



Fans flock to the Garden to see their favorite players.

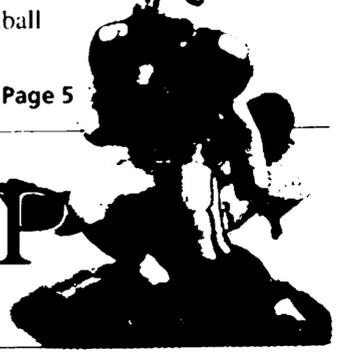
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Californian editor recalls those days on campus.

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L.A. Pierse loses in a football game full of penalties.

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# THE RENEGADE RIP

www.therip.com

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Bakersfield College

November 7, 2003

## Layoffs leave custodians buried in garbage

Eddie Rodriguez, facility custodial coordinator, empties trash outside the Maintenance and Operations office.



CHRISTOPHER WONG / THE RIP

Loss of staffers means custodians must handle more facilities.

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of stories on the impact of budget cuts on Bakersfield College.

By CARISA A. DALTON  
Rip staff writer

Throwing away your trash may not seem like a big deal, but have you looked around lately? Bakersfield College's campus is suffering from budget cuts and it's showing. The handicap ramp, east of the Language Arts building, speaks for itself.

People have been throwing their trash on the ground instead of using any of the three cans nearby.

Due to budget cuts, 4.5 custodial positions were cut from the BC maintenance staff, leaving only 17 custodians and no student helpers. And another round of layoffs may leave the custodial staff left with four fewer people, according to Robert L. Day, director of auxiliary services and maintenance and operations for BC.

He, too, recognizes that there is a problem with custodial cuts and the increase of trash on campus.

"Some of our custodians were cut this year, but it is still up to the people to pick up their trash. Sometimes, in the quad area, people will leave their food where they ate and walk off. It takes a couple of minutes to throw it away."

He said custodians now have much larger workloads than before, with no immediate solution in the works.

Custodians say they are feeling the pressure to pick up the slack. With cleaning supplies being rationed and generic brands being used to sanitize, it makes their job a lot more difficult than usual, said one custodian who asked to remain anonymous.

Eddie Rodriguez, the facility custodial coordinator, explained how the cuts in his staff has hurt BC. He covers Student Services, Humanities and Campus Center.

"When people are absent, we try our best to work as a team and cover for that person. When we had a full team, we had five people and it would take us about three hours to clean those facilities. It was organized and we'd switch off duties. Now with the budget cuts and layoffs, it's been pretty difficult for us."

"It would help if administration would come and see, that way, they'd

know what we really need and what is going on, so we can figure out a better plan."

Custodian David Ramirez can see the change since the cuts.

"We just need more help," he said. "It's harder without the student helpers. We have to hire more custodians and really can't afford to lose any more."

Only one custodian, for example, is assigned to the cafeteria.

Food Service Manager Alex Gomez pointed out that cleaning the entire food facility is really too much for one person.

"If there was a spill at 1 p.m. in the cafeteria, there would be no custodian on duty until 2 p.m. to clean it up, so when that does happen, we have to stop what we're doing and help," he said. "There used to be five to eight student workers to help, but now there is no one to help."

## Coming out in Bakersfield

BC student discusses the challenges of being gay in a conservative community.

Editor's note: This is the first story in a two-part series.

By SETH NIDEVER  
Rip staff writer

Ask him point-blank, and Jason Medlock will tell you he's gay.

Then again, he doesn't go around parading the fact. Like other Bakersfield College students, the 29-year-old liberal studies major carries a backpack crammed with books, worries about getting enough sleep and works part-time to help pay for school.

Look at his face, though, and you can see he's been through some hard times.

Since coming out in 1993, Medlock's life has been anything but average.

### Out of the closet

Ten years ago, he was active in Canyon Hills Assembly of God Church as a member of the worship team. Like his Pentecostal parents, the church taught that homosexuality was wrong and practicing gays were going to hell. As a depressed teenager who didn't want to lose his support network, Medlock got the message. He kept his orientation secret.

"I knew I was gay since I was a kid," he said. "I didn't come to terms with it until I was 19."

Tired of putting on a front, he made the decision to embrace his homosexual tendencies. That meant a rejection of church teachings and the biblical passages they were based on.

"I don't think being gay is a choice," he said, "because why would I choose to be something that people spit on? It just doesn't make sense."

Medlock says he left the worship team voluntarily after a conversation with worship leader Duff Rowden in which Rowden said something to the effect that stepping down was a good idea.

He and his parents left the church shortly thereafter.

Rowden said he didn't have any recollection of that conversation. He said that if Medlock believed the church was personally rejecting him, that belief was a misunderstanding of the church's position.

"Sometimes people who have a propensity to feel (rejected) interpret the situation as a confirmation of their rejected status," he said.

### Reversals of fortune

After spending the 1994-1995 academic year enrolled in theater and music classes at BC, Medlock successfully auditioned for a music scholarship at Bethany College, a small Assembly of God school near Santa Cruz. In the fall of 1995, he packed his bags and headed north.

He said the scholarship was the only reason he decided to go.

"The only reason I went up there is because I went and auditioned for a music scholarship and they gave me a nice scholarship," he said.

He hadn't told school officials he was gay when they accepted him. When word of his orientation reached the administration, the dean called him into the office and confronted him. Medlock said that he was allowed to stay after he assured the dean he wasn't an active homosexual.

Premarital sex, adultery and homosexual behavior are among the prohibited behaviors listed in the student handbook.

Then-Dean of Students Marla Campbell couldn't be reached for comment, but current dean Marty Harris reiterated the student handbook prohibitions and added that the school doesn't have a policy of either prying into students' private lives or singling out homosexual behavior for disciplinary action.

Medlock said that although he was unaware of the school's behavioral prohibitions when he enrolled, he

See GAY, Page 3



ALICIA LYNN ANGYAL / SPECIAL TO THE RIP

Two Ford vehicles that fell into the sinkhole had to be lifted out by a large crane.

## BIG GULP

City sinkhole swallows vehicles as drivers escape injury

By ALICIA LYNN ANGYAL  
Special to The Rip

You are driving in your car when the front end begins to sink into the road, plummeting into a sinkhole that seconds before wasn't there.

Two women ran from their vehicle while another was trapped inside hers as a 12-foot-wide, 14-foot-deep and 65-yard long sinkhole took form Thursday at 1:25 p.m. between Oak and 19th streets, according to Sgt. Scott McDonald of the Bakersfield Police Department.

"Driving down the road, you never know what is going to happen," said McDonald.

Rosalinda Taylor, 41, of Arvin, and her passenger, Irene Valos, 55, of Bakersfield were driving west in Taylor's 2000 Jeep Cherokee on 19th from Oak Street when they slowed down due to water in the road. That's when the front of the vehicle began to sink. The women immediately exited the vehicle and began running down the street as they saw the sinkhole rapidly form and their vehicle fall into it, according to the Bakersfield Police Department's news release.

Ann Savage, 60, an employee at Jim Burke Ford, was coming back from her lunch break making a U-turn in the Jim Burke Ford parking lot when she drove directly into the sinkhole.

Savage was trapped inside her vehicle but was able, with the assistance of firefighters, to safely exit. She suffered no injuries. Savage told fellow employees she wanted to stay and watch her 1996 Ford Thunderbird be pulled from the hole but was taken to a physician as a precautionary measure.

Along with the Jeep Cherokee and Thunderbird, two brand new Ford F-350 and F-250 trucks also fell into the hole. All of the vehicles had to be lifted from the hole with a large crane. The trucks were lifted from the sink

See SINKHOLE, Page 3

## Program expands to train nurses for work in rural communities

By JESSICA REED  
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College has begun a new distance education nursing program to serve the central San Joaquin Valley.

BC will train nursing students to alleviate the nursing shortage, according to Cindy Collier, BC direc-

tor of nursing.

The program is being funded by Kern Family Health Care, which gave \$850,000; San Joaquin Valley Consortiums, which donated \$400,000; and Sierra View Hospital and West Hills College Lemoore Campus, which put in \$300,000, for a total of \$1.55 million, she said.

The central San Joaquin Valley has

400 to 450 nurses per 100,000 people. It should have up to 507 per every 100,000 people, according to Collier.

The closed instructional-television course will be broadcast at the same time at the Delano Center, Porterville College and West Hills College.

Students will be able to talk back and forth with each other and instruc-

tors. Each class is taught by different instructors from the other colleges. Three cameras follow the teacher and record what they say, she said.

For some colleges, there may be a delay because of the computer technology they are using.

For midterms and finals, tests will be e-mailed or faxed to the classes

and then returned to the head teacher for recording.

The program was created to train nurses in the rural communities.

To complete, it will take two years once a student has completed all prerequisites.

A total of 30 students will be enrolled, with no more than 10 from each school, according to a BC news

release.

Collier explained why California has a nursing shortage, "We are old!" she said. "Seriously. The average age of a nurse is 46 years old. Ten years ago, nursing schools started cutting back so there wasn't enough new nurses coming in. Now that we're retiring, there isn't enough to take our place."

# OPINION

## Perilous journey

The United States should focus on aiding immigrants, not spending billions on wars

By VICTOR GARCIA  
Managing Editor

The United States government needs to stop spending billions on wars that never needed to be fought and start giving more money to help impoverished countries.

