



Season winding down

Find out how the Renegades fare as the season draws to an end. Both teams play tonight at home.

Sports, Page 8



Games galore

Ms. Packman, billiards among hot games to appear in new student lounge.

Features, Page 2

THE RENEGADE RIP

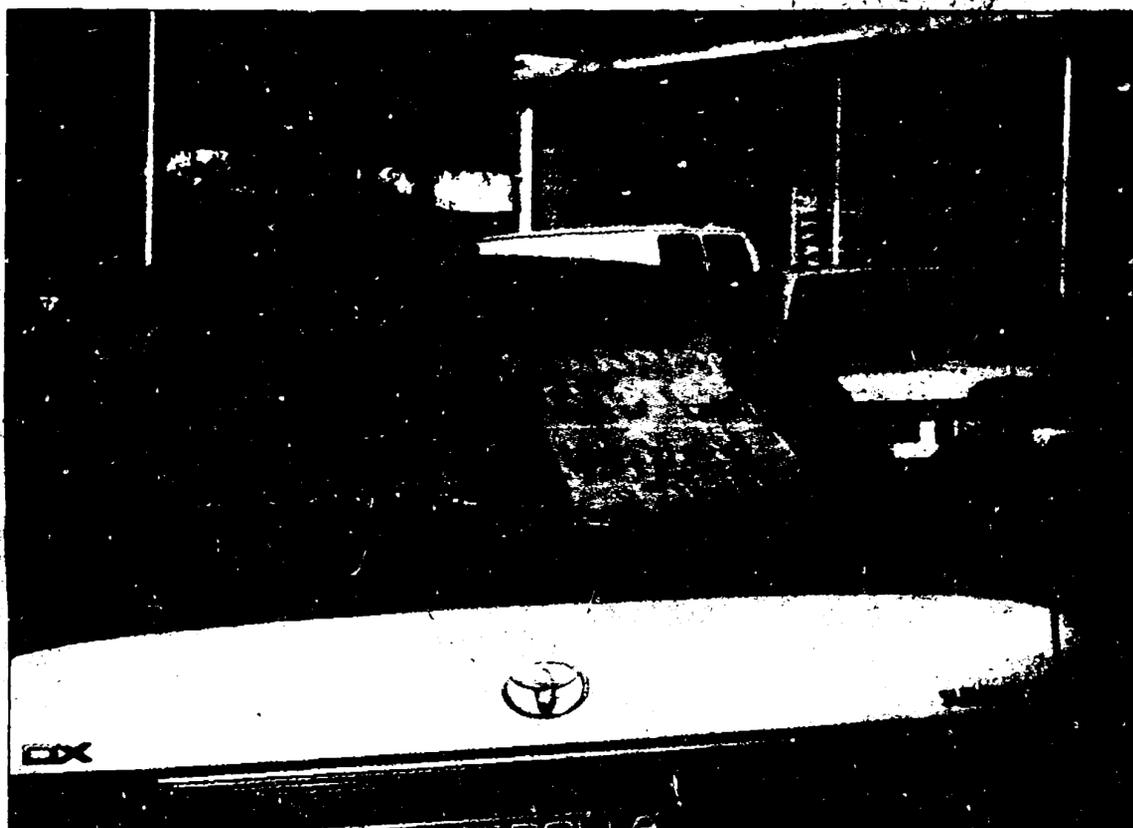
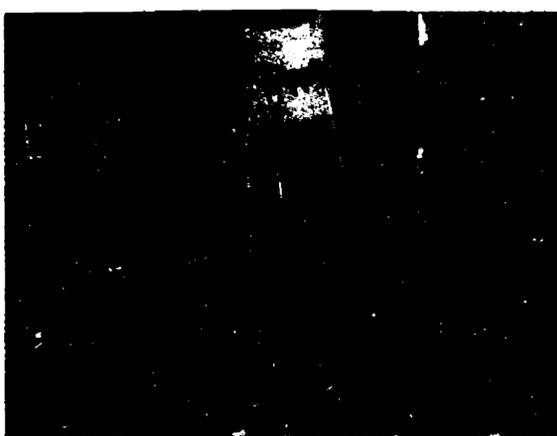
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Bakersfield College

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Dispute close to settlement



PHOTOS BY JOSE VEGA / THE RIP

BC classified staff employees posted fliers on numerous buildings throughout campus and displayed signs of dissent in automobiles on Jan. 17, protesting cuts to health benefits. Both sides of the dispute have since reached an agreement.

Administrators and classified staff reach a tentative agreement in benefits dispute

By VICTOR GARCIA
Associate Editor

The debate between the classified workers' union and the Kern Community College District over a health-care benefits cap has come to an end — at least for now.

Both sides came to a tentative agreement during their second mediation session on Jan. 26.

The agreement has to be voted on and ratified by Bakersfield College, Porterville College and Cerro Coso Community College California School Employee Association (CSEA) members. Once ratified by CSEA, it then has to be approved by the KCCD board of trustees.

If the agreement is not ratified the two parties will go back to negotiations, which ended previously in October, leading up to the recent mediations.

BC's representative for the district during mediations, Ed Knudson said the details of the tentative agreement are a salary increase, which



is retroactive to July 1, a reference group of colleges that was established and a formula that will be used to determine future salary increases. Life insurance benefits will be increased from \$12,000 to \$50,000. The medical benefits will be funded through June 30, 2007, with a premium that will be established Oct. 1, 2006.

Between now and June 30, 2007, classified employees will not have to contribute toward

their health care premiums. "We will go into negotiations for the entire contract probably this time next year," said Knudson.

CSEA members let their cause be heard in various ways, both CSEA approved, such as picketing in front of the residences of KCCD board members John Rogers, Pauline Larwood Dennis Beebe and Kay Meek, and non-CSEA approved, such as placing fliers on just about every building on the BC campus during the first week of school.

CSEA Representative Jennifer Marlen said protesting in front of board members residences was a way for the classified employees voices to be heard when other avenues were exhausted.

"It's very simple, we approached board members at board meetings, in letters, in e-mails and frankly had not gotten any response to them," said Marlen.

"The classified employees of this chapter felt very strongly about communicating with them

See CLASSIFIED, Page 7

College fails to meet student enrollment quota

By JULIE SALGUERO
News Editor

With the beginning of the semester in hand, students are busy with textbooks, waitlists, and fees. However, administrators are also busy with these things and have something more to worry about.

Statewide, the Full Time Equivalent Student (FTES), also known as calculated students, has a loss of 321,000 students, and Bakersfield College could suffer some financial losses because the college's FTES quota is down an estimated 0.8 percent, as of Jan. 30.

According to BC President William Andrews, the state of California sets a base number of FTES for colleges to achieve. "If that base number is not achieved, the college receives less funding," said Andrews. In light of the situation, Andrews decided to form a "task force" to address the drop of FTES.

One member of the task force, Vice President of Student Learning Mildred Lovato, said the marketing of the college is "a small piece of the puzzle" in order to raise the college's FTES.

According to Lovato, posters and other marketing materials are being placed in high school students and graduates. The advertisements promote the college's

Bakersfield College could suffer some financial losses because the college's FTES quota is down an estimated 0.8 percent, as of Jan. 30.

Career Path Programs, such as nursing, digital arts, culinary arts and agriculture, as well as the new transfer degree being offered.

Another key element in solving the FTES problem, according to Lovato, is knowing the needs of the community. According to an e-mail sent out by Lisa Fitzgerald, institutional research analyst, an estimated 10.9% increase has occurred in class sections being offered this semester on the BC campus in comparison to the spring semester of 2005, which means that more classes are being offered so that more students may be accommodated.

In the idea of accommodating more students, there is the possibility of "bringing the college to the students," said Andrews.

According to Lovato, "it is about taking the college to the students. Our district covers 25,000 square miles," to have

See FTES, Page 7

BC hosts student leadership conference

By JOSHUA AYERS
and
DANIELLA WILLIAMS
Rip staff writers

Bakersfield College hosted the American Student Government Association's West Coast Student Government Training Conference on Jan. 28 in hope of helping student leaders from across the country become more effective in their student governments.

"We're learning how to be a better SGA," said BC SGA Secretary Michael Card.

The conference hosted about 75 students, 25 more than expected, who represented 12 schools from across the western United States, some coming from as far away as Louisiana and Colorado.

"It's like a support group, someone is out there doing what you do. It's nice to know that you're not the only one," said Erica Grall, SGA interim vice president.

Grall, who has been involved with other student government conferences, sees improvement in their efficiency, networking resources and

ability to work together through participating in conferences.

"The goal is making student government better," said ASGA Executive Director W.H. (Butch) Oxendine Jr.

Student leaders had the opportunity to attend workshops on topics, such as improving media relations, Web site construction, working with administration and a variety of other topics.

BC, one of the founding members of the ASGA, beat out Cal State Channel Islands to host the event. Grall expressed enthusiasm over the conference.

"We'll be able to network with other colleges; in other situations we'd never meet," Grall said.

Bethany University ASB President Josh Herndon said that the student government at his school has struggled a bit in the past few months and that the conference was a great "outside perspective" that will help them to make a "realistic change" at his school.

"It's like a breath of fresh air when you've been drowning in the ocean for months," Herndon said.

Finding the perfect pet

Kristi Kass, 27, went to the new building of the Kern County Animal Shelter to adopt a border collie that caught her attention. Read more on page 6.



DANIELA GARCIA / THE RIP

Myspace.com firewalled ... or is it?

Information services has tried to block the site, but internet savvy students have found ways to log on.

By JULIE SALGUERO
News Editor

Bakersfield College students are no longer able to access their Myspace accounts from the BC campus. The library commons is "actively trying to block" the popular Web site, according to Jim McGee, director of informational services.

But as of Jan. 24, one student had found 21 ways to access the famous "place for friends." Will Chandler felt

that it was "stupid that they blocked Myspace." Chandler believes that Myspace is addictive but students should be allowed to access it.

Chandler has used the same method he used in high school to bypass firewalls to other sites. Chandler uses a proxy site as a host to get to Myspace, and while on Myspace, the proxy stays the same.

When asked if he was worried about the proxies being firewalled as well, Chandler responded, "If the proxies are blocked, I'll host a link to Myspace off my site." Chandler added, "As long as there are computers, you cannot block Myspace."

Chandler's method proved to work when it was tested in the commons

area Jan. 24.

"Any student can get on Myspace through myfreeproxy.com," said Chandler.

Currently, students who try to access their Myspace accounts with no knowledge of Chandler's method through the BC library commons are directed to a message set by the Bakersfield College Informational Services department, which reads, "Access to this Web site has been removed by BCIS at this time."

According to McGee, Myspace became such a resource problem that the permanent blocking of the site was approved by the Informational Services Instructional Technology committee, made up of BC faculty

and staff. McGee also added that BC students are able to join the committee but currently are not involved in the committee.

Student government President Ash West said that the SGA has been involved with the committee, but failed to have a representative the day of the meeting when the blocking of Myspace was approved. "Not having a representative was unfortunate," West said.

The problem with students accessing Myspace was that students would spend hours browsing through Myspace keeping other students from using computers for class assignments.

See MYSPACE, Page 2

FEATURES

Students lust for Valentine's Day dinner dates

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
Copy Editor

Bakersfield College students, eagerly looking forward to the day in February that celebrates canoeing one's better half, all have their unique ways of enjoying it.

Most BC students preferred to canoe over noodles—Italian pasta, that is.

