



Snoop Dogg
Singer brings the party home to Bakersfield.

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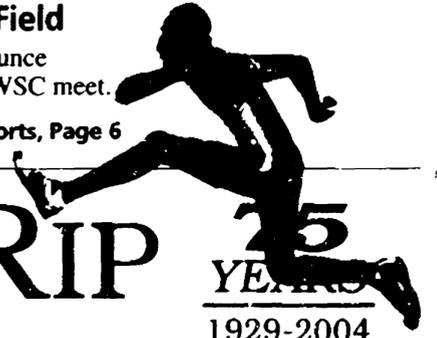
'The Passion'
Gibson's movie is an intense, emotional experience.

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Track and Field

Renegades trounce opponents in WSC meet.

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ELECTION 2004



State Controller Steve Westly and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger greet the crowd at the plaza.

Arnold gets out the vote

Governor visits Bakersfield to rally support for measures

By IAN HAMILTON
Managing Editor

"I'll be back, right?" Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger asked the Bakersfield crowd in his movie star voice. "Well, you see, your governor keeps his promises."

In hopes of rallying support for Propositions 57 and 58, Schwarzenegger returned to Valley Plaza on Saturday, after appearing there last year to gain votes in the recall election.

The governor's rallying appears to have worked, as both propositions passed in Tuesday's election.

"You people are voting and you people are taking the credit cards away from the politicians so they never ever spend more money than the state takes in," Schwarzenegger said.

Some people waited four hours to see Schwarzenegger, and even though he arrived 40 minutes late and only spoke for about six minutes, the enthusiastic crowd still cheered him on.

Some walked away with autographs. One autograph holder, Brenda VanDorfy, was asked how she intended to vote.

"Just like Arnold told me to, vote yes," she responded.

Prior to the governor's arrival, state and



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

Schwarzenegger urges the audience to pass Propositions 57 and 58.

local politicians ranging from Mayor Harvey Hall to state Controller Steve Westly spoke on behalf of the two propositions. Rock music played as organizers encouraged the crowd by throwing free T-shirts into the audience.

As people became impatient for Schwarzenegger to show up, the crowd began to chant, "We want Arnold!" To calm them down, more T-shirts were thrown.

Minutes before his speech, supporters were led onto the stage wearing shirts promoting the measures, in time for a media photo op with the governor.

Schwarzenegger maintained that the passage of the measures are a must to get California out of its economic problems.

"It is absolutely necessary that they pass, then we will get out of our hole," Schwarzenegger said.



LEE MAXWELL / THE RIP

Fans receive the governor's autograph.

A new touch for election technology

Touch-screen system eliminates the confusion associated with the old punch-card ballots.

By SETH NIDEVER
Assistant Copy Editor

On Tuesday night, things were pretty quiet at the Kern County Elections Division.

No boxes of ballots were being tugged in, as in past years.

There were no IBM counting machines reading reams of punch cards. No stressed-out reporters were anxiously waiting to get the results in time for the next newspaper edition or television broadcast.

That's because the county has an entirely new voting system involving touch screens, electronic transmission and instantaneous results.

In the wake of the Florida punch-card debacle during the 2000 presidential election, the county began to switch to the new touch-screen voting machines a year ago after a state law mandated it.

March 2 was the first election in county history to take place without a single punch card machine, according to Auditor-Controller Ann Barnett.

"This is the first time that we've done this countywide," she said, adding that it will take awhile to work out some of the glitches that surfaced on Tuesday.

Printing and booting problems were created when the machines were knocked around in transit, causing delays in getting some polling places up and running in the morning.

"That was something that caused a little panic the first 15 minutes,"

Barnett said. She said there were no major problems to report, although Scott Valline, information systems specialist for the county, had to interrupt a later interview with *The Rip* to deal with a Web site crash apparently caused by too many people trying to access the numbers.

The totals were sent to the office over secure phone lines from 12 machine collection sites. They were then posted online and updated every 15 minutes.

The new system was designed to eliminate the confusion and uncertainty of the old punch-card ballots. If a voter didn't push hard enough on the punch lever, or if it wasn't oiled properly, the result might be an unrecorded vote.

Barnett said Kern has never experienced anything like the problems seen in Florida.

"We serviced the punches before every election," she said, adding that the only problem was that the counting machines were hard to calibrate.

The touch-screen system seems well-designed to eliminate the possibility of fraudulent counts.

Before ever arriving at the polling place, officials make sure the machines have a "zero" vote count and then seal them completely, according to Valline.

Once the touch screens reach the polling stations, the machines are reset the night before the election, and those seals are then broken on election morning, when four poll workers must print the zero vote count on ticker tape and sign it. They then lock up the machine until the polls close, at which time they print out the vote totals.

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JENNIFER BLESENER / THE RIP

Renea Westfall, absentee ballot supervisor, receives election results via phone modem Tuesday night.

Passage of Propositions 57, 58 good news for BC's budget

Community colleges supported the measures to avoid drastic cuts.

By DANIELLA WILLIAMS
Opinion Editor

Bakersfield College's financial future is stabilizing due to approved Propositions 57 and 58.

"We are in a situation right now where it is absolutely essential that we refinance the current state debt,"

said Vice President of Student Learning Ken Meier, who personally supported the propositions. "This is an opportunity like refinancing your house to consolidate the state debt at a lower interest rate."

Both measures were approved by California voters during the Tuesday election.

Proposition 57 allows the state to take out an Economic Recovery Bond of up to \$15 billion to pay the general fund deficit. Proposition 58 would ensure that the money spent

"I really do think that additional budget cutting would seriously undermine the quality of our education and make it much more difficult for students to find access to the college."

— Ken Meier,
vice president of student learning

by the state will not exceed the estimated general fund revenues.

For Meier, the bottom line is mak-

ing sure that everyone is able to obtain a higher education.

"I really do think that additional

budget cutting would seriously undermine the quality of our education and make it much more difficult for students to find access to the college," he said.

Meier supported the propositions because it seemed to be the best option. If the propositions had failed, "I'm absolutely certain that the governor will have to give us a new budget proposal that will force the state to cut its services by 25 percent. The community colleges would absorb huge cuts," he said.

The Associated Students of Bakersfield College also supported 57 and 58. ASBC President Dominick Martin said the propositions' failure to pass would have hurt BC.

With the current financial strain, Martin is pleased about the approval of the propositions.

"I think every student should support it," Martin said.

If the propositions had failed, "The money the college needs to sustain it would be very limited budgetwise. It would take away so many classes."

Snoop brings the party home

The debauchery never stops during rapper's concert

By JEFF EAGAN
Rip staff writer

The streets are alive and they're shouting the Dogfather is in town. Word of mouth is that anarchy would ensue. But Snoop Dogg was the solidifying sticky icky green by which he drew the diverse crowd of all colors through the imposing metal detectors and small mobs of anxious police. This anarchy he brought were intentions not to war, but to party. As the apathy of the crowd rose during a supporting reggae act, Pepper, the drug policy of Centennial Garden turned as lax as a Dutch coffeshop during the Feb. 27 concert.

"You know, Bakersfield, we're all up on hip-hop," I overheard. I made friends with a fast-talking ex-stripper and part-time MC, named DJ Gumbo Rocks. He embodied the spirit of the underprivileged struggling through the system, a struggle not unlike that of Calvin Broadus, a young teenager fast-talking his way out of the prison system after selling crack to a record deal before age 18.

He told me that at last year's Snoop Dogg "Up in Smoke" tour he had a friend OD. And the only thing Snoop Dogg has ever been guilty of is smoking too much weed, but we all know you can't OD smoking weed. Sinsinella. "Snoop's a hero to his people I can assure that, he's got support from all races and cultures," the DJ said.

The debauchery never stopped. The Dionysian hedonism flourished between the friction of grinding loins, girl on girls, white and black, young and old. For every scandalously skanky skirt came the hungry barks of the young gangsta bucks. Snoop Dogg left no rhyme superfluous. Dressed in prison blues, he is a minimalist, a mobile party, with a freshly burning chronic blunt and his signature drink, gin and juice. The bars were closed early specifically for this event. What



Snoop Dogg checks out the audience while he catches his breath during the concert.

was the reason, who knows. What was the answer, concealing uncounted gallons of Hennessy, gin, vodka and rum under the baggy jeans and loose-fitted Ben Davis slacks. The police were expecting a riot, but all they got was the dancing, screaming, hand-waving, sign-throwing, nonchalant attitude of a gangster. According to Saoop, Bakersfield is run by gangsters, and the cops weren't about to stop the party. They, along with all security present, wanted a piece of the action.

Bare chests, blazing blunts, pimps and hos and a fog effect provided by the crowd that was slowly disintegrating my journalistic objectivity continued in waoistic frivolity. That night at the Holiday Inn, no one noticed a Curtis Mayfield



Snoop Dogg performs as pot smoke fills the air.

Photos by Roger Hornback / The Rip

checked in, but the whole ninth floor became his own private domain. However despite Snoop's apparent pseudonym and desire for privacy, he was still a man inclined to iron his own shirt before the show.

ONLINE: For more photos of the concert go to www.therip.com

It's a fish-eat-fish world

the COLLEGE CURMUDGEON

Seth Nidever
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

There is a battle raging on the streets of Bakersfield. Soccer moms, businessmen, teachers — name any middle-class job category, and it's likely that it will include some of the combatants.

I call it the War of the Fishes, and it has been going on ever since I can remember.

It began innocently enough some decades ago. Presumably trying to identify himself as a Christian, some primeval 20th-century churchgoer struck a fish decal on the back of his vehicle. (The fish is an ancient symbol of Christianity.) This plastic ancestor was extremely primitive, having two tail-like protrusions in the back and lacking internal organs, eyes and a mouth. They quickly began to evolve, however, and soon there were fish with crosses for eyes, fish with ancient Greek letters inside them and fish containing the word "Jesus."

Then someone made the fateful decision to start a counterfish insurgency. In a sea of cars darting around town with various species glued to them, there appeared a sliver variation.

You had to look closely to see it, but it was there. The new fish had legs and the word "Darwin" written on it. (Incidentally, Darwin is the scientist credited with the theory of evolution.)

Soon, these two began to multiply, meticulously impersonating the originals.

It was nothing less than a declaration of war. Alarms were sounded. The two camps mobilized for battle.

Christian bookstores were turned into ammunition depots as fish factories churned out decals in a desperate attempt to keep up with demand. A motorized fish army hit the streets, vastly outnumbering the much smaller Darwin forces.

In a disturbing turn of events, innocent bystanders who had purchased used cars and failed to defish them were targeted as true combatants. Meanwhile, the Darwin guerri-

las fought on, dashing the hopes of hosts of Christian fish bearers who may have thought that victory was a few decals away.

Frustrated by an elusive enemy, they decided to go nuclear. Bigger, deadlier and more technologically advanced decals began to appear, and the fighting took on a massive tone. In a shocking parody of survival of the fittest, piranha-like motorists were now swallowing little Darwin fish whole, the word "TRUTH" written across their distended bodies. Other Darwin fish were seen belly up, feet pointing at the sky, their eyes crossed out.

As this column is being written, the fighting is getting more and more barbaric. Dead, half-eaten and suffocated Darwin fish are everywhere, yet you can still see grim holdouts defiantly displaying their decals right side up, balanced precariously on two stubby legs.

The Darwin camp has developed its own nuclear arsenal, deploying "REALITY BITES" lunkers to eat the smaller Christian species.

There are even unsubstantiated reports of Christians sabotaging enemy decals by surreptitiously turning them upside down.

There's no telling what atrocities may be committed next.

