

THE RENEGADE RIP

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Bakersfield College

May 11, 2005

Graduation hoopla puts unwanted stress on BC students

Some students feel that finals are a hassle with impending graduation.

By GINA MENDOZA
Rip staff writer

The countdown to the end of the semester is on, but the pressure of finals is building up on students. "I'm so stressed out about the English I P.H.E.E.," said Christie Han-

kins, 35, accounting major. Although Hankins currently has a high grade in the class, if she does not pass the P.H.E.E., she will not pass the class, thus postponing graduation for another semester. Graduation is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 20 at BC's Memorial Stadium. "The greatest thing that I will take away from BC is simply the learning experience," said Hankins. However, there are other students that look at graduation in a different light.

"I'm just glad to have this part of my education out of the way. Now I can transfer and get out of Bakersfield," said Ashley Villanueva, 20, liberal arts. While Villanueva is deciding between San Diego State and Fresno State for work on her B.A., Hankins is headed to Cal State Bakersfield to pursue a B.A. in accounting. "I want to work for a CPA firm after college," said Hankins. Although Hankins and Villanueva

value their time spent at BC differently, they do agree that finals at the end of the semester are not helpful, and do not benefit the students. "I think finals should not be cumulative, they should be designed to cover information that is currently being studied in classes, not information from the entire semester," Villanueva said. "Finals put too much pressure on students, and if you are already doing well in a class and have a good

grade, then I don't think that you should even have to take a final," said Hankins. Nevertheless, passing their finals is a priority and moves them one step closer to walking across that stage at the commencement ceremony. Graduates are encouraged to invite family and friends to the ceremony. Free parking will be available for all commencement guests. A professional photographer will take pictures of each graduate that

participates in the ceremony with BC President Bill Andrews, as they receive their diplomas. "I advise new students and continuing ones not to give up. I have been in the hospital three times since my journey at BC began, I have had relationship problems and it was tough, but don't let yourself get derailed," said Hankins. "Stay focused, keep working hard and you can achieve your goals," said Villanueva.

Soldiers say goodbye



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

Blanca Gutierrez says goodbye to her mother Maria as she leaves for San Luis Obispo and eventually Kuwait.

Delano campus director departs with unit heading for Kuwait

By BECKY JIMENEZ
Rip staff writer

Military soldiers including a Delano campus administrator said their goodbyes Monday morning before being deployed on an 18-month mission. Numerous tears, hugs and laughs were shared amongst the soldiers' friends, parents and boyfriends.

John Jaramillo and other fellow soldiers departed to San Luis Obispo. They will spend May 9-18 in San Luis Obispo and then in Fort Carson, Colo., for two to four months and finally will be deployed to Kuwait in August for 12 months.

Jaramillo, 42, was currently serving as the director of Bakersfield College's Delano campus. This June would have been his fifth year as director.

He has served in both the Navy Reserve and Army National Guard for 17 years. He is signed to Unit 115 ASG (Area Support Group) based out of the Sacramento-Roseville area.

Jaramillo will be making the dramatic transition from running a college center to serving overseas. "Since 9/11, my wife and I both knew that being deployed was a possibility," he said.

He had very little notice prior to deployment but had been listed on battle rosters five times in the last two years.

A battle roster is a list that attaches you to another unit for deployment. Jaramillo said that, generally, because of his campus position, he was removed from the list, but that wasn't the case this time.



BECKY JIMENEZ / THE RIP

Enrique Gutierrez hugs and comforts Lorena Raya, a friend of the family, as they watch Nora Gutierrez depart on her 18-month tour to Kuwait.

Regardless of his deployment, Jaramillo continues to be optimistic. "Kuwait is always better than Baghdad," said Jaramillo.

He will be leaving behind his wife and child. He has been teaching his son Shawn, 6, how to send e-mails.

Jaramillo recently received the Educator of the Year Award from the Delano Chamber of Commerce for his work at the BC Delano campus.

For five years he has been working on the Delano campus project, and just as it is about to be completed, he will be leaving.

"I put so much of myself into the Delano cam-

pus, both my personal as well as professional time, into my job that I kind of feel like I am leaving two children instead of just one," Jaramillo said.

BC will hire an interim director while Jaramillo is gone. He will get his position back when he is done with his mission.

Adelena Castaneda, 36, was also deployed along with Jaramillo's unit. Her family decided to drive her to San Luis Obispo instead of having her ride with the unit. Castaneda is a BC student majoring in administrative justice. Next semester would have been her last semester before graduating.

She has served in both the Navy and Army National Guard for 12 years. She is assigned to

See TROOPS, Page 5

Transfer center to streamline process

By JOSHUA AYERS
Rip staff writer

Top administrators from Bakersfield College and Cal State Bakersfield were on hand to unveil the new CSUB Satellite Transfer Center May 4 in the Student Services Building.

"It's about time," said BC Public Information Director Don Clark. The new center will have CSUB employees on hand in order to give immediate feedback to BC students about requirements for transferring. According to BC President Bill Andrews, the satellite transfer center is the first of its kind to be adopted by a CSU and community college.

"It's a one of a kind in California," Andrews said.

Andrews said that the idea is to get students into CSUB as soon as possible. With the new center, students can talk directly to counselors who will tell them exactly what they need to take in order to get into the school. This direct feedback will help keep students from taking classes they don't need for transferring.

"Exposure is the thing that gets people interested," said Dean of Learning Support Services Daryl

Minus. Minus said that BC wants to create as many pathways as possible for students transferring to four-year schools. The center will "give them (students) another option."

Priscilla Long, a center employee, said that a CSUB representative would be on campus every day during school hours to help students with their transfer questions.

The Federal Title V Grant made funding for the center possible. The grant is given to Hispanic-serving institutions and is to be used for Hispanic students, African-American students, students who are first in their families to attend college and low-income students. However, the center is available to all BC students intending to transfer to CSUB.

Andrews, along with SGA President Jason Ellertson and CSUB President Dr. Horace Mitchell, were among the leaders who cut the ribbon for the ceremony on campus.

Jan St. Pierre from the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce attended the ceremony to endorse the chamber's support to CSUB and BC. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the students at BC," St. Pierre said.

Replacement found for track coach Covey

By VICTOR GARCIA
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College recently hired a new track coach to replace outgoing coach of 42 years, Bob Covey.

Dave Frickel of Citrus College was hired because of his "outstanding experience," said BC athletics director Jan Stuebbe.

"He'll be a very good fit to BC and the community," said Stuebbe.

Frickel, who is currently the head track coach at Citrus College, has 27 years of coaching experience, both at the college and high school levels. In a telephone interview with The

Rip, Frickel said he came to BC because of Bakersfield's sports tradition.

He said that he hopes to carry on BC's track tradition and possibly improve upon it.

"It will be hard to follow in Covey's footsteps," said Frickel.

Outgoing coach Covey said he thinks Frickel will be a good fit at BC.

"He's very knowledgeable," said Covey.

Frickel taught at Chino High School for 16 years and South Hills High School for four years before becoming the head coach at Citrus.

BC NORML gets the boot at relay

The American Cancer Society prohibits NORML from distributing 'political material' during Relay for Life on April 30.

By DOTTY BURNS
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws student club claims they were "censored" by the American Cancer Society when their booth was shut down during the Relay for Life event that took place at Cal State Bakersfield on April 30.

American Cancer Society media spokesperson Erica Jones said in a telephone interview that the club was asked to leave after five hours of

negotiations over the material they were distributing.

SGA president Ash West and member of the BC NORML group, said, "It seemed like the American Cancer Society has a law on their books about political propaganda, and I can see how there would be a thin line between that if NORML was recruiting for membership, but as far as I know they weren't doing anything like that."

Jones said, "They wanted to distribute political material to the masses." Initially, when the volunteers of the American Cancer Society asked NORML not to distribute material they agreed and were welcomed to stay.

"There was no negativity at first," she said. "When Doug McAfee arrived, the head of Bakersfield

NORML, things became a bit stirred up. The group held up signs that read 'censored' at their booth and put yellow police tape around their area. We, by no means, want to censor any group. We simply want to educate everyone about cancer."

In a telephone interview with The Rip, McAfee said, "It's wrong for education groups like ACS to withhold information of the use of medicinal marijuana and other alternative health care," he said. He also said that ACS knows that marijuana helps the symptoms of radiation treatment.

As far as scientific research goes, Jones said, "ACS is a scientific-based organization and the science is just not there to support the use of marijuana as medication. But that is the secondary issue in regards to asking NORML to leave."

According to a letter to a Rip staff writer, McAfee wrote, "Many people at the event were angry at the over-reaction of the ACS and were dismayed at making the club shut down important information. Many people I talked to supported the club's rights and thought the actions can only hurt the cause of the educational effort by ACS."

McAfee said that the event organizers started making unfair demands since the BC NORML group started setting up their booth at 9 a.m. "The gentleman (ACS volunteer) wouldn't allow them to distribute The Rip (which contained a story about the use of medicinal marijuana) and other materials," said McAfee.

Jones said the material, which the group was handing out, had not got-

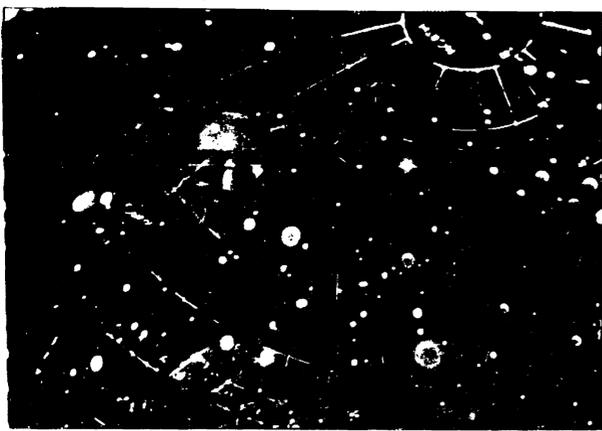
See NORML, Page 5

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

President of MEChA Jesse Ibarra, right, and Gustavo Arellano perform with the BC Mariachi band during Cinco de Mayo festivities in Campus Center. See more coverage on Page 10.



