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'Black Hawk Down' depicts war and its losses realistically.

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John Walker Lindh should be tried with his comrades and not in a civilian court.

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Women's basketball winds down while other spring sports begin.

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BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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TODD E. SWENSON / THE RIP

Stanford freshman Tyler Dumm, 18, passes the 2002 Olympic torch to BC professor Dr. Chuck Wall during the relay.

Bookstore offers new discount

Despite 5 percent off, some students still buy their books online.

BY RUDY LLAMAS
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College Bookstore is offering a 5-percent discount on all textbooks to students with a valid 'Gades card sticker.

The bookstore had a similar deal last year when it offered a 20 percent discount on merchandise except for textbooks.

But officials came to realize that textbooks are the priority spending for students on campus.

According to Omid Sharbati, vice president of finance of the Associated Students of Bakersfield College, ASBC suggested that the bookstore give the discount.

The 5 percent will come out of store profits, which funds many campus activities, according to Robert Day, store director.

It is still too early to tell whether the bookstore's profits on textbooks have gone up, but Day said that the discount will not affect the bookstore's sales in a negative way.

BC sophomore Karen Holland believes the discount will help with purchasing books.

"It's good to spend \$10 to get a 5-percent discount on textbooks."

However, sophomore Gilbert Ruiz disagrees.

He said he didn't even buy a 'Gades cards sticker to receive a student discount.

"Five percent out of \$100 isn't a big difference," said Ruiz. "It wouldn't make sense to spend \$10 to get \$5 off a textbook."

Prices, however, have gone up on many textbooks, which has nothing to do with the discount, Day said.

Publishers raise prices on the textbooks every year, so the retail value of the books goes up.

That's why many students search for lower-priced used textbooks every semester.

Freshman Nick Diaz prefers to buy his books online.

"It is cheaper and you don't have to go through the hassle of waiting in line for a book that might be sold out," said Diaz.

Day said that the bookstore would love to compete with other outlets, such as online book sellers.

But the fact that BC has to charge sales tax on textbooks puts the bookstore at a 7.25 percent disadvantage.

"We'd love to be competitive," Day said. "But to be at a 7.25 percent disadvantage before we even play is not fair to me."

Day said the students who buy books from the bookstore can get a guaranteed refund if a class gets canceled or a book has defects.

"Five percent out of \$100 isn't a big difference. It wouldn't make sense to spend \$10 to get \$5 off a textbook."

— Gilbert Ruiz
BC student



TODD E. SWENSON / THE RIP

Fans cheer on Wall and Diane Ochoa as they run with the Torch earlier in January. The Winter Games begin today in Salt Lake City.

Go for the GOLD

BC professor finds Olympic Torch run in Oxnard an 'awesome experience.'

BY RACHEL CRIBBS
Editor in Chief

OXNARD — Dr. Chuck Wall was afraid he would make a fool out of himself. Chosen to carry the Olympic torch in the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay, he feared that due to his blindness, he may trip and fall.

"The fact that I am blind will cause some added difficulties for me which I am a little nervous about because I would like to jog, I don't want to just walk," the 61-year-old professor said before the relay began on Jan. 16. "I am concerned that I don't make a fool of myself and fall on my face or drop the torch, or embarrass Bakersfield College. So I am doing my best to keep in mind that I will have to be focused on what I am doing or I will cause a disaster."

Wall's concerns were unfounded. When it came time for the BC business professor to carry the torch, he jogged, carrying the torch his stretch of pavement with the help of Diane Ochoa of Bakersfield, who served as Wall's support runner.

"I consider (blindness) as more of a nuisance," he said. "It hasn't stopped me from doing anything. If you're going to succeed, you can't let things like that get in your way. I do what I want in spite of it."

The torch is one of the most recognized symbols of the Olympic games. The flame signifies the

"endeavor for perfection and the struggle for victory," as well as "peace among peoples," according to the Olympic Web site.

"I am pretty excited," Wall said before he carried the torch. "This is a really neat experience. I am nervous, I have given speeches all over the world, I've been on 350 television shows and if I weren't nervous, I would say there is something really wrong with me."

Before the run, Wall and all other runners were shuttled to their respective locations on the route.

"It was so inspiring to meet the other runners," he said.

The Olympic torch traditionally has been lit in Olympia, Greece, and transported by runners around the world to the Olympics. It will arrive in Salt Lake City, Utah, today.

The torch tradition began in 1936 as a copy of the ancient torch ritual in Greece more than 3,000 years ago.

Wall was nominated to carry the torch by his close friend Darlene Stewart for his work on the Random Acts of Kindness movement.

Stewart went with Wall to the run. "I heard advertisements to nominate someone who has inspired you and someone who has overcome difficulties, and the Lord just put him in my mind and I just went the rest of the way with it," she said. "(He has inspired me) by all of his good deeds, by the things he has done."

Wall said the ability to carry the torch is another example of the importance of kindness.

"I don't think the Random Act of Kindness movement is over. I think carrying the torch is an indication of its importance to us as a human being on this planet," he said. "We need to spend far more time thinking about the four elements that make up kindness: respect, dignity, compassion and humility. This Olympic torch will bring that concept up once more. Hopefully, it will stay as a prominent feature in our lives."

When Stewart nominated Wall, she did not tell him. He received a letter informing him he would not be selected to carry the torch. He was surprised he was even nominated.

"I said, 'My gosh, I don't have to be selected, just being nominated is enough.'"

Wall, who has taught at BC for 17 years, said he was proud to represent BC.

"I don't know that anybody from BC has ever carried the Olympic torch, so I think there is a certain amount of pride that the institution is involved," he said.

All runners were given the opportunity to purchase the torch they carried in the relay. Wall bought his torch for \$335 and he said it is something that he will "cherish for a long time."

Each torch is 32 inches high and about three and a half pounds. It is made of aluminum rods, a hardwood handle and gold-plated brass bands.

"It's a beautiful torch," he said. "This is an experience not many people have. At the moment I am carrying that torch, no one else in the world can touch it. This is a pretty awesome experience."

New pool almost finished, work on Student Services building delayed

BY ELIZABETH GREGORY
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College has been undergoing major renovations on campus, according to Bill Rush, interim director of maintenance at BC.

"We will be upgrading the campus not only for safety," Rush said. "But in the last 40 to 50 years, there has been a tremendous amount of change in technology."

One of the buildings that is under construction is the Student Services building, which is receiving state funds for a retrofit for earthquakes.

