reality is the vast amount of money goes to Memorial Stadium. There really is a complete discrepancy between financial and other types of supports in comparison to any athletic activity. It's staggering, the discrepancy is just huge."

Steven Brown, a political science student at BC, said he is concerned about the emphasis placed on athletics over education.

"(BC) should put academics first

and restructure the curriculum," said Brown, a member of the Athletic Department has paid off in more ways than one. When in competition and on the road, several times she has been complemented for the sportsmanship of Renegade athletes. It is this involvement on a higher level she feels has led to a well-earned name in the community.

"BC is a very respected institution. They don't realize the time we put in to building the reputation of the school. People say athletics is bad, but what brings popularity to a school? People want to grip and complain. How many of their students have come to the facilities to compete? We can be simple minded or have a broad perspective and see we're trying to help the community."

Though seemingly caught in the middle of a battle of loyalties, student athletes on campus remain positive about the prospects of the new stadium.

"From the standpoint that you get, a lot of it is about money, but the money they put into it they'll get back," said Keith Powers, a second-year member of the BC track team.

In the end it all boils down to much more than a renovated stadium and a perimeter of concrete.

"I think a lot of the complaining is dealing with other issues, too," said Wilson. "The college is in such bad shape it's going to take a while to recover. It's going to take a while for the climate on campus to change."

Dahl said the hard work on behalf of the Athletic Department has paid off in more ways than one. When in competition and on the road, several times she has been complemented for the sportsmanship of Renegade athletes. It is this involvement on a higher level she feels has led to a well-earned name in the community.

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Dying to save Lives

Efforts to save Albanians from Milosevic's wrath will result in American deaths.

BY PAUL MITTS
Rip staff writer

Europe is on the verge of a war unlike anything seen since World War II with a country that is run by a man who will risk his country and his people to maintain the power he holds. Slobodan Milosevic, the leader of Yugoslavia, is using the tactic of Serbian nationalism and the genocide of ethnic Albanians to become not only a hero but a savior to his people. And air raids by NATO and the United States have done nothing but add to the convictions of the Yugoslavian Serbs. Now, with NATO air raids only being mildly effective, the suggestion of deploying American ground troops has been brought to the table.

But why? This is a war that has been fought on and off for centuries. Trying to create civil living conditions between Serbs and Albanians is a task that will cost many American lives and will not result in a long-term solution. The Serbs in Yugoslavia are following Milosevic religiously, burning and pillaging entire towns under the leadership of their fearless president.

Add to this the propaganda machine that Milosevic uses to demonize the Albanian nationals along with NATO and America, and he creates a near Messianic image for himself. All that an attack with ground troops will accomplish is elevating Milosevic's status among his people and those countries that oppose foreign invasion.

With organizations such as NATO in place to guard the world against atrocities like those seen in Kosovo, America must now realize that it is not needed to be the sole savior of the world. Looking back to the Vietnam War, what seemed to be an easy job of ending a conflict turned out to be a long and drawn-out defeat. With most experts and officials seeing no immediate end in sight, the U.S.

Why risk the lives of our young on only the hope of victory?

must step back from this conflict and evaluate the price it may have to pay to try and stop Milosevic.

It is also a concern that the efforts of the United States and NATO will alienate and be the cause of greater conflicts later. Due to alliances with Yugoslavia, tensions between the former Soviet Union and the United States have resurfaced. Although the Soviets are in a state of decline, they are still a strong nuclear force, one of the few that has the ability to decimate U.S. targets.

The attacks by NATO have also aided in Milosevic's propaganda machine. Using television and radio he is able to turn his own acts of violence around, taking video of cities burned and looted by Serbian troops and placing the blame on NATO air raids. With this much influence, his people have rallied around him, creating human chains to prevent further bombings and comparing him to Prince Lazar, a Serbian prince who in 1389 died for his people to prevent Muslim invasion of the Christian Serbia.

He has made himself a demigod by taking his violent and tyrannical actions and turning them into a religious crusade.

winning possible? The United States and NATO have taken a stance that they will fight and they will win. And they're willing to bet the lives of Americans on it. But history tells us that the United



JAY MAUSER / THE RIP

States is / or always going to walk into a battle and leave without a bruise.

Why risk the lives of our young on only the hope of victory? Victory will come from avoiding battle entirely.

Gas price hike limits mobility

Consumers need alternatives to avoid oil dependency.

BY ALEC ORRELL
Rip staff writer

American consumers are enraged about the rise in gas prices.

The Department of Energy "thinks" the rises are caused by OPEC reductions, fires and increased summer driving — mostly uncontrollable events — but the California Attorney General's Office still says it may intervene for the consumer. Also, motorists in San Diego boycotted to make the big oil companies know what they think.

What really happened? Americans had their freedom of movement restricted by gas prices and Americans hate for anything to mess with their freedom.

This "blip" in prices unmarks the upheaval that will follow the energy crisis that some geologists say may come as early as 2010.

If a little rise in the gas prices today evokes outcry, just imagine what a possibly permanent shortage will do.

The U.S. will have to change its energy habits, and Americans are going to go home.

Americans use a lot of gas. Businesses say U.S. taxable gas sales were about 125 billion barrels in 1998.

But we may not be able to come up with billions of gallons of gas in ten or twenty years, and we will probably not reduce consumption, using a great deal of gas as far ahead as the year 2050, researchers say.

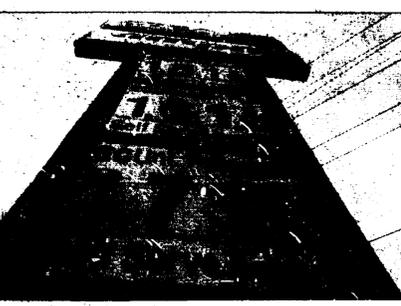
Imagine an America without gas. Trucking would change fuels or be phased out.

Lack of fuel would preclude family road trips. NASCAR correct 2020 would have to "cruise" the mass-transit system.

This century is the century of the computer, but it is also the century of the car. It is part of our culture.

The Department of Energy is developing new alternative-fuel cars and cars that are more efficient. Volvo has a station wagon that burns both gasoline and methanol (a corn distillate).

However, the current advertising to integrate the vehicles into the



Throughout the nation, consumers have seen gas prices skyrocket in the last few weeks. The Department of Energy says the hikes are the result of OPEC reductions, fires and increased summer driving.

MIKE CUNNINGHAM / THE RIP

market and into government fleets is not enough; most consumers don't even consider the option.

If shortages occur as predicted, the U.S. will not be ready in a mere 10 to 15 years. The government must start to inform the public now and the spread of information must be tremendous.

The weaning of America off

gasoline, like swearing off junk food, will be a fight of the public to save itself from itself, and it will be just as hard.

Moreover, in a democratic society, any government move to regulate will elicit screams from those who purchase gas, most voters, and those who sell it, quite a few of the rest.

They will not give up their freedom of movement unless the reasoning is strong and clear. Government agencies including the Department of Energy must educate the public to change our long-standing habits of fuel dependence.

We must start a real gas saving or gas phasing plan. The next price hike or energy crisis may not go away.

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FEEDBACK
LAURA DURIGA / THE RIP
What is your favorite nightclub or hangout? Why?
Alec Miller, Art: "Rockin' Rodeo. Because there is a lot of room on the big dance floor."
Ricky Breneman, Auto Tech: "I don't hang out at nightclubs, I hang out with my friends."
Carl Green, Economics: "My house. Because there are not a lot of people there and I can hang out by myself."
Kristy Durham, Nursing: "The Gate. They have all sorts of bands. It's a great place to go for all ages."
Cisse Ba, Business: "Hollywood 1. I'm a reggae fan and it's a reggae club. I can get my groove on there."