Astronomy Professor Nick Strobel stands behind a globe of constellations in the BC planetarium which will be undergoing renovations once a bidder is found.

No construction bids for BC planetarium

Professor hopes to have planetarium done by November

By GINA MENDOZA
Rip staff writer

Renovations on BC's planetarium are now tentative. The facility was scheduled to go under construction immediately following the end of this semester well into the month of October, but now plans are questionable because BC has not received a construction bid for the job.

"During the week of finals, the dome will come down and packaged, as well as the star projector and the seats and will all be sent away to a buyer," said Nick Strobel, instructor of astronomy and sole staff of the planetarium.

Strobel has been teaching at BC for almost 10 years and is com-

mitted to helping students realize their connection to the universe and the beauty in it.

"The planetarium is designed to simulate the night sky, the sky that you can see without a telescope, on a big dome with points on it that are replicas of the stars," said Strobel.

Every week, planetarium shows are given to different school groups in the community ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade. Also, BC's astronomy and physical science classes visit the planetarium throughout the semester.

Several changes are planned to update and improve the current planetarium.

"The current 24-foot dome classroom will be expanded to a 36-foot dome, and the star projector will be replaced with an optical-mechanical star projector. The concentrically arranged bench seating will be replaced with individual seats all facing the same direction," according to Strobel.

"I decided to stay here because I like the faculty and the students," Strobel said. With the plans for a renovated planetarium up in the air, Strobel remains optimistic, saying, "All of the new equipment has already been purchased. We are just looking for someone to do the construction on the building."

Strobel looks forward to opening the new planetarium in mid November as well as making a solar system course and an astrology course available for students in the future.

"People wonder is there other life out there, and an astrology course would really allow you to explore that idea," he said.

Strobel went to school as an undergraduate at the University of Arizona and received his Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of Washington. He calls Boise, Idaho home, and he moved to Bakersfield in 1996 because there was a job opening.

BC radio show 'in-depth'

By JOSHUA AYERS
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College's radio show, "Bakersfield College Today," has completed 13 shows since February and has reached an agreement with KERN News talk 1410 to produce 14 more shows through the summer.

The radio show is the brainchild of BC Director of Public Information Don Clark, who was initially skeptical about how the show would appeal to Bakersfield listeners. Clark, who co-hosts the show with BC professor Chuck Wall, said that he discovered the recording studio in the media services center in the library while giving a tour and said that he was completely unaware up to that point that BC had such a facility.

"It's classy," said Clark, referring to the Media Center production studio.

The half-hour show costs \$250 per broadcast, according to Clark. Funding primarily comes from local businesses and BC supporters in exchange for on-the-air acknowledgments. According to Clark, the show is trying to build into the BC Foundation budget.

"Student involvement has been key in the show's success. The format for the show typically involves a guest, generally a student or former student representing an organization or group of students on campus. Other special guests have included Congressman Bill Thomas (R-Bakersfield), said media specialist and show editor Manuel De Los Santos.

"I was surprised how in-depth the questioning gets," he said.

"They ask good questions."

For the past 13 editions, the show has been recorded on Thursdays and



JACQUELINE WHITE/THE RIP

BC Director of Public Information Don Clark, a former TV anchorman, works on "Bakersfield College Today," which he also co-hosts. The show airs Saturdays between 7:30 and 8 a.m. on KERN News talk 1410.

is followed up by editing before it airs on 1410 three weeks later. Now that the show has been extended for 14 more episodes, Clark said that they will try to tape on Tuesdays and have the show air the following Saturday in order to be more current with the happenings around campus.

The show has attracted somewhat of a following in its timeslot on Saturday mornings between 7:30 and 8 a.m. According to Clark, "Bakersfield College Today" is the most listened to program for that timeslot in the market.

"We think we're a real voice for Bakersfield College," Clark said.

Clark also said that he and Wall "teasingly" call the show "radio five BC" because of the freely flowing discussions that take place on the show without censorship.

Roger Fessler, general manager at KERN, said that the show is a good forum for BC to get feedback and comments into the community.

"We're pleased," Fessler said. "I think it's (the show) very tastefully done."

Fessler said that the station is willing to commit to a more permanent airing of the show but that it "depends on BC's level of interest." KERN already covers BC football in the fall.

KERN programming director Blake Taylor said that "Bakersfield College Today" is one of the better college-based programs that he has heard.

"It's a good quality product," Taylor said. "The cool thing is that it's local."

Taylor was involved in working with the college when the idea for "Bakersfield College Today" was first introduced. He is involved with show structure, editing, promotion, and the on-air content. Before the show's debut on the station, the timeslot was filled with infomercials.

Wall will be retiring this year from his full-time teaching position but says that he will continue to volunteer to co-host "Bakersfield College Today," Clark says he couldn't do the show without Wall.

Media Services area not top secret

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
Rip staff writer

Students using Bakersfield College's computer commons suspect that there is something top secret going on in the Media Services area.

That is not the case, according to Greg Chamberlain of the Learning Resources and Information Technology who oversees media services.

According to Chamberlain, there is simply some media-oriented equipment not available for student use. Also, using the term "media center" is technically a misnomer, according

to Chamberlain. The more accurate term is media services department.

"There is no 'media center' here, and if there is, I'm not aware of it," Chamberlain said with a smile.

Under the more proper appellation of "media services," the department makes audio and visual tape duplications available, and features a Professional Growth Center, which provides services to teaching staff.

These services include workshops on how to write good exam questions and an eight-week workshop on how to shoot videos. This media services department also facilitates distance

education courses, including health, political science and others.

Speaking of the primary purpose of BC's media services department, Chamberlain says that the department tries to provide "support for faculty and staff to teach."

With regret, he mentioned that the media services department would like to see the addition of teleproduction courses, but they don't currently have the funding to do so.

"In a perfect world we could do these courses, and we'd love to, but we are not in a position to do that," he said.

Graduating isn't easy, but worth the work

By MARILYN WHIPKEY
Rip staff writer

After all the struggles and hard work, it's finally paying off. Graduation day is almost here.

"There were days when I thought I'd never make it, that I'd quit. I'm still fighting to get through math."

I am an older student and have taken twice as long as needed to get an AA degree due to learning disabilities and health issues. I would go to classes with fractured ribs. I was determined to keep going and not allow problems to get in my way. I refused to give up. "Can't" is not in my vocabulary.

I attended Bakersfield College and received an AA degree in liberal arts in 1991. Being a single parent of two sons and being sick with Fibromyalgia, Epstein-Barr virus and Lupus took a lot out of me. I stayed home and focused only on raising my sons and getting them through school. After my second son graduated, I went back to college and now will be receiving a degree in journalism.

I thank BC financial aid for al-

lowing my appeals. I wouldn't have gone to college without their help which was needed and appreciated.

At one point, I had an instructor say, "I just can't see you doing journalism, it's too demanding." Due to my learning disabilities and illnesses, she implied that it would be impossible for me to succeed.

I am succeeding. I recently have had some of my photos that I took in journalism class published in two magazines, "Plugged In" and "From the Battlefield."

I can do journalism. I don't see it as "demanding." I see it as a "challenge." I thrive on a challenge.

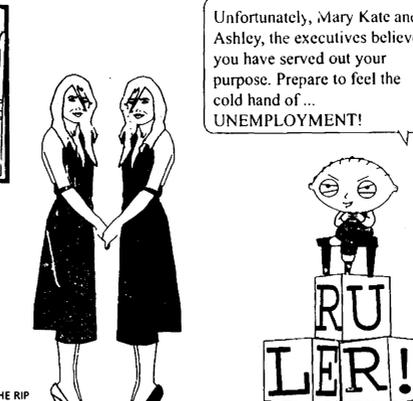
I don't know where my future is going, but I am excited about what may lie ahead. There are a variety of opportunities in journalism. I really enjoy photography and have been writing since I was a teenager. Sales and advertising have always impressed me as well. Whatever happens in my future, I will do all I have to do to succeed.

And, to all of you that are graduating, I have felt your pain. It has been hard work, but it has paid off. Congratulations!

Cartoons aren't just for kiddies



PHILLIP G. KOPP / THE RIP



Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen meet with the new Television Vice President

By PHILLIP G. KOPP
Rip staff writer

TV shows get old after a while. Characters grow up along with their egos, storylines are the same diluted crap we've seen before, and if it weren't for the mechanical laugh track, nobody would laugh at their jokes anymore. A solution is on the rise: cartoons.

Unlike TV, cartoon characters never get old unless the studio deems it necessary. All characters get the same pay and you never have to worry about someone leaving the show for a movie offer. Indeed, cartoons not only bring that adventure of reality TV, they kick it in the groin. How many people can get hit by car and then get back up and start walking?

We all grew up watching cartoons, and it served as our version of the news. I would always tune in to see if Batman was cleaning up Gotham City. Looking at cartoons from an adult perspective, it is easy to see

that they are more for adults than children. Adults write the storylines, do the voices and animation, and shift which way they want the show to go.