"Since the Student Services building is three stories, it becomes critical for an upgrade," he said. "The building here has been built in the mid-1950s. The Los Angeles area for many years has had many

high-rise buildings where they've gone back in and did major retrofitting for earthquakes. They put them on shock absorbers, which is continuously done on older buildings. It is a very intense project."

Although construction has been delayed due to working around schedules, the Student Services building is expected to be finished in March.

Another project that is near completion is the outdoor swimming pool, which cost nearly \$3 million in state funds and private contributions.

"(BC) will be the second college on the West Coast to have a state-of-the-art pool," Rush said.

The outdoor pool was originally 25 meters long but has now been expanded to 50 meters.

"We're just about there after four years, and we're excited about that," said Jan Stuebbe, BC athletics director. "Fifty years ago, we used to have state

championships held here and used to have real strong programs. But we hope three to four years from now to have that back in place."

Students can sign up for swim lessons with Tina Cumming, the new aquatics director. The pool will be open later this spring.

"This (outdoor pool) is going to be real positive for the east side of Bakersfield, especially since there is a serious lack of pools in Bakersfield," he said. "So we're excited with what we can do for the community, let alone what we can do for the students. It's just a win-win situation."

Other projects that have been completed at BC are the student bookstore and camera surveillance systems.

BC also is planning to upgrade the high voltage system this summer in phases.



Max Maxcimelino, left, and Flipe Aldemas work on the Student Services building side wall.

BENIGNO PENA / THE RIP

Prisoner's heart transplant, taxpaying public do not mix

If there was ever a time in my life that the government has left me absolutely clueless on its rhyme or reason, this would have to be it.

A man, who is in prison serving a 14-year sentence for robbery, was given a heart transplant on Jan. 3 in San Francisco.

Now I've heard some stupid things that the government has done in the past: Imprisoning Japanese-Americans during World War II or selling prisoners' blood for sale on the open market, but this takes the cake.

Why couldn't the corrections officials have gotten some common sense and deny the man the right to have the transplant?

A 1976 U.S. Supreme Court ruling declared withholding necessary medical care to inmates a "cruel and unusual punishment."

The 31-year-old could not be denied. In 1995, a federal court in another case ordered prison officials to give a kidney transplant to an inmate whose request had been denied.

According to state prison officials, including Russ Heimerich of the California Department of Corrections, as quoted by The Associated Press, as the prison population ages, more transplants and other taxpayer-financed treatments are likely to increase.

The transplant for this one man will cost California taxpayers close to \$1 million with follow-up care and therapy.

Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez pointed out the most obvious argument against this.

"You have to wonder if a law-abiding, taxpaying citizen drew one last breath while Jailhouse Joe was getting a second wind," he wrote.

No one is saying that this prisoner is any less important than the rest of us, but c'mon.

Here's a guy who committed a crime and was sentenced to jail. He's in jail. And in jail your rights are confiscated.

So what if the man isn't eligible for parole until 2008. He was back in jail after being released eight months prior on a burglary conviction.

Even if taxpayers agree that he deserves the transplant, the court should have at least ordered the family to pay the expense.

I don't want to be cold-hearted (no pun intended) but give the guy a heart, fine, but don't put him at the top of the list and make his family pay for the transplant.

Simply put, this man had no regard for the public when he committed his crime. And for that the public should have no regard for him, his health or his welfare.



SIMPLY PUT
Daniel F. Hunt
Managing Editor

Lindh is no longer an American

American Taliban fighter should not be tried in federal court, but with his comrades.

BY JESSICA C. MILLMAN
Features Editor

John Walker Lindh turned his back on his country. He deserves no special treatment.

The United States is in the unique position of trying to bring the Taliban and its members to justice, while trying to refute criticism for the military's alleged mistreatment of these prisoners.

According to The Associated Press, Lindh learned in June about the suicide operation carried out on Sept. 11.

For that reason, Lindh should not receive special treatment.

He should be dealt with the same as the rest of the Taliban members will be dealt. It was his choice to join a group that opposes everything the United States represents.

While being questioned in Afghanistan, the American Taliban soldier reportedly asked for a lawyer, but was refused.

He is now in Virginia, after being held on a warship, and has been charged with conspiring to kill American citizens.

He will have his own trial in a U.S. federal court, while other Taliban members could face trial by secret military tribunals.

Also according to AP, Lindh left Marin County in northern California, after converting to Islam when he was 16. He attended the Yemen Language Center in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, in 1998, where he studied Arabic.

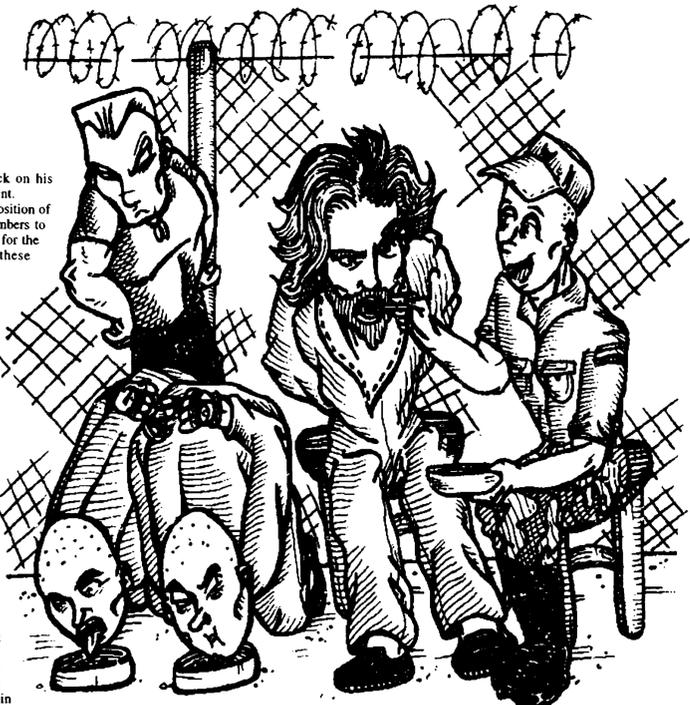
While there, he complained about having to study with women and accused other Muslims of not praying enough.

He left the school after a semester and returned to the states for eight months in 1999.

He then traveled back to the Middle East, where he joined the Taliban.

Once a part of the radical group, he met with Osama bin Laden, he said.