BC student Isaac Alcazar, 19, would like to go to the beach, specifically Oxnard Shores and the Silver

Strand south of Santa Barbara, he said. "There are restaurants there and things to do," he said.

Alcazar's friend, Adriana Gonzalez, 19, concurs. "I'd go to the beach, yeah," she said.

BC student Whitney Jackson, 18, touted the virtues of Bakersfield restaurants Café Med and Luigi's for warming up a main squeeze.

Café Med is pretty and peaceful, what it's romantic, she enthused. Jackson's friend, Maggie Dawson,

18, loves the restaurants Olive Garden and Fruggati's.

"Italian food! It's the best!" she said.

She said the atmosphere at the Olive Garden lends itself to romance. Dawson's friend, Ned Champress, 19, said he preferred taking his flame to the beach.

Undeclared major, A. J. Ledoux, 19, says he would spend time doing something both he and his girlfriend would both like.

"Maybe bowling. I don't know,"

he said. Liberal Arts major Steffen Dircks, 19, said he would do something "generic."

"I'd take someone to a restaurant. Something Italian. The Macaroni Grill, I guess," he said.

BC student Je-sica Cureton said watching movies in the privacy of one's own home with one's love interest is preferable to going to a theater. However, she also recommends going to the restaurant Olive Garden for "atmosphere, good music, and

candlelight."

They also sell wine by the glass there," she said. She also recommended Fruggati's.

"They have the best pizza in town, I can tell you that," she said.

BC student Alex Chicca recommends the Bakersfield restaurant Little Italy on Stockdale Highway as a prerequisite for romance.

Other students think home is where the heart is. BC student Julie Baron said, "We just stayed in his house and watched movies, mostly

comedies. He got me a bouquet of flowers with carnations in it and a teddy bear."

Other BC students are down on love.

BC student Jeanine Porter says she is very "anti-Valentine's," after being married for six years.

"It's (Valentine's Day) so commercialized. But I love it that the candy goes on sale the day after."

She said she had no idea whether her boyfriend was planning on doing anything special this year.



PHOTOS BY JOSE VEGA / THE RIP

Nick Kleiner, an engineering major, uses both guns while playing House of the Dead, one of the video games.

Lounging around

SGA opens the Student Lounge for student recreation, promising upgrades to come

By LISA VARGAS
Rip staff writer

On Jan. 18, the Bakersfield College Student Government Association opened a new student lounge in the cafeteria.

The lounge opens Monday through Thursday, and there is a possibility it might open on Fridays. BC plans to open the lounge from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. BC officials say that so far, having someone supervise the lounge regularly has been difficult; even Dean of Students Don Turney has covered a shift so that the lounge can stay open.

In order to save money, SGA found a company that provides all the equipment for the lounge, and the company supplies the equipment for a 50-50 split of the profits. All the

Lounge offers video games, music and soon to come wireless Internet.

money that BC receives goes into the SGA fund and goes right back to the students.

The games in the lounge are Dance Dance Revolution, Chinese checkers, chess, House of the Dead, Pac-Man, two-air hockey tables, and two pool tables. The air hockey, chess, and checkers are free. There are also two pool tables available.

Two students enjoying a game of air hockey said they've been going to the lounge since the day it opened. Dezzi Avila, 19, a criminal justice major, said she has a friend in the



Jason Chi, a biology major, takes aim while playing in the newly opened Student Lounge.

SGA who told her about it. Brandon Benavides, 19, a radiological technology major, said he was excited about the lounge because they have a House of the Dead game that he's been playing since he was younger.

There is also an Internet jukebox that is connected to a DSL line and can download any song. One feature is that rushed students who want to hear particular songs before going to class can put in some more money to hear the songs sooner.

BC also plans to put in four computers along the course of the lounge with the hope that it will draw more students to Myspace. BC also plans to get a

wireless network running by Feb. 1. "I'm envisioning students on a nice spring day, lounging on those rocks out there and surfing to their hearts' content, and it will be fast," Turney said.

Students and staff can get a MAC number to log on. BC is going to try to keep it a free service, but there might be a charge in the long run to maintain the system. Turney said BC would keep the charge as low as possible.

BC plans to keep the student lounge open for the summer with the hope that it will draw more students to the college.

'West Side Story' lacks right moves

By LISA VARGAS
Rip staff writer

I'll be honest, I've never seen the original version of "West Side Story." Nor did I know it was based on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, until I read the program at Bakersfield

Music Theatre's production of West Side Story. Reading that, I knew what to expect from the story line.

The clothing was a lot different from the original 1957 Broadway musical. The Jets had Mohawks, studded belts, punk band T-shirts, tattoos and wore mostly blue. The Sharks had baggy pants, wife beaters, gold jewelry and wore clad in red. I am not certain if that had anything to do with two of the most notorious real-life gangs, the Bloods and the Crips, but I suspected that it did.

The dancing did not impress me; most of the cast is made up of amateur dancers. It wasn't the worst dancing I've seen, but it was not the best. The dancers made a good effort, but the acting, singing, and great set

is what made the play interesting. As far as the acting, the main characters did an excellent job. Mariasa Johnson, who played the lead of Maria, had a beautiful voice and fit the good-girl image perfectly. Zach Sanders played Bernardo, the shark's leader. I saw Sanders in East High's production of "Guys and Dolls" last year, and he is a superb actor. The rest of the cast did a high-quality job, but it would have been better if their microphones were louder or even working. Jeremiah Johnson's character, Action, had one song, and his microphone didn't even work.

I don't like musicals for the same reason many don't like musicals: the singing and the dancing. If I want to see a play about two star-spangled lovers, I'll read "Romeo and Juliet." The Bakersfield Music Theatre did a satisfactory job of producing a play with a modern look. But the actual storyline that was based on Romeo and Juliet was not something I thought was original. Maybe I'm missing the whole point of "West Side Story," or maybe I should have watched the movie before watching the play. Even with all that, I've never been a fan of take-offs.

MYSPACE: Student access denied

Continued from Page 1

Jennifer Bush, nursing major and a library commons student operator, said that since the blocking of Myspace, the commons area has been quieter and peaceful. As a student operator, Bush is glad Myspace is blocked because it makes more resources available for students who need them. "Students need the computer to work," Bush said.

Barbara Graves, photography major, wonders why other Internet distractions are not being blocked. "You'd think that if they're blocking Myspace, then other [distractions] would also be blocked."

Students are able to access stu-

dio videos, other online journals, and online video games as well as AOL instant messenger and Yahoo instant messenger. McGee plans to contact the commons rules even further to assure that students who need a computer to get work done will be able to find one. Some students unaware of Chandler's method of getting to Myspace are upset.

Julie Martinez, child development, is disappointed because she can no longer access her Myspace. "I would spend maybe 10 minutes max, just checking my messages whenever I had a break," said Martinez. "Now I can't."

Chuck Wall honored

Feb. 12-18 was named Kindness Awareness Week by Mayor Harvey Hall on Jan. 25 in honor of former BC professor Chuck Wall, right.

JOSE VEGA / THE RIP

'Sly 3' delivers charming characters

Latest video game featuring Sly Cooper allows players to take control and burgle to their hearts content.

By STEVEN MARTIN
Rip staff writer

That lovable scamp, Sly Cooper, is back and, unlike most raccoons, he won't rummage through your garbage or bite you, causing a need to get a series of painful shots.

"Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves" is the third installment of the wacky platforming adventure by Sucker Punch for Playstation 2. The game starts off with you taking control of Sly Cooper, a world-renowned thief and along with your cohorts in crime, Bentley (a turtle who zips around in a wheelchair and acts as the brains

of the operation), and Murray, a big, strong yet simple-minded pink hippo (sorry alcoholics, no pink elephants this time).

Your group sets off to break into Sly's family vault located on a heavily-guarded island and in the process thwart a nefarious evil genius. Through the course of the game, you will play as many different characters

in many different situations. This is both a blessing and a curse in regard to game play.

On the one hand, you probably will never get burned out playing with any one of the assortment of characters because, just as you start to get tired of playing as one of the heroes, the game will put you in the role of another. While this does vary

the experience, I often found that some characters were more enjoyable to play (Sly for example) than others. I also found some of the later partners in crime to be somewhat annoying.

The graphics, just like the previous installments, are beautiful. I often found myself just wandering around the different, vast levels just to look at them. If you ever grew up watching cartoons and ever had the urge to jump into and play around in one then this is the closest you will probably ever get. I can't praise the art style enough. I just wish more games looked like this.

The controls are spot on and even see some new additions that help alleviate frustrating problems found in the first two Sly Coopers. One noticeable complaint is that you will at times struggle with the camera

to find that perfect viewing angle in which to play, but I seldom had to do this compared with other games of this category.

Both the music and voice acting are well done and add to the overall charm of the game. One of my biggest complaints about this game is that it does not let you skip the cut scenes that are spread quite liberally throughout the game. While I am quite fond of the voice acting being to sit through the same long segment over again because I died is really quite annoying.

Aside from a few small problems I really enjoyed "Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves." It's a game that almost any age will enjoy (although the very young might want to stay away due to the moderate difficulty). I give "Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves" a 9 out of 10.

BC BRAINS

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

Andolfo Gandarilla, English: "Infinity and beyond"

Edie Martinez, History: "Something to do with infinite."

Stacy Knox, human services: "A test for infants."

Aaron Conner, music: "An annoying person you just can't deal with."

Michael Phillips, English: "I want to say young, like eternal youth."

Angene Alvarado, child development: "I don't know."

What is an infinitesimal?

Compiled by Joseph Whiskey / The Rip

Correct answer: Being on wheels inherently close to but greater than zero.

FEATURES

Black History Month recognizes 'black achievement'

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
Rip staff writer

Noted African-American actor Morgan Freeman reportedly disapproves of having a national "black history" month, but nevertheless, Bakersfield College plans to continue the tradition of acknowledging February as the month for celebrat-

ing the African-American heritage with a speaking series of educators from Tuskegee, Morehouse and Bennett Colleges as well as other institutions.

Black History Month branched out from African-American historian and educator Carter G. Woodson's Negro History Week, which he started in 1926 marking the second week in

February as a tribute to the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and orator Frederick Douglass.

However, even Woodson reportedly remarked that he wanted the week commemorating the achievements of African Americans to eventually be expanded so that African-American history could be more readily incorporated into mainstream Amer-

ican history. Actor Morgan Freeman reportedly concurs with Woodson. Furthermore, expanding the tribute from a week to a month, according to Freeman, is not sufficient.

"You're going to relegate my history to a month?" Freeman said on CBS' "60 Minutes." "I don't want a black history month. Black history is American history."

According to BC history professor Ishmael Kimbrough, African-American history has come a long way from the days when only "great white, male leaders," as Kimbrough puts it, were acknowledged.

The white male perspective had always taken the forefront in history, according to Kimbrough, who teaches African-American history as

well as History 17A and 17B. Kimbrough said that black history did not receive proper acknowledgement until the late '60s and early '70s. Black history, Kimbrough stated, should be "incorporated into American history and should not be a separate footnote." Furthermore, Kimbrough said, "by 2006, we should have gotten past tokenism."

Characters in gothic thriller lack development

By DANIEL PETERSON
Rip staff writer

The movie "Underworld: Evolution" starts in 1202 A.D. with a group of medieval vampires who come across a small village ravaged by werewolves.

Everyone is dead, and there's some useless dialogue spat between characters until finally the dead villagers begin to turn into werewolves, or Lycans, as the movie wants you to call them.