Now, there are cartoons aimed at adults such as "Family Guy" and "Sea Lab 2021." It usually comes on late at night so you can put the kids to sleep and watch in peace or keep the kids up, who cares? It's a cartoon, everyone will enjoy it. It's for the whole family. How many parents out there would let their kids watch "Desperate Housewives"? I don't know about everyone else, but watching Stewie try to kill Lois is much more entertaining than watching some over-the-hill woman so sex-deprived that she sleeps with an underage gardener.

If some of these "adult cartoons" don't appeal to you, then try watching "South Park." Yes, it's about little kids in a hick town, but they deal with contemporary situations that are big in the media, such as music downloading and how big of a slut

Paris Hilton really is.

I'm not saying that the average TV sitcom has lost its touch but let's face it, since the birth of reality TV everything has just gone downhill. I love watching some average yahoo act as much bull testicles as he can for a cash prize, but you see it two or three times and it just doesn't hold the attraction it once did. Studio executives just went a little crazy after "Survivor" came out, and now we even have an MTV version with a bunch of winners we've already seen.

After looking at all sitcoms I've watched over the years, they all meet the same inevitable doom. They do the same crap every other show has done, and then they cancel. Good ones go into syndication, and the others just end up on an archive shelf.

Luckily, adult cartoons survive on Cartoon Network and are, sometimes, even brought back from the dead. I'd continue this with a final thought, but "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" is going to start, and it's a new episode.

Summer school scramble

By BRYSON PAUL
Rip staff writer

Man, just imagine this. We are getting prepared for finals, studying hard to pass the classes and pushing our brains to the peak. Filling your head with so much knowledge you know you will not remember in the future and information that doesn't apply with your future goals or job description. For some students, finals mean the end of school and starts summer vacation. For others, finals are like the next "Star Wars" movie - a prequel to the conclusion, known as summer school.

That's four months of work squeezed into your head in 6 weeks. Then you're getting up at 7:30 in the morning for an 8 a.m. class because, face it, in the summer students get lazy and don't want to get out of the bed till the last minute.

You are attending a class where the instructor is going so fast that

you would think your at Six Flags on the Goliath. You'll be playing catch up from the beginning. While you're doing that, other people are at home waking up at 1 in the afternoon, and relaxing all day long.

It's not the instructors fault that they are going too fast for you to grasp the lesson because they are working on a time limit. Also, they depend on students studying at home after class to teach students what they need to know for the test that will come in a week. However, what student really studies every night for two hours per class? It's summer vacation. The only time a student will probably study is two hours the night before a test.

Even so, summer school has its rewards by reaching a goal faster. No one ever said taking the shortcuts will be easy; however, there is a celebration waiting for them at the finish line.

Local money should be spent at local businesses

By JOSHUA AYERS
Rip staff writer

A disturbing thought occurred to me as I was driving down Rosedale Highway the other day: Our town is losing its uniqueness.

The development of new homes on Bakersfield's west side has brought a barrage of new corporate townhomes that are an eyesore to our town's facade and a plague to our economy. Strip malls such as the Northwest Promenade, a mile-long corridor on Rosedale Highway, hosts a collection of national corporate retail stores that are swallowing up customers from local area businesses.

When consumers shop at these

stores, the stores distribute their profits at the national level. Bakersfield money is being channeled out of our town. When consumers buy local products, that money is redistributed through purchases at other local businesses back into the community. The money never leaves town, building a foundation for our local economy.

Our civic leaders may argue that the development of these corporate centers brings jobs, and that is true. The problem is that these jobs tend to be low-paying, part-time jobs—barely providing the means necessary to buy a house, car or raise a family. Scrapping in on such meager wages forces these workers to purchase products from discounted retail gi-

ants, cementing their place in town. This isn't just happening with retail either. Major restaurant chains are coming to Bakersfield at an alarming rate. California Pizza Kitchen, Macaroni Grill, and soon to be Elephant Bar are chomping at the bit to get a piece of the Bakersfield market.

Bakersfield residents are hungry for something different. When CPK opened up earlier this year, the line was out the door. Chile's and Roadhouse Grill are constantly busy. This should be a red flag to local entrepreneurs. The demand for good food can and should be provided by locally owned and operated restaurants.

Why go to Red Lobster when you could go to La Costa Mariscos and

get twice as much sea food for a better price? And let's not forget our Basque restaurants. Benji's, Woolgrowers are some of the only places in the state where you can get traditional Basque food.

Grocery giants are going up everywhere. For an area that prides itself on agriculture, this is a pretty disgusting fact. In 2002, the Central Valley generated 57 percent of the state's agricultural output. These can be purchased directly from growers or vendors at farmers markets.

You may not be able to purchase frozen dinners from them, but you can find reasonable prices on items like eggs and cheese, as well as produce. Purchasing from a local ven-

dor assures you of at least two things. One: the money is staying in the community. And two: The products purchased aren't being shipped out of the area only to return several weeks later on a truck making a delivery to a major supermarket. If farmers markets aren't your thing, there are a few locally owned markets as well.

When choosing between a local business or a retail giant, purchase from the local company. If clothes are purchased at a local boutique there is a good chance that only a small number of that item was made. Major department stores sell thousands of the same exact product.

Ultimately, though, the choice is up to you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students should keep BC clean

Editor:

I am responding to the April 13 article in the Renegade Rip titled "BC in need of broom-mop." Apparently you and the other complaining students don't attend classes in Language Arts, the building where I teach, because I work in a very clean environment. For most of that I have Scott Smith, our custodian, to thank. He, by himself, takes care of our entire building, keeping it sparkling clean and a pleasure in which to work. He, like so many of us who work in this building, take pride in where we work and spend so much of our time. And that is in spite of the students who carelessly leave their trash and spills behind.

As far as blame, I think it's everyone's responsibility to pick up after his or her own self and keep our campus clean. There wouldn't be any trash or spills if students didn't bring food and drink into the classroom, especially when it's not even allowed.

Do you behave that way at your own home? Or does your mother still pick up after you? No one should have to be paid to have pride in his or her school or work environment. I had pride in my school when I attended here, and I have pride now as my place of employment.

Perhaps we could look at this as a circular effect. Students pay to come here to learn. Custodians are paid to clean the facility at which students learn. Faculty is paid to teach said students. Maybe we need to charge students more so we can have more custodial help to clean the facilities in which they learn. It would also enable us to have more faculty to teach the students who want to learn!

So maybe next time you think about taking food into class, you'll think again. Or maybe you should wipe your feet before you track dried-up leaves into class. And when you see some trash, pick it up and put it in a trashcan. But when your classroom is clean, thank your custodian! Let's all pitch in and give credit where credit is due!

BECKI WHITSON
Professor of psychology
Bakersfield College

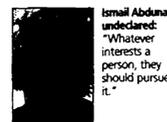
Compiled by Marilyn Whipkey / The Rip

'GADE FEEDBACK

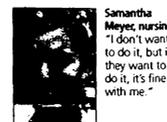
What do you think about interracial dating?



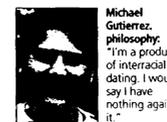
Elizabeth Gonzales, child development
"I think it's great. Everybody should try it. I like dating white guys."



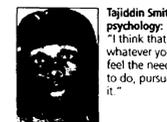
Ismail Abdunafi, undeclared
"Whatever interests a person, they should pursue it."



Samantha Meyer, nursing
"I don't want to do it, but if they want to do it, it's fine with me."



Michael Gutierrez, philosophy
"I'm a product of interracial dating. I would say I have nothing against it."



Tajjiddin Smith, psychology
"I think that whatever you feel the need to do, pursue it."



John Obino, forestry / fire technology
"I think interracial dating is fine as long as both people have common interests."

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THE RENEGADE RIP

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers agree with choice of new pope

Editor:

I read your article on the web, "Rethink Benedict." Very opinionated and very wrong.

You didn't have to say that you weren't a Catholic. It was written throughout.

The polls don't make the faith or the Word of God. The polls don't guide the Church or the pope, and the polls won't guide the future of Catholicism. Christ will I know that you scoff at that, but political trendiness is not exactly an integral ingredient of Catholic thought or teaching.

The Church is not a democracy that votes on its doctrines, rituals or edicts. It's a religion that Catholics believe was given to us by Christ. You may not agree, of course, but Catholics do believe and Catholics will rally around Benedict despite your personal angst or politics.

Non-Catholic writers often fall into the trap of judgment based upon their own collection of "informed" feelings or "perceptions" that cause Catholic believers to chuckle inside. No insult intended, but these writers or journalists consistently fumble and trip just outside the "edge" of belief.

Non-Catholic writers often fall into the trap of judgment based upon their own collection of "feelings" or "perceptions" that cause Catholic believers to chuckle inside.

transfixed on Rome with an intense interest that no other faith on Earth could command even if it tried, and that ain't "dwindle," either.

Pope Benedict's priorities include growth and Christian unity. To be honest with yourself and with me, Steve, time will judge. Not you nor I. Keep trying.

JOHN MCCUEN
Cape Coral, Fla.

They often trivialize (as you did) what seems so "important" to themselves and their own politics and positions that are capulated into this exact moment in time.

It's simple-minded and childishly silly. Sorry to be so blunt.

You summed up your remarks, "If dramatic changes aren't made soon, the Catholic Church will continue to see the numbers of their followers dwindle with good reason."

In the reign of Pope John Paul II, the Catholic Church grew from 750 million to 1.2 billion. That ain't "dwindle," Steve.

The plazas and churches all over the world were filled with millions of faithful during this historic death, funeral, election and transition. That ain't "dwindle" either.