Lindh was captured during the siege of Kunduz in November and survived the prison uprising near Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan.



GERARDO DELGADILLO / THE RIP

He will not be sent to Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba, where other Taliban detainees and suspected al-Qaeda members are being held. Instead, because he is a U.S. citizen, he gets a trial in court.

Lindh gave up his right to his citizenship when he joined the Taliban.

He rejected this country, joined a fundamentalist group that oppresses the rights of women and is committed to jihad, or fighting a holy war.

He was in the prison uprising, a fight between the cornered Taliban and the Northern Alliance, along with

U.S. military forces.

In the eyes of the Taliban, the U.S. is the enemy and must be destroyed.

The events of Sept. 11 are terrible proof of the Taliban and al-Qaeda's mission.

Instead of having his own trial in American courts, Lindh should be sent to Guantanamo Bay. He should be judged as the other Taliban prisoners will be judged in military tribunals.

If he's part of the Taliban, he should be tried as part of the Taliban.

Denying same-sex marriage only prevents equality

BY AMBER GARCIA
Rip staff writer

Jan. 1, it allows many legal benefits for registered partners.

True, this is a step in the direction for equality among gay couples.

But they are still being denied equal legal protection, including benefits in taxes and insurance.

Not accepting homosexual marriages means you don't accept gay people as human beings either. Denying gay marriage restricts the freedom of choosing who you can love or how you love them.

Assemblyman Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood, introduced AB 1338, which would establish civil unions in California, but dropped it in mid-January because he felt the Central Valley was unlikely to support the measure.

Republican state Sen. Pete Knight, who represents Kern County, is the author of Proposition 22 and believes AB 1338 is a threat to the institution of marriage,

possibly opening the floodgates for unconventional marriages between several people, underage couples, or closely related couples.

If Knight is so worried about gay marriages destroying such a "beautiful" tradition, he should pretend to ignore all of the heterosexual couples who have already tarnished the silver lining on the marriage cloud.

Karen Holgate, the director for the Capitol Resource Institute, was quoted in a Focus on the Family news release as saying AB 1338 "offers no authentic religious exemptions and every church, synagogue and religious organization will be forced to offer homosexual couples all of the same benefits that they currently extend to married couples."

The underlying theme, ladies and gentlemen, is that we are all created equal, but gay couples will never be equally accepted.

Two years ago, Proposition 22, which defines marriage as a union specifically between a heterosexual couple, was passed in California by 61 percent.

The reasoning?

Many in favor of Proposition 22 will tell you it's because God intended marriage to be between a man and a woman.

Their proof is their faith, an indication that you can "live and let live" as long as no one else minds.

Last year, Gov. Gray Davis signed one of the most debated bills in the legislature, AB 25. In effect since

Jan. 1, it allows many legal benefits for registered partners.

True, this is a step in the direction for equality among gay couples.

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'GADE FEEDBACK
JOHN VODOPIJA / THE RIP

What should you not get your Valentine this year?

Crystal Griffin, Psychology:
 "I would not buy them diet pills."

Joe McGee, Communications:
 "Coffee maker."

Lovedeep Sidu, Liberal Arts:
 "I probably wouldn't buy him anything expensive."

Bryan Snyder, Kinesiology:
 "Sexy lingerie for myself."

Maria Llamas, Business Accounting:
 "Flowers. It's no good for a girl to give a guy flowers."

'GADE NEWSLINE

Deadline for scholarships is Monday

BC scholarship applications must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by Monday. Returning students and transferring students are eligible to apply. Dependents of BC employees also are encouraged. Applications are available from the Financial Aid Office.

Harlem Globetrotter to visit BC

Roy "Zazu" Byrd will conduct a youth clinic on ball-handling skills and outside shooting this Saturday in the Bakersfield College gym from noon to 1 p.m. Members of the Renegade women's and men's basketball teams will help facilitate the clinic. This is open to kids from third to seventh grades, with refreshments included.

Hispanic fund will match donations

The Washington D.C.-based Hispanic Scholarship Fund will contribute a two-to-one match of all funds raised by the Bakersfield College Chicano Cultural Center by March 31, according to a BC press release. Donors should contact the Chicano Cultural Center at 395-4478. Contributions will have a cap of \$50,000 for the two-to-one matching. Anything over that will be matched without doubling.

—Compiled by staff writer Rudy Llamas



Josh Hartnett (right) and Orlando Bloom (center) in "Black Hawk Down."

PHOTO COURTESY OF REVOLUTION STUDIOS



MOVIE MINUTE

An open and shut operation to capture lieutenants of a warlord in a city of a Third World country turns into a fight for survival.

While this sounds like something made up at a whim of a studio director, "Black Hawk Down" follows what took place October 1993 in Mogadishu, Somalia, taking the lives of 19 American soldiers.

The plot mostly consists of all that could go wrong (helicopter crashes, death and capture) going wrong. It is through the heat of battle that American armed forces come together to save their fellow countrymen, living up to the military philosophy and movie tagline: Leave no man behind.

Following the boot prints of other such war movies, such as "Saving

Private Ryan," an ensemble cast covers more than one vantage point of the battle. As in recent war movies, kill or be killed is not the only point of war, with soldiers' woes and responsibilities being emphasized. Important topics like U.S. involvement in Somalia and the rigors of active service come up as soldiers question themselves and superior officers.

The key difference is action that actually pauses periodically to show soldiers' personal emotion.

"Black Hawk Down" is solid for what it is: a graphic drama on what soldiers go through and lessons learned. Still, not very much innovation was added to this film.

—By staff writer Lorenzo Miranda

CRIME BEAT

Students keep Health Center busy

False labor and a hand laceration kept the Student Health Center busy last week.

Campus police reported that on Jan. 30, a male student in the Media Services Department, was walking through the glass doors in the Fine Arts building, near room 10, when he missed the pushbar and went through the glass, shattering it. He was treated for three lacerations on his right hand by BC staff and told to return the next day.

In another report, a pregnant student sought help from campus police to retrieve her keys after she locked them inside her vehicle. The student, seven months pregnant, was in a hurry to leave because of labor pains.

She was taken to the Student Health Center where the nurse advised officers that the student was "OK."

Woman's missing car found burned

On Feb. 5, a female student reported that her car was stolen. She parked her 1997 Ford F-150, on the northeast parking lot around 5:50 p.m. She returned at 8 p.m. to find it missing, said police reports.