High school murders show power of words

When I was in high school a few years back, most student conflicts involved cruel words and the occasional four-fisted wrestling match. These transgressions were often fueled by arguments over boy-friends and girlfriends or the perceived slight in the hallway.

Now the violence seems to have metastasized like an angry tumor, with the first fights of yesteryear evolving into paramilitary operations complete with timed bombs.

The events in Littleton, Colo., will hopefully open our eyes to the growing phenomenon of disenfranchised students revolting against the system. But what has made them feel this way? These school yard murderers who have plagued the United States need an explanation. And I'm not sure I can give it.

The Trenchcoat Mafia was a clique of fellows who were quite antisocial by all accounts from students at Columbine High School. They sported ominous black sunglasses and floor length black trenchcoats regardless of the weather. They made it known that they were racially intolerant. When they weren't being antisocial, they regaled classmates with stories of their bomb-making prowess and large cache of weaponry. These sound like some hard cats to love.

But despite their disrespect and loathsome attitude to everyone around them, they took the taunts and teasing from rival cliques seriously. Seriously enough to target blacks and athletes specifically when they went on the rampage that ended up killing at least twenty students and faculty. When will we realize the power of our words? It reminds me of the scene in "Billy Madison" when Billy calls Steve Buschme's character and apologizes to him. Buschme hangs up the phone and crosses Madison's name off a list labeled, "People to Kill."

What this does is give more validity to even the most innocuous of threats. BC does have its own share of bomb threats, and these days you must take them seriously. It seems that school yard violence has grown in extremity and age.

There were a rash of killings at elementary and middle schools, with the latest action being a terrorist style, planned attack at a high school.

The next step would seem to be at an institute of higher learning. I hope there's no validity to bomb threats at the junior college nearest you.

Frankly Speaking



FRANCIS C. MAYER
Rip Staff Writer



Motorcycles in front, horses in back, is the rule at Ethel's Old Corral Cafe. ROBERT TAYLOR / THE RIP

a little EASTSIDE COUNTRY

Western-themed cafes offer up family style entertainment.

BY JOE SIMPSON
Rip staff writer

If you are among those who think the country scene in Bakersfield is limited to Rockin' Rodeo and the Crystal Palace, then you should know western-style cafes are alive and kicking on the eastside of town.

Just down the hill from Bakersfield College sits Ethel's Old Corral Cafe. Tucked away from the hustle and bustle of downtown, Ethel's stands alone. The patrons come from all walks of life yet blend together to

make a family unlike any other. Family is a big thing at Ethel's. It's been family-owned and operated for three generations. Donna Chisum owns the Alfred Harrell Highway cafe today. Before Donna, her mother, Ethel, was the lady of the house and her grandfather ran the place before her. Ethel's also is family-oriented. Everyone gets along, giving the feel more of a picnic complete with mom, dad and the kids, than a faceless cafe.

On any given day, a row of cars can be found parked next to a row of motorcycles outside the front of the cafe. Looking around back, a row of horses patiently await their riders' return.

They have been known to reach maximum capacity there. See ETHEL'S, Page 6

Misbliss uses dark, Gothic imagery to convey their message

Fine Tuning



PAUL MITTY
Rip Staff Writer

The essence of the Bakersfield area rock band Misbliss is their lack of definition both musically and in personal flair. Their sound is a blend of styles that seems to sit on many different musical borders and their look is one of dark individuality. Each member acts in a fashion chosen long before the existence of a band allowing them to complement each other rather than simply blend.

The group is made up of lead singer and lyricist Ruth Bowen, Jeff Parris on keyboards, Shantell Waldo on drums, Ryan Mullen on bass and lead guitarist Ryan Vaughan. Misbliss formed out of Vaughan and Mullen's early attempts to start a band three years ago during their freshman year of high school, with Waldo and Parris, both now out of school, joining through encounters with Vaughan and Mullen. Bowen, a second-year Bakersfield College student joined later after being introduced through her then boyfriend to Mullen.

"Originally it was Ryan's idea to name the band Bliss," Mullen said. "But then I was thinking that we were going to be a darker kind of sound, so I wanted something to be the opposite of bliss. And so the prefix mis, meaning the opposite of, like misunderstanding, would be Misbliss, like the opposite of happiness and goodness."

The band's look consists of semi-gothic overtones with a glam feel wrapped around. Their stage movements and general demeanor are as well known as their music.

A Misbliss show is one that is immediately striking both sonically and visually. The members have unique stage presence, meshing all of their personalities so that no-one band member is at the center. Instead, the audience is tugged from person to person, equally enthralled with them all.

Bowen, at times, can own the stage with a kind of mystery that parallels in her vocals and stage movements. Mullen plays in the shadows, refusing to move anywhere near the light, adding a bit of danger to his already large, slim and dark frame. Vaughan reaches out and grabs the audience, sometimes literally, when he plays, moving about the stage or sometimes just standing in place, but always ready to strike at any moment.

Parris and Waldo, the two members of the band held in place by their instruments, take differing approaches to their involvement in a show. Parris is reserved and quiet while Waldo's presence is almost kinetic.

Two top Bakersfield College basketball players will go on to play for Division I colleges.

Center/forward Shawn Daniels announced that he will play for Utah State and guard Tye Hammond will play for Southern University at a recent press conference.

"I chose Southern University because I heard so many great things about it. The school has great coaches," said Hammond.

Daniels, a two-year starter, finished his BC career with 1,166 points, 44 double-doubles and 729 rebounds. He was the Western State Conference leading rebounder this season and was fifth in the WSC in field goal percentages with .597.

"They have a great coaching staff, talking to their players. I thought it was a great place for me to go," said Daniels about Utah State.

Both Hammond and Daniels want to improve their jump shot for Division I play.

"They both made good decisions on the schools they're going to attend. The reason I say that is because

much playing time as he did in high school. "I mainly DH'ed (designated hitter)," he said. "It made me work harder because you always want to start and get that playing time whether it be this level or any other level."

Catcher shuts down opposing base stealers

BY RICHARD D. WHIPPLE
Rip staff writer

It's not easy being a star player in any sport. So many variables can occur when an athlete is blessed with talent. On the positive side, coaches praise that player (and play him every chance possible) and other players notice and admire their teammate's talent. However, on the negative side, stardom is fleeting. At best, that player has to work harder to keep up his peak performance.

BC catcher Octavio Martinez is one star player who is able to conquer any negative factors.

According to BC coach Tim Painton, Martinez is a consistent .400 hitter who leads the 'Gades in just about every offensive category.

Moreover, he is an excellent presence behind the plate as handles the pitching staff well. Martinez's qualities go beyond the diamond.

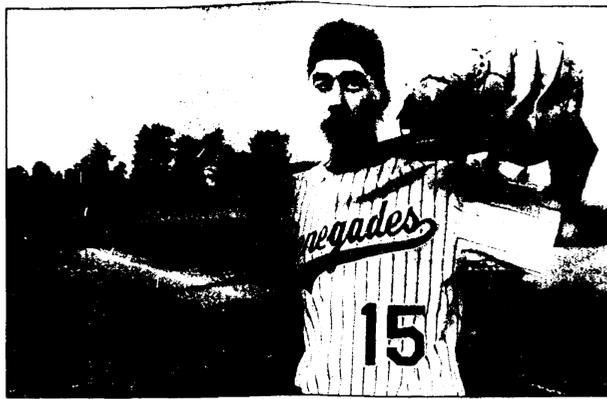
"He's just a quality person," said Painton. "He's a 3.7 (grade point average) student in mechanical engineering and he's an outstanding young man. He brings so much to our ball club that everybody else looks to him for leadership and guidance."

BC pitcher Blake McGinley agreed. "He's an outstanding leader," said McGinley. "He gets us pumped up for games, gets us going."

Martinez, a graduate from Highland High School, wasn't a catcher when he started playing baseball competitively.