"The mass media worldwide was

JOHNATHAN TRISTAN
TUBBSING

Medicinal marijuana stories spark praise and criticism

Editor:

I read your article on marijuana still being a danger. I found it very interesting. So, you're not worried about cocaine or heroin or prescription pills being used as recreational drugs? Weird... because I always thought they were much worse than marijuana.

Even though people will argue that marijuana is the "gateway drug," so what?

There are a lot of other drugs that are worse than pot. That's all I'm saying. Maybe you should do an article about how tobacco kills 120,000 people a year or how alcohol kills 3,000 people a year. Guess what? Marijuana will never kill you. If I were you, I would be writing about the drug that kills people instead of the drug that doesn't kill anyone.

STACY HERSOM
Arcadia, Fla.

Editor:

As president of Bakersfield Chapter of NORML, I commend the staff

of The Renegade Rip for their excellent coverage of the issues relating to the Bakersfield College chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Thanks for printing opinions and covering all sides of the issues relating to the laws, regulations, uses and related topics regarding the medicinal use of marijuana and controversies surrounding the use of hemp for food, fuel, clothing and other industrial uses.

BC NORML did a great job of educating themselves, other students, faculty, and administrators on campus and in the community to overcome the lies and misconceptions of government and corporate propaganda.

So many good people are fearful in a society where due to peer pressure and marketing it is difficult for good people to accept the notion that they too have been duped into the belief that marijuana is not just a natural herb with many good qualities.

Thanks again to the Rip, the students, faculty and administration of BC and especially for the NORML students standing up to the discrimination, lies and undeserved ridicule.

DOUGLAS MCAFEE
President, Bakersfield NORML

Wiggles commentary lacks research

Editor:

Ms. Mendoza's blatant slam on The Wiggles is evidence of her youth and inexperience, as well as her lack of research on the background of The Wiggles.

If she had done her research, she would have found out that three of The Wiggles (Anthony - Blue, Greg - Yellow, and Murray - Red) are not only married and fathers themselves, but also have Early Childhood Education degrees.

She would have found out that these four men genuinely care about the children that they entertain. They are involved in numerous charities that help children around the world. She would also have found that these four men have made connections with many special needs children.

There are numerous stories of children watching The Wiggles. My own daughter, who has Down Syndrome, was not able to use a pincer grasp to pick up Cheerios, etc. until

her research, she would have found that the "mail lady" that she assumes is the only female character in the show, actually only shows up once. There are many times in the three different series of Wiggles shows that women or female characters show up.

One of the most obvious female characters is Dorothy The Dinosaur. There are also Officer Beaples, Fiona Fitzbelly, Lily Lavender, and others.

I am impressed with the talent that The Wiggles have in the areas of Early Childhood Education and music. They combine the powerful influence of music with the proven philosophies of Education to provide a powerful tool for parents to assist in the development of their children.

My final advice to Ms. Mendoza is to grow up and not try to write about a subject she has no knowledge about, or has no intention of researching.

Laurie Sorensen
Evanston, Wyo.

Stereotypes were pushed in editorial on older students

Editor:

Your opinion piece dated April 27 states that you would prefer that we "older students" refrain from speaking during class so the younger ones can "get finished and have some fun." I don't think your parents wrote "fun" in the memo section of your tuition check.

Maybe in the future, you'd have "older students" sit in the back of the class or drink out of "old people" drinking fountains. (Older than what, by the way? 30? 40? Or just older than you?) Hey, I know, let's sew a big emblem on our clothes so people will know we're old and can persecute us en masse.

JOHN MCCUEN
Cape Coral, Fla.

Isn't college a place to learn and share ideas? I don't recall any catalog declaring college a post adolescent retreat for those yet unprepared to face life on their own.

You have the audacity to refer to the "older students," whose tax dollars fund your student loans, as a plague? Comparing us to drugs and alcohol in an attempt to justify a policy to muzzle their classroom discussions. Shades of totalitarianism, lan! Shame on you, especially considering your position as a member of the "free press."

But then, I can't get too upset, because you also make my argument for me by stating that "... younger students just want to get finished so they can have fun while older students want to make every minute count." Well, duh! That's what we're ultimately here for, lan. It's not about having fun, it's about learning and pulling every minute out of a class to make that occur.

If I have noticed one pattern in my years as an instructor here at BC, it is the intellectual stimulation that "older" students bring to the classroom. They are often the best prepared, the most likely to contribute to class discussions, and the most likely to do well on exams. Why? Because they "get" the fact that it's not about having fun, or getting out of class early, it's about learning and preparing oneself for the real world.

Ian wrote that if he had a dime for each time a student talked about his or her life experiences in class, "I could buy Bakersfield College." What he seems to fail to understand is that those life experiences often provide a valuable contribution to classroom discussion and to the learning experience in general, and he is so much the poorer for missing this point. But all the dimes in the world cannot buy wisdom. That is just something that

Maybe you simply don't understand why we take our education so seriously, making "every second count." Do you realize that a significant number of the people that you are referring to had good jobs but are victims of downsizing, injury or having our companies relocated to foreign countries? We don't want to be there again. You should be listening to us, and maybe you will be fortunate enough to not be in our position 10-15 years from now, (having been here "a few years" already) lan, that should be enough time for you to finish up here at BC and move on.

Renora-like living at home leeching room and board out of parents who, in good faith, promised you a place to live until graduation?

I would encourage you to use your talent for the good of our student body, not to isolate and discriminate. You must surely rank somewhere between the "teenage hoodlums" in the back of the class and the "older students" but someday will become what you fear. By the way, I sit in the back of the class.

DAN OLIVE
Bakersfield

Editor:

It's nice to see that ageism, as practiced by the editor-in-chief of The Renegade Rip, is alive and well at BC. I'm referring to Ian Hamilton's opinion column in the April 27 edition of The Rip in which he vents against "old people" as a plague in the classroom, and in advocating a policy to muzzle their classroom discussions. Shades of totalitarianism, lan! Shame on you, especially considering your position as a member of the "free press."

But then, I can't get too upset, because you also make my argument for me by stating that "... younger students just want to get finished so they can have fun while older students want to make every minute count." Well, duh! That's what we're ultimately here for, lan. It's not about having fun, it's about learning and pulling every minute out of a class to make that occur.

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comes with age. Party on, dude.

ERNIE TICHENOR
Political science instructor
Bakersfield College

Your opinion column on the more mature students at Bakersfield College contained some vast generalities that brilliantly display your youthful arrogance. I find it ironic that a journalism student would advocate muzzling anyone with insight to share. And your assumption that all older students are annoying pseudo-intellectuals would be like my thinking my photojournalism classmates, who are all the same age or younger than my own children, are nothing but drugged-out slackers.

MARCIA HIRST
Bakersfield

Nothing could be further from the truth, however, and I would hope that, they have benefited from being in class with me half as much as I have from my interaction with them. Try opening your ears and your mind, and you might find these older students have a perspective that will help you as you move into professional reporting. As for me, I have to muster every bit of self-restraint not to whack you in the knees with my cane.

With tongue firmly in cheek,

MARCIA HIRST
Bakersfield

I'll never know if you were writing about me in the April 27 issue of The Rip, but it sure sounds like it. For the record, I am 50, focused and yes a front-row sitter. And I do "contribute" in class. I am sorry - oh, no - not for my behavior but for yours. I feel sorry for you and the time you are apparently wasting at BC. I feel sorry for your professors who work hard - both in class and out - to try to reach people like you. When I leave BC after the fall Semester, I will probably have a 3.88 GPA. Will you be able to say that? I'll start my four-plus years at CSUB in January of 2006. And I'll sit in the front row, and I'll tape all my lectures so I can re-listen to them before an exam, and I'll get A's! I think you are a tired and frustrated young person.

DIANNE ADAMS
Lake Isabella

NEWS

BC receives funds for endowment

By BECKY JIMENEZ
Rip staff writer

Delano natives Ralph and Jan Carpenter donated \$100,000 to the Bakersfield College Kem Community College District on April 25.

The Carpenters have been long advocates of higher education. Both Carpenters hold college degrees. All three of their children, Susan, Monty and Stacy, are Delano High School graduates and have all attended college. "The road out of the vineyard is called education," Ralph Carpenter said.

The couple has been making generous donations to the college since the early 1970s for books, tuitions and scholarships. Carpenter said that over the years, this amounted to a total of \$38,000.

"But as the needs of the college increased, we found it necessary to have a more perpetual educational foundation to carry on an annual basis, long after we are gone.

"Thus, each year the money earned will be used at the local foundation in the directions of the college under board. This will go on forever.

The \$100,000 is part of an endowment plan, therefore increasing every year depending on the interest rate, said John Drow, Delano campus foundation treasurer.

"The money donated will be used for books, tuitions and scholarships," Carpenter said.

In setting up these grants, Carpenter made up the motto of the college: "No student shall be turned away for lack of ability to pay."

Carpenter said if you knock on the door, you will be guaranteed a chance

to go to the Delano center of BC. The new campus is under construction plan, therefore increasing every year depending on the interest rate, said John Drow, Delano campus foundation treasurer.

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In setting up these grants, Carpenter made up the motto of the college: "No student shall be turned away for lack of ability to pay."

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Rising gas prices a strain on students

By JULIANNA CRISALLI
News Editor

The rise and fall of gas prices are being monitored throughout the nation constantly, and some of the highest prices are in Bakersfield.

California currently has the highest prices of any state. According to Jason Toews, the co-founder of BakersfieldGasPrices.com, Bakersfield is No. 2 for highest gas prices in the nation, just below San Francisco. "Bakersfield is definitely above average," Toews said.