Later that day, Bakersfield Police Department notified her that her vehicle had been found burned on Panama Lane in Bakersfield.

—Compiled by staff writer Tami Olivares

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CLUB CORNER: AG CLUB

The Agriculture Club is a way to get involved and to meet a lot of different people, according to Carlos Diaz, a club member.

The club meets twice a month and is open to all students said Gay Gardella, adviser.

"It's a way for students to meet students of other disciplines." Students attend two events put on by the Agriculture and Natural Resource Organization of Student Leaders, a statewide community college organization.

A College Bowl is one, where members compete against other community colleges in "Jeopardy" style quizzes and speaking contests, participate in discussion groups and attend an awards banquet.

The other event is a leadership conference, which was held at Lake Tahoe last fall.

At the conference students hear special speakers on agriculture in the state, and meet ambassadors from several states.

"It's a blast," said Justin Price, the club's president. "It helps you

further yourself as a person." The Ag Club also is involved in the community, working with the Kern County Farm Bureau, and sponsoring Future Farmers of America contests for high school students.

Club members volunteer as guides at the Kern County Fair for elementary school kids and senior citizens. At the fair last year the club won second place for a display promoting college and agriculture.

The club is a great way to learn leadership skills, according to Price.

"The skills they're gonna learn aren't skills you learn in a classroom," said Price.

In March the club is inviting high school juniors and seniors to "Field Day" at Bakersfield College for a barbecue and tour of the campus, said Price.

The club consists of about 30 members. Most are ag majors, from ag economics to animal sciences, but it's open to all. No meeting has been set for this semester yet.

—By staff writer Reagan Ives

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Playoff hopes ride on final games

BY LEANNE CAVE
Rip staff writer

Four games left. For the Bakersfield College men's basketball team, the season is winding down and the results are crucial for the Renegades if they hope to receive a berth in the playoffs. This is especially true since the 'Gades played their last regular season home game against Santa Monica and will finish up with the last four games on the road.

BC is in third place in the Western State Conference Southern Division behind Santa Monica and first place Los Angeles Valley.

Head coach Jeff Hughes said that the positive factor for BC is that the remaining road games are against teams the 'Gades could beat.

"We will be playing four games on the road against teams with losing records and we are playing well at this point of the season," he said.

The 'Gades improved their overall record to 14-12 (5-2 in WSC) on Feb. 2, when they traveled to Culver City and knocked off West Los Angeles 53-47, to earn their first road victory of the season.

Consistent outside shooting played a major role in the game as Garrett Brown nailed five 3-point goals to lead the 'Gades in a key conference win.

On Jan. 30, the 'Gades put together a solid second half team performance as they beat Glendale College 68-49.

The victory was especially sweet for BC since the 'Gades were without Jon Fulmer and Quincy Williams, who were suspended for the game due to an altercation in the Citrus game the previous Saturday.

Johnny Wiley, who scored six points for BC said, "It was an important game for us to win."

BC took control of the game toward the end of the first half when Bryson Gholston stepped up with some solid all-around play.

The 'Gades take their show on the road beginning Feb. 13 at College of the Canyons. Gametime is 7:30 p.m.



TODD E. SWENSON / THE RIP

Spring sports gear up as winter winds down

BY DEMETHRASIS BLACKMON
Sports Editor

The crack of the bat, the leap over hurdles and the swing of the racket: These are all signs that the second half of the sports season has begun at Bakersfield College.

BC has eight teams that compete in the Western State Conference during the second half of the school year, with men and women's basketball resuming from the fall calendar.

The women's basketball team got off to a slow start, but head coach Paula Dahl was all smiles during its Jan. 30 win against Glendale. The team reached the 100-point mark for the first time in two years.

"We were running the floor really well. We were playing with a lot of confidence. I'm very pleased," Dahl said after the game.

A cold snap in the weather department at the end of January has not cooled the spirits of the BC baseball and softball teams. BC opened its season by hosting the Klassen corporation tournament from Feb. 1 through 3 at Gerry Collis Field. The Renegades finished the tournament strong by beating Taft.

The 'Gades return two starting pitchers from last year's squad, which finished the season 20-23, as well as the team's Most Valuable Player, outfielder Sean Alexander.

Sophomores Sean Sorrow, an honorable mention all-division selection from last season, and Ryan Mask are

two of the most experienced pitchers on the team, which consists of 17 freshmen.

The 'Gades will host the BC Light Brigade tournament at Gerry Collis Field Feb. 22 to 24 before beginning their league season against Glendale on Feb. 28 at Glendale. The two teams will play again on March 2 at Gerry Collis Field.

The BC women's softball team brings solid coaching and talent into the 2002 season after finishing last year 24-17-1 (14-7, WSC).

Sandi Taylor, the 1997 WSC coach of the year, begins her 12th season as BC head coach. The 'Gades will play at home in a three-team tournament on Saturday against El Camino and College of the Sequoias.

After another home game on Tuesday against Rio Hondo, they will play in the BC Classic on Feb. 22 to 24 at North Rosedale Park.

The BC men's tennis team will try to build on its success from last year when it ended the season ranked 15th in the state.

Head coach Rob Slaybaugh will have 14 players representing 10 different local high schools competing on the team this season. Slaybaugh is in his 14th year as head coach.

Keith Hinds is beginning his first year as head coach for the women's tennis team.

He coached West High School's varsity boys' team in 1998. He also was a tennis professional in Ventura, Calif., and Ann Arbor, Mich., before arriving in Bakersfield.

Playing on the women's squad are Shanna Kwock, Brenda O' Doherty, Crystal Hageman and Sarah Fear. They will host Glendale College on Tuesday, Citrus College on Feb. 14 and Santa Monica on Feb. 19.

There are positions available for additional players who have had high school varsity tennis experience, Hinds said.

Stability and youth are the adjectives to best describe the BC women's track and field teams.

Head coach Pam Kelley, who is also the women's cross country coach, returns for her 20th season.

The 'Gades have only two sophomores on the team for the 2002 season, but they gain experience with athletes coming from the cross country team.

Kelley says the team will be strong in the running events this season. In the pole vault, Anna Bliss from Stockdale High School and Renae Rollo from Taft have both cleared 9 feet, 6 inches. Megan Clutters will be strong in the throws, Kelley said.

The men's track and field team has won the WSC conference title 10 out of the last 11 years.

Bob Covey returns for his 39th season as head coach and will have some experienced athletes.