"I was a third baseman and as I got older, they basically transferred me to catcher," he said.

"At our high school, we didn't have much of a catcher available, so they moved me to that position."



Octavio Martinez leads his team in many offensive and defensive categories. MIKE CUNNINGHAM / THE RIP

Despite experiencing difficulties mastering the fundamentals of catching, Martinez prospered as Highland won back to back Southeast Yosemite League titles his junior and senior years.

When he came to BC, Martinez didn't receive as

much playing time as he did in high school. "I mainly DH'ed (designated hitter)," he said. "It made me work harder because you always want to start and get that playing time whether it be this level or any other level."

Despite the limited playing time, Painton had praise for Martinez's rookie season at BC.

"He had a good year for us as a freshman," he said. "This year, Martinez's season is different. He is on the field defensively, instead of being just a designated hitter. McGinley appreciates Martinez's defensive prowess."

"He knows how to call pitches," said McGinley. "He helps us pitchers out, keeps us in the ball game."

A strong part of Martinez's catching is his ability to throw out baserunners.

According to Painton, Martinez has thrown out more than 70 percent of would be base stealers, which is excellent considering that the major league average is only 23 percent.

"He completely shuts down an opposition's running game," said Painton. "It takes a tremendous amount of pressure off of our pitching staff when he's able to do that."

Even though he is a gifted athlete, Martinez believes that teamwork is the key to winning ballgames.

"You can have all the talent in the world, but if you don't know how to play together. You're not going to get anywhere," he said.

Painton admires Martinez's attitude. "He's kind of a magnet because of just the way he goes about things," said Painton. "He's somebody that a whole ball club looks up to."

When Martinez finishes at BC, he wants to continue his schooling. "My education is first," he said. "I'm not going to go to a school just because they're great in baseball and they don't have my major. It has to be within my bounds of education in terms of my major."

Daniels, Hammond sign letters of intent to Division I universities

Tye Hammond gives out hugs after he signs his letter of intent.



DAVID LAWLER / THE RIP



BY KRISTEN HUNTER
Rip staff writer

Two top Bakersfield College basketball players will go on to play for Division I colleges.

Center/forward Shawn Daniels announced that he will play for Utah State and guard Tye Hammond will play for Southern University at a recent press conference.

"I chose Southern University because I heard so many great things about it. The school has great coaches," said Hammond.

Daniels, a two-year starter, finished his BC career with 1,166 points, 44 double-doubles and 729 rebounds. He was the Western State Conference leading rebounder this season and was fifth in the WSC in field goal percentages with .597.

They have a great coaching staff, talking to their players. I thought it was a great place for me to go," said Daniels about Utah State.

Both Hammond and Daniels want to improve their jump shot for Division I play.

"They both made good decisions on the schools they're going to attend. The reason I say that is because

work with the system," said head coach Jeff Hughes.

Hammond was heavily recruited by San Francisco State, California State University, Fullerton and CSU, Bakersfield. He finished his career at BC with 652 points and a career high of 34 points.

"They (BC coaches) made me play harder than I did in high school. They made me play defense and I got a little more exposure playing against better guys as far as my freshman year going to state and going to different places," said

Hammond.

Between the two players Hammond and Daniels helped the 'Gades to the state championships' their freshman year.

The 'Gades finished with an overall record of 21-10 and a conference record of 5-5.

In the two years Hammond and Daniels collected 53 wins. Both of them were All-Conference selections for the southern division this season.

"Between those two years it made my job a lot easier. They are very coachable," said Hughes.

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Assoc. Student Body Campus Center	Grace Van Dyke Bird Library

Off Campus drop off locations: **Hall Ambulance, 2001 'O' St./Time Warner Cable, 3600 N. Silect Ave./Channel 17-KGET, 2120 'L' St./Barnes & Noble, 4001 California Ave./GW School Supply, 1220 Oak St., Ste. E**

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For more information contact Bakersfield College AmeriCorps/America Reads at 395-4240.
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Class offered for daycare providers

The Community Connection for Child Care and Bakersfield College will offer Child Development 257a-Family Child Care Management, which satisfies the seven hours of health and safety training required by the California Department of Social Services for licensed family child care providers.

Sessions begin May 18 and will run through June 3. Students can pay the \$12 fee starting at 5:30 p.m. The first class session or advance registration may be made at the Office of Admissions and Records.

'Everyman' to be performed in May

"The Summoning of Everyman," a medieval morality play about man's confrontation with death, will be performed at 8 p.m. in the Indoor Theater Plaza May 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15.

Directed by Gabrielle Brewer-Wallin, the production will feature individuals confronting God and death in a variety of spiritual contexts. Members of St. John's Choir will perform in the role of a chorus.

The play will be performed outdoors in the area between the old library and the Indoor Theater. Tickets are \$6 general admission and \$4 for students and seniors.

ASBC invites students to banquet

The Associated Students of Bakersfield College have issued an open invitation for students to attend the ASBC Awards Banquet on May 6. Reservations are required by April 30. Registration begins at 6:15 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Awards will be held in the Campus Center. Price is \$10 per person. To make reservations, call 395-4355.

Volleyball training camp starts July 19

Bakersfield College will sponsor the Renegade Volleyball Training Camp July 19-23 at the Gil Bishop Sports Center. Activities will be held for third through sixth grade and beginning junior high students from 1 to 4 p.m.

Experienced junior high and high school student sessions will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. For information, contact Coleen Richert at 395-4257.

Summer workshop offers scholarships

High school students can attend a free college class, produce their own newspaper and earn scholarships during a three-week program at Bakersfield College this summer.

Five students will be awarded a \$100 scholarship at the end of the BC Summer Multicultural Journalism Workshop, held June 14-July 1. Twenty students will be selected to participate in the program, which is co-sponsored by the BC Journalism Program, *The Bakersfield Californian* and The Dow Jones Newspaper Fund.

George Ramos, a Pulitzer-Prize winning reporter for *The Los Angeles Times*, will assist students as a guest mentor.

For applications, call 395-4344. Deadline to apply is May 21.

CORRECTIONS

An editorial in last week's *Rip* incorrectly stated that BC spent \$11,600 last year on technical support for its PCs. That amount actually was spent on maintenance, repairs and service agreements for Macintosh computers on campus since 1990.

In a news article, the paper incorrectly reported that the classified staff is seeking a 6 percent raise over two years when this amount is the goal for a one-year contract. *The Rip* regrets these mistakes and any inconvenience they may have caused.

A Taste of the Far East



Neerika Srivastava, a Garces High student, dances during the recent fashion show sponsored by the Intercultural Student Association and the International Student Center.

BY SEAN JONES
Rip staff photographer

Officers investigate report of handgun on campus

Campus police received a call of a man with a handgun parked in front of the Administration Building on March 18.

When officers arrived, they found two men, ages 21 and 22, sitting in a Chevy Blazer with a fully loaded 9 mm magazine in the driver's



door pocket. During a search, they found a .38-caliber handgun behind the driver's seat. The gun was registered to the two men's father. No arrests were made.

ETHEL'S: Riders bring horses, Harleys to cafe

Continued from Page 3

"We usually get about twenty or so riders on Saturdays and Sundays," said Philip Bower, an Ethel's regular, referring to the horseback riders.

According to Chisum, as many as 75 horses have been tied up out back, while at the same time, 100 motorcycles were parked in front.

The parking lot has a memorial plaque dedicated to Ethel. "When my mom died, they (the patrons) all wanted to do something for her. So, they had a couple charity events to raise the money," Chisum recalled.

On Fridays and Sundays the cafe has a live band, playing anything from country to rock 'n' roll. On Wednesday nights, crowds turn out for karaoke.

Whether traveling by car, truck, horse or Harley, Ethel's Old Corral Cafe is a Bakersfield must-see. The atmosphere is unlike anything else around.