And you better make sure you call them Lycans when you talk about the movie, because you might run into some dumb jerk who actually liked the movie and will so rudely correct you. Lycan is, of course, short for Lycanthrope, but for some reason the makers didn't want to call them that. So they shortened it to Lycan in order to emphasize their broad range of creativity.

The CGI has improved since the last film, but it's still very fake looking. It would be in the best interest of the producers to invest in something other than computer graphics because right now, most of the CGI in movies I've seen hasn't been convincing at all.

This sounds like a drastic measure, but you may be able to get better effects from puppets and make-up than CGI at this point.

The protagonist Selene (Kate Beckinsale) and her partner, the half-werewolf half-vampire Michael Corvino (Scott Speedman), come across this secret lab in Romania that



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAKE SHORE ENTERTAINMENT

Kate Beckinsale, as Selene, stars in "Underworld: Evolution."

they knew about, and go in. They find a dead werewolf that somehow remained intact (supposedly werewolves regress back to their human forms after they die).

Michael was like "Oh, man, this dead werewolf is still a werewolf, that blows my mind. How come it didn't change back?"

To which Selene replied, "It's been given an anti-regression serum, see?" showing him a tag on the werewolf, which plainly said:

"TO STOP REGRESSION:"

Wow, good thing that tag was there, or I wouldn't have known what the hell was going on.

I'm not going to go any further into the story. I'll let you spend the \$8.50 I didn't have to, because the folks at

Pacific Theatres were nice enough to let me in for free. Actually, the real reason I won't continue with the story is because I really don't care to, and please don't waste your money to go see it.

As for a positive note, this movie was better than the original, which isn't saying much at all.

Also, bad movies always have secondary titles: "Underworld: Evolution," "Resident Evil: Apocalypse," "Hammer Head: Shark Frenzy," etc.

Why do actors in heavy make-up always sound like they have cotton balls in their mouth? They need to watch these films because it sounds cheesy.

Underworld was an evil vampire guy with wings. It was kind of cool

looking, but there was a scene where he fell off a truck and tumbled off the road, his robe flew up over his head and you could see his underwear, which took some of that coolness away.

The main character was hot. Another point about bad action movies is that they try to fill in so much of the movie with useless dialogue that no one really cares about or needs to hear.

The writers were probably brainstorming. "You know, I saw some really good chemistry between characters in a really super good four-star movie I was not involved in."

So, I think it would be a smart move to try and recreate some decent character development for our movie."

The only problem is, of course, they have no idea how to achieve anything close to that, so you're left with a solid hour of cominess and boredom, when there could have been good fight scenes.

If you in no way possess the skills to pull off decent character growth, you shouldn't try. If it's an action movie you're making, just put more action in it.

And why do the characters bother shooting regular guns at each other? It doesn't accomplish anything, so what is the point of that?

To summarize this movie, the emotionless team of good guys ran around killing bad guys while listening to every other character's life story until it finally ended and I was able to leave.

Good dog

Mr. Belvedere, a 16-month-old chihuahua, plays with a ball in Campus Center.

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OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

Tempting students 101

Administrators of the Kern Community College District recently informed district personnel that the number of Full Time Equivalent Students is too low for Bakersfield College to receive certain funding from the state.

District, as well as school administrators, have brought several ideas to light regarding solutions to this current problem. One idea that has been implemented so far is the assembly of a "task force" (which consists of high-end administrators) to decide potential solutions to retaining students at BC.

Another proposed solution that the administration has proposed is asking instructors to take on an additional class if at all possible and to add more students from the waitlist.

While we have to give the administration some credit for at least addressing the issue, we do, however, have some ideas of our own about how to promote return students at Bakersfield College.

First and foremost: no dilly-dallying with the class schedule. The administrators pressed the blame to the printers, but this is no excuse. If the current printer cannot get the schedule out on time, then find one who can. It may cost more money, but in the long run, more prospective students will be given more time to select classes and plan for any schedule changes with their employers that could potentially result in a higher number of enrolled full-time students.

Secondly: Students want perks. After paying \$26 per unit, a health center fee, possibly up to \$5 for the student center fee, \$15 if students forgot to uncheck the ASB sticker box online, potentially a parking permit and, of course, textbooks, a full-time student is paying in the neighborhood of a grand per semester.

On top of that, they are expected to maintain a reasonable GPA, and many students rely on employment to raise money for their schooling each semester. Perhaps rewarding those full-time students who maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA with five percent discounts on textbooks the following semester, or a free parking permit, would give students incentive to get good grades and motivation to come back to school the following semester to further their education.

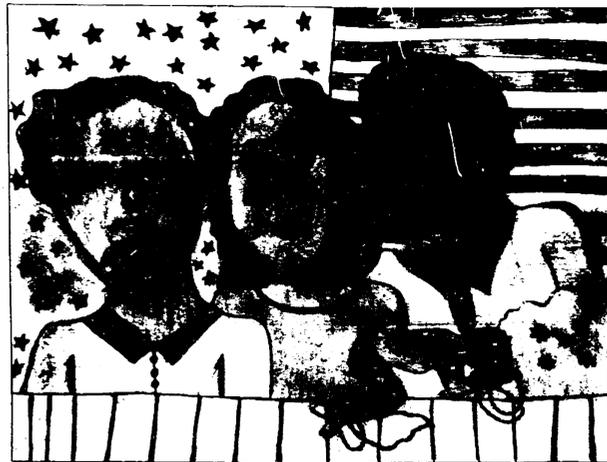
Another "perk" that might encourage enrollment to BC would be to look into getting monthly GET bus passes at discount rates for students who use public transportation. Many students at four-year schools in metropolitan and rural areas have free access to the area's public transportation, which helps to lighten the burden of paying for gas and allows them to spend money on other things such as food, tuition or text books.

Whether administrators take any of our suggestions is up to them. We do, however, recommend actually talking to students. Perhaps it's not too much effort for the task force to go to the cafeteria or the library or stand in line with students waiting to buy textbooks and ask them what classes they are having trouble getting into or what times would be more convenient for classes to be scheduled.

Or simply ask them what they could do to get them to come to BC.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.' I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood."

Looking back at history



JOSETTE SIMMONS / THE RIP

Ethnic-based holiday does not promote social equality

By DOTTY BURNS
Opinion Editor

In an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes," Morgan Freeman expressed that the concept of black history month is "ridiculous." Freeman went on to say the only way to get rid of racism is to "stop talking about it."

I believe the 68-year-old actor, who commonly plays the voice of reason in most of his films, hit the nail right on the head. I think Black History month, like affirmative action, is another stumbling block in the stride toward African American social equality. It is one of the many active forms of segregation that exist in our society.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson introduced the currently outdated holiday in

the beginning of the 20th century when African-Americans were still popularly regarded as "subhuman." I think the annual celebration that honors a group of Americans based on the color of their skin is essentially racist and should be at least modified to emphasize an entirely more meaningful message.

Rather than apologize for centuries of bad history and recognizing African-Americans' past as being perceived as an inferior race, I believe if we must have an ethnic-based holiday it should acknowledge the strife to overcome racial contention and celebrate the progress we have made as a nation in ending the discrimination against African-Americans. I understand that there are some that may argue Black History Month does just

that by trenching up the history of black oppression.

However, based on my impressions, Black History Month as it stands merely immortalizes black suffering, and makes no attempt to emphasize the well-sought after vision of ethnic unity envisaged by African-American leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr.

King believed in the prospect of a colorblind society that was unadorned by racial strife. Much of King's perspective on race is conveyed in his famous speech "I have a dream."

A number of us came across the heart-rending speech in grade school, but it's evident by observing our divided nation that celebrates ethnic based holidays that King's words have yet to be heeded.

Being aware of the civil rights movement and other achievements in African-American history should be a continuous effort.

By DANIELLA WILLIAMS
Features Editor

I'm a young black American woman. It feels strange to say that, to take ownership of my ethnicity.

It's Black History Month. I come from a bi-racial family, and I've never felt connected to anything African-American, or even Mexican-American really. I just feel like an American kid. Slightly politically minded, indoctrinated into the consumer culture and jaded about life in general.

As such, I found myself watching late night TV when I could have been doing something productive. The program I happened to watch

It would appear as if Americans think racism is something that is over and that the civil rights movement isn't worth remembering.

The Boondocks," a controversial cartoon that is now an animated show on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim. The episode was "Rastan of the Kings" which played

out a what-if scenario where Martin Luther King did not die when he was shot, but went into a coma instead. He wakes up to a world very different from the way he left it.

It was just a cartoon, but I was moved. For the first time I felt black, and I felt sad.

He awoke to a culture that was shallow and mindless. Ideals of pursuing equality, civic mindedness and improving our minds with classic literature are replaced with a drive to get cars, money and women. It would appear as if Americans think racism is something that is over and the civil rights movement isn't worth remembering, and I can't say I disagree with that point.

Hip-hop culture, even as I embrace it, I know it's a distraction to our potential as human beings. There are some in the genre that question and encourage thought,

but they are in the minority. As a society, specifically as a black people, we have become complacent, creating our own worst enemy from within. Are we really still free or just placated?

I know that in my own life I have forgotten the work of those who came before me so I could go to college, vote, or have friends whose ethnic backgrounds are just as diverse as my own. It wasn't that long ago that I wouldn't have had these opportunities.

The civil rights movement is proof that brute force is nothing in the face of collective will power. George W. Bush has become a joke to many in my peer group. We complain about what our countries' policies, yet how many of us voted? Civil rights advocate Medgar Evers once said, "Our only hope is to control the vote," but nearly half of the country fails to engage in it.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 64% of U.S. citizens age 18 and over voted in the 2004 presidential election. For those 18 to 24, the voter turnout was 47%.

Blanca Barajas, a first-time student at Bakersfield College and early childhood major, said that she is "taking four classes this semester...books are averaging around \$65," and she hasn't looked around to purchase them anywhere else. Brandon Bettflower, liberal arts major and on his sixth semester at BC, said, "It's just more convenient, and you get your books a lot faster [at the bookstore]."

Those willing to do a little research can find great deals on books. Tiffany Stranathan, a nursing student, was searching on Textbookland.com and found her introduction to chemistry book for \$28.54. She said if she had purchased the textbook new from the bookstore, it would run \$110.

Some suggestions for students to start catching the deals to save some money: Order early. Whether

you are purchasing your textbooks online or in the bookstore, make sure to place orders early. If you are buying online, you need to give yourself at least a week or two to receive your books unless you are paying for expedited shipping, which can get costly.

If a student prefers buying from the bookstore, the bookstore usually opens a week before classes actually start, so the student must shop before the semester starts to avoid long lines.

Ask teachers if they will be putting textbooks on hold at the library. Many teachers place their textbooks on reserve for their class so students who cannot get their books can check them out. Students can usually keep the book one to two hours to use in the library. You cannot take these books home, and it is a voluntary option for teachers.

Use comparison-shopping sites. These sites bring up all websites selling books students are requesting.

This site shows the prices, and many even show the condition, shipping, and tax. Also, if a student can find a book out of state, he or she can save on not having to pay tax.

Check for free shipping offers from companies. Many companies offer free shipping if a student spends over \$30 or \$50 per order.

Also when a student purchases books, it is really important to read the return policies before buying anything, just in the event that the student decides to drop your class.

And most importantly, if the student buys textbooks from somewhere other than the bookstore, he or she should double check the ISBN, title, authors, and most importantly, the edition. Make sure you are purchasing the book that the teacher will be using.