Therefore, I am departing from curmudgeonly tradition to call for peace. To my uninvolved readers, I ask you to reach out to these people, who are trapped in a vicious cycle of combative violence. And I ask those of you involved in the fighting to consider that, in a post-Sept. 11 world, there may be bigger fish to fry.

A threat to national security?

Gay couples want to celebrate marriage with family and friends like anyone else

By DANIELLA WILLIAMS
Opinion Editor

"Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" is not a sentiment I ever thought our government would get behind. Then on Feb. 24, President Bush called for a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage and preserve the "sanctity" of the most fundamental institution of civilization.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nine out of 10 people marry but half of the marriages end in divorce. The institution of marriage is not being destroyed by homosexual couples, but by people who abuse their right to marry. Brimley Spears can have a trashy five-minute marriage in Las Vegas, but long-term gay partners are being denied their unions and the benefits that come with the status of marriage.

Gay people are American citizens, so the constitution should protect them.

Telling people who they can or cannot marry does more than infringe on civil rights, it stomps all over them.

seems ironic that marriage has become a constitutional issue of "national importance."

Telling people who they can or cannot marry does more than infringe on civil rights, it stomps all over them. I think of my parents, an interracial couple, and I can sympathize with the discrimination these couples are facing. I see the conflict as the same in the classic movie "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," but with gender as the issue instead of race. Marriage is a special commitment that should not be denied to any couple.

Gay marriages are not a threat to society. Ideally, marriage is a lifelong commitment between two people who love each other and perhaps want to raise a family together. Society must learn to see beyond the gender of a couple. Gay people are like anyone else — they fall in love and want to be able to celebrate that union with friends and family.

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Bring an open mind to forum on tolerance

Let's all take a deep breath and relax. The Jewish Defense League's recent allegations of anti-Semitism against a Bakersfield College student provide us a great excuse to hold a forum on tolerance, which the campus Democratic Club is planning to do this month. We submit that everyone could learn something by attending this event.

In a post-Sept. 11 world, we all need to be more sensitive to the religious beliefs of others, be they Jews, Muslims, Christians or any other faith. The Jewish Defense League has accused BC student Isaiah Perez of being anti-Semitic for crossing out the Star of David on a replica of the Israeli flag he wore around his neck in what he called a protest of the Israeli government's policies. It also

has accused some teachers here of being anti-Jewish, and has voiced its willingness to use violence if necessary. Perez has said that the JDL should be renamed the "Jewish Offense League, because they have been implicated in several attacks and murders." What we should do, rather than accusing one another of being terrorists or Nazis and making threats of violence, is sit down and talk out our differences. We're all civilized people here, right? Let's stop the name-calling and act like it.

Let's incorporate some understanding into our lives. We're all going to be here on this earth for a while, so it wouldn't hurt to make an effort to try and get along.

A tolerance forum is the perfect place to do this. So bring yourself, and an open mind.

Fellow students: Given the chaos of our state budget, the future of community colleges is in question. Traditionally, the community college has been the workhorse for higher education. It has been the proud link for the disenfranchised to the ranks of those who lead us all, politically, socially and academically.

Unfortunately, this link may not remain for us, as we already have had to turn some students away and eliminate various departments all over the state.

Many UCs and CSUs, in order to eliminate costs for themselves, have decided not to accept any more incoming freshmen.

The UCs, however, are acting instead to offer these students a scholarship to a community college, which will only cover their tuition.

It is likely that these students will be given priority registration. The situation would not be a bad one; community colleges do a phenomenal job of transferring students, providing them with more through lower-division courses, and preparing them for their future studies at a university.

However, the flood of new community college applicants, coupled with the serious underfunding of community colleges, will spell disaster for community colleges all over the state.

That is why we are asking for your help. We constitute the majority of students in any kind of academic setting, yet we will feel the strain of underfunding the most. But we can stand and be counted. We demonstrated the last time community colleges were in danger, and we were heard, but we can't be heard unless we speak up again.

On March 11, we will all unite at the state Capitol to protest the unfair cutbacks. The Bakersfield College administration has supported us completely and has provided buses for us to take to Sacramento, in addition to encouraging some professors to excuse those of us who have class on March 11.

If you enjoy being a student here, you definitely need to be over there. Let us keep the doors open! If you are interested in helping us in our protest, please come by the Student Activities office in Campus Center 4 for details.

— Michael Gutierrez is the publicity senator for the Associated Students of Bakersfield College.

has accused some teachers here of being anti-Jewish, and has voiced its willingness to use violence if necessary. Perez has said that the JDL should be renamed the "Jewish Offense League, because they have been implicated in several attacks and murders." What we should do, rather than accusing one another of being terrorists or Nazis and making threats of violence, is sit down and talk out our differences. We're all civilized people here, right? Let's stop the name-calling and act like it.

Let's incorporate some understanding into our lives. We're all going to be here on this earth for a while, so it wouldn't hurt to make an effort to try and get along.

A tolerance forum is the perfect place to do this. So bring yourself, and an open mind.

Fellow students: Given the chaos of our state budget, the future of community colleges is in question. Traditionally, the community college has been the workhorse for higher education. It has been the proud link for the disenfranchised to the ranks of those who lead us all, politically, socially and academically.

Unfortunately, this link may not remain for us, as we already have had to turn some students away and eliminate various departments all over the state.

Many UCs and CSUs, in order to eliminate costs for themselves, have decided not to accept any more incoming freshmen.

The UCs, however, are acting instead to offer these students a scholarship to a community college, which will only cover their tuition.

It is likely that these students will be given priority registration. The situation would not be a bad one; community colleges do a phenomenal job of transferring students, providing them with more through lower-division courses, and preparing them for their future studies at a university.

However, the flood of new community college applicants, coupled with the serious underfunding of community colleges, will spell disaster for community colleges all over the state.

That is why we are asking for your help. We constitute the majority of students in any kind of academic setting, yet we will feel the strain of underfunding the most. But we can stand and be counted. We demonstrated the last time community colleges were in danger, and we were heard, but we can't be heard unless we speak up again.

On March 11, we will all unite at the state Capitol to protest the unfair cutbacks. The Bakersfield College administration has supported us completely and has provided buses for us to take to Sacramento, in addition to encouraging some professors to excuse those of us who have class on March 11.

If you enjoy being a student here, you definitely need to be over there. Let us keep the doors open! If you are interested in helping us in our protest, please come by the Student Activities office in Campus Center 4 for details.

— Michael Gutierrez is the publicity senator for the Associated Students of Bakersfield College.

New governor not keeping his promises

College students face steep fee increases next year under proposed budget plan

By VICTOR GARCIA
Editor in Chief

"I will not make matters worse." That is what Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said during his State of the State Address back in January and yet, he is making matters worse for college students.

Schwarzenegger plans to terminate the ability of some students to go to college.

"While including no new taxes, the governor's budget relies on tuition hikes of state college and universities as well as community colleges," according to a recent Los Angeles Times article.

Like former Gov. Gray Davis, he plans to raise college fees. The Times article states that he plans to raise fees by 10 percent for

undergraduates at CSUs and UCs. Community college fees would go up from \$18 per unit to \$26 per unit. Students who already have bachelor's degrees will pay \$50 per unit to attend a community college.

If students attend graduate school, their fees will be raised by 40 percent.

"We must end the boom-and-bust cycle of widely fluctuating fees with a predictable, capped fee policy for college students and their parents."

And we must limit fee increases to no more than 10 percent a year," said Schwarzenegger during his State of the State Address.

But he is raising fees for students attending community colleges and graduate students by much more than 10 percent. The governor is raising community college

fees by about 45 percent. He went on to say, "Like our kindergarten through 12th grade schools, our colleges and universities must also share the burden of the fiscal crisis but we must work to expand the dream of college."

But he is working on making it harder for students to reach that dream. Raising taxes, although painful,

was a better idea than higher fees at colleges and universities. Obtaining a college education is hard enough with book prices going through the roof.

Schwarzenegger should quit his act of deception and start getting back into reality. The reality is college students do not need any more fee increases.

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CASSIE MILLER / SPECIAL TO THE RIP

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FEATURES

STAGE STRUCK

BC student's passion for the theater began at age 12

By ANISSA SEGOVIA
Rip staff writer



AARON STEWART / THE RIP
Andrea Soler, left, and Rebecca Lotze rehearse for the upcoming BC production of "Chicago."

When students are in acting and listening to boring lectures, other students are performing their way through college.

Andrea Soler, 22, has been performing at Bakersfield College and receiving college credits since she was 12 years old, she said.

Soler's passion for the theater started when her mother, Pamela Soler, the director of "Richard III" in last semester's Kern Shakespeare Festival, could not find a babysitter and took her daughter to an audition. She was cast in the show "Much Ado About Nothing" as a page. It was at that moment Soler caught the theater bug and has had it since.

Since then, she has performed in several shows a year, most of them Shakespeare, which is her passion. Some of the roles Soler has played include Lady Anne in "Richard III," the woman character in "Laughing Wild" and Mommy in "American Dream."

"It's very interesting to try to find things within yourself," she said.

Soler, who has a 3.9 average, recently received an award as part of best duo at the Empty Space theater on Oak Street.

"I'm actually pretty humble and

would have preferred other people would have won the award over me," she said, "cause this is just my love and my hobby."

Soler is starring as Velma, a supporting lead role, in the Theater Department's upcoming production of "Chicago."

"It's about the publicity and the newspaper controlling everything in Chicago in the 1920s where all these women were murdering their husbands as well as boyfriends."

"They were turning it around as a publicity stunt trying to state how the media controls and how they sensationalize murders and crimes," she said. "It's a little more down to earth than the musical."

Soler plans to graduate this semester and wants to move to Long Beach but is uncertain if she wants to be "a starving artist" or go to law school, she said.

"I've got the grades but not the money," she said. She plans to apply to Harvard, Yale and Pepperdine universities.

Soler said she has had an interest in law since high school, where she participated in debate for three years. She also has taken some criminal law classes at BC.

"I think I could be a lawyer because acting is similar to a trial," she said. "Because you have to definitely put on a show, but it's more serious."



PHOTOS BY DENNIS MAHAN / THE RIP

Boxes of Water



Above: Ethan Phillips of L.A. jazz band Boxes of Water jams during recent concert at Dagny's.

Left: Noah Phillips uses what looks like a mechanical chopstick to play his guitar.

CORRECTIONS

• The recent AFI concert was held at the Bakersfield Convention Center. A headline in last week's paper named the wrong location.

• In last week's "Gade Feedback," Bakersfield College student Jason Sudjian said, "It is interesting to learn about all that, but we're having enough problems down here," in response to the question "How do you feel about President Bush's plan for space exploration?" The wrong response was published.

• Isaiah Perez is no longer president of the BC Democratic Club. An editor's note at the end of his column on the Opinion page in last week's paper was incorrect. The Rip regrets any inconvenience these errors may have caused.



JENNIFER BLESENER / THE RIP

Outreach coordinator Phil Burch answers voter questions.

ELECTION 2004

ELECTION: New machines make counting easier

Continued from Page 1

According to Valline, a person intent on changing the count would have to "physically destroy the machine," because the totals are recorded on paper, removable memory cards and the hard drives themselves.

Valline broke off the interview at this point to get the crashing county Web site back online.

That was the only real excitement of the evening. A few computer technicians worked to fix the Web site in

An office adjacent to the now empty punch card counting room. The few observers there to make

sure everything was on the up-and-up looked bored as they watched three people working at a computer behind plate glass.

Shanna Davis, a 21-year-old Taft college student who was there to make sure that the memory cards came in, said this was her fourth year volunteering. "I just like working here because I like the people," she said, adding that "being patriotic" was also a motivation.