The newly opened Kow Palace is another example of country entertainment on the eastside of town. The building can hold 850 people and with the biggest dance floor in town, patrons won't have to fight the crowd for a two-step. The house band, Stranger Things, supplies the tunes on a stage that is bigger than the one at the Crystal Palace. With a full kitchen in the back, no one leaves hungry. Under 21? No problem. The Kow Palace welcomes families.

Co-owners, Frangiea Baldwin and Rick Kowbel, have 70 years combined business experience. Baldwin's "Bakersfield Country Connections" publishing company has handled the Dooley Brothers, Brass Railway and many more. Kowbel has handled a few big names himself in the catering business, catering for former Gov. Pete Wilson and Congressman Bill Thomas, R-Bakersfield.

"We do it all," Kowbel proudly stated about the abilities of his kitchen. "We already have our bid in for the Borton, Petrini and Conron Business Conference."

The building at Fairfax and Niles used to house the 11-C Market.

"Since this was a supermarket we had to clear it all out, shelves, aisles, everything," Kowbel said.

Much like Ethel's, family is stressed at the Kow Palace. They serve a family-style barbecue from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays they have a karaoke night. Friday through Sunday, Stranger Things perform on stage. They have a jam session on Sundays, where anyone can get up on stage and sing or play along with the band.

Grace Van Dyke Bird Library Hours

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Saturday
9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

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11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

You must have a valid spring 1999 sticker on your Gades card to check out books from the library or to activate a computer account in the Commons. Stickers are available free in the Student Affairs office.

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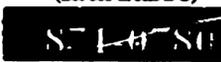
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CAREER WEEK April 26-30

- Visit the AmeriCorps/America Reads booth in the Campus Center on Career Day. If you answer yes to any of the following questions you can join the BC America Reads Program.

- 1) Are you interested in becoming a teacher?
- 2) Would you like to earn extra cash for college?
- 3) Do you enjoy working with children?
- 4) Are you eligible for Federal Work Study or CALWorks?

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- 2) are paid to tutor children ages 0-3 and grades K-3.
- 3) make a difference in the community through service.



MONDAY - WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS

- 9-10:30 a.m. & 1-2:30 p.m. • **RESUME/COVER LETTERS** — Learn to write a great cover letter.
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. & 2:30-3:30 p.m. • **INTERVIEW SKILLS** — Employers from the community give tips on what they look for in an interview.
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. & 3:30-4:30 p.m. • **DRESS FOR SUCCESS, AND PAY LESS** — Learn how to look great for less money.

Sign up for workshops in the BC Student Services Bldg., #27 or call 395-4550.

TUESDAY - RESUMES & MOCK INTERVIEWS

- **JOB DEVELOPERS** will review resumes and do mock interviews.

Career Day

- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Nearly 100 employers will be available to share career and employment opportunities with students in the Campus Center.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

- Stop by our Co-op Ed. Department in the Student Services Building to see what programs we have to offer our students!

Rock garden
The reincarnated Cradle of Thorns returns to Bakersfield's Centennial Garden as Videodrone.
Features, page 4



High times
Does marijuana pose a serious threat to motorists? Is America wasting its money on the war on drugs?
Opinion, page 3



Clubs struggle to make playoffs
As season draws to a close, BC clings to its slim hopes of a postseason birth.
Sports, page 5



THE RENEGADE RIP

Vol. 70 No. 8

Bakersfield College

April 30, 1999

Family bids farewell to young mother

ASBC official donates burial plot, starts fund for 2-year-old survivor.

BY MICHAEL D. ROSS
Managing Editor

Nina Ruiz touched the lives of many, sometimes with nothing more than just a smile.

"She had a gorgeous smile," said Ruiz's mother, Debbie Barrios. "She had a smile that would bring the sun into your heart. If you were down, she would lift you up. She just had that full-of-joy that nobody could take, not even when she was angry or hurt."

Ruiz, an 18-year-old Bakersfield College student, died on the morning of April 19 at Kern Medical Center from injuries she received from an auto accident the night before on her way home from church.

Her boyfriend, Jeffrey Cecil, 22, was driving a 1998 Ford Escort when it was broadsided by a 1985 Ford Bronco II driven by Anna Lomeli, 44, of Bakersfield, at River Boulevard and Columbus Street. Her 2-year-old son, Angel Ybarra, was in the backseat and suffered a cut forehead that required 13 stitches.

Ruiz's funeral was held Monday. It was an event that brought together family and friends as well as those who wanted to help out after the accident.

Tracey Mitchell, ASBC vice president of activities, donated her \$2,700 burial plot to Nina Ruiz's family on behalf of the ASBC.

Mitchell said in an interview at BC that she had never known Ruiz, but that Mitchell had a child out of wedlock at the age of 15 and she admired Ruiz's determination to continue her education.

"She came straight out of high school with a baby and went straight to college," Mitchell said. "I didn't do that. I just came back to college a year ago January. When I heard that she was 18 years old and had a baby that was 2 years old and just came into school, it was like, 'Wow! I wish I would've done that.'"

In addition to her job as a mother, Ruiz worked in the Counseling Office at BC and at the Jack In The Box on Ming Avenue across from the Valley Plaza.

During the service, many of Ruiz's family members and friends shared stories of how her smile and positive attitude lifted their spirits and brought joy into their lives.

Her brother Nick Ruiz said that her son brought much of that joy to her.

"As soon as she had her son, she was more happy," he said. "It just lit up her life. He's a really happy, joyful boy."

Cynthia Barrios, Ruiz's aunt, said that the baby shares his mother's smile.

"She had a great smile and the baby looks just like her. I think they look like twins."

The baby is now in the care of his father, Chris Ybarra. According to Debbie Barrios, however, Ruiz's family will still get to see the baby regularly.

John Valdez, a member of Ruiz's church and a friend, expressed that Ruiz's family

See RUIZ, Page 6



Above, Chris Ybarra and his son Angel say goodbye to Nina Ruiz, the boy's mother. Left, Debbie Barrios, left, comforts her grandson, Angel Ybarra, 2, as he is held by his father at Chris Ybarra at Height Street Baptist Church during funeral services Monday.
KRIS DALE / THE RIP

Classified staff reaches tentative agreement

BY NICHOLE PERRY
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College classified staff negotiations team, under representation of the California School Employees Association, has reached a tentative agreement after nearly nine months of ongoing dispute over classified employee contract guidelines.

The Kern Community College District has tentatively agreed to a 3 percent retroactive salary increase from

July 1, 1998, along with a 2 percent salary increase effective June 1, 1999. KCCD has agreed to provide the same medical plan active during the 1999-2000 year and account for the increase in cost. Also included in the contract is the agreement to grant an equivalent of 1.5 days per fiscal year for specified floating holidays over the next four fiscal years for a total of 4.5 days.

With contract issues presumably resolved, this tentative settlement meets the specified CSEA claims within the constraints of the district

budget.

"We came to an equitable solution to the contract settlement. We didn't get quite what we wanted, but it was close," said Mike Noland, president of the BC chapter of CSEA. "Because of the financial situation of the district, I think we got what we could get out of the settlement."

Joe Johnson, a representative of the negotiations team, said he believes the classified staff to be part of a group of "unsung heroes" who often are overlooked when it comes to proper recognition for their daily roles.

"Those (classified employees) are the people you never hear much about," said Johnson. "It's time they receive some recognition for a job well done."

It is Johnson's hope the fight for these contract agreements will not have to be hashed out again next year, and that the district will take into account the importance of their relationship with the staff.

"I feel that it was a good negotiation," Johnson said. "You're never satisfied but you're always trying to adjust. We'll work harder next year to improve the negotiations and relationship with the district as always."

In a session today, CSEA negotiations team members will meet with the board to finalize this tentative settlement. According to Joe Conte, acting interim chancellor, the contract must be agreed to by both parties before a final resolution can be reached.