For those students who don't want to keep textbooks for years, even to reference them, there are many helpful sites out where students can sell those textbooks.

ChampusBookSwap.com is much like an online mall to post fliers to sell books, and it is categorized by school. Or, there is always the BC campus to post fliers on.

NEWS

Students stumble on prices

Comparison-shopping sites and fliers aid students on saving money.

By ANNA ROBLEDO
Rip staff writer

During the first two weeks of school, the Bakersfield College campus was found wallpapered with fliers for students selling their used books, hoping to get a small profit back from the hundreds spent on books each semester. "Bio. 11 book \$50.00," reads one flier, and remarkably, this can be considered a bargain.

According to the National Association of College Stores, the price of college textbooks has increased 32.8 percent since 1998.

Even with the increase in textbook prices, the lines for the bookstore haven't seemed to diminish. On average, during the first week of school, a student can expect to stand in line for 25 to 35 minutes outside just to go inside and wait another 15 minutes in line to pay.

Thirteen students were interviewed while standing in the line for the bookstore. Out of the 13 students, nine of the students never considered other options for purchasing their textbooks.

With so many options for students today to help cut down on the cost of textbooks and cut down on the time spent in those long lines at the bookstore, why aren't more students taking advantage of the options?

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Shrink the book line

By JULIE SALGUERO
News editor

Every semester starts out with the infamous line of students outside the bookstore and complaints can be heard not just around the bookstore, but all over campus as well, and I'm sick of it.

People complain yet do nothing to avoid the long line or the high prices for a textbook.

There are other ways to acquire textbooks that save people time and money. It's almost as if people are addicted to the long lines and the burden of paying for a book that could cost well over \$100. Not to mention being able to complain about it.

Aside from standing in a long line, you could always come in a couple of weeks before classes start to purchase your textbooks. I know what you're going to say: "How do I know what book to buy?" And all I can say is learn to read. In the bookstore, there are lists available that can tell you what professors are using what textbooks and the price of such textbooks. It's even in alphabetical order. I would say it can't get easier than that, but, oh, wait, it can. The bookstore is divided into sections, and guess what? The sections are labeled with words such as Math,

English, Art and Music and so on and so forth. So all you have to do is find the section your book would be in, and yes, there are many books in one section and guess what? Each professor has a label in front of the book required for his or her class.

Also there are bookstore workers who can help you find the specific book you need. So if you want to avoid the long line, remember the early bird gets the worm.

So now on to the ridiculous prices. I don't know if people are aware of this, but you can buy textbooks online that are cheaper than the books available at the bookstore. I know, who knew the Internet could serve another purpose other than to connect people to porn sites and MySpace?

Half.com is a site where textbooks can be found at affordable prices and a great way to avoid the long line. But if you would rather keep using the Internet for connecting to porn and MySpace, you can buy used books in the bookstore and remember there are signs that direct you to where you can find the book you need.

So, really, there's no reason for the long line, and the whining about the prices. Get over it. Buy them over the Internet, buy them used or just don't buy them at all, and quit complaining, and remember if there is a long line, it's because you're standing in it.



PHOTOS BY DANIELA GARCIA / THE RIP

Mike Duque, 19, has been waiting for 20 minutes in the line at Bakersfield College's bookstore on Jan. 23.

or you are purchasing your textbooks online or in the bookstore, make sure to place orders early. If you are buying online, you need to give yourself at least a week or two to receive your books unless you are paying for expedited shipping, which can get costly.

If a student prefers buying from the bookstore, the bookstore usually opens a week before classes actually start, so the student must shop before the semester starts to avoid long lines.

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Zac Ghazali, 18, criminal justice major, spent an hour waiting to get into the bookstore to purchase his textbooks on Jan. 23.

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Thomas' input on reduction act causes small protest

By JOSHUA AYERS
Editor in Chief

Pickets gathered outside of Congressman Bill Thomas' Bakersfield office Jan. 24 to protest changes in the Deficit Reduction Act (S 1932).

Congress is expected to vote on the issue during the first week of February.

Thomas is responsible for the last-minute changes to the bill, which will limit Medicare coverage for patients who use oxygen generation machines to 36 months. Currently, Medicare covers the expense that can cost patients up to \$200 to \$300 a month for the machines and maintenance.

Patients are currently barred from owning their own equipment.

"This is something that got shoved in at the last minute. Not a lot of people know about it," said event organizer Ryan Ball.

Ball, who resides in Waterloo, Iowa, works for Van G. Miller & Associates, a company at the forefront of providing home medical equipment.

Ball traveled to Bakersfield on behalf of Last Chance for Patient Choice, a 527-member political action committee involved in raising awareness about healthcare cost issues.

According to Ball, if the bill passes, patients will be required to own their own equipment after 36 months. Ball says the equipment can be difficult to use, and hiring someone to maintain the equipment can be costly.

"You can say it's going to work all you want, but you have to show people how to use it," Ball said.

Congressman Thomas was not in town during the rally, but according to information provided by his office the changes to the Deficit Reduction Act will benefit Medicare seniors by allowing them to rent-to-own their own equipment.

"It's more of a go-it-yourself government measure," said Vince Fong, a district representative working in Thomas' Bakersfield office.

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'GADE FEEDBACK

Do you think Black History Month is celebrated the way it should be?



Alicia Romero, culinary arts: "No, I believe that everyone should celebrate it."



Samantha Coston, wildlife biology: "No, I completely forgot it was happening."



Chris Fiales, chemistry: "No. Maybe they could make it more than the shortest month of the year."



Matt Phin, accounting: "Yeah, because we want to keep a little bit of everything."



Tony Keith, biology: "It depends on how it is celebrated."



Devin Vias, business: "They need to make changes. Don't talk about the same people; there needs to be more information."

THE RENEGADE RIP

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Letters should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by a signature and the letter writer's identity must be verified with a photo ID.

The Rip reserves the right to edit letters, however, writers will be given the opportunity to revise lengthy or unacceptable submissions.

If an organization submits a letter as a group, it must be signed by only one person, either the leader of the organization or the letter writer. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published.

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Winner of the 2003 JACC Pacemaker Award

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

NEWS

From BC with love

Romanian orphans received a special Christmas surprise

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
Copy Editor

This past Christmas, Bakersfield College American Sign Language instructor DeAnn Sampley invaded Romania with a team of nine BC students, and they came armed. Sampley said, with over 800 wrapped presents and a desire to brighten Christmas for some of Romania's impoverished orphans.

"They (the orphans) thought they had gone to Disneyland," Sampley said, speaking of her team's reception by the orphans, many of whom were abandoned and abused orphans. "They were excited to see American visitors," she said.

Along with Christmas presents, Sampley said her team, including three deaf studies students, dispensed diapers, rash medicine, prayer and an ASL rendition of "Santa Claus is coming to town."

Sampley and her team spent three hours at one orphanage changing the diapers of 16 babies. The team served six orphanages, as well as a deaf school, Sampley said. At one point, they traveled 10 hours from Romania's capital, Bucharest, to a children's hospital in Arad, and Sampley said the team relished the beauty of Romania's Alps along the way. Furthermore, the long trip, Sampley said, did not diminish the joy the students experienced serving the needy children.

Last Christmas marked 15 years of Sampley and her team going to many of Romania's approximately 680 orphanages. She said that despite the staggering poverty still in Romania "things have improved there," including programs for working mothers. However, the poverty of Romania is still appalling and "the country still has the communist mindset," Sampley said. A worn replica of the blue, yellow and red Romanian flag Sampley acquired in 1983 hangs in her office, and a conspicuous hole lies in the middle of the relic where the communist sickle once was. The triumph over the communist dictator in Romania may have been realized, but the war to end Eastern European horrific poverty never ends, Sampley said.

"Just to see the poverty in Eastern Europe is shocking," Sampley said.

Sampley's college friend Joni Eareckson Tada, a Christian artist and paraplegic, opened the doors for Americans to minister to the Romanian people. After the revolution in Romania that freed



BC sign instructor DeAnn Sampley cuddles one of the Romanian orphans during the trip taken with BC students during winter break.

the country from a dictator's grip, in 1991, Tada was invited into the country by the Romanian parliament, and this diplomatic act proved to be the means and the inspiration by which future ministers were able to gain entrance into this country.

"Romania was closed to Americans at this time," Sampley said. Tada's successful entry into Romania inspired Sampley to co-found the international ministry, Children to Love, in 1993.

"I just have a love for Romanian orphans," Sampley said. Sampley adopted a Romanian boy in 1992.

Sampley said her intense love for Romania is shared by her church, Bakersfield's Laurelglen Bible Church. Laurelglen sends its own separate ministerial team to Romania, and it is affiliated with the a sister church in Arad in western Romania.

Sampley said Laurelglen Bible hosted a pancake breakfast as well as other fundraising events to assist her team's efforts. Sampley's students each raised \$2,000 a piece as well. Sampley said

the students felt that the efforts they applied were worth it, because, like Sampley, the team loved the experience of meeting Romanian people.

BC students wishing to experience different cultures and people have a chance to go on a 10-day Italian tour through Educational Tours and led by BC art professor Nancy Magner. Magner says her group will be leaving the first of June. The trip includes sights in Rome, Florence and Venice. Students will see the Vatican, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Cistine Chapel, as well as the Uffizi Art Museum in Florence.

Magner also intends to show students sights not included on the regular tour. This will include lesser-known but picturesque churches that may feature Bernini paintings. Students over 23 years old must pay \$2,384, and students under 23 pay \$2,069. The payment must be made in full 90 days before departure, Magner said.

Magner said her daughter was born in Italy, which partially accounts for her interest in Italy. However, more than anything, her love of art and teaching inspires her to travel to Italy, she said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Looking for lifeguards

Applications are being accepted for lifeguards at the Bakersfield College pool. The pay rate is \$8 per hour.

Lifeguards are needed Monday through Saturday for shifts between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. Students can work shifts before, between or after class.

All applicants must have Red Cross or Ellis lifeguard certification, CPR and first aid (if these are expired within the last year, they can recertify them at the pool).

For more information contact Tina Cummings, BC aquatics director, or leave a resume in the athletics office.

Spaghetti cook-off planned

The 15th annual Spaghetti Sauce Cook-Off and

Pasta Dinner will be held Saturday. The all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County, 801 Niles St.

Entertainment will be provided by a caricature artist, a balloon artist and more. There will also be an it's-all-in-the-sauce contest. A \$200 cash prize will be awarded to the best tasting sauce.

Ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. All proceeds will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County. For more information, contact Zane Smith at 325-3730.

Soldiers received DVD care package

The latest shipment of DVDs for John Jaramillo, the former Delano Campus director, were mailed just before the holidays and included 137 DVDs

and numerous personal notes to the soldiers. The soldiers appreciated the many donations.

In a recent e-mail, Maj. Gregory G. Campbell, wrote "I can't even start to express my gratitude for the hundreds of DVDs you have sent us here in Kuwait. With no convenient TV connections, movies are our only escape from the day to day of army life here in Kuwait."

DVDs are still being collected for another shipment. Donations may be dropped off with Karen Sallee in the Administration Building, Room A16.

Twain to appear at Rabobank

Hal Holbrook in "Mark Twain Tonight," has been rescheduled to April 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Rabobank Theater. The original show date was Jan. 17. Tickets are available at the Rabobank box office.

Dogs cry: Gimme shelter!

By STEVEN MARTIN
Rip staff writer

On Jan. 26, the Kern County Animal Shelter opened a new pet adoption facility. The facility is located at 201 South Mt. Vernon Ave. The facility contains both a separate dog kennel and cat adoption area.