The few observers there to make

A person ... would have to "physically destroy the machine."

—Scott Valline, county information specialist

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'The Passion': A visceral experience

By SETH MEDEVER
Assistant Copy Editor

Watching the agony depicted in "The Passion of the Christ," Mel Gibson's film about the last 12 or so hours of Jesus' life, I was reminded of the depth of human misery and evil in the world, and what it is that Christians have to say about it. They claim nothing less than that God himself was tortured gruesomely and killed. They also claim that human beings are saved from the mess they are in by that very process.

MOVIE REVIEW

Gibson's passionate belief in this second claim led him to describe the first in all its graphic detail. This is a violent, gory movie. It deserves its R rating in every respect, and it is absolutely inappropriate for children. On the other hand, there is no way to depict crucifixion accurately without the graphic detail. Crucifixion was graphic. So are many other kinds of human suffering. In the case of Christ, Gibson could not have made any other film given his beliefs. As a pastor I saw the movie with observed, it's not that the violence detracts from the message. The violence is the message.

This is an action movie in the purest sense. The actors and even the dialog take a back seat to the raw, nonverbal screams coming at us from the screen — blood, weeping, cruel laughter, anguished cries. True to the action genre, the characters are functional. The difference is that one of them is God in human form. Because the importance of every other person in the story is subordinate to this fact, I think the charges of anti-Semitism are entirely mis-

guided. True, SOME Jews, the elites of the time, wanted Jesus out of the way and strenuously cooperated with the Roman authorities to make it happen. But the whole point of the story is that it had to happen. Jesus became the focal point for all forms of human evil, and thus we see everyone getting involved in the torment — bystanders, Roman soldiers, children, even animals. Christian theology teaches that he had to be killed by the very people he was trying to save. Otherwise, his revolutionary teachings to "love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" — which Gibson uses effectively in a flashback — have little meaning. Those who claim the Gospels as a pretext for anti-Semitism violate their own beliefs.

The negative reaction of many critics says a lot more about them than it does about Gibson or the film. It was brought home to me in the theater that this is not a Hollywood movie. In many ways, it's an anti-Hollywood movie. This was reflected in the behavior of the audience. Those who bought snacks left them uneaten. There was no talking or giggling or cell phone bantering, even from the two teenage boys sitting next to me, who seemed frozen to the back of their seats. The sounds of sniffing were the only auditory evidence that anyone was there at all. When the credits rolled, people filed out quietly, no "Awesome film" or "How'd you like it?" to be heard, and I fancied that people were more thoughtful than usual as they exited.

Gibson has accomplished what few other religious filmmakers have by making a religious film that doesn't smack of religiosity. Most

other celluloid portrayals of Jesus turn him into a sappy do-gooder, a great guy who hugs children, preaches a message of love, and reappears after a tragic but sanitized death, so that we can walk out of the theater saying "How beautiful" and "What a wonderful story." As a teenager, I thought there was something ridiculous about Jesus movies. How can you possibly encapsulate, I mused, the explosive story of Christ in the nice, neat, life-affirming package of a film? Somehow, Gibson does. Like the other moviegoers making their way back into the sunlight, I too was silenced. Gibson's film is powerful enough to shut people up. Whatever you may believe about Christian teaching, that's surely something to admire.

the Jews as being responsible for the death of Jesus," she said. Not everybody feels the same way. "I didn't see one thing that I thought was anti-Jew," said Father Craig Harrison, of St. Francis Church in Bakersfield. "I think sometimes people get confused, but as Christians, we take full responsibility for the death of Christ. We believe he died for our sins," he said.

Gary Nava, who is Catholic, was on his way to go see the film. "Anybody who goes in thinking the Jews did it, the Romans did it, you lost the flavor," said Nava. "He died for us."

Gibson, who put up \$25 million of his own money to make the film,

Anti-Defamation League criticizes Gibson's film

By Dennis Mahan
Rip staff writer

Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" sparked cries of anti-Semitism long before the movie made its astounding national debut last week. And the controversy continues with many Jewish — and even some Christian organizations — worried that the movie might still encourage widespread anti-Semitism.

"There could be some anti-Semitic fallout as a result of this (movie)," said Allison Mayerson, spokesperson for the Anti-Defamation League in Los Angeles. "In the movie, there's an unambiguous portrayal of

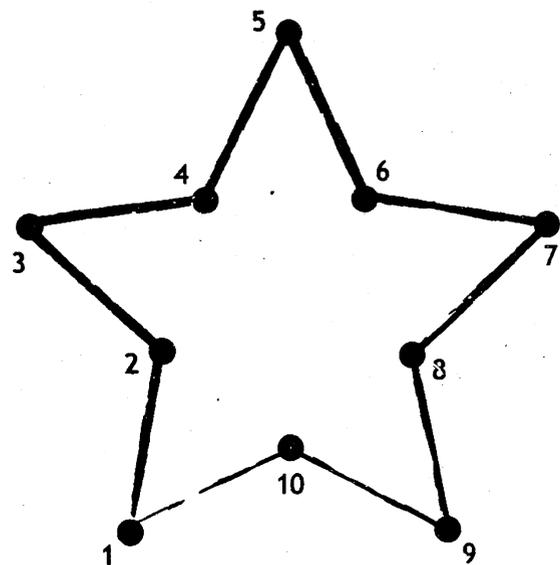
deleted a subtitle in which the Jewish high priest Caiaphas says Jesus' blood will forever be on Jews' hands, according to an article on usatoday.com.

But the Anti-Defamation League believes that some groups will use "The Passion of the Christ" as a way to recruit people. The National Alliance, a white supremacist group, has already used the movie as an opportunity to send recruitment fliers around, according to Mayerson. "This is just the kind of danger we were concerned about," she said.

It's not just Jewish leaders who are concerned about an anti-Semitic reaction. Some Christian leaders have voiced their concerns about the depiction of Jews in the movie.

In an article on latimes.com, Mike Evans, an evangelical minister in Dallas, claims that he told Gibson after a private screening that he didn't want his savior "to be used as a sword to injure Jewish people." He also asked Gibson to add a line of text after the last scene saying, "During the Roman occupation, 250,000 Jews were crucified by the Romans, but only one rose from the dead." Evans said that Gibson agreed to add it, but the change was not made when the movie debuted.

"The Passion of the Christ" had a huge opening week, making more than \$125 million during its first week in theaters.



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SPORTS

Victorious Renegades

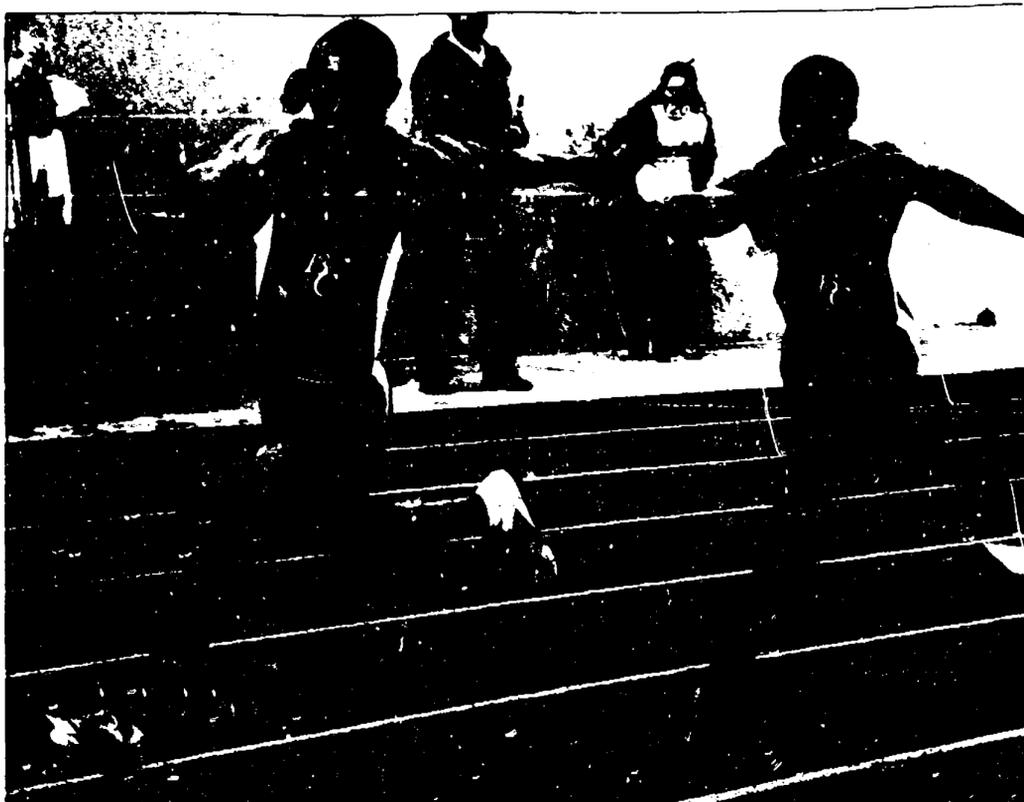
Track and field prepares for BC Relays by winning a Western State Conference meet Feb. 27

The Bakersfield College track and field team geared up for the BC Relays on March 12 and 13 by trouncing Santa Monica, L.A. Valley, Ventura and Oxnard at a Western State Conference meet Feb. 27 at Memorial Stadium. With first-place finishes in the men's 110 high hurdles and women's 1,500-meter race.

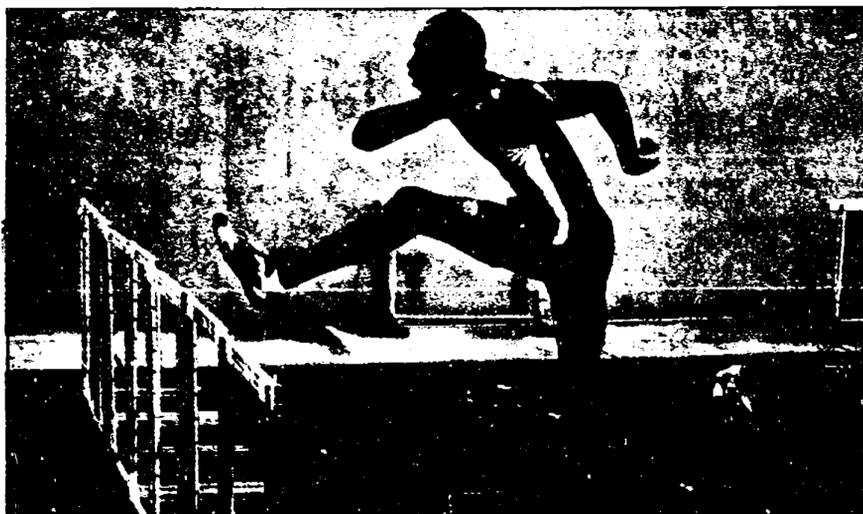
Oxnard finished in at a dismal last place with only eight points. Third runner-up went to L.A. Valley, which gained 13 points. Best in show went to Ventura with a modest 62 points. Santa Monica

brought its "A" game, but couldn't keep up with only 73 points. The Renegades not only came in at No. 1, but they did it by outscoring the bottom three teams combined.

Although the 'Gades performed well, track and field coach Bob Covey said, "There is still a lot to do in order to become effective as a team," adding that the team has only been practicing for five weeks. More than 30 teams from around the state are expected to attend the March 12 and 13 event here. Admission prices are reduced for students.



Photos and story by Lee Maxwell / The Rip



Above: Jeremy Miller, left, receives the baton from teammate Hakeem Imoru during the 4-by-1 event.

Left: Jeremy Miller jumps a hurdle in the 110 high hurdles. He placed first in the event.