For students, this means trouble. The average amount that students pay for gas varies because of where they live, how many days they attend school and many other factors. Due to the high prices, students are forced to budget their money.

"People must be carpooling more and students can't go out and do stuff with friends on the weekends," said Bakersfield resident Ryan Nikkel, who attends BC five days a week and spends \$35 a week.

There are many students who drive from Delano, Shafter, Tehachapi and Lake Isabella to attend school at BC and for them the cost can be higher.

"It's crazy, it gets very expensive," said Delano resident Monica Alvarez, nursing major.

"I think (the price) will just keep going up."

Alvarez spends \$40 per week and attends BC two days every week.

For about a week in February, Bakersfield beat San Francisco by three or four cents per gallon.

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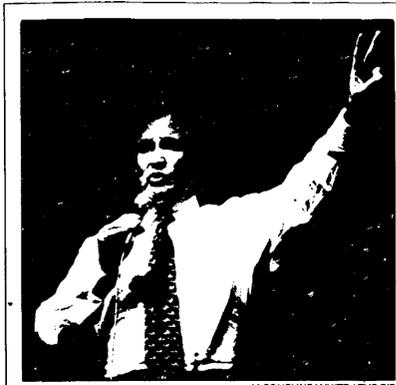
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JACQUELINE WHITE / THE RIP
Billy Mills, Olympic gold medal winner in 1964, gives a speech at Bakersfield College on April 26.

Track phenom gives inspirational speech

By BARRY LIPSON
Rip staff writer

Billy Mills, the first American Indian to win an Olympic gold medal, gave a speech at Bakersfield College on April 26.

An Ojibwa Lakota (Sioux) Indian, Mills was raised in poverty and orphaned at age 12. He broke several high school track records and obtained an athletics scholarship to the University of Kansas in the late 1950s.

In 1964, Mills set the Olympic 10,000-meter record at 28 minutes 24.4 seconds at the Tokyo Olympics.

He was inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1984 and is a member of the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame, the National Distance Running Hall of Fame, the Kansas Hall of Fame, the San Diego Hall of Fame and the National High School Hall of Fame.

Mills is the national spokesman for Running Strong for American Indian Youth, a non-profit organization that helps communities with self-sufficiency programs, youth activities and cultural identity projects. As the national spokesman for Christian Relief Services, he has helped raise more than \$212 million in contributions.

He encouraged the crowd by saying "Don't let others put labels on you." As a Native American, Mills has had his share of discrimination.

"People stereotype us as drunks," he said. "I'm an Olympic medalist."

CRIME BEAT

MAY 4 BETWEEN 10:15 A.M. AND 2 P.M.

An incident of grand theft auto was reported by a female BC student. The student's white 1994 Chevy Suburban with 20-inch tires and rims was taken from the southwest free parking lot. A security officer investigating the theft checked the rapid eye camera system and saw that a green Ford T-Bird with tinted windows was driving through the southwest lot at 11:44 a.m. The vehicle parked just south of the entrance to the baseball field. At 11:47 a.m., two suspects exited their T-Bird and began casing vehicles. One suspect was dressed in dark clothing, and the other suspect was wearing black pants and a white T-shirt. At 11:51 a.m., both suspects left in their vehicle from the southwest lot on Haley Street, heading northbound. At 12:11 p.m., the suspects returned to the BC southwest lot and parked next to the victim's car on the driver's side. At 12:19 p.m., the victim's car was seen leaving the southwest lot in a southbound direction toward Haley Street and it was followed by the suspects' car.

APRIL 27 BETWEEN 2 P.M. AND 2:10 P.M.

A female BC student reported an act of burglary to her vehicle in the southwest parking lot. The victim's black 2001 Toyota MR2 Spider convertible's top was not locked at the time of the incident. Taken from the owner's car were a backpack, a purse, and a pair of green Puma shoes. A witness reported seeing three males taking the items from the owner's car and fleeing east on foot toward University Drive. The value of the shoes and purse was \$100. The purse contained a 24-Hour Fitness pass, two bank cards, a Blockbuster card, a library card, and several mints.

APRIL 28 BETWEEN 6 P.M. AND 6:45 P.M.

An incident of car burglary was reported by a male BC culinary arts instructor. The instructor's white 1993 Dodge Caravan was broken into from the driver's side. The instructor parked his vehicle at about 5:30 p.m. in a road kitchen equipment. He noticed that the driver's side of his Dodge Caravan was wide open at about 6:40 p.m. A BC security officer investigating the burglary checked the rapid eye camera system, which showed three suspects entering the vehicle on the passenger and driver's sides. The camera showed a female wearing a dark jersey open the door of the instructor's car on the passenger side and enter. Another female wearing a dark hooded jacket entered the van on the driver's side while a male with dark clothes also entered the van. The three suspects walked from the van to the northeast parking lot. Then, the trio got into a sports utility vehicle, possibly a Ford Explorer, and began heading east toward the ML Vernon exit by the old tank yard.

APRIL 25 AT 5:30 P.M.

A BC security officer reported apprehending five juveniles loitering on the BC softball field. The officer stated that through the rapid eye camera system, he observed the minors taking 10-15 BC softballs from a bucket and attempting to jump the south perimeter fence from the southwest parking lot. The group of juveniles had been observed playing a baseball game known as "home run derby." The juveniles reportedly broke a milk crate they were using to help scale the fence. The officer called the minors' parents after apprehending them. The parents arrived and stated that they would make their children rake the softball field and make them clean any mess that had been made. The officer directed the juveniles to drag the softball field and pick up all trash in and around the field and to collect the trash in 50-gallon trash bins. The juveniles were four white males and one Hispanic male. Three were from East High and one was from North High. The minors were between 11-17 years old. The juveniles were warned not to return to the BC campus or they would face arrest.

Provided by BC Campus Security and compiled by Katherine J. White

NORML: Relay sponsors claim the club pushed political agenda

Continued from Page 1

ten the approval of the ACS. "Any organization can take part in the event as long as they adhere to ACS's policy regarding political stance," she said.

"The group was not making a political stance, we were merely providing information for medical marijuana for cancer patients," said Bethany Johnson a BC NORML member and an SGA senator.

West explained that there was a lot of tension between the two groups. "It seemed like people on both sides got heated," he said.

"If they did find anything objectionable with NORML's agenda they could have maybe let them know beforehand. That way this could have been prevented."

West clarified that NORML has participated in other Relay for Life events without a problem, and it was the alteration between the ACS volun-

teers and the NORML group members that caused the controversy. Jones said on behalf of the cancer society, "They wanted to invite NORML to a meeting to resolve any open issues with the American Cancer Society."

TROOPS: Kern troops bid tearful farewell

Continued from Page 1

Unit 1114 Transportation Company based out of Bakersfield. Castaneda serves as a Sergeant Communications Specialist.

Castaneda said she joined the Navy because she needed to do something to get out of Bakersfield. She knew that she may be listed on a battle roster and as a result, she chose to volunteer instead of waiting to be called.

"I volunteered last year to go to Bosnia, but the mission fell through," Castaneda said.

Now she has been assigned to complete an 18-month tour in Kuwait. Castaneda is excited, but at the same time is sad. "I don't like the thought of leaving my daughter Angelica," said Castaneda.

Angelica is currently 16 years old and attends East High School. Her mother will be back in time for her high school graduation.

Before reporting for duty on May 2, Castaneda married her fiancé, Raul Moran.

Castaneda plans to keep in contact with her husband, daughter, family and friends through the Internet. Castaneda said she bought a laptop to take with her on her mission in order to send e-mails back home.

After completing her mission in Kuwait, Castaneda plans on completing her final semester at BC. She plans on graduating with a degree in administrative justice.

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SPORTS

Baseball team makes its way to the playoffs

By CHRISTOPHER W. PISAR
Rip staff writer

After splitting two games with Glendale, Bakersfield College (23-15, 16-8) finished the regular season in sole possession of second place in the Western State Conference South Division, one game behind first place L.A. Valley.

The Renegades, seeded No. 12, are headed for a first round playoff match-up at No. 5 Santa Ana on May 14.

BC had a chance to move into a first place tie in the division with Valley after the lost to Canyons, but dropped their final home game versus Glendale 4-3 on Tuesday May 3.

Renegade starting pitcher Eric Schanz threw four innings while giving up all four of the Vaqueros' runs and fell to 5-6 on the season. He started well, but gave up three runs in the third inning on four hits and never regained his control. Schanz got into trouble again in the fifth hitting a batter and giving up two singles to give Glendale a 4-1 lead.

Right-handed reliever Neal Hubman replaced Schanz in the fifth inning with runners at first and second base, and got out of the inning without giving up any more runs.

Hubman, the lone highlight for BC, pitched five scoreless innings allowing only two Vaqueros to reach base. At one point he

retired 12 consecutive batters.

Glendale starter Gary Kim also had a strong outing going seven innings and giving up three runs for the win. Reliever David Fox threw the final two innings of the game to pick up his first save of the season.

BC got their first run of the game in the third after a single by Daniel Amaya was cashed in with an RBI single by catcher Brett Prieto.

They answered Glendale's run in the fifth with a run of their own as an error on a double play ball hit by Anaya allowed Ryan Steele to reach third.

He later scored on a fielder's choice by Ross Hoffman to cut the lead to 4-2. The Renegades scored again in the sixth as Seth

Palmer doubled home Dominic Fontana, who walked earlier in the inning.

BC's offense struggled all day to get hits with men in scoring position leaving seven men on base. That combined with a few base-running errors prevented the Renegades from coming back from an early 4-1 deficit.