Imagine how many people in the world can be helped by the \$87 billion going to assist American troops in Iraq. That is the figure President Bush has requested and received for the Iraq war even though major combat has been declared over for months now.

There is something wrong with this picture. While the United States declares war and spends billions of dollars that didn't need to be spent, people are struggling just trying to immigrate here.

Don Bartlett, a Los Angeles Times photojournalist who spoke at the recent Journalism Association of Community Colleges Southern California Conference at CSU Fullerton, captured what people, namely children, in some of these impoverished countries, face just trying to make it here to America.

His photos show the pain and anguish people go through and yet still try to come here with such determination.

He and a reporter from The Times traced the path one 14-year-old named Enrique took from Tegucigalpa, Honduras to his mother, Lourdes, in North Carolina.

Bartlett said children face many obstacles such as criminals and police, who both want to rob them blind or send them back where they came from, just trying to get through Mexico from Honduras, Guatemala or other countries in Central America.

He also stated that children and families go to dumps that have a stench that would nauseate any American politician to find food before setting out on their journey.

The only pathway for the people to take is by getting on a freight train because they cannot afford to go any other way. Most of the time they are scared of either being killed, robbed or deported.

There is one city, though, in Mexico, where they do not have as great a fear. It is in Vera Cruz, where people have an enormous generosity. Bartlett said they are poor themselves and yet some of them give half of what they had to eat and drink to immigrants passing through. If only the majority of people in America were



AGAINST ALL ODDS

MAR JO JONES / THE RIP

so generous.

People in America take most things for granted such as the ability to have a good education; the ability to have a nice meal; and the ability to walk down the street without fear. Some of these people say there should be stronger immigration controls but they are forgetting where they came from.

Everyone in America is here because someone in their distant family immigrated here at one time or another.

America would not be America without immigration.

People die everyday just trying to make it to America.

No human should have to suffer what immigrants go through just trying to have a better life.

The United States should either make it easier for immigrants to come here legally or give much more aid to the countries that need it and stop wasting money on its frivolous wars.

## What else could go wrong?

The new governor will need lots of help as he faces numerous problems in the Golden State.

By JENNIFER MILLS  
Opinion Editor

Fires, earthquakes, air pollution, a recall election, grocery strikes, a tripled car tax, a limp education budget and an \$8 billion deficit — what else can go wrong in California?

Not much. That's evident by the businesses, jobs and taxpayers California is losing to other states.

California voters know their new governor has a huge task in front of

him: To pull the state back out of the abyss.

But at the same time governor elect Arnold Schwarzenegger wants to get the economy roaring. California's new policies and taxes have forced businesses to find more friendly locations in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada and Arizona.

How can the problems be fixed when the hole keeps getting deeper?

To deliver on his campaign promises, Schwarzenegger would have to repeal the car tax, cut the deficit, expand education spending and not raise taxes, all of which appear to contradict each other. Let's wish him luck in solving these difficulties when he takes office Nov. 17.



OUT OF THE FRYING PAN, INTO THE FIRE

HIGH GAS PRICES  
STRIKES  
BUDGET DEFICIT  
RECALL ELECTION

MAR JO JONES / THE RIP

## Californian editor credits Rip experience with her career choice

Editor's note: Olivia Reyes Garcia recently was selected for *Presstime* magazine's annual "20 under 40" list. *Presstime* is the publication of the Newspaper Association of America. She is editor of *El Californiano*, the weekly bilingual paper published by The Bakersfield Californian. In 1992-93, she was *The Rip*'s editor in chief.

Walking on the Bakersfield College campus, I am often reminded of my days as a student there. The BC Journalism Program has always had a special place in my heart.

It's where I grew out of my shell as a nervous, unsure, indecisive 18-year-old. I knew I wanted to study journalism but wasn't sure if it was what I really wanted to do after college.

Many students often have to wait until they are finished with college before they can get their first real stab at their career goal. But I was lucky because I wasn't going to have to wait — and I realized that the moment I walked into my journalism class that displayed the words "Renegade Rip" at the entrance.

I had signed up for the Newspaper Production class, curious about what it would be like to produce a weekly campus publication. But I knew this class wasn't going to be typical of other lecture-driven classes when I learned that I was going to be producing a number of weekly issues throughout the semester.

Young, nervous and curious at the same time, I found myself, then a freshman, sitting among students interested in learning how a weekly campus newspaper operates.

We got more than what we envisioned. Kathy Freeman, the class instructor, laid out the plan: We



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX HORVATH / THE CALIFORNIAN  
Editor Olivia Reyes Garcia began her career at *The Rip*.

would produce a number of weekly issues in one semester. Producing meant we would be involved in every facet of what it takes to create a newspaper. We would brainstorm story ideas; interview sources; report

on a variety of topics, from investigative news to feature stories; edit articles; take photographs; sell ads; and design, lay out and proof pages. All in one semester. I felt a little overwhelmed at first.

Then, I felt challenged. Could I do this at the same time that I was carrying a full-time unit workload? This was something I didn't need to ask my journalism adviser. She expected 100 percent out of us, if not more.

Initially, I whined and moaned like most college students do when we realize we have to do more work. Then, I realized something. For the first time, I was pushing myself to excel. But we weren't doing this alone, though. We had a great support staff: Robin Johnson, department assistant, and Rod Thornburg, photo lab technician. A freelance photographer, Rod showed us the ropes of taking photographs.

*The Rip* became the home away from home for me, and Robin was like my mom away from home.

She helped us find potential advertisers, assisted students and the public, and provided us with messages from sources who stopped by or called. But she was more on a personal level. She was a nurturer.

I spent most of my time at *The Rip*, and was always welcomed by Robin's smile. I know she heard one too many stories of our lives.

The students and I were able to produce a weekly paper that generated several journalism awards and earned some ad revenue. But more than that, the journalism class helped me become the editor that I am, carrying a little bit of Robin and Kathy in me.

Perhaps that's one of the reasons that I enjoy teaching journalism part-time at BC. For me, I see it as a way of returning the favor to the journalism faculty and staff who helped me hone my writing and reporting skills.

Thanks to them, I knew that journalism was the career that I wanted to follow. And through them, I was able to land my first journalism internship at *The Californian*, where I now serve as an editor. There's no way I'd have accomplished that without *The Rip* and the help of those who worked there.

### 'GADE FEEDBACK

Compiled by Aaron Stewart / *The Rip*

#### How has the supermarket strike affected you?



Travis Von Schrittz, fine arts: "I feel uncomfortable going through the picket lines."



Nicole Thysens, undeclared: "Holding a sign and picketing is very boring and frustrating. I never know if I'm going back to work or not."



Richard Herrera, undeclared: "I don't go shopping that much. I haven't noticed."



Sharona Carlson, business administration: "It's not really affecting me. I usually don't shop at the union stores."



Greg Ethridge, forestry and computer science: "It's not. I tell them to get over it and get out of my face."

# CAMPUS



STEPHEN TAYLOR / THE RIP

Natasha Sam, left, Kathi Loughman, right, and Jared Ridgeway practice a scene from the play "The Laramie Project."

## 'The Laramie Project' to be performed at BC next week

Starting Thursday, Bakersfield College Performing Arts will perform its rendition of "The Laramie Project" in the BC Indoor Theater.

"The Laramie Project" is a play that documents the impact of the killing of Matthew Shepard, an openly gay college student who had been beaten and tied to a fence, and left for dead on private land just outside of Laramie, Wyo.

Fourteen actors will embody more than 60 people, according to director Kimberly Chin.

The play is offered Thursday through Nov. 16, and Nov. 20 through Nov. 22. Most performances begin at 8 p.m. The Nov. 16 performance will begin at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors. No children under 6 are allowed. For more information, call 395-4326.



ALEX TAMAYO / THE RIP

## 'My Girl'

Jose Hernandez holds one of his airbrushed paintings titled "My Girl" during a Latino airbrush gallery held Wednesday on campus.

Bakersfield College presents the second annual  
**Kern County Young Artists Concerto Competition**  
 This competition is open to both instrumental and vocal musicians, from junior high school to college levels. Each participant must also be a Kern County resident.

First Place—\$500 • Second Place—\$300 • Third Place—\$200

Saturday, November 22 at 9 a.m. — BC Fine Arts Bldg., Room 30

Participation fee. Application deadline is Nov. 14. For information and applications call the BC Music Dept. at 395-4546.