The new adoption center was paid for by the City of Bakersfield, and

Kern County Animal Control Services will operate it. The center creates an area where animals that qualify for adoption can be put and viewed by the public.

Prior to the new adoption center, these animals were housed in the main shelter area, taking up space needed for the housing of stray and lost pets.

The facility will also be able to

accept limited turn-ins from owners who can no longer care for their pets, with the exception of seriously ill and infirmed animals.

Mayor Harvey Hall attended the ceremony to assist in cutting the blue ribbon that officially opened the center to the public.

Hall called the adoption center part of enhanced community services; he also went on to point out the value of the citizens of Bakersfield, specifically the pet owners.

Kern County Third District Supervisor Barbara Patrick was at the ceremony and stated that "More than 230 animals are adopted from the shelter in Bakersfield every month, but homes are needed for many more."

The pet adoption center is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Animals available for adoption can be viewed at the Kern County Animal Control Services Web site at www.co.kern.ca.us/acd/



STEVEN MARTIN / THE RIP

Remodeling delayed 1 year

Low student enrollment will delay renovations of Student Services building; others projects continue.

By VICTOR GARCIA
Associate Editor

The modernization of the Student Services building will be put on hold for at least one year.

Low enrollment was the reason cited by BC President William Andrews for the delay.

"The plan for Student Services would have been as soon as commencement ended in May for us to relocate everything in Student Services to other places on campus," said Andrews.

"Then a contractor would come in and do asbestos abatement which would take three to six months. Then the construction and remodeling contractors could come in to start working on it after that."

He said that could take up to three years. "The reason I put it on hold for a year is our enrollments are soft," he said.

Student Services operations would have had to be distributed to all areas of campus, "which would automatically make it more difficult for students."

Andrews said the college needs to continue what it is doing and do it better "to encourage enrollment rather than make it more difficult."

Departments currently housed in Student Services such as counseling and financial aid, would have to be relocated to other areas across the campus.

"I don't want to spend Measure G dollars to create an easily relocated village that would serve as swing space because that could cost as much as \$2 to \$3 million to create that kind of space," said Andrews.

Andrews wants to limit confusion for students. "It's impossible not to create some level of confusion no matter how carefully we plan this out. It will still be a challenge as we redistribute everything in that building."

"In the short term this is our best solution right now."

The Student Services building is 70,000 square feet and houses everything from counseling to financial aid.

Measure G projects that are nearing completion are the modernization of the Applied Science & Technology Building, the planetarium modernization, and the downtown Weill Center modernization.

The Delano campus is roughly 70 percent completed.

Other Measure G projects include the modernization of the Speech, Arts and Music building and the astroturf modernization, both of which are in the beginning stages.

The college also purchased 225 acres of land for a future extension campus of BC in west Bakersfield at the cost of \$12,000,000.

"The goal there is to plan for a new campus that would begin construction in probably eight to 10 years," said Andrews.

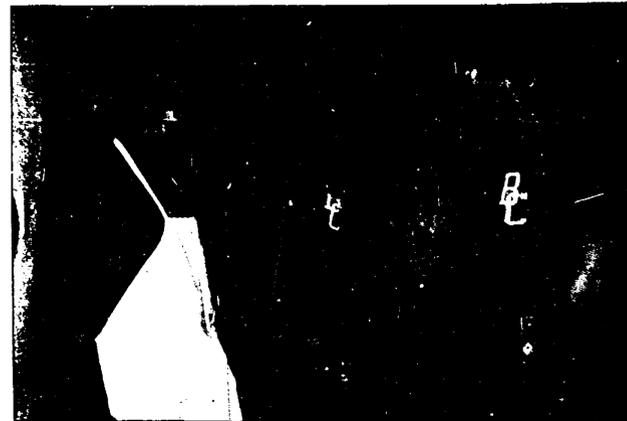
He said if the college waited longer to purchase land, the land, if it existed would cost more.

"The build-out projections that I've seen show the city expanding all the way to I-5 to the west, to the south, at least down to Bear Mountain (Blvd.) or beyond."

He said the college needs to grow to accommodate city growth.

Measure G is a \$180,000,000 bond measure passed three years ago that provides for construction in the Kern Community College district, which includes, Cerro Coso and Porterville Colleges.

NEWS



Bob Twist, left, one of the merry heroes behind the scenes, according to George Culver, shares old times with BC player Kyle Morgan, Steve Yeager and D-minic Fortana.

Yeager pulls in donations for BC baseball

By ALFREDO ADKINS
Sports editor

A two-hundred dollar a plate dinner? I don't think so. That was my first reaction even with one of my childhood heroes, Steve Yeager, as guest speaker at the 18th annual BC Baseball Hot Stove Dinner on Jan. 21 at the Veterans Hall in Okinda.

However, as I witnessed the volunteers from all walks of life here in Bakersfield, from Kern County

Firefighters Union 1301 to sponsors like LVS Companies

and Clifford & Bradford Insurance, I started wondering why so many people are interested in helping the BC baseball program.

"Bakersfield is the greatest community in the world when it comes to raising money to help kids," said founder of the Light Brigade George Culver, a BC baseball graduate and nine-year major-league baseball player who pitched a no-hitter.

Culver points out that regardless of individual motivation to help, everyone from the volunteers to those paying for dinner were extremely excited that Yeager was part of the event. Yeager created an atmosphere that was full of smiles and laughter that filled the room all night.

The first hot stove dinner 18 years ago helped bring lights to the BC

baseball diamond. From there, the Light Brigade went on to bring a clubhouse, dugouts and has donated to local little leagues and the Boys & Girls Club, to name a few. This year's dinner raised money to replace the bleachers that have been there since the late 1950s.

These good deeds and the chance to meet the 28 members of this year's team and, oh, yes, meeting Yeager was enough to entice you pay up for the tickets.

In addition to the dinner, an auction helped create more funds to replace the seats at BC. If you did not have the \$700 for the highest bid on an autographed ball or the \$2,800 for a tour trip for four through Dodger Stadium, including meeting players, you could at least view items that you have to go to a convention to view. There were boxing gloves signed by Oscar De La Hoya, old Dodger stadium bleacher seats, hats, bats, lithographs signed by players like Sandy Koufax, Barry Bonds and Pete Rose. Yeager personally signed a couple hundred items that ranged from balls to a catchers mask.

Yeager was one of the best defensive catchers in baseball and was co-MVP in the 1981 World Series for the Dodgers. His career in the majors was from 1972-86, and he had 102 home runs, 410 RBIs and a batting average of .228. The Dodgers made the playoffs six times and the World

Series four during that time. Yeager was most known for his candidness and slapstick humor. He retold a story at the dinner about when he was catching during a game and he asked the batter, "How is your wife and my kids?"

In addition to getting attention from the batters anyway he could, Yeager also got the attention of many women with his centerfold spread in Playgirl magazine.

"I believe if your not cheating, you're not trying to win," Yeager joked with the BC players before the dinner. But on a serious note, while referring to his Dodger teammates, he added, "We had guys that played together and figured out how to win!"

As a kid, Yeager was forced to play ball, and lucky for him, it worked out, but Yeager said he's leaving baseball up to his three boys.

Yeager's greatest accomplishment, aside of being a proud father and husband, was the creation of a throat guard used and required by many leagues. The idea came after Yeager nearly lost his life in 1976 when teammate Bill Russell shattered a bat striking Yeager in the throat as he waited in the on-deck circle.

After 10 days, Yeager was back on the diamond playing again for 10 more years and is now a catching and hitting coach in Las Vegas for the Dodgers Triple-A team.

FTES: Administrators cite competition with local work force as main reason for low enrollment

Continued from Page 1 educational facilities closer to students. Facilities are being looked at in the area of Lamont and Arvin, and currently there are classes being offered at Stockdale High School.

Also the idea of having late semester classes is being looked into but not guaranteed.

Andrews, however, is looking toward innovative and creative ideas in which to offer classes in the summer semester that students need.

Vice President of Student Services

Facilities are being looked at in the area of Lamont and Arvin.

Ken Meier said that the college is doing "everything within our budget restrictions" to bring up the percentage of FTES.

Meier believes that one of the main reasons for the fall of FTES in Bakersfield is that the education system

is having to compete with the work force, that is to say more students are working more hours and their education is being cut back.

However, Meier said he believes that students will continue to work toward their education and that the BC faculty and administrators are "committed to help the community by adding more students to their classes and teaching more classes." He also added that he is confident that BC will "exceed the enrollment target."

CLASSIFIED: Protesting staff members picket outside of board members' homes

Continued from Page 1 and getting what they had to say heard and getting a response. We weren't getting one," said Marden.

Marden answered critics comments about protesting in front of board members residences.

"There's been the comment, is that too personal, going to someone's home? We have a couple of responses to that. One, is board members are elected officials.

"They are open to public scrutiny. Secondly, proposing a cap to classified employees hits home and so

picketing in front of (board members) houses is no less personal than that," she said.

As far as the signs go, Marden said CSEA did not organize the signs and does not know of who did.

"It is a violation of the postage of signs rules for any organization," said Knudsen. "All organizations must request throughout the Student Activities office permission to post signs on campus, and those signs are limited to approved bulletin boards and that goes for anybody."

He said there are bulletin boards used strictly for faculty, classified and management on campus.

On Jan. 25, there were rumors of a classified worker "sickout," in which employees call in sick in protest and do not show up for work.

Marden said the absence of workers on that day was not CSEA organized.

Knudsen said the district did not determine Jan. 25 to be a sickout and the employees who did not show up for work did not affect the operations of the campus because it was a small percentage of the overall number of employees.

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Renegades victorious at home, split on road

By LEANNE CAVE
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College men's basketball team, 14-11 overall and 4-3 in the Western State Conference, will return to action tonight at the Gil Bishop Sports Center after splitting a two-game road trip against Glendale and Citrus College.

The Renegades will take on West Los Angeles College, which is currently in second place in the WSC, while BC is currently third.

"If we win, it will put us back in a second place tie with West L.A.," said BC head coach Rich Hughes.

While the men possess an overall winning record, every victory is important in hopes of securing a post-season playoff berth.

"It's been an up-and-down season for us," Hughes said. "We've lost a couple of close games that came down to the last shot, and we've won a couple of close games, also."

The final shots (free throws) were definitely the case as BC lost the first of a two road game trip to Glendale 75-73.

The 'Gades played well enough to beat Glendale, nailing 13 3-point shots, but fell two points short when Javon Jester made two free throws in the final seconds to seal the win for the home team. Jester led all scorers with 37 points.

Chicago product Terrence Johns led the way for BC as he accounted for 18 points, including four of the 13 3-point shots.

Steve Alford, a product from South High, contributed 15 points in the loss while three players, Andrew Ready, Maurice Lane and Josh Hawkesworth accounted for 27 points.

After the disappointing 2-point loss to Glendale, the 'Gades rebounded nicely in the second road game as they defeated Citrus College, 80-78.

Johns was once again productive for the 'Gades as he added 35 points to the win column and pulled down 11 rebounds.

"Johns is averaging about 22 points a game and a team leader in rebounds," Hughes said.

Even though Johns was the leading scorer for BC against Citrus, it was an overall team effort.

Three other players scored in double digits as well: Aaron Perez from Claremont scored 15, Andrew Ready from Westinghouse scored 11 and Alford scored 10.