Upcoming events include four WSC meets. The meets are scheduled for Feb. 14 at BC; Feb. 23 at Cerritos; March 1 at BC; and March 8 at BC.



JOHN VODOPIJA / THE RIP

Left: Kristen Black, 21, shoots a jump shot over Glendale's Kelly Patterson. Above: Jaime Perry, 14, drives toward the hoop guarded by Glendale's Arielle Thomas.

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The library will be closed on Friday, Feb. 15 and Monday, Feb. 18 for the Presidents' holidays.

'Mothman' Meanders
Movie's length and plot detracts from sci-fi story.

Features, Page 3

Skategate
Awarding two gold medals in figure skating pairs cheapens the games.

Opinion, Page 2



Mini-Meet
Both men and women win first track meet of the season.

Sports, Page 6



BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

THE RENEGADE RIP

Vol. 73 No. 2

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BC hopes growth will pay off soon

BY RACHEL CRIBBS
Editor in Chief

Bakersfield College enrollment increased 12 percent during the fall semester, according to Sue Vaughn, director of enrollment services.

But the college will have to wait until next fall before finding out if it will be paid by the state for its growth.

While BC grew 12 percent, 6 percent of that was over its intended target.

Vaughn said that by exceeding that number, BC is entitled to more money next year because going over the target number shows the state BC has grown.

"We have added more sections and the demand for enrollment from students is higher than before," she said. "The faculty has been generous and allowed more students to add."

However, Steve Eso, faculty union president, said this is a double-edged sword.

"We try not to turn anyone away, but we are teaching more students not knowing if we are going to be paid for them," he said. "We can only hope we'll get a higher target next year."

The state of California pays a certain amount of money per full-time student, also known as full-time equivalent student (FTES), enrolled at BC, which is about \$4,900 per student, according to Vaughn.

Based on the target number, BC is

entitled to "over \$44 million," she said. But Eso said that sometimes schools are not even given the money owed under the target number.

"The state does not turn out enough money and most of the money is not given at all," he said. "So we are double dipping. We aren't given all the money owed to us (under the target) and we don't get all the growth money."

If a school fails to reach its target, Vaughn said that the money planned for it is reassigned to schools who did meet their percentage by the state of California.

"The state gives each school a target growth rate and if a school doesn't meet it, we get reimbursed that money," she said. "Our statement to the state is due July 15. That is when we ask for reimbursement for our growth."

However, that money does not go to the current spring semester.

It is planned by the state for the 2002 fall semester.

Eso said that California is one of the few states that caps enrollment and gives their schools target growth money.

California also does not pay schools for their growth until the semester after growth is proven.

"We are educating students for nothing," he said. "We never know when we hit the target until after we are fully enrolled for that semester. But we try not to turn anyone away."



Johnny Coronado helps his son, Johnny Jr., 9, prepare for his dance. Johnny Jr. is dressed in the regalia of a northern traditional dancer.

TRIBAL TRADITIONS

Native Americans celebrate culture through dance.

BY RUDY LLAMAS
Rip staff writer

Evelyn Ornelas danced in a diamond dress. The diamonds on the bottom of her skirt glittered as the 70-year-old grandmother celebrated her Choctaw culture.

Ornelas was one of several dancers who celebrated tribal traditions on Feb. 11 in the Free Speech area on campus.

Each tribe has its own symbols, and for Choctaw tribal members, diamonds are significant, she explained.

The event was part of the Native American Cultural Awareness Club's efforts to publicize the club.

President John Rodriguez, 31, who is from the Yaqui tribe, said the performance was just simply to show students what the club is about.

"We just wanted to come out and let people be aware of the Native American community," said Rodriguez.

The event featured many different Native American dance styles, live music, clothing, authentic art and craft from original tribes. The day also was a way to encourage new members into the club, which currently has 10 members, but plans to add more as the semester continues, according to April Martinez, a representative in the student government club council.

Students don't have to be Native American to join. The club takes field trips to reservations and is a way to meet new people, said Martinez.

"Anybody with an interest in the Native American culture is more than welcomed to join," Rodriguez said.

Anyone who wants to join the club can contact Rodriguez at yaqui_windwalker@yahoo.com.



Mark A. Sanchez, 19, dressed in northern traditional regalia, dances to a drum beat.



Kally Bynum, left, tutors Andrea Portillo, right, on her class work at the Bakersfield College Learning Center.

Free tutoring helps students pass classes

BY REAGAN IVES
Rip staff writer

Most people don't realize how much tutoring benefits the students and instructors at Bakersfield College. Tutoring is a one-on-one connection and the environment is different from that of the classroom.

"It's individuals working with other individuals," said Hillary Neumeister, a professor who trains tutors.

The tutors are not teachers, but someone who can guide and help students who don't have the study skills, according to Kristen Mayes, who has been tutoring for a year.

The tutoring is available to any student at BC, and is completely free. But not many people know this, she said.

In the fall, the center tutored 457

people, for a total of 3,200 hours of tutoring. On a given day this month, there were more than 60 appointments, but Midge Ladd, the tutor coordinator, said it was only the start of the semester. Even so, Ladd and others feel that many BC students are not aware of the program.

The advantage is obvious. A survey of tutees shows that 51 percent would have dropped their classes if it had not been for tutorial assistance, and 95 percent believed the tutorial system helped them raise their grades. Overall satisfaction was 99 percent. The only complaint was not being able to get more than the limit of one hour per subject per week.

"We can really see the ebb and flow of assignments on campus of when tests come back and people get results ...

Please see TUTOR, Page 4

Higher unit courses require more work, hours for students in classes.

BY TAMM OLIVARES
Rip staff writer

Some students may wonder why some classes count as more units than others.

But the higher the number of units, the more work students should expect.

The class schedule lists biology, calculus and chemistry as five-unit

classes that meet five days a week.

Samuel Lopez, liberal studies major, said he has such a heavy load of classes this semester that he really hasn't given it much thought.

"I have taken academic development for half a unit. It was a lot of work," Lopez said. "Then again, I work, get paid and earn four units at the same time."

Work experience is a program

that gives one to eight units for working part-time in a declared major. Students have to meet program qualifications and be evaluated by advisers.

Community colleges decide the correct amount of units according to Title V of the Programs and Course Approval Handbook.

Title five states that for every one hour of lecture, 48 hours of student

work must occur. One third of these hours should occur in the classroom and can be in the form of lecture and or lab hours.