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Winner of the 2003 JACC Pacemaker Award

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The Renegade Rip is a member of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

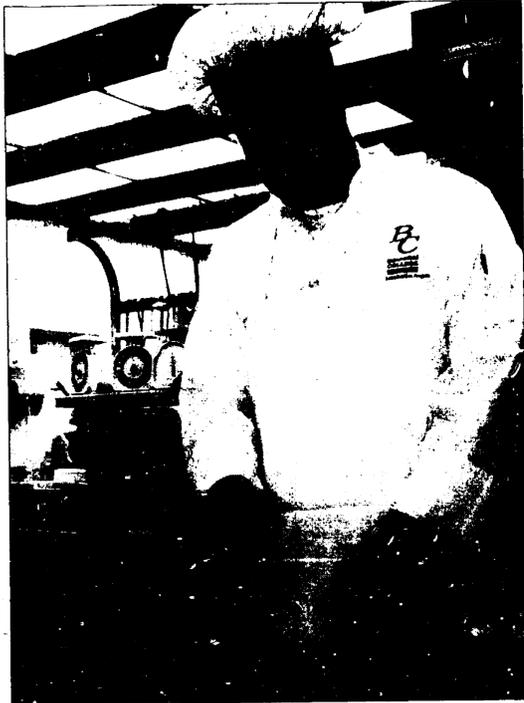
# FEATURES

## Fire Up the Grill

Student restaurant offers fresh cuisine and serves as training ground for young chefs preparing to face the realities of kitchen life

By JULIANNA CRISALLI  
Rip staff writer

The sound of metal pots chiming together mixed with the scent of spices and sauces filled the kitchen of the student-run Renegade Room Restaurant on Tuesday afternoon. For about 12 weeks during the school year, students under the supervision of Chef Pat Coyle create gourmet meals every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The Renegade Room is located in the Family and Consumer Education building. Currently, 20 students prepare meals for the occasionally sold out room. During the first four weeks of the class, students learn about the equipment, work in the dining room and learn the basics of culinary arts. Once they are familiar with the essentials, the restaurant is open for business. "This isn't Home Ec 101," Coyle said. "We're not making one of something, we're making great volumes." The students receive the recipes online of the meals that they will prepare. They study the recipe, then create it for the first time the night it is scheduled to be served. Coyle and other advanced students assist the



BC student Steven Irwin tenderizes steak for a dinner at the Renegade Room.

ROGER HORNBACK / THE RIP

first semester culinary students. According to Coyle, this is a real restaurant. Students prepare complex meals, such as tequila-lime chicken and lemongrass ginger grilled halibut. No peanut butter and jelly sandwiches here. Training with Coyle and his crew has paved the way for past students to find jobs and provides guidance for those unsure about their culinary profession. "The culinary program has given me guidance towards my career goal," said third-semester student Michael Jones. "It is an excellent program." Mark Dunham, a chef for the DoubleTree Hotel, came to visit on Tuesday for the first time since he left last semester. He supplied his services to the students and enjoyed visiting his former teacher. Dunham said he will definitely visit again. "I couldn't have the job that I have right now without this program," Dunham said. "It was because of Chef Coyle and the program that I was able to do it." The cost for dinner is \$9.25 per person. Parking is accessible near Mount Vernon Avenue and Panorama Drive. Seats fill up fast, so reservations are recommended. For more information or to make reservations, call 395-4441.

Anthony Martinez, left, and Nathan Doyle prepare shrimp for cooking.



ROGER HORNBACK / THE RIP

## Ripstaff wins 33 awards

The Renegade Rip staff recently won 33 awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges' SoCal Regional Conference at CSU Fullerton. The paper took home the top honors of General Excellence for both its print and online editions. On-the-spot awards included: bring-in advertisement, second place, Victor Garcia; bring-in infographic, third place, Mar Jo Jones; editorial, second place, Victor Garcia; editorial cartoon, second place, Mar Jo Jones; feature photo, third place, Lee Maxwell; front page design, third place, Victor Garcia; headline writing, fourth place, Victor Garcia; news story, honorable mention, Daniella Williams; sports photo, first place, Roger Hornback; team feature, honorable mention, Ian Hamilton and Lee Maxwell; and team feature, honorable mention, Julianna Crisalli and Aaron Stewart. Mail-in awards include: column writing, honorable mention, Jarrod M. Graham; critical review, second place, Jeff Eagan; depth news story/series, first place, The Renegade Rip staff; depth news story/series, honorable mention, Demethris Blackmon, Amber Garcia, Jarrod M. Graham, Lorenzo Miranda, Chris Keeler, John Vodopija; editorial cartoon, fourth place, Mar Jo Jones; feature photo, second place, John Vodopija; feature story, fourth place, Amber Garcia; front page design, first place, The Renegade Rip staff (Jarrod M. Graham); headlines, third place, The Renegade Rip staff; inside page design, honorable mention, Jarrod M. Graham; line illustration, honorable mention, Mar Jo Jones; line illustration, honorable mention, Mar Jo Jones; opinion writing, honorable mention, Amber Garcia; profile feature story, honorable mention, Amber Garcia; sports action photo, third place, Chris Keeler; sports action photo, honorable mention, Chris Keeler; sports feature photo, third place, Sean Lewis; sports feature photo, honorable mention, Lee Maxwell; sports feature story, first place, Demethris Blackmon; and sports profile story, honorable mention, Leanne Cave.

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# SPORTS

## Covey still going strong after 41 years of coaching

By SETH NIDEVER  
Rip staff writer

Bob Covey has been at it for quite a while. This year marks his 41st at Bakersfield College as health instructor and head coach of men's track and cross country.

It's not that there haven't been plenty of opportunities to go elsewhere. Over the years, several Division I schools came calling with offers to take over their prestigious programs. He turned them all down. Now, it's difficult to imagine BC track and cross country without the 65-year-old Covey at the helm.

After a successful sprinting career at the University of Kansas and a master's degree in health education from Oregon State, Covey started at BC in 1963 with only one year of coaching experience under his belt. "It was kind of unusual," he said. "The stars were aligned, I guess."

Covey chose Bakersfield partly because he wanted to coach and teach. He said he has enjoyed the classroom as much or more than the coaching. That's something he couldn't have done at a Division I school.

His teams experienced their heyday in the '60s and '70s, winning nine Southern California titles (six in track, three in cross country) and two state track championships. The track and field community took notice, and Covey began his long-standing involvement in national and international track circles. As a coach, manager, or official, he participated in marquee meets like the Eight Nations Games (1982), the Pan-American Games (1983), the World Juniors Championships (1996) and the Los Angeles and At-



Bob Covey, 65, holds a photo of his father at the same age. Both are coaches posing with their numerous trophies.

lanta Olympic Games. During these years, Covey's BC track teams never regained the dominance of his '60s and '70s squads. He attributes the decreased success to a number of factors tied largely to the decline of track and field as a whole.

For one, elite track and field needs take days and involve hundreds of thousands of competitors. Sports like football and basketball — which have the added advantage of established popularity — are much more television-friendly. Thus, the financial support these sports enjoy simply isn't there (professional track athletes make the lion's share of their money on the European circuit). Add to that the explosion in popularity and number of other sports, and you have a recipe for the decline in quality and quantity Covey has seen over the years.

"Track and field is struggling because it is its own worst enemy," he said. "Track doesn't fit sound bites." Covey has experienced the same pinch with his cross country teams, albeit for somewhat different reasons. (Unlike track, cross country has never been much of a spectator sport.)

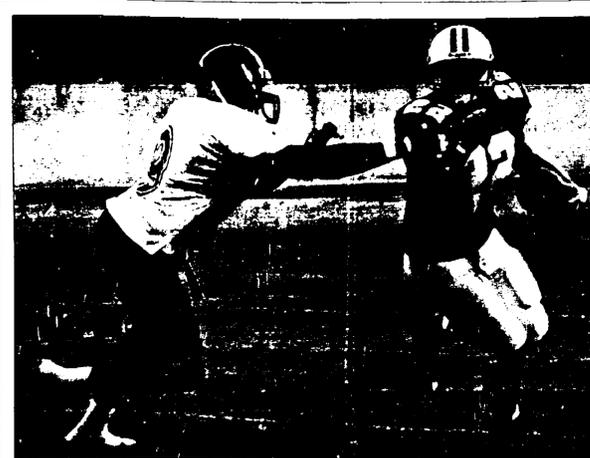
"My first good team was in '65." He said. "From '65 on up to the late '70s and '80s we could have six, seven, 10 athletes as good as any one, two or three now."

Covey blames much of this trend on the greater number of "distractions" he sees facing today's runners. Prominent among those, he said, is car ownership.

"It's been proven that the athletes who walk to school are better runners than the athletes who drive to school," he said. "And back in the '60s a lot of the parents didn't have cars, so we had a lot of athletes walk. Today, hardly anybody walks very far."

Still, Covey isn't down on the current crop of competitors. "For the kids who want to come out, they have the same desire to excel," he said.

"They really work hard and they're really neat to work with. And so you ask me what keeps me going, that keeps me going."



Derek Kielkopf dodges the tackle of Mike Davis on the way to the end zone.

CHRISTOPHER WONG / THE RIP

## Renegades win again

Bakersfield College football defeats Los Angeles Pierce in game full of penalties

By VICTOR GARCIA  
Managing Editor

The Renegades beat L.A. Pierce 49-13 Saturday in a football game that was decided in the first quarter. BC jumped to a quick lead in the first quarter after a fumble by L.A. Pierce near the goal line.

A couple of plays later, running back Derek Kielkopf ran for a 12-yard touchdown to start the Renegades scoring drive. They never looked back.

The team went on to score six more touchdowns, while Pierce only scored two. There were many pen-

alties throughout the game. "A lot of penalties, a lot of interruptions. It was a very ragged game. We couldn't get any continuity going because of the penalties," said Dallas Grider, Renegade head coach.

Grider also added that the officials should have stopped and talked to both coaches earlier in the game. "They let it get going pretty long, then they started throwing the flags and getting mad," he said.

BC Athletics Director Jan Stuebbe called the game sloppy because of all the penalties. However, linebacker Lyle Furlow said the 'Gades won by good "execution and focus."

The leading scorer in Saturday's game was running back Rickey Herod, who scored three touchdowns. The 'Gades record is 5-3.

Stuebbe said that because of BC's three losses, it would be a long shot for the team to make the playoffs.

"If we win the last two, that would be very good," he said.