In one of the best games of the season, the 'Gades came back to beat conference leading College of the Canyons, 78-77, and they had to get the win with Hughes sitting out on a one-game suspension.

Hughes was ejected from the Los Angeles Valley game one week earlier when he made a comment to the official.

"It was a bad case of professional judgement," Hughes said.

However, he was pleased with the outcome of the Canyons game.



PHOTOS BY JACQUELINE WHITE / THE RIP

BC's Aaron Perez attempts to dribble past three College of the Canyons' defenders during the game BC won 78-77.

With several lead changes and exciting plays throughout the game, the winning bucket came down to the final 1.8 seconds.

Andrew Ready made what may be the play of the year for the 'Gades as he banked in a driving layup to give BC the lead. Canyons had one final shot to win, but the ball hit high off the backboard preserving the victory for BC.

"We are the only team to beat the first-place team in the conference," Hughes said.

Assistant coach Aaron Chavez was just as excited after the Canyons victory.

"The guys worked hard this week," Chavez said. "They did everything the assistant coaches asked of them, and it showed tonight."

With the victories over Canyons and Citrus in the history books, the 'Gades will be tested the rest of the way in conference play.

BC will take the court tonight in an important contest against West L.A. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

BC then travels to Santa Monica for a Feb. 4 game before returning home for a Feb. 11 contest at 7:30 p.m. against Glendale.



Renegade Terrence Johns takes a jump shot over Canyons' defender Dwayne Jones as BC's Andrew Ready, right, looks on. The 'Gades beat the Cougars 78-77.

BC baseball wins 2, loses 2 in its own tournament; other sports start

Rip staff reports

The Bakersfield College baseball team hosted a tournament last weekend, winning two games and losing two.

After the four games, coach Tim Painoin said, "We go into every season thinking it's a positive season."

In the tournament, BC beat Long Beach 6-4 and Irvine Valley 7-4. Closer TJ Kelly got the save in both of the victories. The Renegades lost to Golden West 3-2 and Cuesta 6-2.

BC plays host to Porterville at 1 p.m. Friday, then travels to Visalia for a 10 a.m. Saturday game against Gavilan. The Renegades will then play six straight home games beginning with an 11 a.m. Sunday game against Golden West.

Softball

Coach Sandi Taylor and the Bakersfield College softball team are preparing to kick off the first game of the softball season.

The BC team will start the season with a tournament on Feb. 3. Coach Taylor has begun her 16th year of coaching women's softball at BC and her 24th year of coaching overall. The team has 13 players this year, and their first games will be played this Friday, at BC, starting with Cerritos at 1 p.m. and Taft at 5 p.m. They were originally supposed to play a scrimmage with Taft on Jan. 24 and Rio Hondo on Jan. 28, but those games were canceled.

Women's tennis

The season begins on Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. at Fresno City College. Western State Conference all-league player Sara Ramirez, the No. 1 player on the team last year, will lead the Renegades. She was 22-4 last season. "There's a lot of new girls on team. We're young, but we look very competitive," said Ramirez.

Also returning is all-conference player Christina Audelo, the No. 3 player last year, and No. 6 player Elizabeth Carnal, who received second-team all-conference honors last season.

Men's tennis

BC travels to Modesto for a tournament to open the season Feb. 7-9. "We have four of my top six players coming back with a good group of freshmen coming in," said coach Rob Slaybaugh, who has big plans for the men's tennis team. "I am hoping to compete for the top 10 in state again." Returning this season are Jason Broussard, Bryan Branch, Ryan Shultz and Dominic Cerri.

Women pick up two key victories

By LEANNE CAVE
Rip staff writer

After picking up two key victories on the road against Glendale and Citrus College, the Bakersfield College women's basketball team will return to Gil Bishop Sports Center tonight to face the West Los Angeles College.

At this point, the 'Gades are 12-13 overall and 4-3 in the Western State Conference and are in "dire straits" to win a good percentage of the games remaining on the schedule if they hope to participate in postseason play.

"We are right on the bubble as far as postseason play is concerned," said head coach Paula Dahl.

The thought of being "on the bubble" as well as being a little defensive about a 111-92 loss to conference leading College of the Canyons on Jan. 21 may have inspired the 'Gades to play well on the road.

"We have to play our game," Stephanie Roberts, BC sophomore guard/forward, said after the Canyons game. "We can't let up on defense and make the game count offensively."

The 'Gades did just that at Glendale on Jan. 25 by posting a 71-57 win to even their conference record at 3-3 and remain in the running for a shot at a postseason berth.

In the Glendale victory, LaShay Bagsby and Sarah Ortiz were impressive as they each scored 14 points. The duo also dominated on the boards as Bagsby grabbed 15 rebounds and blocked seven shots. Ortiz added 14 rebounds for BC. Sarah Furtak, freshman guard from North High, contributed to a well-rounded performance with a dozen points.

And the 'Gades weren't finished as they continued to work on the road, beating Citrus College 54-51 on Jan. 28. "The Citrus game was a must win," Dahl said.

Against Citrus, Bagsby made it two games in a row of scoring a double-double for BC, dropping in 11 points and matching the points with 11 rebounds. Bagsby's effort along with excellent defense by sophomore guard/forward Sharrel Washington and key free throws by Roberts sealed the season-saving victory.

Roberts stepped up when it counted offensively, sinking two free throws with just seconds left to lift the 'Gades conference record to 4-3.

"The ladies have done a great job," Dahl said. Along with the efforts of Bagsby and Roberts, Maddi Padgett, a freshman from North, and Sharrel Washington, a sophomore from Patterson, are progressing well. "Washington has played very well defensively for us. We have a very talented team, we're pretty young so this will be a great year to develop and come together," Dahl continued.

The youth showed a bit against College of the Canyons when the 'Gades couldn't overcome the run-and-gun offensive performance of the Cougars, losing 111-92. The ladies from Canyons were on fire as they managed to score 90 points or better for the fifth straight game.

Tonight's game against West L.A. starts at 5:30 p.m.



JACQUELINE WHITE / THE RIP

BC Renegade Sarah Ortiz goes for a jump shot in a 111-92 loss to College of the Canyons. The Renegades, though, went on the road and won two games.

THE RENEGADE RIP

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Free education proposal met with doubt

By ARNETHA PIERCE
Rip staff writer

State Controller Steve Westly has proposed a plan to make community college education free, which a press release from his office stated would better prepare the state's workforce for the 21st century economy.

"When community college fees were raised in 2003, 180,000 people were priced out of higher education," he said in the press release. "Instead of turning away thousands, let's help millions by making community college free."

However, Bakersfield College President

William Andrews is skeptical.

"Westly's proposal is a wonderful idea, but is it practical?" he asked. "The money is only free if the two to four years are completed, which is called a forgivable loan. If it's not completed, the loan has to be paid."

Westly, a Democrat, has already begun a campaign to run for governor.

"Take a politician who is running for office, and he will propose changing the world," said Andrews, who was in attendance when Westly made the announcement. He said Westly didn't leave time for questions about other issues.

"We didn't have a chance to deal with

the high cost of text books," Andrews said. "There were no questions asked after his 15 minute speech."

Westly said the proposal will be funded by Proposition 98, which by law states that 11 percent of those funds are to be allocated for community colleges.

The press release says the funds have not been received. Yusuf Robb, deputy chief of staff for Westly, states that "its times to collect the \$6.5 billion borrowed from the Proposition 98. The legislature is not complying with Proposition 98."

Community college tuition has increased 136 percent in less than three years, accord-

ing to the press release from Westly's office. The cost has risen from \$11 to \$26 a unit. To qualify for the free education, students would be required to fully complete their course of study within six years and exhaust other financial aid sources.

"We can't afford to treat community colleges like the stepchild of the higher education family," Westly said in the release. "Community colleges are our best weapon against outsourcing and the challenges of globalization. If there's a job in the new economy, you can bet there's a community college class that can train someone to fill it."

Under Westly's plan, any student complet-

ing a two-year degree, vocational certificate, or transfer program at a community college would qualify to have their tuition costs covered by the state.

"My plan makes a community college free for every Californian, but asks for responsibility in return," Westly said in the release.

Community colleges educate 2.5 million students a year, more than four times the number enrolled in the UC and CSU systems combined.

Seventy percent of California nurses attended community colleges, as did 85 percent of the state's police, firefighters, paramedics and other first responders.

Five months later

■ The Bakersfield Police Department expands with the graduation of 22 cadets from the academy.

By JULIE SALGUEIRO
News Editor

On Feb. 1, the Bakersfield College campus was filled with Bakersfield Police Department vehicles, officers and proud family and friends.

BC was host to the 13th graduating class of the Bakersfield Law Enforcement Training Academy, in which 22 cadets completed a rigorous 23 weeks of training and over 800 hours of instruction. According to John McVicker, training officer and academy coordinator, the graduates end are now set to serve the Bakersfield community. The ceremony took place in BC's indoor theater at 10 a.m.

According to Lieutenant Greg Williamson and academy director, "this academy relies on over



Above: Bakersfield Police Academy graduates receive their commissions from training officer John McVicker. Below: Martin gets his badge outside of BC's indoor theater the day of his graduation. Below right: Cadets gather for the indoor Theater for their graduation.

"The greater the amount of police officers ... the greater the decrease in crime."

—William Andrews,
BC president

100 people" to ensure the cadets receive the training they need to graduate and succeed in the field of law enforcement. Williamson said recruiting and hir-

ing of police officers is necessary "for the safety and security of the community."

Training for the 13th class began in summer of 2004 with more than 700 applicants, who were interviewed and tested physically as well as mentally. According to officer Enns, formerly cadet Enns, who also served as the class speaker at the graduation, "less than 5% of those who applied graduated and we [the graduates] were one."

Quality and friends of graduates attended the ceremony. Bonnie Lauerer drove from Missouri to see her daughter, Heidi Robinson, graduate. "I drove over 2,000 miles and within 10 minutes this for the world."

BC President William Andrews also attended the event. According to Andrews, the time of graduation is a favorite time for college presidents. He also added, "The greater the amount of police officers [out in the community], the greater the decrease in crime."

BC Chief of Public Safety Mark Gant was awarded with the top instructor award for the academy and was "surprised" to have received it.

The law enforcement academy uses the BC campus and its facilities to train cadets in the career of law enforcement.



BOGFW recipients to pay health fee

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
Copy Editor

Bakersfield College students who receive the board of governors fee waiver (BOGFW) may need to take an aspirin when they hear that BC's Health Center will be charging them \$14 for full services next semester and

Dean of Students Don Turney said.

This charge has not been officially passed, but the issue is set to be brought to the district board meeting in March, Turney said. When this charge is approved by the district board members, BOGFW students will pay their health center fees at the business office.

"There is no question that BC will charge BOGFW students, but because of this charge, the Health Center will stay open along with expanded services here and in Delano," Turney said.

"I understand that this may be a financial hardship, but look at it this way: It's still a pretty good deal."

A student pays \$14 no more than one time and can see our doctor 15 times or 100 times. This is the best deal on campus."

Turney said a few visits to a regular doctor for a condition such as pneumonia might cost \$500.

This charge is the result of the State Assembly Legislature passing Assembly Bill 982, which gives community colleges the power to implement a charge for their health center services. The power went into effect in January. "We (BC) wanted to prepare people for this - we didn't want to just spring it on them," Turney said.

Enrollment in community colleges has been down, and the state budget has been looking pretty bleak and community colleges all across the state are facing financial constraints, Turney said.