This was most evident in the eighth inning when BC missed a golden opportunity to tie the game.

Josh Christensen hit a line drive to center field that was caught and Prieto was tagged out at first for the double play. BC rebounded from the loss in their next game as they beat Glendale 6-0 on the road the finish the regular season schedule.



DENNIS MAHAN / THE RIP
Jacob Ramirez goes through fielding drills.

BC track captain Jeremy Miller clears hurdles to reach state competition

By VERONICA A. NAVARRO
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College's captain of the men's track team, Jeremy Miller, took fourth place in the high hurdles in last year's State Championship and is hoping to do better this year.

"My goal is, of course, to win the State Championship. That was my main goal from last year, but so far it looks like it should happen for me, but I don't want to count my eggs before they hatch," Miller said.

Miller placed first in the 110m high hurdles at the SoCal Regionals with a time of 14:57. Miller takes the roll of a leader to help keep his team on top.

"The main thing is to help the coach out, and I try to lead and keep the guys in line because a lot of guys haven't ran track in a long time," he said. "So I try to give them a little advice here and there, and well, I'm not perfect either but from what I know, I try to help every body else out."

Miller ran hurdles races and competed in jumps during his high school years in Houston. But Miller injured his knee while competing in the triple jump in high school, and he doesn't compete in jumps today.

While in Houston, Miller got a call from his brother, Jerome, who was a hurdler at BC. Jerome Miller, who took first in the state last year in the high hurdles, urged his brother to come to BC.

"He's the type of guy that does not miss practice. He tells you if he's not feeling well..."

— Bob Covey,
men's track coach

"My brother thought I was still fast enough and that I should give it a try to get a scholarship," Jeremy Miller said. "So I moved out here, then came to find out I still had most of my quickness, and I'm pretty sure I'm faster than I was in high school."

One of Miller's main goals is to get his best time down and later

transfer to a Division I school, preferably in Texas.

After about two years with the men's track team, Miller has the No. 1 time in the state of 14:50 seconds in the high hurdles. His time is half a second faster than any of the other hurdlers at the state community college level.

"Miller approaches this sport with a lot of maturity," BC coach Bob Covey said.

"He's the type of guy that does not miss practice. He tells you if he's not feeling well or if he's injured. His brother (Jerome) is at Baylor this year, and both of those guys are great hurdlers."

Miller will be competing this weekend at the state championships.

High school standout hopes for success at BC

Clarissa Rivera of Delano High School has won many track awards including Kern County Runner of the Year.

By BECKY JIMENEZ
Rip staff writer

Clarissa Rivera, Kern County's all-area girls cross country runner of the year, will be running for Bakersfield College in the fall.

Rivera, 17, is currently a senior at Delano High School.

She is in track, cross country, National Honor Society, California Scholarship Federation and Earlimart 4-H club.

Rivera was named Kern County's Runner of the Year in 2004.

She has been running for Delano for three years, including three seasons on the track team and two on the cross country team.

Rivera joined track her sophomore year without any former training.

"A friend told me that I should consider joining track because of my speed. So, I decided to try out and it turned out I liked it," Rivera said.

In cross country she runs 5 kilometers (3.1 miles), and in track she competes in the 1,600-meter run (one mile), the 800 (half a mile), the 3,200 (two miles) and the 1,600-meter relay.

Rivera motivates herself to keep running because it makes her parents proud and it keeps her in great health.

Delano track coach Jay Smoljan said Rivera is self-motivated and a go-getter athlete.

Her training consists of long miles and speed work. She practices four days out of the week and spends one day racing.

Rivera said she enjoys running because it gives her a sense of freedom and it takes away any stress.

"When I run I think about the positive things that are going on in my life," Ramirez said.

In only her second year of competing in cross country, she qualified for the state meet. She finished third with a personal best of 19

minutes 29 seconds — the top time in Kern County — at the Grand Masters Meet.

She was 10th in Central Section Division I (19:34), second in East Yosemite League finals and finished 75th in Division I at the state meet in 19:45.

All of Rivera's accomplishments were not easy to obtain.

During the EYL finals this past season, Rivera was expected to win the race but due to having the flu, she crossed the finish line second and collapsed.

"I felt like I had let my fam-

ily, coaches and teammates down," said Rivera.

After collapsing at this race Rivera set herself to reach state finals. Rivera did just that by qualifying for the meet. "After that experience I realized I had to do my best and just go out there and give it all I have for something that I love," said Ramirez.

Rivera plans to give it all she's got at BC.

After graduating from Delano, she will begin her first semester. She will be balancing 19 units, track practice and competitions.

Rivera will be majoring in liberal studies to become an elementary teacher.

Rivera's consistency, hard work, self-motivation and dedication will add to BC's current track team with current key competitor, Brittany Grimes.

After BC, Rivera plans to transfer to California State University, Fullerton and continue running.

"Whichever university I decide to transfer to I want to run for them," said Ramirez.



DENNIS MAHAN / THE RIP

Erika Trevino takes batting practice before the playoffs.

Softball defeated in region championship

Team loses to No. 1 ranked Palomar College.

By VICTOR GARCIA
Sports Editor

The Bakersfield College softball team lost to No. 1 ranked Palomar College 13-4 in the championship game of the Southern California Regionals.

In their other games of the Regionals, BC beat Pasadena City College, 3-0; lost to Palomar, 11-0; and beat Pasadena 2-1, before losing the championship to Palomar.

The top four seeded teams hosted the Regionals, Palomar, Mt. SAC, Cerritos and Cypress.

The winners of the Regionals go to the state tournament.

BC softball coach Sandi Taylor said this was one of BC's best seasons ever. "This was our highest seed ever in a regional," said Taylor. They were seeded eighth in Southern California.

Taylor said pitcher Ashley Bailey broke the BC softball pitcher season record with 30 wins this season. She said as a team they hit 23 home runs this season, the highest ever.



DENNIS MAHAN / THE RIP

BC athletics director Jan Stuebbe congratulates softball coach Sandi Taylor after a recent regular season win.

Taylor said the team will be losing five sophomore players, including Bailey.

The softball team ended the season in a tie for the top spot in the Western State Conference.

TRACK & FIELD REGIONALS

The BC men's track team earned 22 points and placed 11th out of 38 teams in the Southern California Regionals at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo.

Jeremy Miller took first in the 110-meter high hurdles and will represent BC at the state championships at American River College in Sacramento. Jarom Ricks placed second in the decathlon and will also represent BC at the state championships.

Keith Arnold placed eighth in the hammer throw.

Robert Gomez placed eighth in the 400 hurdles.

In the 400 relay, Jonathan Nunez, Taj Smith, Miller and Gomez placed seventh.

In women's competition, BC's Brittany Grimes placed third in the 5,000 with a time of 18:32.59 and fourth in the 1,500 in 4:45.15.

Grace McClellan took second in the high jump at 5 feet 2 inches. Teammate Amy Clark took fifth in the javelin with a throw of 114-10.

BC's Cheri Madden placed seventh in the 400 (1:00.26), Roya Chambers took seventh in the shot put (37-4), and Jodi Calderon was seventh in the steeplechase (12:06.85). Erica Silva took eleventh in the steeplechase in 12:37.43.

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FEATURES

Free clothes

SGA-sponsored drive provides clothing, food for local families in need

By VERONICA A. NAVARRO
Rip staff writer

A turnout of over 100 people came to last Saturday's spring clothing drive at Bakersfield College, which was put on by the Community Outreach and Services Committee.

Most of those came from the Farmers Market and others were students who stopped on the way to school. Several parents also brought their children along and were happy to know there was free candy.

Sandy Woo, treasurer of the Student Government Association, organized the clothing drive with the help of several students and members of the community, who took notice and donated clothes, shoes and books for all ages. There was also a donation of \$150 given by members of the SGA to purchase food for families.

"This all started last semester," Woo said. "It was actually a little idea of mine to help give back to the community, so I decided to do a clothing

drive. Families come out here and the first thing they ask is, is it free, so we say yes. Then we let them know why we are here. Then they get what they need and leave with thanks."

JoAnn Blandford, who came to Bakersfield after struggling with financial aid at North Dakota, is currently living at the homeless shelter and was grateful to find free support.

"I think this event was really nice. I found lots of things I needed and the best part was, it's all free," said Blandford.

"This was a big help for the less fortunate, especially for myself because of the situation I am in at the moment."

Jason Ellerson, president of the SGA, also participated by transferring many items that were donated. "This project fits our goal of reconnecting with the community, and what's left of the clothes will be taken to the Bakersfield homeless shelter or will be saved for the next clothing drive," he said.



MARILYN WHIPKEY / THE RIP
Olivia Alvarado stops by the clothing drive after her Saturday class on May 7.

Health fair offers tips to students

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College's sixth annual Health and Wellness Fair is not just a shot in the arm.

The event featured a vast assortment of services, ranging from mental health services to massage therapy.

The fair, held May 4 on the south side of BC's Student Health Center and organized by Debra Strong, featured representatives from Link to Life, the breast cancer support group; Overeaters Anonymous, Clinica Sierra Vista, Skin-Deep Dermataesthetics and others.

John Willey, volunteer coordinator for the Bakersfield AIDS Project said that the organization educates the

community and helps those infected with HIV and AIDS, and their families, cope with the diseases.

The Southeast Neighborhood Partnership Family Resource Center, a branch of Clinica Sierra Vista, offers diverse services. This center offers parenting classes, child neglect classes, and Spanish and Esperanza classes.