"It's a two step process," said Conte. "It must be approved before effective. The negotiations team recommends it to me and I recommend it to the board."

Conte is firm in his belief that the agreement is fair in accordance with the needs of the staffers. He also said he understands the importance of classified staffers in their role as the driving force behind the operation of the college district.

"I hold them in high esteem. They are very important to the operation of our three colleges. In most cases it's the classified person the student has first contact with," he said.

With negotiations behind them, Noland is rather optimistic of the contract outcome and the relationship the staff shares with the district.

"We're for this, so it doesn't hurt the district. We're working to get the district in a better financial situation," said Noland.

Forensics earns first in national meet

BY MONICA MONZON
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College has been recognized as having one of the best forensics programs in the nation.

The BC speech and debate team brought home from the recent Phi Rho Pi Community College National Debate Championships in Milwaukee. The team won two team gold medals and a team bronze medal, with members capturing several individual honors.

For the first time, BC the team won the prestigious Sylvia D. Mariner perpetual sweepstakes award.

The team also won gold medals for the debate sweepstakes award and for the overall sweepstakes award for limited entry schools.

In the individual events competition, Ben Tacla a speech communication major, won a gold medal for programmed oral interpretation of "Tan, a lighter shade of brown."

He also won a bronze medal for prose

interpretation, according to Mark Staller, one of the coaches for the team. Michelle O'Regan won a bronze medal for impromptu speaking and David Wells won a bronze medal for extemporaneous speaking.

In the debate competition, Jeremy Peterson won a gold medal for Lincoln-Douglas debate and along with David Wells, won the gold medal for cross-examination team debate. Wells and Peterson also won the Bell-Scroggins Award, which was judged by their competitors as representing the finest qualities of intercollegiate forensics. Besides Staller, other team coaches include Bob Lechtrek and Helen Acosta.

"I was very pleased," Acosta said. "We did better than I thought."

Winning the Sylvia D. Mariner award was one of Acosta's goals. According to Acosta, her father, Norm Fricker, was a forensics coach here at BC during 1976-1985.

"My father is retiring this year," Acosta said. "It was really nice winning the award,

because he also helped out with the points."

The award goes to the community college forensics program in the nation that has earned more points at national championships than any other of the 82 participating community colleges.

According to Wells, competition at the nationals was better than at the state level.

Wells is planning to transfer in the fall to CSUB.

Staller, forensics team director, was pleased with how well both Wells and Tacla did in the competition.

"This is Well's first semester in our team," Staller said.

Tacla, who is a returning student after 14 years, is satisfied with his performance at the competition.

"I may be too old to do sports, but I am not too old to speak," Tacla said.

Tacla will join the forensics team next year as well.

He said that in theater he is limited in the roles he can play, but in speech, he can portray anything from a woman to a laboratory rat.

Kicking it at my pad



MIKE CUNNINGHAM / THE RIP

Moorpark's Greg Bishop watches the javelin event at Friday's WSC track finals at Memorial Stadium. See story page 5.

Letting off steam

The Associated Students of Bakersfield College's Spring Fling offered a variety of games and events. Contestants in the trike race rode around Campus Center in diapers while sucking on pacifiers. ASBC gave away donated prizes to the winners of contests.

The balloon fling gave students a chance to launch water balloons at students in the Free Speech Area. They also listened to a variety of bands ranging from a barbershop quartet to country western and rock and roll. Spring Fling was last week.



Far left, Wes Lambert, Matthew Ancheta and Rebecca Link catapult balloons. Left, tricycle riders race around Campus Center. Below, hula hoopers swing their hips in hopes of a prize.

LAURA DURIGA/THE RIP



ERIC/STAFF

OPINION

America's war on drugs is waste of money, resources

BY FRANCIS C. MAYER
Rip staff writer

The menace sits camouflaged against a backdrop of undergrowth and gigantic redwood and fir trees. Armed soldiers and helicopters seek out the near inanimate guerrillas at a cost of \$17 billion a year as part of the war on...that's right, drugs.

The guerrillas being sought out are not arms dealers or even invaders from Red China.

They are marijuana plants. Surely the federal government has something better to do than run around on a costly witch hunt to eradicate the United States of a plant with definite medicinal applications and few negative side effects when compared with the United States' mind-altering substance of choice, alcohol. Plain and simple, if alcohol is legal and marijuana isn't, then good logic does not always prevail in lawmaking. Pot should be legal.

A 1997 report released by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine titled, "Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base" questions the theory that marijuana use leads to the use of harder drugs like heroin and cocaine, and was also skeptical of any addictive properties that marijuana may have.

The report also states that marijuana users "appear less likely to develop dependence than users of other drugs including alcohol and nicotine, and marijuana dependence appears less severe than with other drugs."

According to 1997 FBI arrest statistics, 695,000 Americans were arrested for marijuana-related charges, 87 percent for possession.

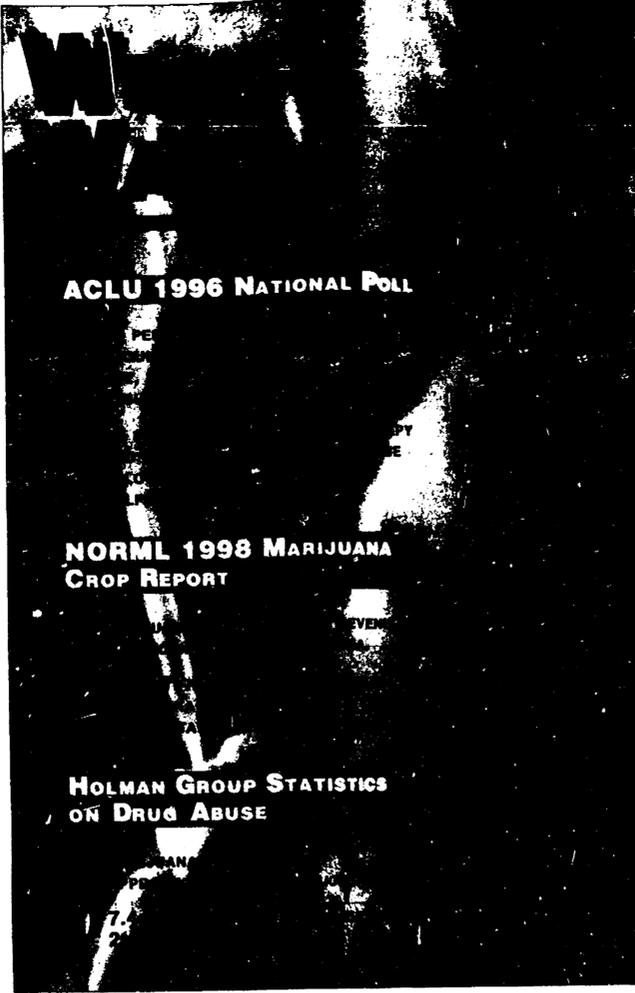
These arrests make up the bulk of the charges filed in the fabled "War on Drugs." According to Rolling Stone magazine, federal, state, and local governments target 13 million American drug users in the United States at a total annual cost of \$50 billion. 10 million of those drug users are marijuana smokers. Why don't we economize and concentrate on the seriously detrimental 3 million users?

The Bakersfield Police Department has different priorities.

"Marijuana is probably not the highest priority, unless it's a major dealer," said Sgt. Cantrell. "The vice narcotics department has a multi-million dollar budget, and they prioritize money for the most dangerous drugs like meth, coke and heroin."

The war in the United States against recreational and medicinal pot use will go down as one of the worst federal wastes of money.

The powers that be should spend the taxpayers' money more efficiently, dealing with the root problems that encourage people to take up vices in the first place.