Turney said lots of community colleges started charging the additional health care fee Jan. 1. The City College of San Francisco and L.A. Community College District among other community colleges closed their health care centers and now will be able to open again because they can charge BOGFW students.

For some time now, Turney said, Cerro Coso College's and Porterville College's Health Care Centers were "just band-aid distributors." Many community colleges faced the prospect of either firing faculty and reducing class offerings or shutting down their health centers.

Turney said BC was losing \$70,000 a year just on the Health Center itself and could not collect health care fees from BOGFW students.

Two-thirds of BC's 15,000 students receive BOGFW and one-third do not, he said. The one-third was carrying the entire college, he said.

Deceased former BC student leaves a lasting legacy

By JULIE SALGUEIRO
News Editor

Bakersfield College is viewed by many as a steppingstone toward the next big thing. Many students come and go without stopping to think about campus improvements; however, that was not the case with former BC student Tina Carroll, who passed away on Feb. 3 because of a blood-clot complication, according to John Carroll, her father.

Tina attended BC from 1995 to 2006. She received the President's Award and the Alumni Association Award, Carroll said.

"She always had a smile on her face, no matter how much pain she was in," he said.

Tina suffered from rheumatoid arthritis. According to the arthritis foundation's Web site, "Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic disease, mainly characterized by inflammation ... of the joints. It can lead to long-term joint damage, resulting in chronic pain, loss of function and disability."

She was diagnosed with the disease at the age of

two, John Carroll said.

"I want students to know that she was here, sometimes in a wheelchair. She always gave up herself," Carroll added.

Tina played a major role in the installing of "blue lights" with her involvement with the BC student government association, called ASBC at that time, and with various committees on campus.

The "blue lights" are security call-box systems that are displayed all over campus for use in case of an emergency. John A. Medvigy, who was the last sophomore class president at BC in 1995, met Tina and worked with her in establishing the lights. Medvigy said the petitions to have the systems installed began in 1995 and with Tina's persistence they were set up in locations around campus.

"Tina understood the need of [the blue lights] at BC," he said, adding that Tina produced a petition with over 20 pages of students' signatures in favor of the installation of the blue lights.

"She asked the questions nobody wanted to answer," added Medvigy. "She cared for a lot of

people; what was good for one was good for many, and I feel honored to have called her a friend. It's not a title I give out too often."

Tina was also a member of the Kern Political Education Foundation and met BC history professor Jack Brigham, who according to John Carroll was "Tina's favorite teacher." Tina was also a student of Brigham's.

Brigham remembers Tina as a student who "did her work, she missed class due to her illness, but she was very inspirational and cooperative." Her father added that she "fought to keep her good grades." Brigham also said that Tina was, politely, a "fireball who never took no for an answer."

Sgt. Chris Counts said the "blue lights" are used about 20 times a month, "mostly for directions." Counts also added that the lights are used to report suspicious activity and for medical aid.

He said that the installment of the "blue lights" is a benefit to the campus. He described them as a "great tool" and the "installation of more is a possibility at any given time."



SPECIAL TO THE RIP
Tina Joy Carroll receives her diploma from South High School before attending BC.

FEATURES

Citrus harvest proves fruitful

BC Agricultural Department holds annual citrus sale to raise funds for the program.

By JULIE SALGUERO
News Editor

In order to raise funds, the Bakersfield College Agriculture Department had an all-day citrus sale on Feb. 2 in the BC barn area.

Anyone who wanted to help out the department simply had to purchase some BC grown Navel oranges, according to Bill Kelly, department chair.

Bags were sold for \$5 if the agriculture students picked them and \$3 if you picked them yourself. According to Kelly, almost everybody picked their own oranges.

Ranjit Badhesha, a business administration student, took advantage of the sale, saying, "My kid loves them [the oranges]."

Lindsay Ono, professor of horticulture, picked oranges for the event

and felt it had gone well. "We sold quite a number of bags," Ono said.

According to Kelly, the event made almost \$200.

Environmental horticulture student, Brett Marinkovich, added that the event went "fairly well." Marinkovich and other agricultural students participated in the picking of the oranges as well.

Bonnie Ward, a BC student, attended the event with her husband, Michael. "We love it [the event], and it supports the ag department," Michael Ward said. He also described the oranges as "delicious."

According to Kelly, the citrus sale has been going on since 1975 and BC is "the first community college in California to have an agricultural department, which has its own farm on campus."

Professor Keith Haycock planted the orange trees in 1975.

According to Kelly, the funds raised will be used for field trips, feeding the department animals and the maintenance of the equipment.



Above: Noel Morales, 18, an agricultural business major, helped his teacher by picking and carrying oranges on Feb. 2 at BC's Agricultural Laboratory.



Above: Yesselle Argueta, 22, criminal science major, picks oranges as part of her forestry class. Far left: Jessie Smun, 28, forestry major, visits to collect money from customers purchasing fruit. Left: Orders of fresh-picked citrus sit in bags prior to being purchased by customers.



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Being a college student consists of many hours of homework and studying. Work and family also makes time scarce.

But being busy does not mean I've resorted to being messy or careless. However, I often observe others like myself exhibiting sloppy behavior at BC and I'm annoyed.

When I arrive on campus around 7:30 a.m. the campus is clean. The classrooms, the bathrooms and the rest of campus have yet to be covered with students' waste.

I've noticed that as soon as the college becomes active with rushing students that the campus transforms. The campus center becomes littered with garbage, toilet paper covers the bathroom floors and the classrooms are now being used as student's trashcans.

Maybe it's just me, but attending college usually means we've entered adulthood, so why are BC students not acting like adults and picking up after themselves?

It's not like the trashcans aren't accessible. Within the campus center I know there are 7 trashcans, and 2 of them right next to each other and yet trash is piled on the tables.

Cigarette butts cover the grounds of the campus and ashbins are located everywhere.

If everyone would just pick up after himself/herself, the campus will look better and everyone will feel a little more Renegade pride, and I'm sure the custodians will appreciate it.

I start to stutter and stop making sense.

I just find it a lot easier to get my work done to its fullest potential if I do my work alone.

I find it hard to discuss my work and ideas with people I hardly know. It makes me feel insecure, which makes it harder to get my ideas developed.

I know teachers use group assignments in order to help students get to know each other.

However, I couldn't really care less who's sitting next to me or diagonally from me. I just want to do my work, get it done, go home and sleep.

In high school I felt like everything was just one big social activity. I didn't care about school all that much.

But now I'm in college, and I'm trying my hardest to get the best grades that I can. I think it's better if I don't know the person next to me so that I'm not tempted to talk. Then there are always times when you get put with the group of people who don't want to do any work.

You're the one that gets stuck with doing most of the work or maybe all of it.

Teachers always say not to leave one person up to everything, but it happens. In some cases, it's better that the one person is doing all the work.

I know it sounds like I hate people and I probably have no friends. I do have a few friends, including one that I actually met at school and because of a group project we worked on together.

Even though I actually did make friends in that group, I still remember it being difficult because of the time and hassle it was getting a group of people together that work and have other classes. I think it's just a lot less stressful when I know I don't have group projects or assignments.

I know with every class I take when I receive the syllabus I flip through it checking for the words "group project."

I also know I can't just drop a class because of group projects. I wish I could, but then I'd be dropping at least one class a semester. I'll just complain about it and groan along with the rest of the class.

OPINION

In love with an iPod on Valentine's

While real life lovers may disappoint, electronic alternatives always hit the spot

By DANIELLA WILLIAMS
Features Editor

Love is in the air as the stench of Valentine's Day begins to fade away. People have given their gifts: tacky bears covered in white and red ribbons, heart-shaped boxes of chocolates that make you fat or perhaps "love coupons" because your lover is too cheap to give you jewelry. I could almost puke.

But this year, Valentine's Day didn't leave me on the edge of being ill because I have someone special this year. When I'm with him, the rest of the world falls away.

His name is Jim. He's my iPod. I love my iPod, and I'm not ashamed to say it. iPods are better than boyfriends, and that's not just the post-holiday hangover talking.

The benefits are almost endless. It has a mass button. An iPod always has something to "say" to make you feel better. You can drag it anywhere, and it won't complain.

Plus parents don't ask to meet your iPod. And best of all, your parents won't mind if they catch you sleeping with an iPod.

My Valentine's Day won't be ruined by Jim getting trashed at a bar, copping a feel and not even bothering with the foreplay. It isn't scientific, but a number of women I know face such jerk moves by their significant others.

Jim waits me to class, eats and studies with me, and will always pick spending the night instead of going out with the guys. (I don't trust that Xbox 360. He's co-opted too many of the other men in my life.)

His jealousy is non-existent. If I see other guys, he never says a word. If I leave him at home, Jim never questions my fervid devotion. He simply waits for me to pick him up again at will like a housewife fitting that perfect 1950s stereotype.

Is it wrong for a girl to love her electronics? If it is, I do not want to be right.

I see more and more people on campus showing their devotion to their mp3 players by being almost attached at the hip. iPod love should no longer be a love that cannot be named. Unlike other electronic devices in my life, I can take this one out in public. An iPod isn't the battery-operated device you date; it's the one you marry.



DOTTY JURNS / THE RIP

Education faces losses

As funding to the educational system is stymied, students face loss of higher education, which is to the detriment of society on the whole.

By ARNETHA PIERCE
Rip staff writer

Education means knowledge, and knowledge means power. Education is a huge endeavor for many people to empower and prepare themselves for a life of security, financial stability, and independence.

How would one accomplish their pursuit of peace and tranquility when our government is constantly chiseling away the funds allocated by Proposition 98 to our community colleges? By law, Proposition 98 states that community colleges should be receiving 11 percent of education funding.

The accessibility to education has been limited because of the drastic budget cut of \$4 billion of education funds in 2003-2004 by the "Suits" (legislature), and the "Terminator" (governor), who don't value the people who are seeking an education from a community college.

Since the budget cuts, there have been fee increases for K-12 and universities. This is devastating, because our community colleges are being overlooked in lieu of loaning money from that fund to other entities.

It seems to me that the "Suits" and the "Terminator" are trying to turn back the clock of time, where people would seek education by any means necessary, like underground tunnels, and dark backrooms.

Or is it their mission to dumb down the citizens of California who cannot afford to pay the outrageous university fees?

I am amazed and appalled that no one has stepped up to the plate to make the "Suits" and the "Terminator" accountable for the drastic cuts in our education system.

Talking about money, where is the lottery money? In Oct. 3, 1984, Proposition 37 states that 34 percent of lottery money should be allocated to the education fund.

Why not downsize the lottery commission and restore some of that money back into our education system?

Education is a forever learning process. I can't think of a better way of enhancing a career, job, by updated knowledge earned at our community college to improve your pursuit of tranquility.

Pick up your trash

By JULIE SALGUERO
News Editor

Being a college student consists of many hours of homework and studying. Work and family also makes time scarce.

But being busy does not mean I've resorted to being messy or careless. However, I often observe others like myself exhibiting sloppy behavior at BC and I'm annoyed.

When I arrive on campus around 7:30 a.m. the campus is clean. The classrooms, the bathrooms and the rest of campus have yet to be covered with students' waste.

I've noticed that as soon as the college becomes active with rushing students that the campus transforms. The campus center becomes littered with garbage, toilet paper covers the bathroom floors and the classrooms are now being used as student's trashcans.

Maybe it's just me, but attending college usually means we've entered adulthood, so why are BC students not acting like adults and picking up after themselves?