The center also provides bus passes, food and clothing referrals, and sends food to the Hope Center and to the local food bank. Women, Infants and Children is another manifestation of the Southeast Neighborhood Partnership Family Resource Center and Clinica Sierra Vista, and the program provides eggs, milk, cereal and cheese, and their children and infants.

Stephanie Mathews, a student clinician, said money is no real object to getting CSUB training clinic counseling. "We can work with people who can't pay the \$10," she said. Representatives of Good Samaritan

Hospital, which specializes in neuropsychiatric services, were present at the fair.

This hospital, located in Bakersfield on Olive Drive, treats sufferers of bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and depression as well as sufferers of personality disorders. The hospital, according to representatives Dr. Lucy Estrada and Program Nurse Aurora Aguilar, offers in and out patient services, med management, classes on stress management and free transportation.

The Bakersfield Bodywork and Massage Supplies company, located in Bakersfield on G Street, offered free massage and information on the different types of massages, which include Swedish, Shiatsu, reflexology and Hot Stone massages.

"I was a virgin until I was 21 years old," she said. "The only reason I slept with a guy is because I had a whole bunch of friends telling me how do you know if you don't like it if you've never tried it? So I did. I was right, I didn't like it."

Riley said her mother knew she was gay but didn't discuss it until Ri-

Gay BC student shares her story

By MARILYN WHIPKEY
Rip staff writer

Since high school, 43-year-old Becky Riley has dealt with being put down, unaccepted by some and misjudged by others because she is gay.

"If a person had a choice to be straight they would be, because nobody would choose to be ridiculed with this kind of lifestyle," Riley said.

She said she gets tired of the things people say, such as "faggot," "queer" and "dike."

She gets tired of being told she's wrong or sick or needs help.

Riley is a Bakersfield College student pursuing a degree in animal science. She wants to someday write an educational book for children, and she also enjoys photography.

She is happy with her fiancée, Lori Carter, who she has been with her for 11 years.

Riley said that she believes she has been gay all her life. She knew this before the age of 10, when she was impressed with the women in lingerie in catalogs such as J.C. Penney.

"I already knew that I liked the way women looked better than guys; they just didn't do anything for me," Riley said.

Riley had her first sexual experience with a 13-year-old girl at age 11.

"I was a virgin until I was 21 years old," she said.

"The only reason I slept with a guy is because I had a whole bunch of friends telling me how do you know if you don't like it if you've never tried it? So I did. I was right, I didn't like it."

Riley said her mother knew she was gay but didn't discuss it until Ri-

ley was 24. Riley said her father lives in denial about her being gay and still seems to push her away. When he first found out about her being gay, he said, "You need help, you need professional help. You need to see a psychiatrist." After that, Riley and her father didn't speak for about 10 years. Today, Riley said her father says he wants to see her but doesn't put out the effort to do so.

Riley said her preference might have to do with her father, who told her she didn't need a man in her life to help her do anything. He would tell her she had to do it all.

"My father raised me that way," she said. "He raised me to be self-sufficient, never to need anyone for anything."

Riley doesn't think she has had a negative effect on the campus community except for the day she proposed to Lori on Feb. 3. There were comments overheard in the cafeteria where some people felt it was wrong for her to propose.

Riley's response to that was, "If you don't want to see it, don't look, turn your head."

Riley has never had children and is not sorry that she hasn't. She says she has plenty of kids on campus.

"I have 10 to 15 kids on campus who have adopted me and call me mommy," she said.

Riley has put up with gay bashing through the years. She has been in stores where she is mistakenly called sir.

Riley said some cities, such as San Francisco and Los Angeles, have gay pride weekends, and some people try to cause problems at those events.

She said some people call them names and tell them, "God's going to kill you all."

Riley's take on those causing problems is, "If what they say is true about God, he loves all his children. He just wants everybody to be happy, then why in the world would he be mad at me? I'm not doing anything wrong, I'm just loving somebody."

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BC play a hit

"Rashomon" features bandit, samurai, and three different versions of murder

By PHILLIP G. KOPP
Rip staff writer

Thundering drums echo through the theater as a slow curtain rises to reveal an abandoned building withered by storm and age. A priest is followed by a humble wood cutter who begs the holy man to return to the village he abandoned. Interrupted by a crazed wigmaker, they tell the story of a murder that took place that has three different versions.

This is the beginning of the Bakersfield College show, "Rashomon," directed by Kim Chin. The story unfolds of how a well-known bandit, Tajamaru, played by Keith Silvas, fooled a samurai, Takahiro, played by Vincent Cruz, by enticing him with valuable swords for sale. The bandit ties the samurai to a tree and then rapes his wife, Kinume, played by Natasha Spicknreuther, as he helplessly watches.

The real question was who killed the samurai and how. The

bandit claims he did after fighting him relentlessly. The wife claims she did after her husband refused to look at her, and the husband, who is channeled by a medium, claims he killed himself after his wife gave herself to the bandit and ordered her husband killed.

Which one is right? None of them. The wood cutter reveals that the truth after confessing to witnessing the murder. It turns out that the wife begged and pleaded with her to come with him. The wife will only go with him if the bandit kills the husband. With the husband untied he is not surprised at his wife's actions claiming she has looked at other men and has probably cheated before.

As the bandit and husband joke, the wife reveals that both men are cowards and have never really fought in a battle. She pins the two against one another who engage in one of the most comical fight scenes to ever grace the stage. It ends with the husband falling on his sword and dying as the other two run away.

The show was visually entertaining with a well-decorated set and remarkable costumes. The channeling of the medium was equipped with smoke and an echoing ghost voice that slithered through the crowd.



JACQUELINE WHITE / THE RIP

Keith Silvas, who plays Tajamaru, and Vincent Cruz as Takahiro battle as Natasha Spicknreuther (Kinume) tries to get out of the way in the play "Rashomon."

The play was not without faults. Some of the dialogue seemed to drag with actors appearing to be forcing lines. While the sword fight between the husband and bandit, in the bandit's version, was rather well choreographed and had moments that seemed slow and unrealistic.

Overall, I left the theater laughing with the image of the bandit's pants falling after a supposed attack.

The show was well worth seeing, with a group of relatively novice actors were able to pull off such a performance.

Nelly's Sweat Suit tour scheduled for May 18

By BRYSON PAUL
Rip staff writer

Looking to visit a concert or two this summer? Many of hip-hop's biggest names are hitting the road this summer to promote albums and give the fans exactly what they want — them live. Concerts hitting our area are big names such as Nelly with his Sweat Suit tour that will be rolling into Bakersfield on May 18.

The two other big names that will be accompanying Nelly will be the Atlantic recording artist and self-proclaimed King of the South, T.I., a newcomer to mainstream music. The second guest will be fellow Atlantic recording artist Fat Joe, the rapper that brought the summer anthem of 2004 "Lean Back."

Before the tour comes to Bakersfield, The Rip thought it would be nice to give listeners a review of T.I.'s album "Urban Legend."

After surviving jail time, verbally beating down rival MC's, and putting to rest all of his legal troubles, T.I. is back and aiming for his spot on top of the charts like a stick-up kid aiming for a come-up.

Following the success of his certified gold sophomore album, trap

muzik, Atlanta native T.I. continues his rise to the top of the industry with the release of his third LP, "Urban Legend."

T.I. gained masses of mainstream fans with the help of his radio mega hits "Rubberband Man" and "Let's Get Away."

T.I. has decided to put the whole A-town on his back and carry them to the forefront of the music industry. T.I. sure can talk the talk, but actions are louder than words. Still, T.I. does have the street credibility to be a running candidate for the King of the South crown.

It's no secret that T.I. has been beefing with southern rapper star Lil Flip. Lyrical assassination continues with tracks like "ASAP" and "Why You Made At Me"; however, with the help of Chopper City's B.G., T.I. takes it deep into the south and spits a gully flow about represent what side of the street he is from and why he is the hardest on his block.

The softer side of T.I. is displayed as he switches up the mood on the album from aggression to relaxation. T.I. meets Nelly and Jazze Pha at the club and watches the ladies go bananas on "Get Loose," both Nelly and T.I. spits blessed pimpin from there lips into the mic commanding ladies to get on the dance floor and

drop it like its hot. Setting aside the beefs and the hustle, T.I. kicks back and gets his grown man on with the Scott Storch production "Chillin Wit My Bitch."

T.I. showcases his diverse flow over the flutes as he maps out the day with his main chick.

The vibe on the album will make the ride home from the night a more eye-opening experience with tracks like "Praying for Help," where T.I. speaks to the man upstairs and explains the reasons for his involvement in the street life. The duration of the album T.I. takes it coast to coast and saves the best for last with a track from West Coast rap Daz Dillinger called "My Life". Lil Jon backs T.I. with a slow down beat "Stand Up," as he calls haters out and proves he isn't scared to throw down.

"Urban Legend" has plenty of tracks that fans will enjoy due to the excellent production on the album. Another concert that will be in the area is veteran gangster rapper Snoop Dogg with his "How the West was Won" tour.

The tour will be in Anaheim on May 21 at the Arrowhead Pond Arena. Snoop will be bringing along West Coast rap new sensations The Game and the newly reunited rap group The Dogg Pound along for the tour.

box office? Not to mention launch a huge line of toys, video games, books and other memorabilia.

So when people ask why this is a big deal, that's the most intelligent question to ever be asked. When this generation grows old our grandchildren will ask us three questions for their history class: What did you think of Kurt Cobain's suicide? Where were you when Sept. 11 happened? And how old were you when you saw the last Star Wars movie?