Far left: Freshman runner Erica Silva runs during the 1,500 race.

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In prison with Martha?

Home decoration diva not the real villain in era of mega scandals.

Opinion, Page 3



Accept no substitutes

"Chicago" cast members confidently bring the original to life.

Features, Page 4

Successful racquet

Renegades score wins in latest matches.

Sports, Page 5



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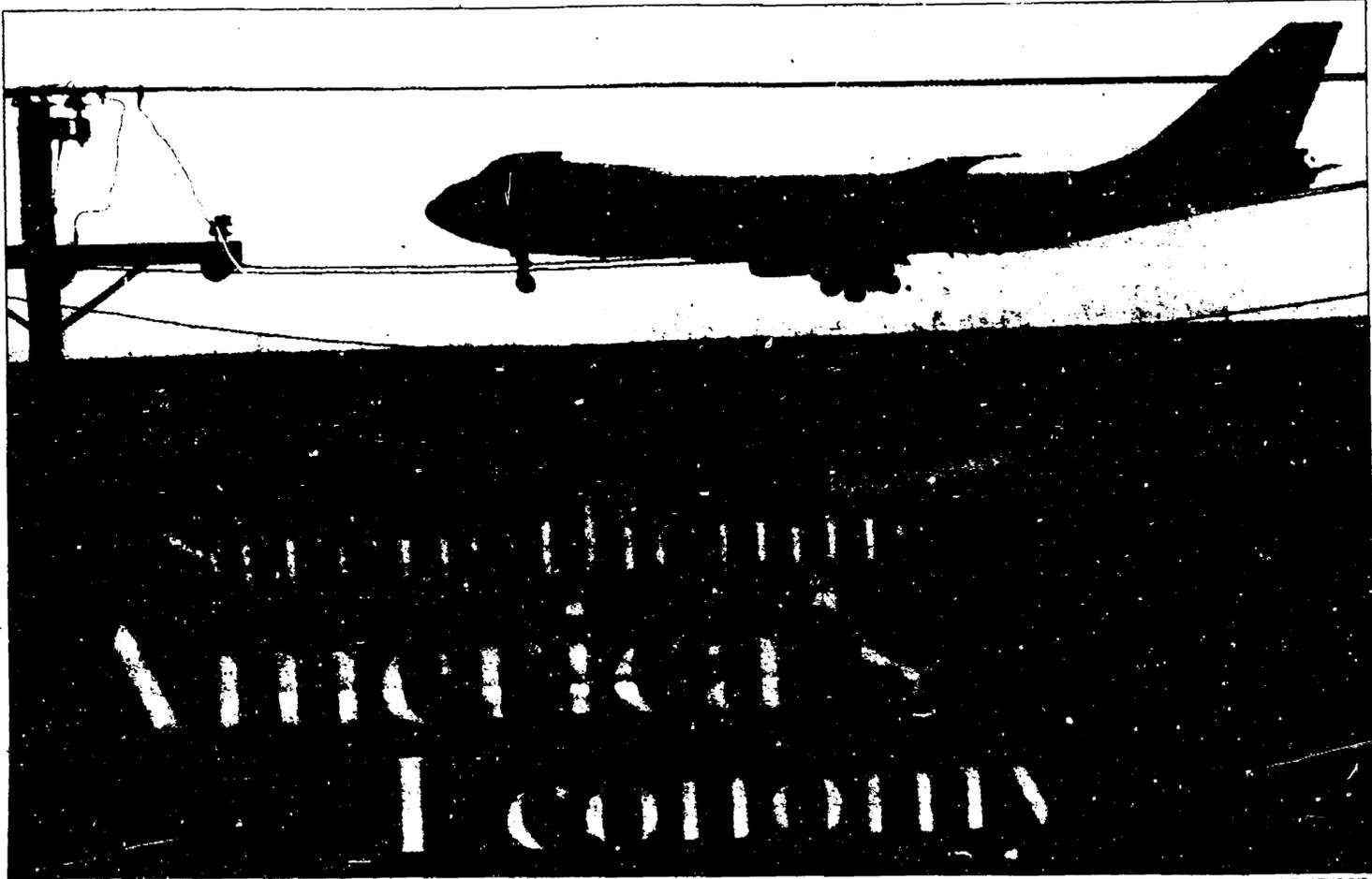
THE RENEGADE RIP

www.therip.com

Vol. 75 • No. 3

Bakersfield College

March 12, 2004



ROGER HORNBACK / THE RIP

An Air Force One flew into Meadows Field behind a billboard with the Bush administration's message at Rain for Rent.



ROGER HORNBACK / THE RIP

President Bush talks to John Lake, company president.

George W. comes to town

■ President Bush gets warm reception from crowd at Rain for Rent headquarters.

By VICTOR GARCIA
Editor in Chief

John Lake didn't hesitate when he got the call saying that the president of the United States might want to give a speech at his company.

"If the president of the United States called you and wanted to come by your house, I think you'd say that's OK, wouldn't you?" said the president of Rain for Rent, a Bakersfield irrigation equipment rental company, in an interview with *The Rip*.

John Lake shared the stage with President Bush on March 2 at Rain for Rent headquarters



on State Road in front of about 1,000 people. Air Force One landed at Meadows Field at 9:20 a.m. and the president arrived at the company shortly after.

Part of the president's speech was devoted

to recognizing a local volunteer with the Keep Bakersfield Beautiful organization.

"I want to thank a lady named Dana Karcher, who came out to the airport. I don't know if

See BUSH, Page 6

'This is about the greatest thing to happen in Bakersfield'

■ Bush wows audience with his down-home attitude and humor.

By JULIANNA CRISALLI
Features Editor

Patriotic tunes filled the air as Air Force One parted the skies above hundreds of awaiting supporters.

The sun glistened down on Rain for Rent headquarters on March 2 as President Bush made his way to the cheering crowd.

Secret Service agents in sleek, dark sunglasses and black suits surrounded the premises and supplied Kern County

residents with an authentic White House experience.

"It was thrilling, absolutely wonderful. I think he's doing a great job. I just hope we get four more years with him," said Ann Marie Johnson, a Bakersfield stay-at-home mom at the event.

In between discussions about taxes, new jobs and the economy in general, Bush charmed the crowd with his down-to-earth sense of humor.

"I want to thank the mayor, Harvey Hall. We met at the airport, he drove over in the limousine, Harvey thanks," he said. "He said do you have any advice, and I said, 'Yeah, fill the potholes.'"

To endear himself even more to the local crowd, Bush briefly discussed his family's experience living on Monterey

Street in Bakersfield.

"I've spent some quality time in Bakersfield, 1949," he said. "I don't remember much about it, but I was talking to old Number 41, that would be my dad, about two nights ago and I told him I was going out to Bakersfield and he said, tell the folks out there that Barb and I have got fond memories of our days living there. There are good, honest, hardworking people living in Bakersfield. That's the way it was then and that's the way it is today."

Instead of focusing on the hard political debates of this year, Bush won over the crowd by engaging in chitchat and discussing family values and issues.

As he made his way through the crowd, he shook hands with his fans and

even held up a baby for photographs.

Although in most crowds there are sure to be some skeptics, this audience was overwhelmingly positive and supportive of the president's re-election campaign.

"This is about the greatest thing to happen to Bakersfield in a long time," said Larry Moxley of Moxley International, a Bakersfield-based political consulting firm.

"The president was wonderful. He is talking about the right things. I am a small business owner myself and tax relief, tax relief, tax relief, that's what makes us able to hire more people, invest more money and create more jobs, so he's right on the mark with making tax cuts permanent."



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

Security officers overlook the area during Bush's presentation.

Huge Christian gathering expected to fill Memorial Stadium

■ The Rev. Franklin Graham will host three-day festival in only U.S. appearance this year.

By DANIELLA WILLIAMS
Opinion Editor

Celebrated evangelist the Rev. Franklin Graham will host a free Christian festival that is expected to

fill Bakersfield College's Memorial Stadium April 2-4.

Graham, the son of legendary preacher the Rev. Billy Graham, will lead a three-day Christian festival in worship. The group wants to bring a message of peace, love and Jesus Christ.

"His message is not anything political. It's a message of hope," said Marla Proffitt, director's assistant to the Kern Festival office.

The nondenominational evangeli-

cal rally is the only United States appearance this year for Graham. Although he was invited by many communities, he accepted only the Kern County 2004 with Franklin Graham organization's offer.

Other appearances will be held in Tijuana, Argentina and Nova Scotia. Although the festival is a family event, its target demographic is a younger generation.

"You're going to find it to be a little more youthful," she said dur-

ing a recent presentation to *Rip* staffers.

Proffitt said that the total budget of the event will reach \$2 million, with the Graham organization paying for two-thirds of the cost.

One of the biggest expenses has been the rental of Memorial Stadium, which cost the group \$70,000, she said.

The organization consists of 234 local churches, headed by executive co-chairs Mary K. Shell and Warren

Carter. It has raised more than \$700,000 locally for promotion, supplies and Christian life and witnessing courses, which are teaching more than 7,000 members to be counselors at the festival.

Each person is to bring 12 friends or family members to the gathering. People from Bakersfield, Tehachapi, Delano, Shafter and Taft are expected to attend.

Memorial Stadium could be filled to capacity, she said.

"We have the potential to have thousands more in the stadium than ever before," said Proffitt.

The festival will have several bands performing, including Jars of Clay and Ricky Skaggs. Services will be held April 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. April 3 will feature a "Kidz Fest" from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with teen services starting at 4 p.m. and worship from 7 to 9 p.m. Activities on April 4 will be limited to a 7 to 9 p.m. finale.

Shades of Spring

Bakersfield College student Ein Corral enjoys a warm day of spring weather.

Temperatures in Bakersfield are expected to remain in the 70s this weekend.

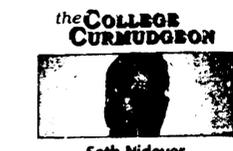
Dennis Mahan / The Rip



For Deaniacs, it ain't ever really over

I started with 40 or 50 enthusiastic souls meeting monthly. After Iowa, the number dropped to 20. By March 3, there were five. Five lonely Deaniacs left to face an indifferent world.

Some people don't know when to quit. You can beat them down, strip them of their leader and rob their organization of its members. It doesn't matter. They stay the course. Mary, Jay, Laura, Nicole and Mike are like that.



Seth Nidever ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

They were at Sharkey's Pizza last week to decide, in Mike's words, "Where to go from here." I had arrived a few minutes early to get a jump on the crowd. The first thing I noticed was a group of chubby men gathered outside the front door.

Society may be the real 'Monster' in film

Charlize Theron offers compelling depiction of serial killer-prostitute.

By BARRY LIPSON Rip staff writer

Betrayal seemed to be the leitmotif in Aileen Wuornos' life. The subject of the film "Monster" was portrayed not as a saint, but as an out-of-control person who desperately wished to be in control.

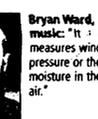
Aileen, a prostitute convicted in seven murders in the Florida area. I've seen interviews with the real Aileen and I was convinced that the person on screen was not Theron but Wuornos. Christina Ricci was not even nominated but should have won a supporting actress award for her portrayal of Selby Wall, Aileen's lover.

longer so that the film could have focused more on Aileen's upbringing. Her backstory could be a movie in itself. Aileen so mistrusted men that when one honestly wanted to help her it was too late.

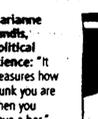
One look and you could tell they were idealists. For one thing, they're young. If you don't have idealistic bones in you when you're young, something is badly wrong.

BC BRAINS Compiled by Aaron Stewart / The Rip

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



Bryan Ward, music: "It measures wind pressure or the moisture in the air."