BC Performing Arts Presents  
**The Laramie Project**

By Moises Kaufman and The Members of Tectonic Theater Project.  
Directed by Kimberly M. Chin

This play chronicles the life of the town of Laramie, Wyoming in the year following the murder of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man.

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Due to budget cuts, *The Renegade Rip* will publish its last print edition for the fall semester on Nov. 21. The submission deadline will be Monday, Nov. 10.

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# SPORTS

## 'SHOWTIME'

Big-time NBA action takes center court when Lakers hit the hardwood at Centennial Garden

Karl Malone and Shaquille O'Neal take in the game against the Cleveland Cavaliers from the sideline.



On one of Bakersfield's final balmy Sundays, Centennial Garden transformed into a sea of purple and gold known as "Lakersfield." Anxious Los Angeles Lakers fans arrived as early as noon for a show that didn't open its doors until 5 p.m.

Fans arrived with hopes of seeing the likes of Gary "The Glove" Payton, Karl "The Mailman" Malone and Shaquille "Shaq Diesel" O'Neal during the preseason game on Oct. 19.

Others came to see what all the hoopla surrounding the newest member of the Cleveland Cavaliers, 18-year-old LeBron James, was about. James made the jump from high school basketball to become the first pick in the 2003 NBA draft and signed a shoe contract worth \$90 million before he ever graced the NBA's hardwood floors.

Still others wanted to see if Kobe Bryant's offseason surgeries and off-the-court issues would prevent him from slipping on a uniform for this event. Although Bryant didn't make an appearance, O'Neal satisfied Laker fans' thirst to see their favorite players. Not only was he in town, but he played, big-toe and foul-shooting issues in tow.

Despite his ailments, O'Neal led his team, as a leader should, to 20 points and six rebounds in what would ultimately become the Ricky Davis show. Cleveland's Davis scored 27 points in the game, ruffling Payton's feathers after a few sizzling drives to the basket and some obligatory trash-talking.

Finally, to the delight of just about every basketball fan in the house, it was announced that due to the sellout of 9,772 seats, Centennial Garden will host another preseason game for the Lakers next season.

Photos and story by Lee Maxwell / The Rip



Top: Cameraman Darin Brown helps Eric Norwood prepare for a live shot. Norwood was chosen out of hundreds of local contestants and thousands of applicants nationwide to anchor for Bright House/Nickelodeon networks.

Middle: Gary Payton, aka "The Glove," sounds off at a referee during one of the many shouting sprees he went on.



Basketball fans came out to see what all the fuss was over LeBron James, the Cleveland Cavaliers' rookie guard.



Top: The Lakers' starting five get together just before tip-off.

Middle: Long Beach native Gilbert Guaydacon came to Centennial Garden all "Lakered" up to watch the game.

Left: Phil Jackson, head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, contemplates the next move for his team.

### BC BRAINS Compiled by Darren Amos / The Rip

Editor's note: BC Brains is a feature that asks students a question to test their knowledge of all things trivial.

What presidents are on Mount Rushmore?



Nancy Tostado, sociology: "Lincoln, Jackson, Roosevelt and Nixon."



Yad Singh, nursing: "Jefferson, Washington, Lincoln and Garfield."



Crystal Huckaby, English: "Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Franklin."



Victor Reyes, political science: "Washington, Roosevelt, Lincoln and Jackson."



Kathy Huyan, biology: "Lincoln, Roosevelt, Washington and yo' mama."



Vince Pierucci, political science: "I believe Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Roosevelt."

Correct answer: Mount Rushmore bears the likenesses of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

**Oops, they did it again**  
Oakland Raiders lose to the New York Jets 27-24 in overtime.

Sports, Page 6

**Episcopalians divided**  
Some members fume over consecration of openly gay bishop.

Opinion, Page 3

**Season-ending upset**  
Women's golf team shocks undefeated College of the Canyons.

Sports, Page 5



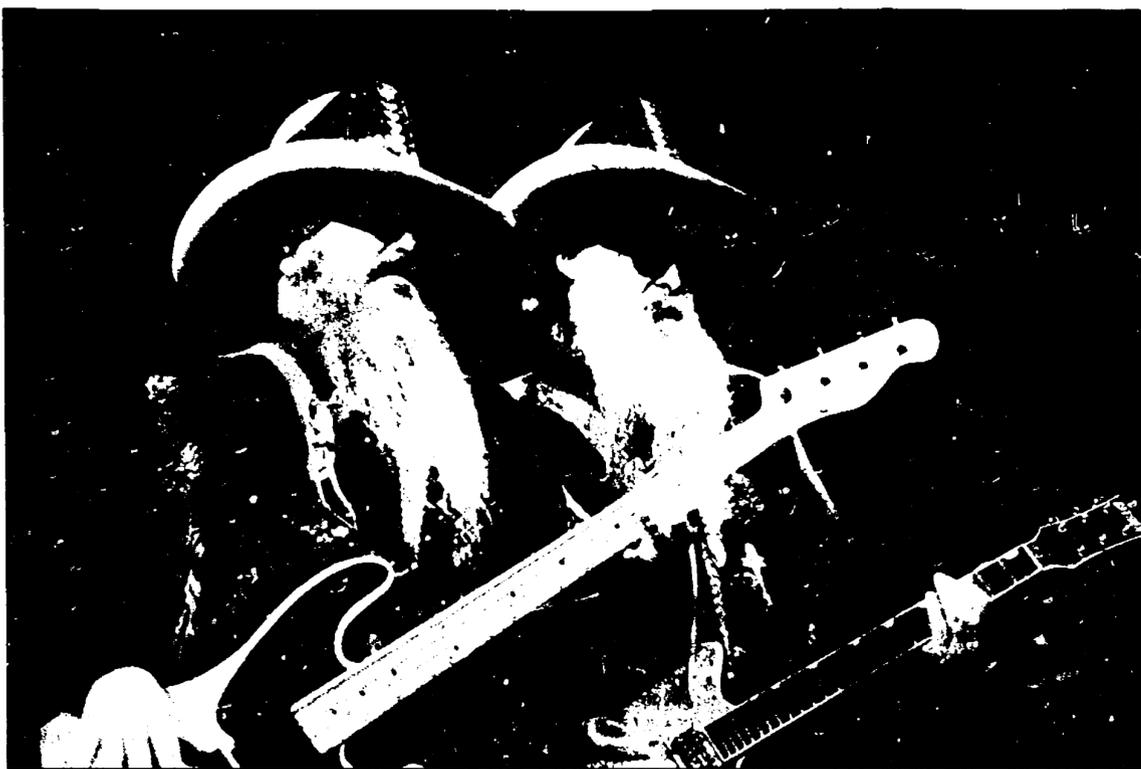
# THE RENEGADE RIP

www.therip.com

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Bakersfield College

November 21, 2003



ROGER HORNBACK / THE RIP

## 'Beer drinkers and hell raisers' in Bakersfield

Dusty Hill, left, and Billy Gibbon of ZZ Top perform in full regalia at Centennial Garden in promotion of their recent "Beer Drinkers and Hell Raisers" tour. See story, Page 4.

## Cuts generate staffing chaos

As positions are cut, newer classified employees get the pink slip and senior ones find themselves doing unfamiliar jobs.

*Editor's note: This is the third part in a continuing series on the impact of budget cuts at Bakersfield College.*

By DANIELLA WILLIAMS  
Assistant Opinion Editor

As the massive state deficit continues to whittle away at Bakersfield College, many people among the classified staff may find themselves "bumped" out of a job.

As staff positions fall prey to cuts, BC is dealing with the problem by using a process called "bumping," where employees with more seniority have the option to replace more junior employees. One classified union official says it does more harm than good.

"The bumping process itself creates chaos," said Mike Noland, a labor relations representative with the California School Employees Association.

In his view, cutting staff is not the solution to the college's budget

woes. "When you're cutting staff, you'll be losing something. The district is cutting pieces of itself away," Noland said. "You ought to look at your spending first."

He says that recent faculty raises should have been postponed amid the current crisis.

"Because we gave people raises, we had to pull back classes and cut staff," Noland said. As a consequence, he said, "enrollment has dropped."

As bumping shifts many staffers into unfamiliar positions, the district has said it will provide any training necessary.

The timing behind the process is proving to be the largest glitch for many.

Suzan Pina, chairwoman of the Academic Development Department, has experienced the problems presented by the bumping process.

Pina sees this as a period of adjustment, but with a month left in the semester, "It's a difficult time to do that," she said. Though the replacements can often fulfill the basic requirements of their new positions, it takes them time to learn.

"It's affecting the students," she said.

See BUDGET, Page 4

## Gay student still searching for niche in Bakersfield

*Editor's note: This is the second story in a two-part series.*

By SETH NIDEVER  
Rip staff writer

### A rocky road

Medlock's promising new relationship proved to be anything but. His lover turned out to be a methamphetamine addict. Soon, he found himself joining in the drug use.

He said he lost a promising career at State Farm Insurance and was spiraling downward into drug addiction before he ended the relationship (and the drug use) in 2002.

"It was just three years of hell," he said, "and then I finally realized that that's not who I was. I don't want

to be a druggie, I don't want to be a loser."

He laments his inability to find a suitable partner.

"I want to find a relationship that includes companionship, and trust, and monogamy, and sometimes I feel like that's things that gay men in general can't get a grasp on."

"I am on that eternal search for the love of my life," he added.