Marijuana smokers pose serious threat to nation's motorists

BY MICHAEL D. ROSS
Managing Editor

It's easy to understand how some people want the freedom to smoke marijuana without the threat of legal prosecution, but what they don't realize is that their freedom could cost the lives of many others in their car accidents.

While the chemicals in marijuana have been found to be harmful physically and psychologically to people, marijuana also has been found to impair a driver's ability to react to common driving situations.

A 1998 study in Canada revealed that marijuana impairs drivers' abilities to react to emergency situations, monotonous driving and distractions. When a driver under the influence of marijuana is cut off or when an ambulance approaches from behind, the driver often panics and may crash into other cars. Even common distractions like radios, cell phones and conversation could lead to a serious accident.

Marijuana also has been found to increase a smoker's horizons toward other mind-altering substances. Users often consume alcohol while they smoke.

Put these two substances together, add a confident driver in a car and you've got a guaranteed death trap waiting to happen.

The combination of marijuana and alcohol seriously impairs a person's motor coordination, perception and judgment of speed and distance.

Alcohol is the leading cause of accidents in the nation, but while many of these accidents usually involve single cars, nearly all cases of combined alcohol and marijuana accidents involve multiple vehicles.

Marijuana advocates groups often argue for legalization on the basis of using marijuana as a medicinal substance.

In 1994, legalization groups went before the U.S. Court of Appeals to attempt to institute legislation legalizing marijuana use for medical purposes.

The court, however, ruled against them, stating that their evidence was not scientific.

Evidence has, however, shown that alternate medications are more effective in reducing vomiting in cancer chemotherapy patients and that marijuana is not effective in treating glaucoma and pain.

Psychiatrists also have found that marijuana smoking is likely to increase cases of schizophrenia, alcoholism and acute psychiatric syndromes.

Despite the increasingly negative evidence, advocate groups continue to urge Congress to pass legislation to legalize marijuana, but if passed, the potentially deadly aspects of the drug would affect everyone.

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Contract delay reveals disdain for staff

BY DAVID LAWLOR
Editor in Chief

Grab your pencils and erasers kids, here comes analogy number one: slave laborers are to Cuba as the district classified staff is to ...

While beggars and lowly peasants were both good choices, the real answer isn't quite as obnoxiously evident. But don't feel bad. As any SAT proctor will tell you, there's no penalty for guessing.

So, short of shouting out responses a la "Family Feud," let us answer this perplexing question. And, as long as we're boning up on our SAT skills, we'll keep this one in plain, metaphorical vernacular.

Just as 10-year-old girls roll Castro Special cigars for a quarter day, bound by their country's lackadaisical labor laws, the Kern Community College District classified staff has been, as the Rev. Jesse Jackson would say, battling the chains of oppression.

In November, the Board of Trustees gave verbal assurance to

the KCCD classified staff that their contract would soon be revised. But often things move slowly within the KCCD system and surely the classified contract issue should be no different. Proving this point, the district scheduled a meeting last week to try and settle the issue—last week, in the middle of April, six months after their vow to deal with the matter. After all this, the staff reached a tentative agreement with the district that staffers will vote on today.

While simply dragging their feet on the issue doesn't relegate the district to the role of oppressor extraordinaire, the requests of the classified staff which they were reluctant to honor wins KCCD the title.

After instructors fought for and received pay increases this past fall, it seemed logical the same raises would be imminent for an underappreciated classified staff. A six percent cost-of-living increase, a figure in line with the state average, topped their list of demands.

Sounded reasonable enough. So why no meeting until April? The district said it needed to balance its budget first. Janet Skibinski, vice president of the staff's local union, California School Employees Association, disagreed. She said it had to do with a good, old-fashioned hierarchy of power.

Because some members of the classified staff don't possess doctorate degrees and didn't graduate from prestigious schools like Cal State Bakersfield, Skibinski says, the district holds to the idea that classified staff members are less important, less intelligent and less valuable than the teaching and administrative staffs.

And she's right. While students will interact with instructors on an almost daily basis, it is the classified staff that students communicate with regularly. Anyone who eats in the cafeteria, gets help from admissions and records clerks or talks to advisers in the career center for guidance comes in constant contact with classified

staff. Teachers may be able to lecture on the virtues of Plato's logic or tell us all about the behavior patterns of old-world monkeys, but when it comes time to transfer and plan a schedule, students must seek out the classified staff for his help. Come high noon when a big biology test is around the corner, people with titles like vice presidential dean of educational assistance, aren't busy whipping up lemon chicken and rice that give students the nutritional energy needed to ace the exam.

Of course not all instructors and administrators look down upon the classified staff. However, when a request as simple as a moderate cost-of-living increase is enough to bury the issue for six months, one starts to wonder. And when it took the infamous "A Fair Contract Now," t-shirts to even get the district's attention, the truth becomes obvious. As Skibinski herself has said, when it comes to issues like this, the district's policy is to hide its head in the sand and hope it will all go away.

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Send us your letters to the editor. We'll publish them if they're interesting, helpful, or funny. We'll also publish letters that are critical of our work. We'll try to get your letters published as soon as possible. We'll also publish letters that are critical of our work. We'll try to get your letters published as soon as possible.

THE RENEGADE RIP

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STAFF FEEDBACK

SEAN JONES / THE RIP

Are you in favor of the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?

Yumryne Cary, Liberal Arts: "No. A lot of people abuse it and it causes people to make bad judgement calls"

Diana Santana, Human Services: "There are problems now, and it is illegal. It would just get worse. Medically it should be OK."

Mario Duarte, Forestry: "No. It causes children to move on to harder drugs."

Janice Fowler, Art: "It's probably a good thing. It's a lot better than drinking alcohol. People get crazy on alcohol. On pot they mellow out. It helps medically, too."

Marty Moon, Business Administration: "Yes. It has gotten a bad rap as far as drugs go. Nobody has ever died from a marijuana overdose."

Mastering the fine art of pool hopping

I'm steeling myself for another skin blistering summer in Bako. The heat here is enough to relieve the average man of his sanity. But for better or worse, I am not an average man.

I have chosen to view the hellish climate here as a sort of, well, needed penance served by those who are in a humble situation that makes them economically unable to run the air-conditioner 24 hours a day.

Therefore, I am forced to venture outside into the heat, to try and find some relief. This usually comes in the form of utilizing the undersized and shallow pool in the center of my apartment complex. If you've ever lived in an complex that offers a pool, you know it's mostly a token gesture.

Last summer in Bakersfield, I lived in a different apartment complex that offered a decent pool, except these psychotic alcoholics three doors down from me constantly threw rude and unruly parties that made the pool a dirty sea of miscellaneous trash and beer bottle boys. One particular afternoon, I couldn't stand to once again navigate the Bud Light obstacle course just to cool off. The next idea involved the trespass-influenced art of pool hopping.

I got on my bike around eleven in the morning and set out in search of pools that I could jump in and then ride around on my bike behaving like a human swamp cooler. It didn't work out as effectively as I had planned. One reason is the heat here dries you very quickly. And I started to wonder what kind of freak I was, riding my damn bike 10 miles just to hop a fence and try to find some relief. Another reason is having my bicycle with me was not very incognito. But the real karma-like retribution was yet to come.

My roommates had employed me to take along lots of water, and I had mistakenly believed the pools were a lot closer and I would only need 12 ounces of water. This, along with drinking pool water, turned out to be my demise. On my way home, I made a right onto Truxton and became lightheaded, hitting an older Monte Carlo that had the dramatic fenders. The damn thing was parked and when I got my wits about me I was mildly embarrassed.

If these Indiana Jones-like capers do not appeal to you, then there is a safer and more legit tactic to be employed. You can go to Albertson's and chill in the icy confines of the walk-in beer locker. You'll feel like one of those refreshed folks in the Miller Genuine Draft "snow" commercials where a light dusting cools everyone off.