Marianne Landis, political science: "It measures how drunk you are when you leave a bar."



Shannon Odorn, correctional administration: "I wouldn't have any idea on that."



Alberto Maciel, undecided: "It measures the temperature in the car."



Alfonso Barche, undecided: "It measures the pressure from the atmosphere."

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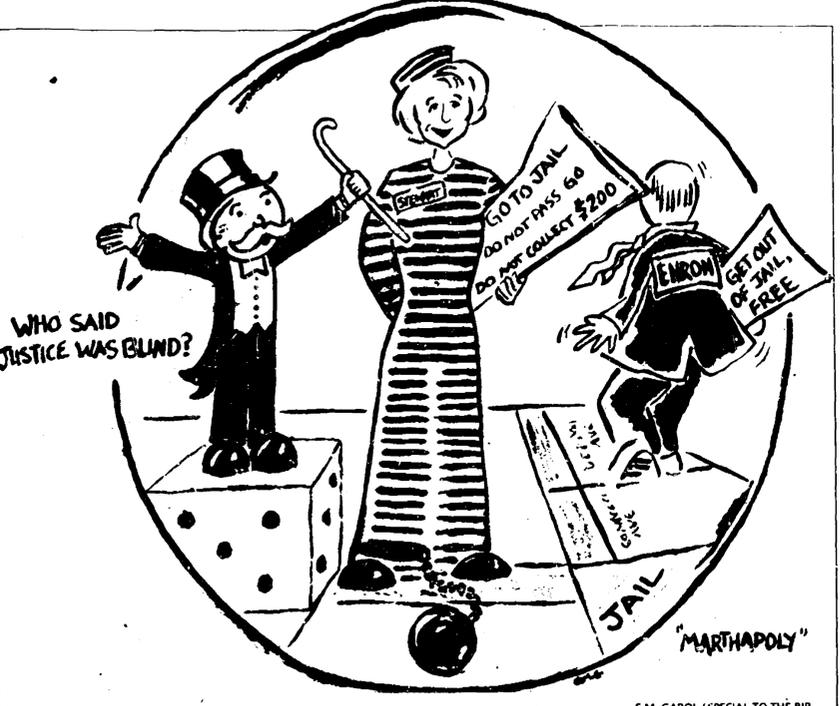
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E.M. GAROL / SPECIAL TO THE RIP

Martha takes fall for corporate rats

Martha Stewart a convicted felon? What is the world coming to? She was a woman on top of the world. She had a multimillion-dollar company and a line of designer household goods at Kmart.



FIRST PERSON Daniella Williams OPINION EDITOR

The charges against Martha and the Enron executives came out around the same time, and left many leery of trusting anyone in a suit.

frey K. Skilling being charged with 35 counts of fraud, conspiracy and insider trading. Investors in Enron lost billions of dollars and more than 20 executives have been implicated in the company's financial crimes.



JESSE ESPOSITO / SPECIAL TO THE RIP

Students urged to take part in budget protest in Sacramento

The time has come, once again, to gather on the steps of the state Capitol with thousands of other community college students to remind our legislators and governor that we cannot take any more budget cuts.

Student response to ADL allegation of anti-Semitism

After letters from the ADL were published in the Rip, I was contacted by a student who was concerned about the ADL's allegations of anti-Semitism at Bakersfield College.

'GADE FEEDBACK' Compiled by Jennifer Blessner / The Rip

How do you feel about dating people who are not of your faith? Includes photos and feedback from students: Javier Marquez, Steven Taylor, Larry Williams, Danyele Miles, Angelica Sierra.

The real 'Chicago' arrives

Unlike the Broadway musical and hit movie, the original stage play isn't a song-and-dance routine.

By JULIANNA CRISALLI
Features Editor

The sound of smooth jazz music filled the faintly lit theater as performers prepared their lines, applied makeup and released any last-minute butterflies on opening night.

Director Randy Messick and his crew of actors began performances of "Chicago" on BC's Indoor Theater stage on March 4. Every performance has its own accumulation of stress, but with this group, you would never know.

"I feel very confident today, definitely," said Brandon Turner, who

plays Billy Flynn in the production. "It was one of the first times any of us has felt really, really confident. I think we have a tremendous show, that's tremendously well written with a very, very, very solid cast and it's hilarious. I'm very excited."

Every actor, from the leading lady to the extras, seemed calm and self-assured as the final touches were made before curtain call.

"I feel like we've got an empty canvas and the outcome will be a surprise," said Rebecca Lotze, who plays Roxie Hart.

Although the basic story is the same, the play is very different from the Broadway musical "Chicago" and the movie released in 2003.

"I feel like we've got an empty canvas and the outcome will be a surprise."

— Rebecca Lotze, Roxie Hart in "Chicago"

No songs are performed in the play.

"One of the things that people are definitely going to see in this show that they didn't see in the musical is tons more characters. There's so many more characters and so much

more character interaction," said Turner. "You watch 'Chicago' the movie and wherever they have a song, we have comedy."

According to Messick, the play continues tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m. General admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students with an

ID, seniors, children under the age of 18, and groups of six or more. "I hope that the actors realize that there is more to learn, more to grow, more to flush out, more to develop. So I hope it keeps growing and getting better and better within the world we've created," said Messick.



Left: Amber Smith, who plays Babe in the performance of "Chicago," applies makeup before opening night on March 4. Above: Rebecca Lotze, who plays Roxie Hart, an accused murderer, discusses her trial with her lawyer Billy Flynn, played by Brandon Turner.



DENNIS MAHAN / THE RIP
Kenny Garrett wails on his saxophone during a show at West High.

World-class saxophonist entertains at West High

Kenny Garrett, who once played for Miles Davis, awes crowd with rare performance

By DENNIS MAHAN
Rip staff writer

The Kenny Garrett Quartet surprised local jazz fans with a rare Bakersfield appearance at West High School's DeMello Hall on March 5.

Garrett, a multi-Grammy nominee alto/soprano saxophone player, blew the audience away right from the start with his loud, bellowing melodies, as he constantly moved his hips from back to front.

The rest of the band, consisting of Carlos McKinney on piano, Kris Funn on stand-up bass, and Ronald Bruner on drums, complemented Garrett

with impeccable timing and the ability to keep up with his blazing speed. At one point, Garrett and Bruner went into a sort of instrumental dialogue — a call and response between the sax and the drums, which definitely highlighted the abilities of Bruner. The modest crowd of about 250 people enjoyed the hard-hitting drummer's playfulness, as he left them hanging during his quick improvised solos.

Steven Mettler, West High School's music director, said the show was a rare opportunity to see jazz of this caliber in Bakersfield.

Garrett was the last saxophone player to play with jazz legend Miles Davis before Davis' death, and he has also collaborated with Sting and Peter Gabriel.

Swinging into the season

Women and men score solid victories during recent matches

Bakersfield College's women's tennis team beat Ventura 6-3 on Tuesday, bringing its record to 6-4 overall, according to coach Keith Hinds.

"This is the most solid team I've had on all levels since I have been coaching at BC," Hinds said. The team has been playing well in singles matches, but the coach says players could improve when it comes to doubles.

Hinds hopes the team will be in the top three in the Western State Conference.

The team is currently 3-1 in conference. It was scheduled to play Allan Hancock College on Thursday at BC.

The men's tennis team took a 6-3 win over Los Angeles Pierce College on March 4.

During the matches, Nick Herndon, the No. 3 player on the team, came away as the team's top winner, taking both his singles and doubles matches. As of Tuesday, the team was 5-1 and 2-0 in Western State Conference.

— P.W. Scobey and Aaron Stewart



AARON STEWART / THE RIP



ROGER HORNBACK / THE RIP

Above right: Bakersfield's Son Le leaps for the ball as he plays against Ilan Aristarhov, his Pierce College opponent. Le won the match on March 4 in three sets.



AARON STEWART / THE RIP

Right: Frank Mena, BC's No. 1 men's player, is calm and collected as he faces Pierce's Remy Salvador. Mena lost to Salvador in two sets.



AARON STEWART / THE RIP

Above: Sarah Hickok returns a serve from her Cuesta College opponent during a match on March 2 at Bakersfield College.

Left: Neeraj Rama works aggressively to reach the ball during a three-set match. He narrowly lost to Pierce's Derek Starleaf.

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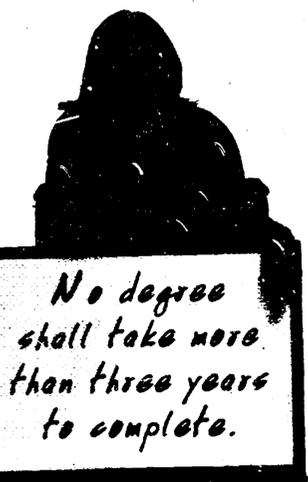
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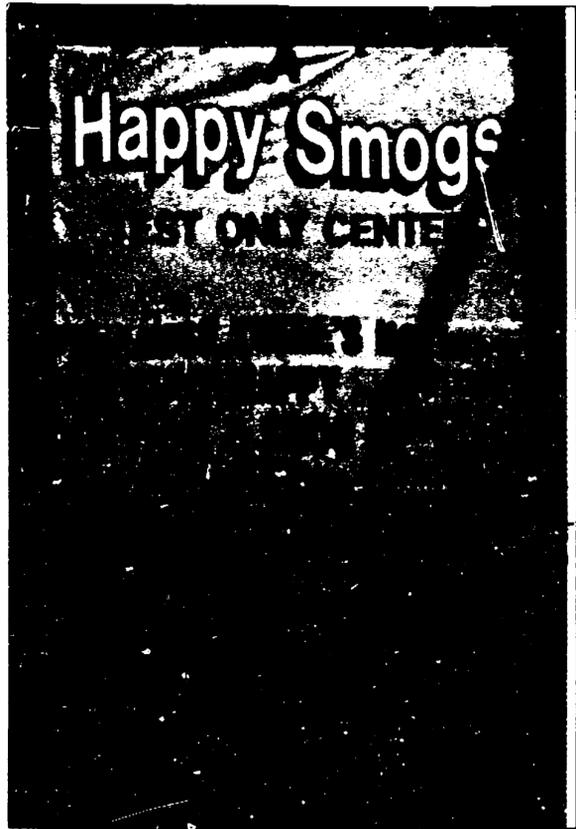
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NEWS

A Conversation on the economy



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

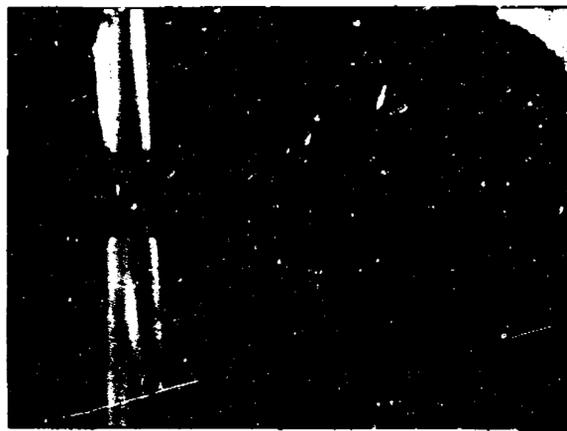
Above: A sign in Oildale welcomes Bush to town.

Right: Felix Adamo, a photographer for The Bakersfield Californian, zooms in during the speech.



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

President Bush enjoys what was dubbed a "Conversation on the Economy" with John Lake, president of Rain for Rent.



ROGER HORNBACK / THE RIP



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

Above: A crane holds up a gigantic flag during Bush's visit. Left: A Secret Service agent keeps an eye on the proceedings at Rain for Rent.