Two-thirds of the time should occur outside of the classroom as in homework or study time, according to Margo Brock, curriculum assistant.

An instructor can petition the campus Curriculum Committee for

a change in units assigned to a class if the hours warrant it.

"We can get the paperwork started but it would be the committee's decision to make any changes," Brock said. "If these changes are approved they wouldn't be put in place until the following semester."

Brock also noted that there had been student members on that

committee in the past but none attend now.

"We try to match four-year schools so that you (the student) will be getting the proper amount of transferable units," she said.

Tuition also has to do with class units.

Students could encounter hefty fees when they enroll in high unit classes. BC tuition is \$11 per unit.

Gold suddenly lost its value

With the Canadian figure skating duo awarded the gold thanks to a media firestorm, the Olympics could be changed for the worse.

BY RACHEL CRIBBS
Editor in Chief

Olympic gold medals are for sale now in Salt Lake City. All you have to do to buy one is to perform a "technically harder program" and not perform it perfectly. The Russian pairs figure skating couple of Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze were awarded the gold medal after skating a program that was deemed "technically harder" than the Canadian pair of David Pelletier and Jamie Sale, but by all accounts, imperfect.

Pelletier and Sale's performance had all of the required elements for an award-winning show, but they also had something else the Russians didn't, a flawless performance. They landed every jump and managed to nail every trick.

Why then, didn't they receive the gold? If judging also is on technical difficulty, then shouldn't the technical difficulty be also judged on actually performing those stunts without flaw?

The French judge, Marie-Reine Le Goupe, did admit to being pressured to vote for the Russians by her own skating federation. Following intense media pressure, the International Skating Union, the governing body of figure skating, recommended and the International Olympic Committee decided Friday to award the Canadians a gold medal in addition to the Russians.

So, what is the point of a gold medal? The only fair way to handle this situation is to award the silver medal to the Russians. Their performance was Olympic quality, but not gold status.

Simply switch the medals and the places would be accurate, and the crooked judge would not be the center of the process again.

There is no value in a gold medal that can be given out after the fact and given to two teams.

If this is the case, we could award gold medals to everyone who competes.

This is the Olympics of the 21st century. We don't have losers, we only have all gold medal winners.

Even funnier, is the so-called tarnishing of figure skating. Figure skating will forever be marred by Tonya Harding, who hired a thug to smash the leg of fellow American skater Nancy Kerrigan a couple of years ago.

Like that scandal, this one made media headlines.



GERARDO DELGADILLO / THE RIP

Students need to be educated about plagiarism

BY LORENZO MIRANDA
Rip staff writer

Students are found guilty of plagiarism every semester at Bakersfield College, yet it seems amazing to students when they are accused of it. Some professors touch briefly upon the subject of plagiarism within the confines of their class orientations, leaving the issue far behind until grades come back, much to the dismay of students. A Rutgers University study of high school students in 2000-01 found that 74 percent had cheated or plagiarized, according to a recent Associated Press story.

Since plagiarism is such a widespread problem in high school, many incoming college students don't know exactly what it is.

Many students have the misconception that plagiarism only occurs if they copy verbatim from the text.

They think it can be avoided with proper rearranging of words here and there, just like they did in high school.

But plagiarism is the borrowing of ideas and claiming them as your own without citing a source.

Students get themselves in grade trouble because what may have been accepted before in high school is not accepted here.

In light of these misconceptions, something must be done within BC or even the community college system to teach students how to avoid plagiarism. Mandatory plagiarism classes should be offered at the same unit level as a student development class.

These classes could help students avoid the pitfalls of copying and establish a framework that

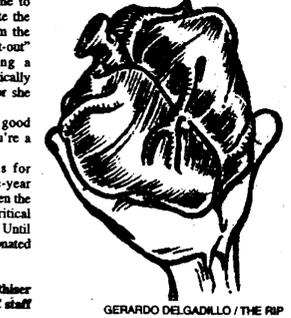
incorporating plagiarism as a topic with more in-depth emphasis within student development classes would help.

If a class is not possible, teachers should address plagiarism in the first few days of class fully with examples. Time spent outlining what plagiarism means within each class with actual examples would be key to keeping students on track.

Plagiarism should not be a lesson that students learn the hard way.

It's time for BC teachers to help break bad habits by addressing the problem now.

Chris Lethiaer
BC staff



GERARDO DELGADILLO / THE RIP

'Mothman' lacks plot, story line

Editor's note: Staffers Daniel F. Hunt and Todd E. Swenson speak candidly about 'The Mothman Prophecies,' a new movie in theaters. The commentary reflects how many young men talk about sex, women and movies. This article contains adult content.

BY DANIEL F. HUNT AND TODD E. SWENSON
The Renegade Rip

T: "The Mothman Prophecies" is a thriller, a science fiction, a fantasy and a romance all rolled into one."

D: "When I went into the theater I thought this was going to be some scary movie. Ha ha."

T: "Personally, I had no clue what this movie was about."

D: "I knew Richard Gere was in it."

T: "I knew that too, but that was all that I knew. It was two hours, but it felt like it was ..."

T and D: "Four!"

D: "It was unbelievable. It started out nice, people were buying a house, Debra Messenger is his wife and she's pretty hot. She gets killed, not in the car accident, but she has some weird cancer."

T: "She has some tumor in her frontal lobe. She dies in the beginning. After she died, we uncover pictures that she drew before she died. This is what is linking John Klein (Gere) to the rest of the movie. Because he is wondering what these pictures were. Two years later we pick it up again."

D: "They say this is a romance because Gere and Messenger got it on in a closet, but they didn't really get it on. The only nudity in this flick was this ugly teen-age chick in the back of a car and it was for less than five seconds. I would have loved to see Gere hook up with Laura Linney (who plays a police officer), seriously, on camera, going at it, like wild dogs."

T: "That is a little too much. They say it's based on true events. True events and a true story are two different things."

D: "How long was he in Point Pleasant, W. Va.? Like two weeks, right?"

T: "He had to have spent multiple weeks."

D: "Wouldn't he have been fired from his job? If



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCREEN GEMS

Richard Gere and Laura Linney deal with unexplained phenomena in 'The Mothman Prophecies.'

you're 30 and have no direction in life, this might be a movie for you, or a Trekkie fan. God, I hate those people. Put the real people in it and put on the History Channel, for all I care."