After losing his position at State Farm and declaring bankruptcy, Medlock says he kept himself afloat doing temp work and moonlighting as a performer at Spotlight Theatre.

He said his financial situation drove him to return to school.

"When I got out of the relationship, I was still doing theater and

### The story so far

Part 1 described gay BC student Jason Medlock's experience since coming out in Bakersfield in 1993. At the time, he was attending Canyon Hills Assembly of God, a local church with a doctrinal stance against homosexual behavior. Medlock left the church after he says it became clear to him that he was no longer wanted, a charge disputed by pastors.

working at Spotlight Theatre for a while, and that's when I realized I need to get back to school."

During his abortive love affair,

Medlock went on to attend an Assembly of God school in the Santa Cruz area called Bethany College, but he said he had a similar experience there. Once again, he found himself at odds with traditional Christian teachings.

He ended up back in Bakersfield, pursuing a promising relationship and a new career at State Farm Insurance.

Medlock said he spent time tutoring his lover's nephews — one of the few good experiences to emerge from that period. The experience was

so positive it inspired him to resurrect his old high school goal of becoming an elementary teacher.

"Being a teacher is probably the most important job in the world," he said, "because when you think about all the presidents, all our great leaders, all these great people, they all had teachers."

In the fall of 2002, he returned to BC as a liberal studies major.

### Being gay in Bakersfield

Medlock knows that gays are not always welcome here. He compares Bakersfield unfavorably to Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"There's not enough diversity (here), or what diversity is here isn't recognized," he said, adding that his

degree will be his "ticket out of Bakersfield."

"What amazes me about Bakersfield is there are a lot of gay people here. There's a big gay community. Only half of them are out about it because the other half stays in and doesn't really go out to the bars or anything because the way Bakersfield is, they stay in the closet."

He remembers the local case of James Merrick, a middle school science teacher who had half his students removed from class because their parents thought he was gay. Merrick wound up as an administrator after his district and the teachers' union agreed that he had been treated unfairly.

See MEDLOCK, Page 4

## Retirement not on the horizon for longtime BC professor

By COUMBA TAMBOURA  
Campus Editor

When Dr. Ronald Allsman moved here to teach biology at Bakersfield College in 1962, he only planned to stay one year.

Almost 42 years later, he is still here.

"I love teaching and I have a lot of joy inside of a classroom," said Allsman.

Allsman is a native of Randsburg in Kern County, who attended the University of California at Berkeley where he obtained his bachelor's degree.

He then went on to UC San Francisco's Medical Center for his doctorate in pharmacy and got the position at BC while visiting.

Teaching science, which Allsman describes as a "field on the leading edge of discovery," was an obvious choice for him.

"I was interested in the body, in chemistry, and it was a great opportunity for employment," he said.

The 66-year-old instructor is very passionate about his occupation and teaching elsewhere even for a higher salary is not an option for him.

"I know I can get a job elsewhere. I came here because I like this work and I'll miss it when I don't do it anymore," said Allsman.

However, it would take awhile for Allsman to stop teaching because

"We have some problems at BC but we have to look at it in the long run, and we have to be open to adaptable change. I have seen that happen before and everything is being done that can be done because a lot of these forces are outside of our control."

— Dr. Ronald Allsman, the longest serving professor at BC, who says he witnessed a situation similar to the current budget crisis 25 years ago

retirement is not exactly what he is planning.

"I have always taken it a year at a time," said Allsman about departing the profession.

"I have a laboratory license, I could do that, and I may do that in retirement. But I am not there yet, and there is no point in crossing the bridge before you get to it."

In fact, Allsman also has certifications in three other departments he has taught at BC: the Physical Science, Chemistry and Business departments.

"I am constantly updating my information," said Allsman.

For him, it is the key to keeping up with changes.

Allsman spent a year in 1972 and again in 1992 visiting UCSF Medical Center and pharmaceutical industries all around the world. These were his only two absences from teaching.

Allsman said that all these years, teaching allowed him to have a better judgement now when it comes to what is important.

The major difference between then and now, Allsman noted, is the readjustments students and instructors have to go through in order to give students skills they can use for their career.

"We have a lot more information now, so you have to direct your teaching and your learning toward audio-processing information as opposed to memorizing," Allsman said. Born during the Depression era, Allsman said that today's issues are not insurmountable.

"If you understand that, you don't look at today's time with too much morbidity because those were tough times for people."

That also is the reason why he believes that the financial crisis BC is going through will eventually be

solved.

"We have some problems at BC but we have to look at it in the long run, and we have to be open to adaptable change," said Allsman who witnessed a similar crisis 25 years ago.

"I have seen that happen before and everything is being done that can be done because a lot of these forces are outside of our control."

Two years ago, Allsman received the Shirley Trembley Award for outstanding teacher.

He credited Clark Kerr, former president of the University of California system, for making his career choice after attending a conference at which Kerr talked about the expenses of the community colleges.

"I think that was a defining moment because I saw the opportunity in community colleges."

That is why, for Allsman, community colleges are the best places to teach since the UCs are more committed to researching.

Allsman added that realizing the joy he has explaining what he learned was another factor that led him into teaching.

Allsman, who humbly affirms that he had "too many good memories" at BC to specifically choose one, defines himself as a "Socratic teacher."

He even admits that he is demanding but also forgiving.

"I think I would say that I can de-



Dr. Ronald Allsman has been teaching biology at Bakersfield College since 1962. He is very passionate about what he does and teaching elsewhere, even for a higher salary, is not an option for him.

LEE MAXWELL / THE RIP

termine how students learn more by the question they ask than the answer they give," he said.

Allsman, who has been married

for 45 years, has two sons whom both went to BC where they were associated student body president like their father in 1960 at UCSF.

# ZZ Top kicks 'Tush' at Garden

'Little band from Texas' draws thousands of Bakersfield fans

By JEFF EAGAN  
Features Editor

Hours before the trio of Billy Gibbons, Dusty Hill and Frank Beard of ZZ Top graced the stage at Centennial Garden, their arrival was celebrated by the myriad of beer-drinking and hell-raising fans roaming the halls of Centennial Garden.

## CONCERT REVIEW

Though their music has always spoken for itself, ZZ Top was no less demure when making their entrance. They paraded onstage in maroon and sterling sequined cowboy suits and matching hats gleaming rays of spotlight ostentatiously into the deer-eyed front row. The blond sheen of their slowly graying beards bristled with every soft chime of the commencing chorus on "Gimme All Your Lovin'."

Gibbons satiated all the gas-guzzling nitro heads with their fifth song "Manic Mechanic."

"This is for all the wrench turners, panel beaters and gearheads," he said. The deep drawl of bassist Dusty Hill resounded warmly through the ears of fans encompassing all four corners of Bakersfield.

The crowd ranged from the primly dressed blue collar heads-of-household in the luxury suites to the groups of leather laden bikers sporting Harley Davidson T-shirts below them. And in front of me sat the obligatory cocky, tight-janed mullet heads close enough to smell.

The cheers of the audience were only a live soundtrack that would not soon be forgotten. ZZ Top proudly reached deep into their musical repertoire spanning three decades with



Guitarist Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top shoots a cool glance at the audience during their concert at Centennial Garden.

ROGER HORNBACK / THE RIP

classic rock radio staples such as "Gimme All Your Lovin'," "Sharp Dressed Man," and "I'm Bad, I'm Nationwide."

Before their next song Gibbons introduced their drummer, Frank Beard, who for those of you who don't know, is the ironic lone ranger in ZZ Top not sporting the elongated trademark beard.

Gibbons was more loquacious with his constituency than most aging rock stars to grace the Centennial Garden's stage. In the spirit of their new album "Mescalero" they poured two tequila shots and toasted with delight to the vivacity the audience emanated.

They continued their tradition without hesitation as they strapped

on the white fur-lined guitars for the much anticipated "Legs." But there was no guitar spinning to be had, and neither was one of my favorites, "Pearl Necklace." However, redemption was as close as the next few songs, "It's Bad" and "Buck Naked," off their new album. They had a sound, that although staid in their tradition both musically and lyrically, kept the crowd fresh with exuberance.

Bred in Texas, and steeped in the regional convergence of blues, the soulful "Blues on Bourbon Street" exercised the true chops of guitarist Gibbons as he diverged several times into potent, awe-inspiring solos.

The deep bellow of Hill's voice, emotionally cathartic, resonated suc-

cinetly with the deep cry of Gibbons' vintage Bo Diddley guitar.

For the encore ZZ Top delayed their reappearance for quite awhile. It was somewhat expected, but not too obvious as the much loved "Tush" was chosen for the night's end. Hill and Gibbons bobbed and fro in rhythm, as Gibbons howled the chorus in an apparent extended version of the song.

And from behind the smoke of Gibbons' cigar, they both postured, leaning back, stroking their beards with smug satisfaction. And I must maintain that ZZ Top might be the only band, or humans for that matter, cool enough to pull off wearing dark sunglasses throughout an entire show.

# BC's 'Laramie Project' cast recreates real-life drama

By ERIK KLASSEN  
Rip staff writer

The year was 1998. In the town of Laramie, Wyo., Matthew Shepard, a young homosexual man, was found brutally beaten and tied to a fence, unconscious. He was quickly rushed to the hospital where, after lying in a coma for five days, he died.

The events surrounding Shepard's death are re-enacted through the accounts of the townspeople of Laramie, according to interviews by a New York City theater company that visited the town shortly after it happened, in a play titled "The Laramie Project."