ROGER HORNBACK / THE RIP

The large crowd listens to the president's speech.

BUSH: 'Do I trust the word of a madman or do I make the decision to defend America?'

Continued from Page 1
you know Dana or not. You probably don't, but she is a volunteer in your community. Thank you, Dana," said Bush.
Karcher said she felt honored to be recognized by the president.
"It was really unbelievable," she said after the event. "I'm extremely honored, but there are thousands of volunteers in this community who do good work and to be singled out is just amazing. I hope I represent them well."
The president spent most of his time on stage discussing the

economy.
During what was dubbed a "Conversation on the Economy," he said he is optimistic because he has seen what the nation has been through in the last three years.
"First, we went through a recession. That means we were going backwards. We weren't rolling," he said. "That means there's a lot of uncertainty. ... We started to come out of that recession and the enemy hit us on September 11th, 2001. The attack hurt. The attack hurt our economy. The attack also changed our psychology in a way. We used

to think oceans could protect us from harm but we learned a tough lesson that day."
Then came corporate scandals.
"Then we had to deal with another problem here in America and that is we had some of our fellow citizens who forgot what it meant to be a responsible citizen. Corporate CEOs wouldn't tell the truth to their shareholders and their employees."
He said that those CEOs need to pay a price for their irresponsibility.
"We want to set a clear example. In America, we're not going to tolerate dishonesty in the boardrooms

of our country," he said.
He then discussed his decision to go after Saddam Hussein.
"After September 11th, it was time to disarm him so the threat wouldn't materialize. He said forget it. He chose defiance. Then I had a choice. Do I trust the word of a madman or do I make the decision to defend America? I'll defend America every time," he said.
The crowd unanimously applauded this statement.
Bush said that his tax relief policies are helping small businesses grow throughout the country, saying

they have been "invigorated."
He talked about how the child tax credit was increased to \$1,000 and how the marriage penalty tax was reduced. Bush said higher taxes will weaken the economy.
"For the sake of America's families, for the sake of jobs, Congress must not raise the taxes on the hard-working people of America," he said.
He then turned to Lake and other business owners onstage.
Bush asked Lake if he was going to hire anybody this year.
"Yes sir," Lake replied. "Right now, we're looking for 46 more

people. Actually, we've grown 24 percent since 9-11."
Leslie DeaHerder of Victory Circle, a chassis design and fabrication company, talked to Bush next.
"Any chances of hiring anybody this year?" Bush asked. DeaHerder replied, "We're probably going to hire two or three people this year," explaining that he has 14 employees now.
"There are a lot of companies, a lot in America, with 20 or fewer employees and that he says he is going to hire two more is really good news," Bush said.

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Stern targeted
Proposed fines will limit
broadcasters' free speech.

Opinion, Page 3

Undead take over theaters
'Dawn of the Dead' revives zombie
movies in bloody remake.

Offbeat, Page 4

Let's get real
Dr. Phil may not be the therapist
we all want him to be.

Offbeat, Page 4



THE RENEGADE RIP

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75
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Bakersfield College

March 26, 2004



BC student Kirk Sunderman was one of thousands who protested at the Capitol.

Faculty members talk to state Sen. Dean Florez, D-Shafter, about state funding for Bakersfield College.

Photos by
Chris Wong / The Rip



Instructors lobby Florez

■ State senator gets a lesson on the funding challenges facing community colleges.

By Seth Nidever
Copy Editor

SACRAMENTO — While thousands of community college students gathered outside to protest Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan to increase fees, a group of Bakersfield College instructors met with state Sen. Dean Florez, D-Shafter, in his Capitol office on March 15 to argue against the proposed hikes.

"When politicians are faced with these (budget) shortfalls, they find it easier to lowball community colleges."

— Ken Meier,
Vice president of student learning

They told Florez the state should honor Prop. 98, a 1988 ballot measure which they said guaranteed community colleges exactly 10.93 percent of whatever money the state allocates for public schools below the four-year university level.

Prop. 98 guaranteed a minimum level of funding for elementary, secondary, and community college education but didn't specify how it would be distributed. The group said that enabling legislation guaranteed community colleges a 10.93

percent piece of the Prop. 98 pie. And they asserted that community colleges have consistently received less than that percentage, resulting in a cumulative loss of \$4 billion.

According to Eso, the legislature has suspended Prop. 98 almost every year since 1988 so that K-12 can get more than the original 89.07% they were entitled to.

Eso also claimed that Schwarzenegger made a deal with the California Teacher's Association to cut in half the amount owed by K-12. "Personally, I think it was just, they could do that so publicly they could say they gave up 2 billion dollars," said Eso.

In a March 17 telephone interview, Ken Meier, vice president of student learning at BC, agreed with that assessment.

"When politicians are faced with these (budget) shortfalls, they find it easier to lowball the community colleges," he said.

"I do think the kinds of marches that happened alert politicians that they need to be more proactive," he added.

In a separate interview with *The Rip*, H. D. Palmer, a spokesman for the California Department of Finance, said that the \$2 billion was

See MARCH, Page 6

Students hit by 'necessary' increase in parking fees, fines

By DENNIS MAHAN
Rip staff writer

The per-semester parking permit fees at Bakersfield College and the Delano Community Campus will increase from \$20 to \$30 beginning in the 2004 fall semester, according to Dean of Students Beto Gonzalez.

"Raising the parking fees is just an effort to keep up with the cost for maintaining parking facilities and the cost for continuing to provide qual-

ity parking services," said Gonzalez. The parking fee had not been raised for a while and needed to be adjusted, he said.

News of the fee increase got mixed reviews from students on campus.

"It's understandable," said Matthew Poarch, a Bakersfield College sophomore.

"It's 30 bucks a semester. That's twice a year. That's not too bad."

Even students who do not purchase parking permits weighed in.

Victoria Simon, a political science major who does not drive, sympathizes with the students who have to pay more.

"I think it's kind of like a joke. They get enough of our money already," she said.

Rodrigo Roque, a freshman, said, "It's all right, because I don't have a car. But when I get a car I'm gonna feel like — why?"

Along with the permit increase, parking fines, which haven't been

raised in about 15 years, will also increase \$10 from \$25 to \$35, according to campus security Chief Mark Graf.

He said higher parking fines are necessary because they haven't been raised for so long, but expenses in the parking lot have gone up.

He said both increases are necessary.

"I wouldn't have recommended it if I hadn't felt it was necessary," said Graf.

He added that some of the money will be used to implement a new parking management system that should help alleviate long lines for permits.

Graf said it also will help in researching trends in parking violations so they can "try to work with the students to limit those violations."

"We don't like giving tickets out," he said.

Both increases were approved by

the Board of Trustees on March 4. The board reviews all student fees in March of every year, and students can voice their opinions at the meetings through a citizens' hearing, according to Gonzalez.

"All parking fees collected are designated only for parking services or to reduce the costs to students and employees for public transportation to and from the college. This is according to California Education Code 76360.

Speaker: Media focuses too much on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

By VICTOR GARCIA
Editor in Chief

Countries in the Middle East fight continually, but the conflict that is reported the most is that between Israelis and Palestinians, according to Mark Paredes, former U.S. diplomat to Israel.

That's because most of the other countries, such as Sudan, will not let

reporters cover the true story, he maintained.

"Over 2 million people have been killed in the Sudan and that has to do with a very radical Islamic government fighting against Christians. They've been fighting for two decades. It's still ongoing," said Paredes during a tolerance forum held at BC Wednesday.

The event, which was held in Fo-

rum West, was in response to allegations by the Jewish Defense League of anti-Semitism on campus. It was sponsored by the BC Democrats.

Paredes said he was invited to discuss the violence in Israel and where the Israelis are coming from.

"One thing that I am out to do is to debunk a lot of myths that I think prevent people from understanding

certainly where Israel is coming from and really understanding the situation," said the former press attaché for the Consulate General of Israel in Los Angeles.

He said because of media reports, many people believe Jews are at the center of all the problems in the Middle East.

"So, don't say that the fact that there are 5 million Jews living on the

eastern side of the Mediterranean has anything to do with the fundamental problems in the Middle East. It is a problem. It is a very sad problem, but don't believe all that you hear. I think it's the biggest myth that's going out there about the Middle East."

He said that the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is "much deeper than land."

He stated that to achieve a free Pal-

estine, "you have to convince Israel that it (Palestine) is going to be a responsible state."

In an interview afterward, Paredes was asked if he thought there would ever be a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Arabs.

"Honestly, I'm a pessimist. I really am. Feelings are just too rough. The hatred goes back a long time. I hope I'm wrong," he said.

Theft from cars remains a problem on campus

■ After midnight, security limited to remote cameras and blue light stations.

By P.W. SCOBEY
Rip staff writer

Stealing from cars is the most common type of theft on campus, according to campus security chief Mark Graf.

Since the beginning of the semester, nine vehicles have been broken into in the parking lots.

Part of the reason this occurs is because people do not secure or hide their belongings.

Graf says that students and faculty members should secure loose pos-

sessions in their trunks and lock their car doors.

Besides patrolling the campus, college security also works with the blue lights system.

The blue lights spread throughout the campus are for anybody in need of assistance.

If someone has a situation or needs an escort, that person can press the button and a security member will be on call to help.

Nine blue lights were put out on campus six years ago.

Graf says that the blue lights have been a great addition to campus security.

The security team is not planning to add any other features or items at this time.

Graf said he is confident that the guards in uniform and the cameras throughout the school are enough to do the job for now.

"We have over 12 cameras on campus, and a guard is required to regularly check the blue lights," Graf said.

During the day, security is pretty tight, but they call it quits after midnight.

Even though security is gone after midnight, the cameras are still on, Graf said.

When the campus lights are shut off, the cameras are then powered with ambient lights.

In addition, Graf said, he and a sergeant are on call as a backup.

"The campus is not closed, it's on

stand by."

Three members of security are in uniform and patrol the campus. An additional employee works behind the desk, and there are two cadets.

"I could use additional officers, but we are doing fine with who we have," Graf said. Any graffiti case on campus is documented first in the security office, then to the city police department.

A cadet examines the gravity in order to make an assumption to find out who was the cause. Not all graffiti is gang-related, but gang members are usually the first suspects, according to Graf.

"We are here for the students and faculty, and want to be of assistance about any situation," he said.



DENNIS MAHAN / THE RIP

March Madness

Southern Indiana guard Joe Gordon attempts a pass during the Elite Eight Quarterfinals Wednesday at Centennial Garden. See photos at www.therip.com

FEATURES

Part-time instructors juggle multiple teaching jobs

By JEFF EAGAN
Rip staff writer

You may not know who they are, you could have been in one of their classes and you've probably even passed a few in the halls without ever giving them a second glance. These are, of course, the nearly 250 adjunct, or part-time, instructors teaching at Bakersfield College.

These instructors, however, fill a very important gap. They teach subjects ranging from physical education and the sciences to child development and English. Not all of the adjunct faculty are here for the same reasons. Their intentions for teaching are as diverse as the subjects they cover.

For example, the English Department at BC currently has around 26 full-time and around 24 adjuncts, said Carol Cunningham, the department's chairwoman. Some of these adjuncts have been teaching at BC for years and do it simply for the mere enjoyment of teaching, while others see it as both a means to a financial need and a stepping stone to a permanent position.

"Most of the faculty we have who are part-timers want to become full-time instructors, most of them, the younger faculty," said Cunningham. "There are faculty who are retired, who like to keep a hand in the game, and like young people, they teach part-time but aren't looking for a full-time position."