T: "It was unrealistic. They say based on true events, I would have to actually see documents saying that this happened and this is our proof to prove it, because this is a little far-fetched. I think the true events makes the movie a little more appealing to people, like they may think that it could have happened, but I really don't think that it did."

D: "Richard Gere as an actor, he has aged pretty well, but I don't know if you noticed, but he has some bizarre accent that he goes in and out of. Did you ever see 'The Jackal,' with Bruce Willis? He had the Irish accent that is real heavy in the beginning and then it is real light at the end."

T: "Every time you see that guy on a talk show he has a different accent."

D: "Bingo. The guy is a freak. I think a good

movie goes into detail about certain things and certain aspects. I really loved the colors of this movie. The opening sequence with the washed-out screen, when you only see the fluorescent lights. That was cool. It was really dark, dark, dark blue and blood red."

T: "They used the darkness as a setting for the mood and the lighting was really good."

D: "If this is going to win an Oscar for anything it is going to win for lighting effects and sound effects. The music was really cool."

T: "I don't really listen to the music, I hear it, but I don't really pay any attention to it."

D: "Certain theaters are bad, but Pacific was nice, you heard the rustling, it felt like someone was behind you. The sound and the imagery were good, but the story was lacking."

T: "The actors didn't make any difference, the story line was just bad, and the plot was nothing, but the Mothman being in Point Pleasant."

D: "I would give this movie two stars."

T: "I think I would go with two and a half"



Event provides a showcase for films

Several BC students compete in Kern Film Festival.

BY LORENZO MIRANDA
Rip staff writer

Hard work and anticipation turned into a learning experience for two aspiring filmmakers from Bakersfield College and their two-person crew at the second annual Kern Film Festival held at the Fox Theater.

BC students William Hoschele, Aron Vietti, Robyn Olague and Adrienne Lopez made a short film, "The Chase," that was a finalist in the inaugural short film contest that was part of the festival.

"I did everything I could directorially," Hoschele said.

Hoschele directed and acted in the film while Vietti, a former photographer for 'The Rip,' was director of photography.

While Lopez assisted Vietti, Olague acted in the project, which then was shown for the first time to an audience before a screening of "Planet of the Apes."

Hoschele and company received good reviews by those who watched. According to Hoschele, it was these comments that gave him more confidence that his film could actually win the \$250 first-place prize.

But the winner was "When the Plot Thickens," by Monte Wilson.

Hoschele directed and acted in the film while Vietti, a former photographer for 'The Rip,' was director of photography.

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Denying transplant equates to a prisoner's death sentence

I read with personal interest the opinion piece by Daniel Hunt criticizing a recent heart transplant operation which involved a convicted felon as recipient.

First off, I'm sure that Mr. Hunt is truly concerned about the critical shortage of transplantable organs

and, of course, is himself a donor. However, two transplant recipients personally, and have met a gentleman who currently is on the waiting list for a third heart transplant. I've been a blood and organ donor for years.

Hunt's article attacks the wrong end of the problem, and in the wrong way. And, I suspect, for the wrong reasons.

What he advocates is a return to the old "star chamber" system where someone —

presumably a group of doctors — decides who's worthy of a transplant.

Is an aging rock star more deserving of a transplant than a criminal? Perhaps.

How about a taxpayer vs. a welfare recipient? Does the welfare recipient get points for having worked before the illness struck? Points taken away for lack of education?

How about one of "our kind" versus one of "their kind"? Surely a Baptist deserves preference over an atheist, or a family man over a gay man.

Who decides? Hunt says he's not making value judgments — as he judges the prisoner. Hunt graciously would allow the prisoner's family to pay the transplant expense. Perhaps that could be the new rule: if you have enough money, you can have the transplant. Certainly would clear up that pesky backlog of patients needing organs.

Of course, it would sentence a lot of people to death, but nobody really important, after all.

In the present case, denying the heart transplant would be equivalent to sentencing the prisoner to death, for his crime of burglary. If that's the intent, perhaps the burglary statutes need to be rewritten.

Imposing that sentence in one case and not for all could be interpreted as "cruel and unusual punishment."

As it was when the court laid down the law that's being followed today.

The editorial was correct in one respect: The situation is only going to get worse, especially as the Hepatitis C epidemic creates a vastly larger need for donated livers. It's going to show up in the prison system as well as the public at large, and the time to begin dealing with it is right now.

Here's a suggestion for all those people

who feel the heart should have gone to someone "more deserving." Eliminate the problem. Change the state law from the current "donor-act" system to an "opt-out" system where everyone obtaining a California driver's license is automatically presumed to be a donor, unless he or she signs paperwork to decline.

You don't even have to have a good reason. But unless you opt out, you're a donor. Period.

When there are donated organs for everyone who needs them and five-year waiting lists are a thing of the past, then the compromises worked out to meet critical shortages may be looked at differently. Until then, treat the problem, the lack of donated organs, and not the symptoms.

Chris Lethiaer
BC staff

GERARDO DELGADILLO / THE RIP

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Who was the president you liked the most? Why?

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | |
| Eric Manzano, Bio/ogy: "Probably Bill Clinton because he did so much in his time and I'm a Democrat." | Amanda Valverde, Psychology: "I favor George Bush the most right now because of what he's done for our country since Sept. 11." | Maccylin Hendry, Criminal Justice: "Clinton, because he's breezy (laughs). Nah, for real, 'cause he's open, open to the public." | Elizabeth Sammons, Liberal Studies: "Probably George Bush, the current one, just because of what he's done since Sept. 11." | Arby Magillany, Business Management: "The president I liked the most is Bill Clinton, because I guess he is the craziest one out of all of them." |

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CRIME BEAT

Fumes lead to classroom evacuation

An instructor called campus police on Feb. 12 around 8 p.m. to report students and instructors feeling lightheaded and sick to their stomachs, according to campus police reports.

When the officer entered the building, he called for back-up upon experiencing chest tightness and nausea.

He was taken to Bakersfield Memorial Hospital where he was held for observation.

A contractor had been painting in the building before the 6:30 p.m. class had started.

—Compiled by staff writer Tami Olivares

TUTOR: Center assists students

Continued from page 1

suddenly, we have an influx of people from poly sci. history, chemistry," said Neumeister.

Students can get tutoring in any subject.

"If we don't have a tutor for a particular subject, we find one," said Reggie Slaughter, a tutor.

Tutors get paid and receive credit for tutoring. To become a tutor, a student must be recommended by an instructor and have received an A or B in the class in which they tutor.