"This play about tolerance, love and acceptance, as well as the reality of bigotry and hatred, has been performed for audiences nationwide and has since been made into a movie. On Nov. 13, theater professor Kimberly Chin and a cross-section of students brought this play to Bakersfield College.

"I saw the movie three times and although to be honest, I don't truly remember the events," said Jared Ridgeway, 22, who plays numerous characters, including one of Shepard's killers, "My friend got me interested in doing the play. So I thought I would give it a try and sur-

prisingly, I got it." Another actor, Davis Smith, portrays various other characters in the play including Shepard's father and the conservative-minded reverend that preaches vehemently against homosexuality.

"I'm simply portraying a character here, and as such I may not agree with him. In fact I disagree strongly with what he agrees," Smith said of the reverend character. "There was a point where I felt really bad about saying this, very strong, very objectionable and abusive. At times, I feel like I should apologize."

Chin, the play's director, was quite interested in bringing the play to BC.

"At the time the murder took place, I was in graduate school," she said. "I was not watching television or reading the newspaper back then so I only heard about this horrible event through my friends."

"Now that I am teaching here I have had a lot more time to learn more about the events that happened and figure out what I had heard was true and what was fictional."

The last two performances of "The Laramie Project" will begin at 4 p.m. today and Saturday in BC's Indoor Theater. Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors.



Jared Ridgeway and Brentney Hanson practice in full dress rehearsal for "The Laramie Project."

CHRISTOPHER WONG / THE RIP

# Student defends union position in supermarket strike

My chin is still bruised from when my jaw hit the ground after reading Jennifer Mills' article ("Clerks should pay fair share of health care costs," Oct. 31) in *The Renegade Rip*. The article was quite disturbing.



CAMPUS VOICES  
Isaiah Perez

It claims, "This is a free country, and employers have the right to run their businesses the way they want." Really? If this is true, perhaps she believes in allowing companies to work 5-year-old children, run sweatshops, or allow corporate criminals, like Kenneth Lay of Enron, to raid employee pensions.

She also called this strike "childish." But the truth of the matter is,

employers would not be necessary if capital-driven, corrupt corporations would do the responsible thing. I am sure that Ms. Mills would not argue that 40-hour weeks, eight-hour days, Social Security, weekends, safe working conditions, overtime and workers' compensation are childish. Unions and the labor movement de-

serve all due respect, and being called "childish" is not appropriate or honest. And the last farce: "If employees don't like it, they can quit." This is completely irresponsible; it fails to address the issues at hand. Furthermore, if they do quit, there is still the next employee who will be taken advantage of. This "like it or leave it" mentality might have actually driven Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez out of this country, or Gandhi out of India. There are some things worth fighting over, and this is certainly one of them.

There was, however, one ray of half-truth shining through this ar-

tle. Mills says, "Instead of striking with the union, why don't these clerks take action against the rising cost of health care?" The clerks should be striking with the unions, but we all should be striking against rising health care costs. We should be getting to the source of this entire problem. Over the last year, health care premiums have risen 14 percent. This, and a recent streak of layoffs, has led to 2.4 million Americans losing their health care over the last three years. Toss that in with the 41 million Americans who don't have any health care, the 20 million who don't have health care at some time during the year, and the tens of mil-

lions of Americans who have inadequate coverage and you get a very messy equation. This results in more than 13,000 deaths each year from lack of medical insurance. Now that may not seem like a lot, but that's 13,000 individuals, 13,000 families.

The best solution is a universal, single-payer health care system. The United States is the only industrialized democracy to not yet have this. We have yet to join the lead of Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, France, and Italy. And what's worse is that we spend over 40 percent more than the next country. Currently, the costs of administration in the private sector

are more than 10 times higher than government-run agencies, such as Medicare or Medicaid, and in some places like Canada (talk that up to overpaid insurance agents and the price to advertise). Not only that, but a universal health care system is projected to save more than \$200 million a year (we currently spend \$1.4 trillion a year on health care). So this is not only the responsible thing to do, it is the moral thing to do.

We should not be getting angry with the workers or those protecting the workers. What we should get angry about is the companies who care more about profit than providing health care or a living wage.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Program assistant sees Rip as 'something special'

I would like to congratulate *The Rip* staff on their recent awards and commend them and their adviser for their commitment to the program, evidenced by their willingness to pay their own travel and conference expenses. You have truly come together as a staff.

Over the years, students' stories, photos, graphics and photo pages have informed and entertained us. I'm glad the students have had the opportunity, the desire and the ability to learn to put together their papers.

Fifteen years ago, the paper was still mostly a paste-up paper. Technology intervened and today it is completed fully on the computer with digital photography and photo negative scanners. Color photography and an online edition (to keep up with the times) were the next changes. The paper is burned to a CD and taken to the printer, however, it is not as easy as it may seem.

There is far more work involved in completing the paper now, than at any other point in the years that I worked at *The Rip*. Computers are wonderful, but as we all realize, they don't always make our lives easier. When the editors get the stories and photos for their pages, there is still so much work to do. Dummy sheets are drawn up and ads are placed. Editors must decide on story placement, headlines, photos, graphic and photo sizes. Everything must fit perfectly. The work is almost double since they are also uploading the online edition, which requires different parameters than the print edition.

It is very time-intensive and the more experienced students help the less experienced learn the process. It's not something you learn from a textbook. This deadline is met nine to 10 times over a normal semester. This semester, due to budget cuts, the number was dropped to seven with more online editions. Working on deadline is grueling and *The Rip* students do it week after week. One has to admire that!

Is it worth it? I think so. The students are learning valuable job skills that will serve them well in the future, whether or not they go into journalism. I have taken many calls over the years from employers wanting to hire *Rip* students because they know they have been taught well, will work hard and know deadlines.

And speaking of *The Rip*, if you aren't afraid of hard work and want to learn to write or take photos, take a *Rip* class.

The adviser, Kathy Freeman, spends hours each week working with students. Although there is an adjunct photo instructor, Carol Barnett, who works with the photo students, her few teaching hours per week don't begin to cover the needs of the photo staff.

*The Rip* is a very hands-on process. On Wednesdays, the editors and Kathy work until late in the night, or early the next morning to put the paper to bed. This is in addition to the other BC journalism classes she teaches. She also sponsors a yearly High School Journalism Day for area high school students and runs a three-week summer journalism workshop for high school students. Both of these efforts have paid off. Every semester, familiar faces from both join the staff.

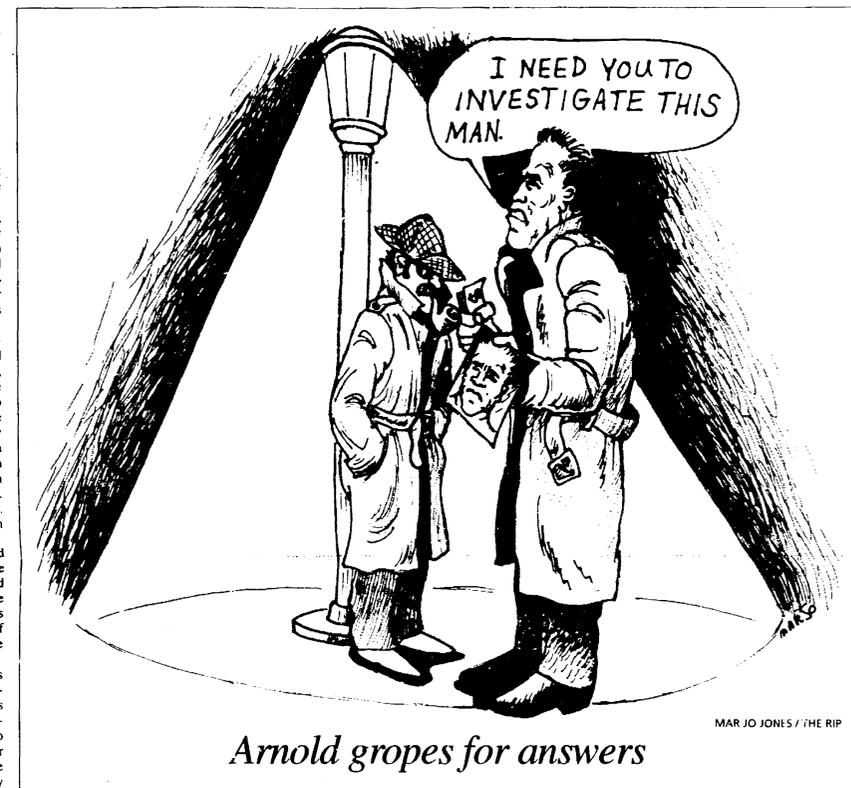
A former student mentioned in a recent e-mail, he learned more about journalism at BC than he did at the prestigious university where he got his journalism degree. BC is lucky to have a faculty member of her caliber on staff. I hope people realize it.

Over the years, many students have gone through the BC Journalism Program. Sometimes the names fade, but the faces never do. It is surprising how many have gone on to graduate and begin journalism or related careers. And knowing the quality of the instruction, it really isn't surprising at all.

*The Rip* is special to me. When I pick up the paper, I see the faces and personalities behind the byline and photo credits and I know the hard work, discipline and love that went into the process by faculty and staff. I hope that when you next pick up *The Rip*, you realize that it is something "special."