Like many young adjuncts, Kerrie Buis, an English teacher, holds two jobs to make ends meet. Now teaching English 60 and 1A at BC since the summer of 2000, Buis originally taught at Cal State Bakersfield, but

after the budget cuts hit, she had to look for work as a high school substitute. Though Buis has not yet applied for a full-time job, she has ambitions to make that step. "I love teaching at a college level. Hopefully, one of these days they will open up for tenure track."

There are many similarities and differences between part-time and full-time teachers. One of the differences with adjunct status is that they are paid per class at a rate of \$40 per hour, whereas full-time faculty are paid by days under a 175-day contract.

According to Cunningham, full-time faculty usually have seniority over adjuncts when it comes to choosing classes, but adjuncts work just as hard as any other faculty member at BC.

As an adjunct instructor at BC with a full-time position teaching at Delano High School, Jack Pierce keeps up a grueling schedule teaching physical science and geology at both schools.

"I have a very tight schedule. Usually I run 14-to-16 hour days, 12-hour days during high school, and on the nights I teach, they turn into about 16-to-18 hour days." The man has a look of hardness underneath his bold aqua blue eyes, a man of 43 and at the time of the interview, a day away from getting married, emanating a sense of pure conviction about teaching.

"I don't look at it as real tough work, because I love to teach; it's my passion. And to really be able to teach my profession, geology and the sciences, I love it and I don't look at it as a work load," Pierce said. "If they would allow me I would take on more classes."

Although the dire financial situation California is facing has slowed the hiring of full-time faculty in California, Cunningham says, "The problem at BC and at a lot of colleges is, because of the budget, we hire more adjuncts than we do full-

time people, and it wasn't that way 25 years ago when the money was different."

Cunningham contends that it is happening at nearly all levels of the California educational system. "I've spoken with colleagues at Cal State and other California community colleges. It's awful, it's very, very hard to get a full-time position."

Pierce recalled a similar situation he had that validated the trend of scarcity of full-time teaching positions, not just in Bakersfield, but throughout California. About three years ago, Pierce applied for a full-time position at a Hancock College in Santa Maria.

"I had an inside source that indicated to me that there were about 210 applicants, and out of the 210 there were about 90 percent with Ph.D.s. And so I didn't have a chance, since I have a master's degree. And so they ended up hiring a person with a Ph.D.," Pierce said. "In regards to our jobs scarce, I believe yeah, they're tough jobs to get."

And Cunningham comments that the market for positions has not been so favorable in recent years. "I think they're discouraged by the market. It must be very frustrating. It's frustrating as a department chair to have wonderful adjuncts and no positions open," she said.

For now, Buis remains positive and well aware of the challenges she faces applying in these times. "I know there are other people who have applied several times and haven't made it. I think it's realistic, but time-consuming." But her confidence in teaching keeps her motivated, and the experience as an adjunct at BC will likely enrich her until a permanent job in academia becomes more viable.

"Probably my biggest motivation is because I feel like part of the department here, and I really like teaching here. I enjoy the students and I enjoy the subject material," Buis said.



Kerrie Buis

conditions for teaching are as diverse as the subjects they cover. For example, the English Department at BC currently has around 26 full-time and around 24 adjuncts, said Carol Cunningham, the department's chairwoman. Some of these adjuncts have been teaching at BC for years and do it simply for the mere enjoyment of teaching, while others see it as both a means to a financial need and a stepping stone to a permanent position.

Like many young adjuncts, Kerrie Buis, an English teacher, holds two jobs to make ends meet. Now teaching English 60 and 1A at BC since the summer of 2000, Buis originally taught at Cal State Bakersfield, but

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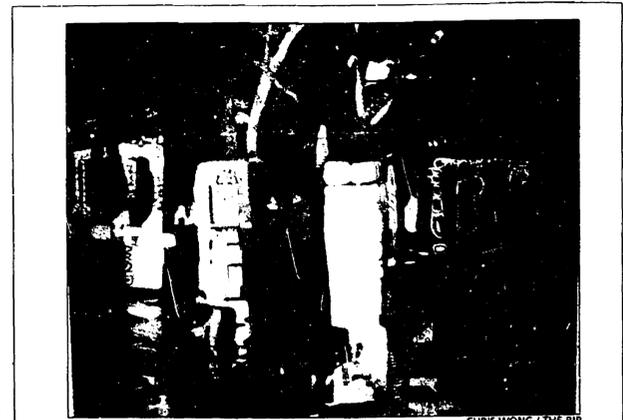
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Al Davis' painting "The Wharf" can be seen in the BC art gallery.

Art History

Gallery exhibits retrospective of faculty work

By BARRY LIPSON
Rip staff writer

In celebration of its 90th anniversary, Bakersfield College unveiled artwork from past fine arts faculty members.

Art Director Lee Clark explains why he came up with the idea. "When we started talking about the 90th anniversary a couple years ago, I thought it would be a nice thing to have a retrospective of as many art faculty members as we could."

On display are works from teachers going back to 1914. Betty Younger, a former student and member of the gallery support group, was at the exhibit's opening reception Feb. 19.

"It's history, a trip and a very emotional experience," she said.

"We should recognize the talent in the Art Department."

Younger, whose own sculptures can be seen in the courtyard of the Chain-Younger law firm, recalled her favorite BC instructor.

"My teacher was Eunice Uebele. She started my interest and love in working with metal. She used to say, 'Betty you'll never be famous until you've married and raised children.' My response is, 'I did it.'"

One of the displays was that of architect Clarence Cullimore, who has built more than 30 adobe-style homes in the Bakersfield area and has taught architectural drawing.

Conzetta Argentinio lives in one of the homes Cullimore built. "I moved into my home in 1979 and at that time I learned about his work and the history," she said. "I heard that there would be plans here,

and since I don't have plans for my home, the thought was I might find them here. I also heard that some of the magazines he was featured in would be on display and I was interested in finding out if my home is pictured in any of them."

Cullimore's son, Clarence Cullimore Jr., attended the opening and was happy with the attention his father's work received. "It's good to see my father's work here. We have lots of details but most of it was in boxes. Mr. Clark did a good job in arranging it."

The exhibit is open through April 1. The art gallery is located inside the library. Gallery hours are noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday.



See more Elite Eight photos at www.therip.com

OPINION

Proposed fines limit free speech of broadcasters

Government crackdown on profanity nothing more than political overkill.

By IAN HAMILTON
Managing Editor

Acting in the interests of an enraged and self-righteous minority of the American public, the Federal Communications Commission is using every bit of power it can muster to censor television and radio.

Ever since Janet Jackson demonstrated that she was a boob at the Super Bowl, the FCC has been completely rewriting its interpretation of indecency for more conservative standards. In one example, the FCC reversed a decision which stated that U2's Bono was not indecent when he said "this is really, really, fucking brilliant" live at the 2003 Golden Globes. The way he used it did not have a sexual connotation, the FCC said. The new decision states that the f-word is entirely offensive under any circumstances, regardless of the manner in which it is used. The new standard broadly targets speech for indecency, even retroactively. How can something that was not indecent last year be indecent now? Things seem to become more offensive during an election year.

While Bono's comment did not end in a fine, the commission fined Howard Stern the maximum penalty of \$27,500 for comments he made three years ago. In addition to increased FCC restrictions, bills are passing through the House and Senate that will raise the penalties for indecency on the air. Stern, who has been the most fined radio personality in recent history, would face fines of up to \$500,000 for each violation under the proposed legislation. What is happening to Stern and numerous other television and radio organizations around the country is simply a fine-induced form of censorship fueled by pressure groups.

While censorship is always an issue that should be watched carefully in the United States, the way Americans froth at the mouth when something happens to celebrities is the more immediate issue. The biggest topic of conversation after the Super Bowl was not who won it, it was who saw Jackson's breast and what they thought really happened. Conservative legislators and groups are taking advantage of the Jackson situation to make a political pounce on the American media.

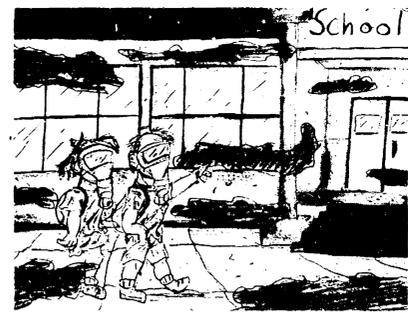
Suddenly, indecency is the word of the week and our legislators are making sure the American media do not expose us to too much foul language. As more American soldiers die overseas, the government has started cracking down on the real villains:



Radio shock jock Howard Stern could face additional fines from the FCC.

naughty words. The public needs to calm down and realize what really matters. Regardless of what the government or media tells us, one breast being displayed on national television does not mean the end of days is at hand. As the political smoke screen thickens, it becomes increasingly important for Americans to keep track of their rights and freedoms before they disappear in the flash of a breast.

Hopefully, so were the politicians inside the Capitol, who seem to think they can kick communism colleges around with nary a whimper of a response. What they got was a roar. If I was Arnold Schwarzenegger, I would be thinking about the hundreds of sarcastic signs aimed directly at me. Among the cleverest were "He's back to terminate your education" and "Hasta la vista, students." My personal favorite - apart from the incomparable "I need money" poster wielded by a Chinese man from San Francisco - was "Arnold took ESL at a community college."



"It's not too bad today. We just need our gas masks."

Cleaner air starts with us

It's no secret that the air around here is bad. All we have to do to realize this is look outside at those clear-as-mud brown skies as we head out for the day. But the effects we can't see are the ones that ultimately may kill us. According to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, our bad air causes diseases like bronchitis, and it aggravates heart problems and lung conditions, like asthma. At least 18 percent of asthma cases among children in the valley are linked to pollution, said Janelle Schneider, an educational representative. The road to cleaner air starts with each one of us. Schneider said emissions from vehicles are responsible for 60 percent of the valley's ozone problem. Car-pooling can help. We are all responsible for the air we breathe. For more ideas, visit the district's Web site at www.valleyair.org

STAFF EDITORIAL

CAMPUS VOICES
Vince Pierucci

Republican Club seeks members

Want to meet some new people? Take a couple of road trips? Shake hands with the governor of California or the president of the United States? If so, the Bakersfield College Republican Club is the place for you.

We don't want you to get the wrong impression. As soon as you read the word "Republican," these words probably came to your mind: "stuffy," "up-tight" or "anal."

But BC Republicans is an energetic group of young adults who aren't exactly like your daddy's Republicans. In the past few months, we have volunteered for the president and governor when they came to Bakersfield.

At both events, club members shook hands, had pictures taken with both Republican leaders and made contacts for jobs with the governor's office and the White House advanced teams.

In addition to volunteer projects, we take trips to Republican conventions and seminars. We have attended the California Republican Party Convention in the Bay Area, and leadership seminars in Long Beach and Las Vegas. We also will be taking two dozen members to the California College Republican's annual convention in early April.

Joining the BC Republicans will give you firsthand experience in campaigns, voter registration drives and Republican initiatives.

You will have the opportunity to work side by side with local chapters of the Young Republicans and the Young Republicans Federated, meet local leaders and get a better grasp on important state and local issues.

Aside from the politics, you will have the opportunity to make friendships with the people who have the same values as us.

We hold many social events and enjoy spending time together on the weekends. Above anything else, we just like to have fun!

Come check us out! We meet at 5 p.m. every Tuesday in the student lounge, right past the River Oaks Espresso bar in the cafeteria.

E-mail us at bcrc@usa.com or call me at 827-1553 for more information.

Vince Pierucci is chairman of the BC Republicans.