"The instructors give the tutoring center the names of students they know or feel have a good personality, and can work well with other people," said Neumeister.

"The instructors forward those names to us and we invite those students to join our tutoring program if it works into their schedule and if it's something that they want to do."

Since more students would drop

their classes if it weren't for tutoring, the tutors are actually helping the instructors, too. They are a pivotal point, kind of like a triangle, said Neumeister.

People who might be shy about asking a question in class can have a dialogue with a peer in tutoring.

Tutor Angela Hunt, who also receives tutoring in Spanish, said, "Every time you tutor someone, you learn something yourself."

Barry Izumi, a student who has been tutored, said he wanted tutoring to make sure he got all the bases.

"It made a difference. I passed easily."

The Tutoring Center is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 8 to 11 a.m. and is located on the third floor of the Learning Center. Drop in tutoring for English and math is also available. For more information, call 395-4430.

'GADE NEWSLINE

Guest actor joins cast of BC play

Guest professional actor Robert Kempf will join a local cast for the upcoming play, "The Man Who Came to Dinner" Saturday, March 9, at 8 p.m. in the Bakersfield College Indoor Theatre. Tickets are \$8 general admission and \$5 for students and seniors. Children under 7 will not be admitted. For more information, call 395-4326

—Compiled by staff writer Rudy Llamas

MOVIE MINUTE

You may just want to take a couple of shots of Smirnoff before watching "Birthday Girl."

This short British comedy is certainly a disappointment considering its cast: Nicole Kidman, Ben Chaplin, Vincent Cassel and Mathieu Kassovitz.

Chaplin, known for his role in "The Thin Red Line," plays John Buckingham, a lonely bank teller in a British town looking for love on a Web site "From Russia With Love." And he thinks he has found it when he orders his mail-order bride Nadia, Kidman, who is supposed to speak English and be a nonsmoker.

But no. John finds his Internet purchase and bride-to-be throwing up in his car, a chain smoker who doesn't speak English. He discovers her language barrier when testing her in a brief conversation.

"Are you a giraffe?"

"Yes."

John complains to the marriage agency that he wants to return Nadia, yet he becomes reluctant to do so after Nadia finds his porn and acts out his sadomasochistic fantasies with him.

Kidman, who is known for her leading role in "Moulin Rouge," is convincing with her Russian accent but only up to a point.

People who are looking for a light comedy may find themselves disturbed in scenes where Nadia is a victim of domestic violence, including being threatened with a kettle of boiling water over her head.

"Birthday Girl" takes the audience on some unexpected turns, like when Nadia's cousins, Alexei and Yuri appear, but later turn out to be con artists.

The film lacks character development, a good plot, has too



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRAMAX FILMS

Ben Chaplin and Nicole Kidman in "Birthday Girl."

many scenes muted and lacks any music to enhance the audience's feeling of suspense and thrill.

It is at times funny and is surprisingly kinky.

The whole movie teases and toys with the audience so much that they lose interest.

Before it's over, they're ready to hit the exit doors.

—By staff writer Elizabeth Gregory

CLUB CORNER: LIONS CLUB

For the first time, Bakersfield College has a campus Lions Club, one of the largest international organizations dedicated to community service.

Club president Gerard Loiza said he wants to see more students and faculty get involved.

"Everyone knows where BC is," he said. "We (the Lion's Club) do a little bit of everything and it would be great if BC was known as a hub."

Currently, the Lions Club on campus consists of 20 members, but Loiza said that number may rise soon. The International Lions Club collects donated glasses and hearing aids and pays for surgeries for those who need it. It also trains seeing-eye dogs. There is a monthly magazine and newsletter, and members receive a charter pin.

Loiza said the club also is social.

"I've met people in the club that I've learned from, who have helped me out," he said. "It's a brotherhood in a way. No matter where you're at, a Lion is always a Lion."

The club's international mission statement is, "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by

"I've met people in the club that I've learned from, who have helped me out."

—Gerard Loiza, Club President

providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation." Club vice-president Paul Gutierrez said the club intends to become involved in many other services other than restoring eyesight and hearing.

"Our main focus is sight," Gutierrez said, "but we intend to address and fulfill other community needs."

The club's adviser is BC history professor Dr. David Rosales, but much of its support comes from Bakersfield Lion members such as Joseph Giuffre. Giuffre, who was District 4-A2 Governor from 1998 to 1999, has been an active member in the Bakersfield Lions Club for 30 years, and is nicknamed "Mr. Lion." Loiza

described Giuffre as the club's "guide" and said the club will have guest speakers like Giuffre and politicians to show members different views of the world and professions.

Giuffre told a story of an old man on the beach who sees another man throwing starfish back into the ocean because they will die without water. When the old man points out that there are thousands of starfish and miles of beach, the man replies, "But for that one starfish, I made a difference." Giuffre said that same concept applies to the Lions Club.

"I always say success is leaving the world a little better after you're gone. For that one person we helped, it makes so much of a difference."

"It feels good to do good," he said. "Truth is, you won't be able to eliminate all unjust things in this world, that's a fact, but for that one kid who got glasses, it made a difference to him. We'll take it one step at a time."

Those interested in joining can leave their name and telephone number in the club's box in the Student Activities Office.

—By staff writer Amber Garcia



Left: Curtis Vorhees grabs his board at Sierra Summit.

Above: Ryan Knaggs hits his first jump and catches some air.

Boarding Life

Popular extreme sport attracts local enthusiasts.

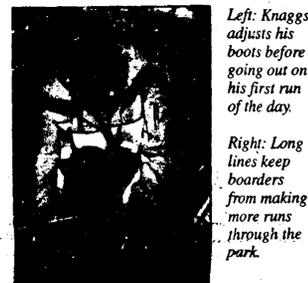
While the U.S. Olympic snowboard team swept the event, local snowboarders continue to work on their techniques.

With the results of the 2002 games, snowboarding is making its mark in the world of sports.

On a recent outing to Sierra Summit, former Brooks College student Curtis Vorhees practiced his Olympic style tricks.

Bakersfield College student and former Rip staff member Ryan Knaggs improved his style and learned how to jump, making the transition from freeride to freestyle riding.

—Photos and story by Todd E. Swenson / The Rip



Left: Knaggs adjusts his boots before going out on his first run of the day.



Right: Long lines keep boarders from making more runs through the park.

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