Due to campus reorganization, I have been moved to the Fine Arts Department hub. Although I'm still responsible for some *Rip* program support, I am located elsewhere. It has been my privilege and pleasure to have offered program support to the students and staff of the BC Journalism Program for the past 15 years. Keep up the good work and I'll miss you.

ROBIN JOHNSON  
BC staff



Arnold gropes for answers

MAR JO JONES / THE RIP

## Editor thankful for BC journalism workshop

I am the managing editor of my college newspaper, *The Spirit*. This year, I started the newspaper and was supposed to have a staff to aid me in both the layout and writing of the newspaper, but I'm left with almost no one (two people at most each issue). That's not including the fact that I was supposed to get paid and have not even gotten that.

All of this to say that if a little newspaper like mine can keep hear, I do not lose yours.

I would not be where I am today if it were not for the summer journalism workshop that Bakersfield

### Write The Rip

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity.

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Robinson and the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund put on each year.

TIFFANY DEPORTO  
Life Pacific College, San Dimas

## Grocery strike not justified in these tough economic times

This letter is in response to the union strike article ("Clerks should pay fair share of health care costs," Oct. 31).

I've always got the impression that unions existed to trump injustices of overinflated companies. Striking over an extra health care fee, brought on by a bad economic situation in California is not a "just" cause. We all have to pick up the slack for a bad economy, the enormous cost increases and reductions here at BC are the slack we are having to pick up.

No one person or group can expect to come out unscathed during these extreme economic situations. Someone has to pay for the extra costs and lost revenue affecting all businesses in California.

This means the store has to start charging for health insurance, or start charging customers more, which isn't a good idea if you want to keep customers.

These unions and these strikers need to realize it's nonsensical and selfish to expect to not make any sacrifices when our state is facing these troubles.

MICAH NEWTON  
BC student

## Openly gay bishop divides Episcopalians

By SETH NIDEVER  
Rip staff writer

When openly gay Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson was consecrated Nov. 3 in a New Hampshire sports arena, observers were confronted with the ludicrous sight of police sharpshooters on the roof, according to the *Africa News Service*. It was a display worthy of a soccer match, complete with screaming crowds separated by mounted police.

Those who see the Episcopal Church as a glorified secular support group will find ample confirmation for that view in the church's decision to ordain an openly gay man as bishop despite biblical injunctions and 2,000 years of Christian tradition to the contrary.

Even from a secular perspective, it was a breathtakingly undemocratic choice. Essentially, a tiny U.S.-based minority told the vast majority of

worldwide Anglicans — who, based on recent statements, believe homosexuality is wrong — to take a hike.

Indeed, on the strength of that overwhelming majority, the Anglican Communion's 1998 Lambeth Conference affirmed that homosexuality was "incompatible" with biblical teaching.

These remarkable incongruities moved Australian Archbishop Peter Jensen to call the choice of Robinson "schismatic."

He's absolutely right. The decision effectively demonstrates that much of the Episcopal Church — the U.S. wing of the 70 million-member worldwide Anglican Communion — has abandoned both Christian tradition and the larger Anglican community.

It is amazing to reflect on the ethnocentrism reflected in the New Hampshire group's choice for bishop.

According to the *Times of India*, Nigerian Anglican leader Peter Akinola spoke for an organization said to represent 50 million Anglicans in Asia, Africa and Latin America when he said, "We deplore the acts of those bishops (50 attended the ceremony) who have taken part in the consecration which has now divided the church."

Akinola's statement signaled that fidelity to Christian teaching is alive and well in the non-Western world. Meanwhile, Episcopalians who back Robinson have chosen to reject church teachings in favor of a secular agenda that has nothing to do with Christianity.

Bishop Robinson said that those who reject his consecration should be viewed with "compassion." He was right, but the admonition should be applied to his supporters, not to those who have remained faithful to church teaching. If the Anglican



KRIS BRASIER / THE RIP

Communion splits, Robinson's supporters will have only themselves to blame.

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# Blood drive draws few donors

By JEANNETTE ALVAREZ  
Special to The Rip

When Bakersfield College held a blood drive, blood bank officials hoped for a large turnout. But only 19 people showed up to donate, according to Pam Hornbuckle, the community relations coordinator for the Houchin Blood Bank on Truxton Avenue. "It could have been a lot larger," said Hornbuckle. According to Hornbuckle, the average age of donors at the Truxton location is about 25 to 45 years old. "We really would like to see the younger generation start giving," she said. "That's going to build our donor base." Donating blood is simple and doesn't take a lot of time out of the day. The first time a person donates, there is an easy "yes" or "no" questionnaire to fill out. If approved, then it's off to donate, Hornbuckle said. From the time donors walk in the door to the time they walk out, it takes only 40 to

45 minutes. The actual drawing of a pint of blood only takes seven to 10 minutes, Hornbuckle said. Once the blood is drawn, it is sent to the G Street location and tested for diseases. When it's cleared, it is distributed to hospitals for those who need it. It is stored in a refrigerator, has a shelf life of only 42 days. "It's like a carton of milk. It expires," said Hornbuckle. "That's why it's important for people to donate every 56 days." Also, it is healthy to donate, Hornbuckle said. It forces your body to create more red blood cells. Houchin has a few requirements for donors aside from the questionnaire. One is that the donor is at least 17 years old and weighs at least 110 pounds. But some people have misconceptions about giving blood. A popular one, Hornbuckle said, is "it hurts." Another is that if the potential donor is on any medications or has high blood pressure. For students, a big one may be tattoos and piercings, since some believe they can't donate at all. Once a tattoo is applied or a

body part has been pierced, a person must wait one year before donating blood, unless it is an ear piercing done professionally. A waiting period exists because "there are changes of diseases," and it is an FDA guideline, Hornbuckle said. But to some students, the waiting period isn't a concern considering they don't donate blood. BC student Elizabeth Rangel, 23, said he is aware of the waiting period but doesn't care because he doesn't donate. "I don't feel like going out of my way to have a needle stuck in my arm," said Rangel. Houchin needs 150 donors a day to keep up the supply in Kern County. With only 3 percent of the community donating, it's hard to fill that requirement. Houchin is "quite low on every blood type" with O-positive and A-positive being the most common. BC will hold another blood drive Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hornbuckle said they will be trying to get a better location, so more students will know they are here. "It's a very good way to show your human kindness," said Hornbuckle.



LEE MAXWELL/RIP FILE PHOTO  
Registered nurse Carol Cavanaugh prepares to draw blood from Elaine McNearney during a blood drive held on campus Sept. 11.

# Do you know what time it is? Don't count on campus clocks for an answer

By KIMBERLY "TAZZ" THOMAS  
Rip staff writer

"What time is it?" has become a famous question at Bakersfield College. That's because few clocks here keep the correct time. Sometimes, classes run over, causing students to be late to the next class.

"Some clocks are actually right because of when time fell back," said engineering major Richard Knight. But until the next time change, students may have to depend on an alternative way to tell time. Some use the buddy system, which is to make sure someone in the group has a watch; others depend on cell

phones, and some spend valuable seconds looking around for someone wearing a watch. Science professor Richard Darke got lucky. "We had to change ours. I was in class with the stockroom guy, and I said we have to get that clock set and he helped me set it." Most of the clocks in the Science

and Engineering building are correct thanks to students and teachers who decided to do the job themselves. Others, however, aren't so lucky. "My sociology teacher locks us out and we don't know what time it is. We have to depend on what time she says it is," said Mike Lundrum, a history major.

Shae Cox, a computer science major, has figured out the percentage of clocks that work. "Out of four classes, only one works. Usually, I only tell time by when everyone else is going to class, so when they're late, I'm late." BC hopes to install battery-operated clocks. Robert Day, director of

auxiliary services and custodial and grounds, said, "We have 372 new clocks. We wanted the atomic ones, but they are \$300 each. So we plan to install new battery-operated ones by spring semester." But until then, students may have to keep track of time by listening to the bells chime every half-hour.

# MEDLOCK: Student remains hopeful of breakthrough in gay civil rights

Continued from Page 1  
Tai Alvarado, a 26-year-old Cal State Bakersfield student who has been close to Medlock for the past eight years, worries about him as a teacher. "Unfortunately, when it comes to kids, parents are really crazy. Being a parent myself, I'd be upset if my kid were in a class and his/her class-

mates' parents took them out of class because their teacher was homosexual, but I'm very open-minded." Medlock has already seen some prejudice in Bakersfield. Usually it's been nothing more than someone yelling "fag" at him outside one of Bakersfield's two gay bars. Earlier this year, something more disturbing took place. While walk-

ing between two local gay bars, two men pulled up in a pickup and asked him if he was gay. He said yes, and they squirted pepper spray in his eyes. Medlock was philosophical about the whole incident. "It could have gotten a lot worse. They could've gotten out of the truck and beaten me to a pulp." Still, he said he believes gays are

on the verge of a civil rights breakthrough, and he remains hopeful that same-sex couples will eventually have the legal privileges that heterosexual couples enjoy. "In the last 10 years, you've seen more people come out than you ever have before, because we're starting our revolution of saying 'Hey, we're here, we're queer, get used to it.'"

# BUDGET: Staff bumping creates chaos

Continued from Page 1  
Though Pina has seen one instance of bumping transition smoothly, another case has been more of a challenge. "The replacement does not have the experience," she said. "It doesn't appear that was taken into consideration. Bumping is part of the negotiated

agreement between the union and the California Community Colleges. "I know it's the way that the contract is written, the job description is rewritten," said Pina. De-pite several attempts, Ray Quan, director of human resources, was unavailable for comment.