THE RENEGADE RIP

Winner of the 2003 JACC Pacemaker Award

The Renegade Rip is produced by BC journalism classes, printed by Bakersfield Envelope & Printing Co. Inc. and circulated on Fridays during the fall and spring semesters. The Rip is published under the auspices of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, but sole responsibility for its content and opinions rests with student editors.

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'GADE FEEDBACK
Jeff Eagan / The Rip

What is more important at college, the arts or sports? Why?

 Alba Soto: "I think art is more important because you learn so many things in art at school, and you can do sports outside of school."	 Marissa Mercado: "Well, I think art is more important to society than sports because art is a record. Sports is just something that comes and goes."	 John Bryan: "When I'm older, I would say arts, because I think arts offers folks a broader area where they can participate and express something inside them."	 Donald Meyer: "I believe the arts are more important because I'm a musician myself."	 Jennifer Chatman: "Sports, because it gives students a chance to show their athletic ability."
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Zombies attack!!

By BARRY LIPSON Rip staff writer

For me, the movies are about entertainment, and that is what "Dawn of the Dead" is about.

Fast cuts, exciting visuals and did I mention zombies? Yep, it's all here.

The undead rule the box office once again in this remake of George Romero's 1979 classic.

It surprises me how many people have asked me for an explanation of why the zombies in this incarnation run faster than the originals.

Not being a zombie physiologist, I have no clue. The fact is, I was too entertained to notice.

Going into this film, I was tired and getting over a nagging cold. The movie was like a vitamin B12 shot; after it was over I could have run home.

The original was a commentary on American social values. The zombies entered the shopping mall in order to capture pieces of their past selves.

They made attempts at using the escalators often times going up the down and vice-versa. They tried shopping and playing arcade games.

This time the zombies don't enter the mall until the end, which coincidentally is during the credit sequence. The zombies are less developed but nonetheless entertaining in the way they move and look.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Andre (Mekhi Phifer) and Luda (Inna Korobkina) await the birth of their child in the zombie film, "Dawn of the Dead."

looks, zombie babies aren't as cute. As the "normals" are waiting to be rescued at the mall, so is another trapped human who runs the gun shop across the street from the mall.

He communicates with Kenneth, a cop played by Ving Rhames, through erasable marker boards. There is even a scene where the two are playing a mock version of chess.

Towards the end, the gun store guy is getting hungry after five days without food. So Kenneth and the others at the mall, devise a way to bring him some. I won't say what happens.

If you want an intriguing plot, look elsewhere. This movie is as deep as a thimble full of water, but most who will go see a film like this already know that.

"Dawn of the Dead" is just plain fun. Any sense of logic should be left at home.

The energy this film exudes escalates straight through to the end. This is the first movie I've seen where the entire audience was still sitting at the end of the credits.

The kinetic editing style and skillful directing hold your attention until the fade out.

Say it ain't so, Dr. Phil

I've got some really bad news for you. You know what to expect from this column. You can tolerate a lot of negativity. But this just might push you over the edge.

Dr. Phil McGraw isn't all he's cracked up to be. Catholics, you can breathe a sign of relief because the pope is off the hook.

But if you believed in Dr. Phil's infallibility like I did, it's a crushing blow. True, his isn't the first self-made empire to hit a snag.

Rush Limbaugh, that shining example of initiative and self-improvement, drugged himself into a stupor of pain pill addiction.

Dr. Laura Schlessinger, the genius who brought us "The Proper Care and Feeding of Husbands," couldn't make a go of her first marriage.

And then of course there's Martha Stewart, whose saintly on-air exterior cracked to reveal a money-grubbing cutthroat.

But Dr. Phil? "Please, not him!" you scream. "He was blessed by Oprah." I want you to know that I feel the same way. I too watched in awe as he expertly pinpointed the cause of marital problems, parenting woes and identity issues on the weekly "Dr. Phil"

the COLLEGE CURMUDGEON



Seth Nidaver COPY EDITOR

edition of Oprah's show and later on his own program.

So when I read in The Californian that the millions who watch his weekly "Dr. Phil" TV show are receiving entertainment and not actual therapy, it was like a punch in the stomach.

Yes, reader, the brilliant analyst who enters your home every weekday to put your life in order with folksy sound bites is, well, putting on a show.

This is a national disaster. Millions of us who were devoted to the Ten Laws of Life, the Seven Keys to Weight Loss and the Seven Strategies for Reconnecting with Your Partner have received the therapeutic equivalent of a kick in the crotch.

What am I going to do with all the relationships, career paths and life strategies I created based on what was supposed to be scientific advice? They will all have to be recalibrated. No more basking in the glow of predictable consequences and immediate results. No more rejoicing in the clarity of numbered steps.

And that's not the worst of it. Like Michael Jackson, I don't know who I am or why I am here. I can no longer be sure that the Authentic Self described by Dr. Phil in his book "Self Matters" is the real Authentic Self. I'm back to a state of pre-Phil idiocy, unable to perceive even the simplest rules for guaranteed happiness.

In my pre-Dr. Phil days, I was lost in a rabbit's warren of human mysteries. Dr. Phil gave me exact directions out of the maze. I felt validated. My problems were the same as the people on his show, and the solutions were easy to follow! As long as I was going about it the way Dr. Phil said, it was going to be all right.

It's not all right anymore. In fact, it's all screwed up. I'm adrift in the universe, and it really sucks. Without Dr. Phil's guidance, millions of us are in misery. But all is not lost. I believe another therapeutic messiah will emerge. He will come in the form of a groundbreaking new book prominently displayed in the Barnes & Noble self-improvement section, and this book will finally help me break through into an authentic, life-affirming existence. I can't wait.

MOVIE REVIEW

George Romero's 1979 classic. It surprises me how many people have asked me for an explanation of why the zombies in this incarnation run faster than the originals.

The original was a commentary on American social values. The zombies entered the shopping mall in order to capture pieces of their past selves.

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BRAINS Compiled by Ian Hamilton / The Rip

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

What is women's suffrage?



Crystal Calderon, sign language: "Who knows, women's suffrage, I don't know."



Charles Dinesh, biology: "That's like before they had, the right to vote. They didn't have it yet."



Sue Yi, sign language: "I don't know."



Megan Downs, undecided: "The woman's right to vote."



Bryan Franze, engineering: "Isn't that about the time period before women's liberation?"



Mark Le Doux, psychology: "Women's suffrage is the women's right to vote."

CORRECT ANSWER: The right for women to vote.

Archery students find their inner Robin Hood

Ancient sport draws eclectic mix of students to class for friendly competition.

By BARRY LIPSON Rip staff writer



AARON STEWART / THE RIP

Matt Tramel and others take aim at their targets during archery class.

Ever since man learned to throw a spear to capture food, his hunger for competition has captured civilization. The sport of archery dates back as far as 50,000 years B.C., and Bakersfield College offers a class that not only satisfies physical education requirements, it allows students to follow in the footsteps of Genghis Khan, William Tell and yes, even Robin Hood.

While no one will shoot an apple off your head, there are tournaments in the class in individual and group events. Points are given based on how close the arrow is to the bull's-eye.

According to instructor Brent Davis, the class brings together an interesting mix of students.

"Students take archery for a variety of reasons. Some take it because they want to go bow hunting, some want to become competitive in the sport and others want to be summer camp counselors," he said.

Due to an injury at work, student Sean Perry would like to become competitive someday. "Archery is something I started doing six, seven years ago, then I quit because there were no competitions near my house. The only places were

"I like to shoot things!" — Eileen Del Rio, archery student

up in the mountains." He chose archery because he liked being outdoors and never was into team sports.

"I've always enjoyed individual competition, and I would like to one day be on an Olympic team."

Some students were in it for more pragmatic reasons.

"I like to shoot things!" student Eileen Del Rio said with a laugh. "My daughter took this class last semester and she said it was fun so I thought I would give it a try."



LEE MAXWELL / THE RIP

Jerome Miller and Jeromy Miller at the first leg of the 4 X 100 meter dash.

Renegades turn in solid performances at relays

Many BC athletes achieve a personal or season best in annual meet.

By SETH NIDEVER Copy Editor

Bakersfield College athletes performed well March 12-13 in the 33rd annual edition of the BC Relays at Memorial Stadium.

In fact, virtually every single competitor set either a personal or seasonal best, according to men's coach Bob Covey.

"It was a good day. We had 1,900 entries, about 1,000 athletes total. It was just a very nice meet," Covey said.

State champion hurdler Jerome Miller and hammer thrower Leo Chavez led the way with first place performances in their respective events.

Miller won the 110-meter high hurdles and the 400-meter intermediate hurdles.

Chavez hurled his way to a first in the hammer and a second in the discus.

Miller's time of 52.4 seconds in the 400 was a personal best, but he was less than satisfied with his effort in the 110 highs.

"I wasn't satisfied at all with my 110," he said. "It wasn't as fast. The start was very slow."

Other standout performances were turned in by distance runner Giovanni Perezchica in the 5,000-

meter run (a second lifetime best), Jeromy Miller in the hurdles (fourth in the 110 and sixth in the 400) and Nick Cramer in the 800-meter run (second place).

All told, the men had five first places and three second places, while the women had one first place and one third place. No team totals were available because the meet was scored for individuals only.

"We tried to get guys to get down and concentrate on something without worrying about the old team," said Covey.

The Renegades' season will get into full swing at the conference preliminaries in late April.

After that, the athletes have a month-long buildup to the state championships at Memorial Stadium on May 22.

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You are invited to the CSUB NURSING DEPARTMENT'S 2ND ANNUAL NURSING RECRUITMENT April 2004 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. CSUB Student Union MEET REPRESENTATIVES FROM AREA HEALTH CARE AGENCIES FIND OUT ABOUT CSUB NURSING PROGRAM ENTER TO WIN FREE STUFF

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NEWS



'We care, we count, we vote'

On March 15, thousands of students from community colleges across the state swarmed onto the Capitol steps in Sacramento to protest proposed cuts to their institutions.

Waving signs and chanting slogans such as "We care, we count, we vote," the enthusiastic marchers attacked Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan to raise fees from \$18 a unit to \$26 a unit. They also targeted his plan to send students who have already been admitted to UCs and CSUs to community colleges instead.

Students and faculty met with their respective legislators throughout the day to argue against the governor's proposals.



Photos by Chris Wong / The Rip



Above: BC students Kirk Sunderman and Bethany Johnson march to the Capitol.
 Top right: Pirikana Johnson speaks to the crowd.
 Center: Dean of Students Beto Gonzales gathers BC students.
 Far center: Protest sign says it all.
 Bottom: Students from Mission College line up to march.

MARCH: Faculty members raise funding issues in Sacramento

Continued from Page 1

academic argument," he said, referring to the Prop. 98 issue. "Community colleges are the one area of the budget where the governor is actually going to increase expenditures." Palmer noted that even with the fee increase, California's community college fees will still be lower than those of any other state.

He also said that the increased fees would be offset by greater access to federal financial aid. "It seems counterintuitive, but you actually need to increase fees in order to draw in more federal money," Palmer stated. Palmer said fees will be waived altogether for the neediest 33 percent of students.

"Financial aid will not be a real hindrance (to attendance)," he said. In the meeting, Florez said he thought community colleges would receive more money this year. "What's told to us in our caucus is that community colleges are doing better than they were last year," he said. Eso acknowledged that there was

an increase in funding, but he said it didn't make up for last year's cuts. "We were decimated previously," he said. Privately, Eso expressed his hope that the march would give community colleges more political clout in the future. So did Sarah Molina, a business administration major who showed up

in the pre-dawn darkness to join a handful of other BC students for the long bus ride to Sacramento. "To me, they're not messing with just my education, they're messing with my life, with my future," she said. "And so, I figure, that's good enough for me to get up at 3:30 in the morning."

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