Everyone in America will see Episode III whether it is in the theater or in their own home, unless, of course, they don't watch movies for religious reasons. This isn't just the final film, it is the end of a saga that has grown with us since we were first able to wave around a plastic light saber. Whether you are a hardcore Star Wars fan with Darth Maul toys still in the box or just your average moviegoer, this will be a film not to be missed. This will be a film to always remember.

Several interviews with Star Wars creator George Lucas have confirmed that this will be the last Star Wars film he will ever make. The film franchise that has grossed billions of dollars and will still continue to make money long after Episode III's release, has finally come to an end. The film series that has brought generations of fans together is calling it quits, leaving its mark in not only Sci-Fi history but America's as well.

To say that Episode III is not a big deal is the same as saying the first Star Wars film was no big deal either. The original did not just spawn two films but five.

What other film has been able to produce five sequels, which have all been hits at the

The next chapter begins

Lucas' "Star Wars Episode III" will be an event to remember

By PHILLIP G. KOPP
Rip staff writer

"Whoop-dee-do. What's the big deal? It's not like we don't know what's going to happen," said a Bakersfield College professor in relation to the release of the new Star Wars film, "Star Wars Episode III: The Revenge of the Sith."

Perhaps one of the most anticipated films since the original nearly 30 years ago, Episode III is set to release in theaters May 19 with fans tearing at the doors to get in.

All with good reason considering the fact that every magazine, newspaper and talk show has been buzzing with clips and pictures, giving moviegoers a look into the final Star Wars chapter.

So what is the big deal? We all know that Anakin Skywalker turns to the Dark Side of the Force and becomes Darth Vader. We know Vader kills off the Jedi Council and helps lead the Republic to supreme rule. And we know that Senator Padme gives birth to future heroes, Luke and Leia.

So why are people lining up for days to catch this already-known tale?

Perhaps, because, not only has this film promised to be more visually stunning and amazing than any other Star Wars film, but it is also the last Star Wars movie that will ever be made.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF LUCASFILM
Jedi Master Yoda knows that there are times when being a pacifist just won't work in "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith."

box office? Not to mention launch a huge line of toys, video games, books and other memorabilia.

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What other film has been able to produce five sequels, which have all been hits at the

Guide to the galaxy an excellent adaptation

By STEVEN MARTIN
Online editor

The wait for the film adaptation of Douglas Adams' "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" is finally over. Was it worth the wait? Make sure to grab your towel, turn off your improbability drive and read on.

MOVIE REVIEW

"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" is the witty, smart and wacky story of an Englishman named Arthur Dent (Martin Freeman) who wakes up one morning to find that his house is about to be bulldozed to make way for a bypass. As Dent is lying down in front of the construction equipment in a poor attempt at keeping the bulldozers at bay, his best friend Ford Prefect (Moss Def) convinces him to get up and join him for a round at the local pub.

Prefect then informs Dent that not only is he not human but that he is a writer for the bestselling book in all the universe ("The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy") and in mere minutes the Earth will be destroyed by a Vogan construction armada to make way for an intergalactic bypass.

Thus begins one of the strangest movies to be released in recent memory.

"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" is one of the best film translations based on a book or other source material I have ever seen. Yes, you read that right: the movie is not just based on the book.

Adams, author of the books and writer of the screenplay, always made sure none of the versions of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" were ever the same. The British TV miniseries, the books and even the radio version are all slightly different, so it is practically impossible to tell which version the film is based on.

However, having read the book I can say that the film is incredibly faithful to them, with a few deviations but does that translate into a good movie? The answer is yes, but only under certain conditions.

The biggest problem is that some of the situations and irreverent humor that worked so well in the books didn't translate to the screen. This can leave movie-

goers who are unfamiliar with the books with a disjointed, confusing experience.

The movie is filled with dry British wit, but if you're not a fan of this kind of humor (think Monty Python) then you will find little to enjoy about this film. "The story is filled with jokes about the bureaucracy of society and such other topics as love, friendship, and even politics. According to the story, you have to have half a brain in order to be a president (a not so subtle shot at American politics).

"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" is the witty, smart and wacky story of an Englishman named Arthur Dent (Martin Freeman) who wakes up one morning to find that his house is about to be bulldozed to make way for a bypass. As Dent is lying down in front of the construction equipment in a poor attempt at keeping the bulldozers at bay, his best friend Ford Prefect (Moss Def) convinces him to get up and join him for a round at the local pub.

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Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) searches for answers in the library of the Jedi Temple.

Gorillaz new album blends deep-thought lyrics with pop melodies and hip hop

By BRYSON PAUL
Rip staff writer

The animated platinum-selling rock/rap super genius group is back for an encore performance. The "virtual band," Gorillaz came out of nowhere in 2001 with a crazy Japanese animation video and catchy tune "Clint Eastwood."

Besides the animation, the Gorillaz rhyme scheme was just as crafty

as their appearance, mixing rock with rap, giving both genres a bit of competition. 2-D (aka Damon Albarn), Russel (Kid Koala), Murdock (Jamie Hewlett), and Noodle (Miho Hatori) return not to surprise people but to draw more listeners into their world on the album "Demon Days."

The Gorillaz import well-known

and not familiar rap faces, including Booty Brown from the Pharcyde ("Dirty Harry"), MF Doom ("November Has Come"), and Dennis Hopper, who contributes "Fire Coming Out of the Monkey's Head."

Deep rhymes are placed throughout the entire album with the unique collaboration as if the group was working on spells to receive full attention of the music listener.

The production on the album is

much deeper into hip hop than the debut album, with the help of musical direction from Danger Mouse.

He's the man who meshed Jay-Z with the Beatles on the mix tape circuit last year with the "Grey Album."

Dan Nakamura did not return for the sequel of the Gorillaz, which can be argued as an improvement for the sound of the group.

The Gorillaz give listeners another

impressive album and will interest more new fans with the darker theme that will satisfy the taste of old listeners hungry for new tunes from the group. Gorillaz uses pop melodies, blends them with deep thought verses, and throws in a bit of hip hop. The music may seem dark and evil, but the message in between the lines are heart felt and enjoyable. "Demon Days" pushes the quality of both rock and rap music to the next level.

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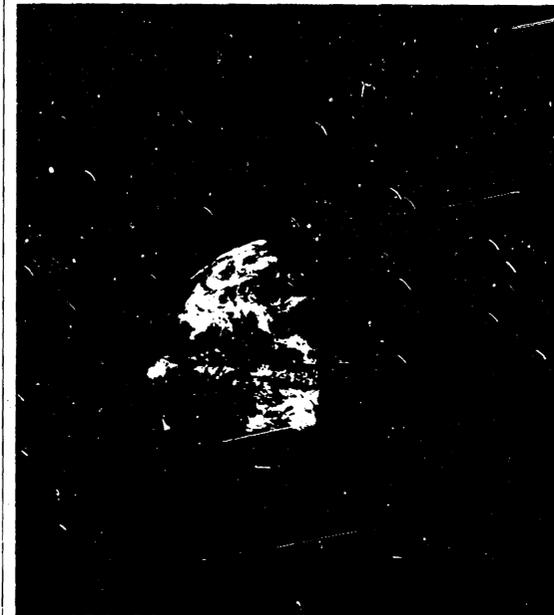
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FEATURES

MEChA celebrates Cinco de Mayo



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

MEChA braves weather to put on Cinco de Mayo festivities for BC

By JULIANNA CRISALLI
News Editor

Three-year-old James Esealante bounces on his father's knee to the rhythm of Mariachi music during Bakersfield College's Cinco de Mayo celebration.

BC's MEChA club organized the celebration to teach students that Cinco de Mayo is more than just a day to party. It was built by the history and patriotism of Mexico. It celebrates the victory of the Battle of Puebla where General Ignacio Zaragoza led 5,000 Mestizo and Zapotec Indians to victory against the French on May 5, 1862.

"People get the idea that it is just time to drink, but there is history behind it," said 2-year MEChA member Gustavo Arellano. "That is what we are here to tell people."

The celebration began with student speakers who recited poetry about Mayan mythology and Aztec warriors.

"Our goal is just to demonstrate the strong Chicano presences at BC," said Jesse Ibarra, MEChA president.

Co-adviser Jo Ann Acosta was pleased with their Cinco de Mayo festivities, but she believed if it hadn't been for the bad weather, there would have been a lot more students at the event.

"Considering the weather, it is going really well," Acosta said.

Through the rain and wind, the celebration continued with two Mariachi bands, one of which is from the Mariachi class at BC, taught by Nick Olmos.

The Arvin High School dance club concluded the day with several performances.

"I really liked (the celebration). It is a good experience," said BC freshman Patty Torres. "Ever /one shows their pride."



JACQUELINE WHITE / THE RIP

The Arvin High School Dance Club performs to "Mas que tu amigo" during Cinco de Mayo. The dancers had to move inside because of rain.

Above: Three-year-old James Esealante sits on his father's knee at the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Right: MEChA member Samuel Bautista works on his chalk drawing on the cement outside the Fireside Room.



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

BC's Mariachi music instructor Nick Olmos plays the trumpet with his student band during the festivities.

BC BRAINS

Compiled by Veronica A. Navarro / The Rip

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



Antonio Hernandez, business administration:
"I don't even know, my mind just went blank."



Cort Barrett, biology:
"The new one, I don't remember. It's one of the XVI."



Mayra Algandra, undecided:
"I'm not really sure. I forgot."



Patrick Barger, undecided:
"Benedict XVI."



Rosita Rodriguez, teacher assistant:
"I think it's Benedict."



Will Chandler, psychology:
"Benedict or something."

What is the name of the new pope?

Correct answer: The name of the new pope is Benedict XVI.

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