# Disabled students find warm welcome in adaptive PE



DEWIS MAHAN/THE RIP  
Adaptive PE teacher Kathy Moretti, right, laughs with Lupe Chavira, who is blind, has been in the program for three years.

Individualized attention and an upbeat atmosphere generate long waiting list for class that keeps participants coming back for more.

By JEANNETTE ALVAREZ  
Special to The Rip

When Kathy Moretti goes to work, it is more as if she is going to see family. That is how she sees the Adaptive Physical Education Program. The program is designed for students with physical disabilities, but about 20 percent of those who enroll in the class can be non-disabled students who just want an individualized program. Assistants Jake Davis and Mandy Drath help the students. "It's a feeling of we're happy to see you," said Moretti. Adaptive PE is not just about weight training. Moretti also teaches the students about nutrition and physiology. During their mid term and final exams, the students must identify the muscle groups and the equipment and exercises that work these

"He can come here and work out on the machines and it makes him feel good being able to do that because he's in a wheelchair. Not only is it helping him physically but it's helping him mentally because we are doing things that we used to do."

— Lynda Saunus, adaptive PE student

Muscles. "It's a place where you feel better when you leave the doors," said Moretti. To 74-year-old Marilyn Moore, Moretti, who has taught at BC for 19 years, is a "real inspiration." "She's what you call a master teacher," said Moore, a student in her class. But the class is not all fun and games considering the poor conditions of the gym. "Unlike the student fitness center, the adaptive PE gym does not have air conditioning or as much equipment. The only circulated air in the gym comes from a few ceiling fans and open windows. This creates problems for the students who have trouble breathing or are not able to move around freely.

The students in the class are able to use the student fitness center but because of their disabilities, it is troublesome. The student fitness center is fast-paced with no certified assistants who are capable of handling any problem that may occur due to a student's disability, according to Moretti. For students Peter and Lynda Saunus, the adaptive gym is easy to move around in compared to 24-Hour Fitness, where they both used to work out. "He can come here and work out on the machines and it makes him feel good being able to do that because he's in a wheelchair," said Saunus. "Not only is it helping him physically, but it's helping him mentally because we are doing things that we

# Women's golf team upsets dominating school in final match

Led by coach Larry Cook, golfers beat College of the Canyons for the first time in three years.

By AARON STEWART  
Rip staff writer

In the past three years, College of the Canyons has only been beaten once in Western State Conference play. The BC women's golf team

wanted to make sure that number was raised to two before the end of this season. On Nov. 5, they accomplished that goal. Cyndi Walla and Jeong Yoo led the women to a victory over College of the Canyons at Rio Bravo Country Club with rounds of 81 each. Golf has only been offered at the high school level locally for four years, said coach Larry Cook, who has been coaching this women's sport for two years. "So assembling

this team took a little imagination." With a little sweet talking and the promise of a good time playing golf, Cook got his team, which is one of the most nontraditional teams on campus. The youngest of his players is old enough to have given birth to some of the college's younger students. And most didn't hone their sport on local high school campuses. "My husband plays golf," Cyndi Crabtree, 53, explained, "and I didn't want to be a golf widow."

Experience — and expertise — apparently, really does come with age. These "Gades" not only have become full-time re-entry students, but have helped their coach with fund raising to keep the program alive. Following Walla, 39, and Yoo, 55, with low scores for the team were Treva Cardiel, 64, with an 87, and Bobbi Plahn, 45, and Gail Walker, 49, shot 94 and 95 respectively. BC upset COC with a score of 341, narrowly beating the Cougars com-

petition, and qualified for state. Cardiel missed the final spot for playoffs by losing to Young Hee Moon from Moorpark in a sudden-death hole after ending the year in a tie. The WSC all-conference team, made up of the 10 best season averages, along with the player of the year, included both Walla and Cardiel. "These ladies were brought together through different ways," Cook said. "But they made a great team."

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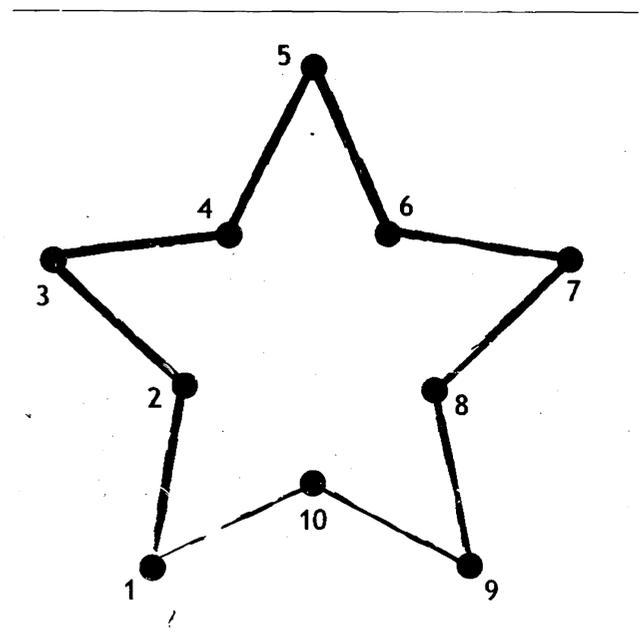
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# SPORTS

## No Hope in Overtime

### Raiders continue losing streak in loss to New York Jets in close match

#### OAKLAND

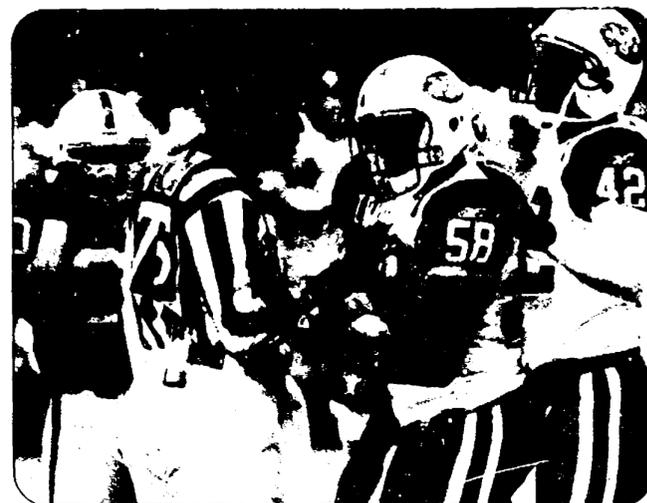
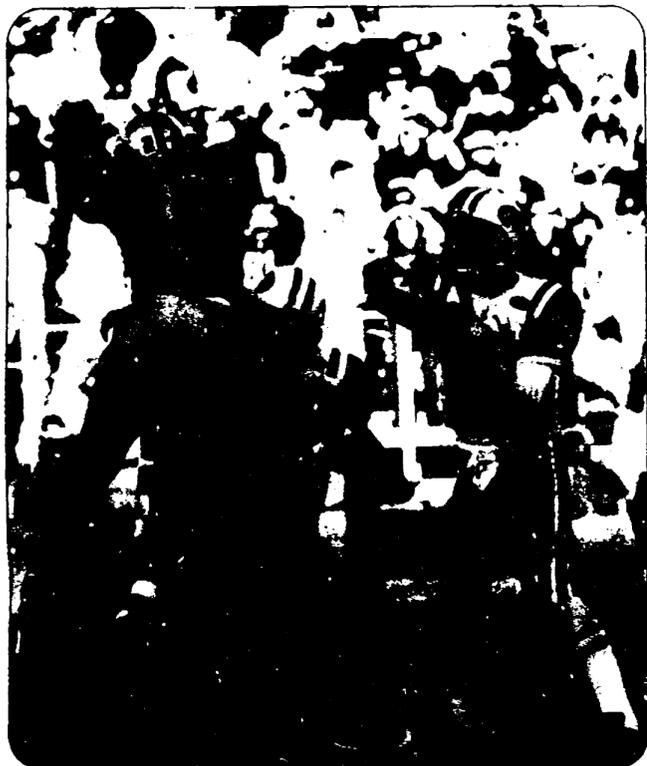
The Raiders and the New York Jets met again for the first time since last year's playoff game in which the Oakland prevailed 30-10. This time the team wasn't so lucky.

The two teams, both 2-7, met on the field of Network Associates Coliseum

Nov. 9 hoping to turn their seasons around and stay in the playoff race.

With the score tied at 24-24 at the end of the fourth quarter, the clock ran down, sending the game into overtime.

The game ended with a field goal by Jets kicker Doug Brien, dealing the Raiders their fifth loss in a row.



Clockwise, from above: Wayne "The Violator" Mabry sports black and silver face paint during the game to show his support for the Raiders.

Raiders punt returner Phillip Buchanan breaks a tackle by Jets linebacker Marvin Jones before returning the punt for a touchdown.

Raiders cornerback Charles Woodson goes over the shoulder of Jets guard Dave Szott to break up a pass attempt by Jets quarterback Chad Pennington.

Jets linebacker Jason Glenn (58) and safety Sam Gaines (42) argue a call with a referee while Raiders running back Justin Fargas looks on.

Oakland Raiderette Marisa Carranza takes a break from cheering to watch the game.

Raiders running back Justin Fargas leaps over the shoulder of Jets safety Tyrone Carter while running the ball.

Photos and story by  
Roger Hornback / The Rip