So maybe I need to acquire richer friends with slick pools or hurry up and graduate from school to get a decent paying job. Then I could move out of this town to a place with temperatures that don't evoke feelings of a hellish existence.

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AMM HIGH FORCE

The last two editions of *The Rip* this semester will be May 7 and 14.



FRANCIS C. MAYER
Rip Staff Writer



Videodrone lead singer Ty Elam performs at Centennial Garden during the 'Rock is Dead Tour,' which also featured Korn and Rob Zombie.

STEPHANE A. BELL / THE RIP

Keeping rock alive

Bakersfield band Videodrone hits the big time joining Korn, Rob Zombie on nationwide tour.

BY PAUL MITTS
Rip staff writer

After spending 10 years in the Bakersfield music scene as Cradle of Thorns, Videodrone has reinvented itself and it's paying off.

Videodrone was recently signed to Korn's record label, releasing a self-titled album and opening for Korn and Rob Zombie on the "Rock is Dead Tour," which came to Bakersfield on April 14, selling out every seat at the Centennial Garden.

"The show was intense," said Ty Elam, the lead singer of Videodrone. "I let it all go. I let it all hang out."

This was the first trip home for Elam and the rest of Videodrone since their new name and record deal.

Elam said the feelings at their homecoming were bittersweet.

"The show the other night was an interesting situation," said Elam. "I spent so much time playing in small clubs in Bakersfield. Whenever I talk about going home I'm talking about playing to 50 or 100 people. This was a totally new thing for us. Most of these people didn't know who we were."

But his memories of Bakersfield are not good and fond ones.

"Bakersfield has gotten a bad rap from everybody. People think that it is a horse and carriage town. But you get all of this music without being in the middle of the whole scene."

He said that it is no fluke that a number of successful bands come from Kern County.

"There's not really much to do in Bakersfield. If you pick up an instrument you are probably going to spend a lot of time with it."

Videodrone is the first gothic/heavy metal group from Kern County after Korn to gain national attention. With all of the similarities, such as home town and record label, do the members of Videodrone ever tire of the inevitable comparisons between them and Korn?

"Being on this tour has been rough at times. We're not a metal band, though we do use metal, the same way we use hip-hop, the same way we use funk," Elam said. Videodrone's new sound, look and success can be attributed to their new sense of purpose.

"Cradle of Thorns had all of these different directions we were going in," Elam said. "Videodrone is a collective piece of all of us working together."

'Everyman' explores spirituality in BC's newest production

BY MELISSA DABRUSHMAN
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College's Theater Department has taken on a spiritual twist in its newest play.

"The Summoning of Everyman," a medieval morality play, is scheduled to be performed May 6, 7, 8 and May 13, 14, 15.

"This play stands out from any other play I have done," said Julia Stansbury, who has been acting in plays at BC for more than 12 years. "It's very spiritual. It makes me realize that you're not in the world for yourself, you are here for God."

The character Everyman will be the star of the play. He is played by one actor, but he relates to his name by representing all journeys in life. He will confront death and God

"It has a rich and unusual kind of religious background to it. It's talking about redemption and how to appreciate the importance of confronting death, the importance of your own mortality."

—Gabrielle Brewer-Wallin, director

in a variety of spiritual contexts. "The Summoning of Everyman" is really a Catholic story of a Buddhist fable," said Gabrielle Brewer-

Wallin, the play's director.

"It has a rich and unusual kind of religious background to it. It's talking about redemption and how to appreciate the importance of confronting death, the importance of your own mortality."

"Everyman" will use actors, members of a church choir, television monitors that display video images and advanced gestures to better illustrate the text of the play.

"There's a lot of visual splendor," said Stephanie Reynolds, who is in her second year of acting at BC.

"Everything is spread out... the focus won't be on the actors in center stage. The focus will actually be on the people without lines, that are doing gestures and rituals that represent all walks of life," she said. "Different cultures, different tradi-

tions. The costuming isn't all from one specific time period, either. It's old and new, Eastern and Western cultures."

"Everyman" is quite different because half the cast won't be speaking but will instead provide prayers. The actors and actresses will have their backs to the audience most of the time while they read their lines, giving the play a more dramatic feel.

"This really is a different play because of the director's take on it," Stansbury said.

"She makes it very bizarre. 'Everyman' is now a visualization, rather than just a play you see and hear. It's hard to explain, but it gets all around you."

Kenneth Pearce, an actor who will debut on stage in the play, said Brewer-Wallin's approach is differ-

ent. "Everyman" is combining a lot of different religions together," he said.

Audience members will understand the drama's significance, according to Reynolds.

"The beauty of this play is that everyone will get some type of experience," she said. "I think that, even if you don't get what this play is about, the meaning is there. The meaning of life's experiences, as well as the spirituality and the issues all have an effect."

The director said "Everyman" is using show and tell at the same time. Brewer-Wallin has directed for 11 years, but this is her first play at BC. "I encourage people to see this play. The spiritual journey is the most important theme," she said.

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Track teams head to SoCal prelims Saturday

Thrower Martinez takes lead on and off the field

BY BRIANNA CHAMBERS
Rip staff writer

Track and field athlete Anthony Martinez had to wait a year before he could begin his throwing career at Bakersfield College, but it has been well worth the wait.

Martinez, a graduate of Tehachapi High School, throws the shot put, discus and hammer for the men's track and field team.

Even though this is only Anthony's third year competing in these events, he has already established himself as one of the better throwers in the state.

"We are very excited about what he is doing this year. He has done everything we could have imagined."

— Bob Covey, men's track coach

Martinez said that despite his nerves going into the Western State Conference meet held at Bakersfield College on April 23, he felt confident after his first throw.

These nerves did not seem to hold him back as he placed third in the hammer and seventh in the shot. These marks qualified him for the

Southern California preliminaries on May 1 at Mount San Antonio Community College.

Martinez says his goal for Southern Cals is to have fun.

"Right now it is do or die time. I'm just going to go out and show the other throwers what I can do," he said.

Martinez is not only known for his athletic ability but his academics as well. He has maintained a 3.0 GPA and is majoring in athletic training.

His career goal is to help people become stronger and healthier. Martinez still has one year of eligibility remaining at BC. He plans to come back for another year, work on improving and

looking to the future, but is focused on the present.

"My goal is to make it to the state meet," he said. What Martinez has learned from competing in sports has helped him to stay focused on his goals.

"Participating in sports has taught me self-discipline, to be a better person and above all, to have fun," he said. He said he knows these lessons will be vital in giving him the edge to make it to the state meet and in life.

Covey said he is a testament to Martinez's hard work.

"He is very strong physically, a hard worker and is great to work with. He has all the qualities of a team leader," Covey added.



Derek Swafford leaps over the long jump pit at recent Western State Conference meet held at Memorial Stadium.

Men place first in conference for sixth straight year

BY JOSE TORINO
Sports Editor

Hard work is paying off for the Bakersfield College track and field teams. The men's team recently won the Western State Conference title for the sixth straight year with 218.5 points.

The women's team placed second in the conference. They won the April 23 conference finals with 190.5 points, but did not win the conference title because Moorpark scored 190 points, and had an undefeated dual meet record.

"I'm very satisfied with last Friday's track meet. Their attitudes were good and I was very pleased with the way they competed," said men's head coach Bob Covey. "Our next goal is to qualify as many athletes as we can at SoCal."

The BC women throwers dominated the throwing events. In the shot put competition, the Renegades took the top five places with Amanda Harvey, Mandy Clark, Marnee Perry, Aubrey Stinson and Aubri Preslar.

In the discus, Perry placed first and Harvey placed third.

The women distance runners also excelled. Tracy Bowling placed first in the 1,500 meters. In the 800 meters, Bowling placed second and Anna Rios placed third. Bowling also placed first in the 5,000 meters.

"We've been working hard all year," said Bowling. "We're hoping to do well at So Cal."

During the men's competition, Mike Rexroth finished first in the discus and second in the hammer, with a throw of 159-10. Rippee won the shot put event with 48-11.

"You got to keep working," said women's coach Pam Kelley. "We want to qualify as many athletes as we can."

The teams will compete Saturday at the So Cal prelims at Mount San Antonio College, which has won the state meet during the past two years. The So Cal finals also will be held in Mt. Sac. BC is expected to finish in the top five in the state.

Gades' hopes dim for conference playoffs

BY ALEC ORRELL
Rip staff writer

Pitcher Todd Henry watched from the bench, arms crossed, as the ball cracked off the bat and hissed to the back fence.

"We've got a lot of talent out here and we've got a lot of good players," he said. "We thought we'd be at the top right now."

Henry is not alone. Catcher Octavio Martinez said he thought so, too.

"At the beginning of the season, it almost seemed as if a playoff berth was already there," he said. "And now, the way it's turning out, I'm not even sure we're going to get that."

The preseason confidence of the Renegades baseball team has dropped after a disappointing 19-19 record this season so far. The team stands at 7-11 in the Western State Conference.

The grim truth is that the Renegades must win a lot of games in the next two weeks to salvage this season and possibly get into the playoffs.



Eric Walker attempts to tag out a runner on third base.

"We haven't lived up to our expectations as a ball club," said coach Tim Painton. "But we'll let the whole thing play out, and in two weeks we'll have a better idea of what we accomplished and where we fall short."

A lack of consistency when at bat and when defending the field seems to haunt the Renegades, according to Martinez. The two don't seem to go together.

"If it's not one thing it's another," he said. "We started off the season doing everything right in all three aspects: offense, defense, and pitching. Then our offense started lagging a little bit. Once we got that straightened out, our defense started falling apart."

Looking at the season so far,

BY KRISTEN HUNTER
Rip staff writer

The Renegade men's tennis team finished this season sixth in their conference with an overall record of 2-12 under first-year coach Scott Lockwood.

"The guys competed hard, but they did improve and I am looking forward to a lot of growth," said Lockwood.

The team's last conference match was April 22 at the 58th annual Ojai Tournament.

According to Lockwood, this is the largest and oldest tournament, with 60 community colleges participating this year.

The 'Gades took two singles plays and two doubles teams to the event, but all lost their matches. Jeremy Neuman, a singles player, had a close match but lost to Nelson Hirata, 6-4, 6-4.

Neuman, who has now played two seasons for the 'Gades, held the No. 1 spot on the team for about half the season. According to Lockwood, Neuman deserves recognition for his performance, conduct and efforts.

"He's a solid player and person.

He competes day in and day out," said Lockwood.

Neuman plans to transfer to UC San Diego in the fall and major in biology. He plans to try out for the tennis team there.

According to Lockwood, Neuman met the tennis coach at the Ojai Tournament and will train all summer. The San Diego tennis team is a top-five team.

"I think he will do well," said Lockwood.

But he also added that playing for such a tough team "will not be easy for him."

The men's team has finished its play for the 1999 season but will have a scrimmage match against Santa Monica College May 6 at BC. This year's squad included Kris Kepler, Vu Le, Neuman, Long Pham, Derek Vandeweg and Chris Wong. According to Lockwood, the 'Gades are getting ready for next season as their No. 2 and No. 3 players will be back to help the team.

Anyone interested in being on the men's tennis team for next season should call head coach Scott Lockwood at 395-4663.

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EOPS seeks student peer mentors

The EOPS Program is accepting applications for peer mentors for the 1999-2000 academic year. During this one-year commitment, peer mentors assist EOPS students with matters related to college retention and success.

Those interested must be full-time students with a 2.0 grade point average, have completed at least 24 units by the end of the spring 1999 semester, have completed Student Development 1 or another BC counseling class, have good writing and speaking skills, and be able to relate well to students from low-income and diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Salary is \$5.75 per hour with the work week being 10 to 15 hours scheduled around classes. Applications are available at the EOPS Office in Campus Center 3, across from the cafeteria. Deadline to apply is May 7, with interviews scheduled the following week.

Students can meet with CSUB official

The contact person for the Liberal Studies Program at California State University, Bakersfield is available every Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m. through May 20 in the Student Services Building, room 191. For an appointment with Maricela Ramirez, director for teacher recruitment and retention, call 395-4532.

Intercollegiate concert set for Sunday

The 4th Annual Intercollegiate Symphony Spring Concert, featuring the Bakersfield College Chamber Orchestra and the Desert Community Orchestra of Cerro Coso College, will be held Sunday at 4 p.m. in the Indoor Theater. Admission is \$5 general, \$3 students and seniors, with children 12 years and younger admitted free. The 90-member orchestra will be directed by Robert Martinez.



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7. Each psalm has to include the word "jiggy."
6. The Lord is asked to perform the greatest miracle — get the Knicks in the playoffs.
5. At the end of Jonah and the whale story, Roy Scheider blows up the whale using a pressurized oxygen tank.
4. All new Book of Genesis explains why they've sucked since Peter Gabriel left.
3. The Book of Judges is expanded to include Koch and Judy.
2. Epic new film: "The Ten Commandments Broken By Darryl Strawberry."
1. Scratch 'n' sniff plagues of Egypt.

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Breaking the Waves



DAVID LAWLOR / THE RIP
A surfer takes a break from the ocean during one recent morning near the Santa Monica Pier.

RUIZ: ASBC to collect donations for her son

Continued from Page 1

and friends need to stay active in the baby's life and help provide for the child.

"We all want the best for our kids," he said. "That's why she did what she did. She carried that baby through school. She kept going to class. She could have said, 'Oh, forget it. I can just go on welfare and sit down and watch TV at home.' She didn't choose to do that because she didn't want that for her baby."

According to Nick Ruiz, to help continue his sister's efforts, car washes were held last weekend to raise funds for a trust fund for the baby's college education. Jack In The Box donated approximately \$58 and Carroll's Tire Warehouse, where one of the car washes was held, donated another \$100.

The Associated Students of Bakersfield College will place buckets around campus to collect additional donations for the baby.

Community members also helped ease the funeral costs for Ruiz's family. Hillcrest Cemetery donated a casket and the Height Street Baptist Church donated its services and a meal for the family after the funeral.

"We cry today," said BC student Yvonne Palacios during the service. "But in heaven, she is smiling upon us."

"She kept going to class. She could have said, 'Oh, forget it. I can just go on welfare and sit down and watch TV at home.' She didn't choose to do that because she didn't want that for her baby."

—John Valdez, family friend

BY SEAN JONES
Rip staff photographer

Student suffers minor injuries in hit-and-run

A 22-year-old student received minor cuts and bruises after a Campus Center golf cart that she was riding in was rear-ended by a Toyota 4-Runner.

First aid was administered by the Health Center nurse.

According to reports, the cart was pulling away from a stop sign in the



northeast student parking lot, when the cart was rear-ended by a gray, newer model Toyota 4-Runner. The Toyota then left the scene.

The driver of the vehicle is described as a white, female in her early twenties with short, brownish, blonde hair.

Anyone with information about

the accident should contact Campus Police at 395-4554.

Pickup stolen from southeast parking lot

A 19-year-old student reported to campus police that her 1988 Toyota pickup had been stolen from the southeast student parking lot.

Police reports say the young woman parked her truck and locked it at 4:30 p.m. on April 3. When she returned at 9:30 p.m. her truck was gone.

Student's car crashes into light pole at Weill

A Weill Institute student received minor injuries when he crashed his car into a light pole located in the center's southeast parking lot. He was taken to Mercy Southwest Hospital by his wife.

A campus police officer heard the crash around 8:45 p.m. on April 20. The officer noticed the student had done major damage to the front end of his car. The pole received only minor damage.

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