It's not like the trashcans aren't accessible. Within the campus center I know there are 7 trashcans, and 2 of them right next to each other and yet trash is piled on the tables.

Cigarette butts cover the grounds of the campus and ashbins are located everywhere.

If everyone would just pick up after himself/herself, the campus will look better and everyone will feel a little more Renegade pride, and I'm sure the custodians will appreciate it.

I start to stutter and stop making sense.

I just find it a lot easier to get my work done to its fullest potential if I do my work alone.

I find it hard to discuss my work and ideas with people I hardly know. It makes me feel insecure, which makes it harder to get my ideas developed.

I know teachers use group assignments in order to help students get to know each other.

However, I couldn't really care less who's sitting next to me or diagonally from me. I just want to do my work, get it done, go home and sleep.

In high school I felt like everything was just one big social activity. I didn't care about school all that much.

But now I'm in college, and I'm trying my hardest to get the best grades that I can. I think it's better if I don't know the person next to me so that I'm not tempted to talk. Then there are always times when you get put with the group of people who don't want to do any work.

You're the one that gets stuck with doing most of the work or maybe all of it.

Teachers always say not to leave one person up to everything, but it happens. In some cases, it's better that the one person is doing all the work.

I know it sounds like I hate people and I probably have no friends. I do have a few friends, including one that I actually met at school and because of a group project we worked on together.

Even though I actually did make friends in that group, I still remember it being difficult because of the time and hassle it was getting a group of people together that work and have other classes. I think it's just a lot less stressful when I know I don't have group projects or assignments.

I know with every class I take when I receive the syllabus I flip through it checking for the words "group project."

I also know I can't just drop a class because of group projects. I wish I could, but then I'd be dropping at least one class a semester. I'll just complain about it and groan along with the rest of the class.

Students don't need to work well with others

Group projects are an exercise in futility and awkward forced contact with others.

By LISA VARGAS
Rip staff writer

When I'm in a class and the teacher announces, "Now, let's get into groups," my stomach turns, and I look out the door and imagine myself bolting out. I do this almost every day in one of my classes this semester. I've never been in a class that is put into groups so much. And I've never found it more unnecessary.

I've never been thrilled about being put into groups. In fact, you could say I hate it. You can call me shy, you can call me antisocial. It's probably because I am. I have a tremendously hard time talking to strangers.

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'GADGET FEEDBACK

Compiled by Jacqueline White & Victor Garcia / The Rip

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THE RENEGADE RIP

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Letters should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by a signature and the letter writer's identity must be verified with a photo ID.

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If an organization submits a letter as a group, it must be signed by only one person, either the leader of the organization or the letter writer. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published.

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NEWS

BC hires replacement for Don Clark

By NICK STOCKTON Rip staff writer

After an interim year as director of public information, Don Clark has decided to move on.

Clark, a former news anchor, came to Bakersfield College after his 17-year stint at local CBS affiliate KBAK. After leaving the station, he was unemployed for five months, seeking a job within the Bakersfield community.

He described how he came to the job as the result of his own frustrations causing him to turn to prayer. Shortly after his pious request, Walt Howard, executive director of Bakersfield College Foundation, called Clark to request his help with the enormous task of enhancing community outreach.

Clark invigorated the newly re-established office with many programs he speaks proudly of. He launched the BC Today radio program on Newstalk 1410 which airs every Saturday morning, and has about 40 episodes. The popular show became the ratings

leader for its time slot. He described the time spent on the news show with former BC professor Chuck Wall as his favorite BC memories.

He also changed "The Source," BC's previously one-page employee newsletter, into a 12-page full color community magazine. He cites that the magazine is often referred to by many public figures, and he has received lots of positive feedback throughout the county.

So why has he chosen to leave? For Clark, this has been a difficult decision involving many personal choices and internal debates. Since leaving KBAK, he has had to work four jobs at the same time to make a living. This amount of work was overwhelming to him and as a result, one of the jobs had to go. While BC paid the most and was the most secure, it also demanded the most of his time.

Clark also discussed how he has let his faith guide more of his decisions, allowing Christianity to play a role in his decision-making. With that in mind, he has made his primary job

working at the Bakersfield Rescue Mission, where he "Really gets to see lives transformed by the power of God."

Clark did not leave an empty seat, though. His replacement, Amber Chiang, comes into the job with impressive credentials and high expectations. Clark proclaimed that the college "had really picked a winner" and discussed how she would help to enhance BC's image as "the bridge to the workforce and to higher education."

Chiang comes from a public service background, having been involved in various non-profits, including Girl Scouts of America and First Five Association of California (a pre-school initiative group). Her "love of causes" inspired her to apply her skills to the field of education. She has helped various central valley schools improve their overall enrollment through her public relations initiatives.

Chiang has been "keeping an eye out" for this position for a while, saying that "I was waiting for a time

when I was ready for it, and when the school might be ready for me." At the time of this interview, she was on her fourth day at work and was already enjoying the constant pressure and challenges of director of public information.

When asked about the current FTES issue - fewer full-time students attending California community colleges - she told of some of the ideas she had in mind to confront the problem. The first step was to speak with as many people on campus as possible, to get a broad perspective on the scope of the problem. She intends to create a coordinated outreach program, making it clear that every person enrolled in or employed by BC is a representative of the school.

Her goal entails transforming the school into a public relations machine through coordinated outreach programs such as grassroots advertising, open channels to local media, and the formation of a Speakers Bureau.

"You don't know how many calls I get from people asking for speak-



JACQUELINE WHITE / THE RIP Amber Chiang replaces Don Clark as public information officer.

ers from BC for various events," she said.

To meet this demand, the Speakers Bureau will be made up of interested faculty and students who are willing and able to engage in discourse on various topics for various events throughout the community.

She is also aware of the problem surrounding public information and from this school, and is working to establish a relationship with Clifton Travis in Merced to discuss local programs for discounted bus fares for BC students.

Chiang feels that Clark has left her with a solid reputation with the local media, and has "a great legacy for me to uphold."

Clark commented on his legacy humbly, stating, "I just hope I did the job with excellence."

Amber Chiang encourages contact from anyone regarding her various initiatives, or just to share stories or anecdotes.

College students are lacking basic skills, report finds

By KATHERINE J. WHITE Copy Editor

According to a recent literacy study, Johnny still can't read, at least not very well, but he's also attending and even preparing to graduate from college.

Johnny is also about to graduate from college with an inability to balance a checkbook, and he can't make a proper judgment call about credit card offers because he doesn't understand the different interest rates and annual fees.

According to a recently reported study, Johnny is part of a legion of American college students who suffer several different academic shortcomings.

The recent study found that only about 30 percent of two-year students have barely minimum math skills, according to a recent study funded by Pew Charitable Trusts.

According to this study, more than half of the student populations of four-year institutions and approximately 75 percent

of student populations in two-year institutions cannot comprehend credit card offers.

The study further claimed that most college students lacked the ability to comprehend important documents and evaluate news articles.

Many college students are bereft of the math skills required not only to balance checkbooks but also to make restaurant tips.

The study points out that students cannot decipher tables about exercise and blood pressure, or grasp the rhetoric of newspaper editorials, or insightfully recite the results of surveys. However, some students are modestly adept at finding locations on maps, the survey stated.

Stephane Baldi, the literacy study's director at the American Institutes for Research, stated to CNN that "it is kind of disturbing that a lot of folks are graduating with degrees and they're not going to be able to do those things."

Joni Finney, vice president of the National Center for Public and Higher Education, told

CNN that the "states have no idea about the knowledge and skills of their college graduates."

To add to the dismal picture, the study reportedly elaborated that only 20 percent of students aiming for the four-year degree had only minimal calibrating and quantitative abilities.

According to CNN, this recent college study used the same test used by the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, which is the government's test for adults on English literacy.

The recent results of the government's test revealed that one in 20 adults is illiterate. CNN reported that the tests used by the government and by the administrators of the college survey were deployed to 1,827 students in both public and private schools. CNN assured readers that there was a margin of sampling error of either plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Department Chair of Academic Development Tim Bohan questioned the validity of

the survey reported by CNN.

"You need to ask how many people were in the study and consider age and amount of exposure. How many high school students will have had the exposure to credit card use? Young adults just out of high school haven't been exposed to interest rates and credit cards," he said and called the survey's findings on American college students' math abilities as reported by CNN "a little skewed."

Especially in regard to the finding that 30 percent of two-year college students had just rudimentary math skills, he remarked, "I'd be surprised if it were really that high."

In regard to the college survey's test administered to a representative sample of 1,827 students, Bohan said, "that's a pretty small sample of students. That's not even one eighth of BC's student population. That's not a very good representative sample."

Bohan remarked that reported statistics should be taken with a grain of salt.

"Anyone can do anything with statistics," he said.

Wanda Boardman, departmental assistant for the Developmental Education and Learning Centers, said that college students' academic problems may stem from a lack of maturity and a general inability to take school seriously. However, she expressed disdain for the school system itself.

"Kids enter kindergarten too early," she said. She also remarked that institutions just give students diplomas, which contributes to their lack of seriousness about learning.

Furthermore, she said, video game use, especially Nintendo video games which "move too quickly," give kids an insatiable taste for immediacy which is not conducive to students' willingness to commit to the task of studying.

Some were dismissive about studies regarding lack of student literacy.

"It seems that way that there is a college literacy problem because I work with students with preparedness problems," said Stephanie Hale, co-ordinator for the Student Success Lab.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Former BC professor honored by City of Bakersfield

The City of Bakersfield and Mayor Harvey Hall honored Chuck Wall, former professor of business and communication at Bakersfield College, with a proclamation Feb. 7 from Kern County for Kindness Awareness Week.

"Dr. Wall is a longtime friend who took time to reach out to our community to make a difference by adopting the concept of being kind to others, which will surely improve the quality of our life, and make each day better than the day before," Hall said.

In 1994, after hearing so many violent stories, Wall initiated and introduced to his business people skills class the concept of being kind to others.

Multiple Sclerosis Society to host 5K walk and entertainment

The Multiple Sclerosis Society will hold its annual walk on Saturday, April 8. The 5-kilometer walk will begin at Yokuts Park at 8:30 a.m. and will continue along the Kern River bike path.

For more information about the MS walk or other programs, call the Kern County Office at 661-321-9512.

Cal State Bakersfield schedules on-site admission day

Wanting to increase transfer possibilities for BC students, the college, in collaboration with Cal State Bakersfield under the title 5 grant, is scheduling on-site admission days March 7 and 8 at BC's Assessment Center.

For further details, contact CSUB at 654-6110.

Bakersfield hockey team offers cheap tickets for students

The Bakersfield Condors hockey team will be holding \$1 ticket nights for students showing a college ID. The games are Feb. 15, March 1 and March 23. Tickets are normally \$15 each. Also on Feb. 15, the team will host "meet your match," in which singles sit together in a section.

Jan. 26 at 1:30 p.m.

A 36-year-old female Bakersfield College student reported that a male BC student was harassing and groping her in the Campus Center women's restroom lounge. A BC Police Security officer escorted him from the restroom. The suspicious individual claimed that he went into the women's restroom to collect an upset friend. The reporting student said the intruding male's "friend" was not upset, and that the two appeared to be "playing around."

Jan. 31 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

A female BC student reported damage to her 2004 white Honda Civic parked southeast parking lot. The student noticed four cars right in front of her car. One of the cars had a dent approximately 2 feet long, and that dent was a transfer of white paint on the plastic running light portion of the front headlight.

Between Jan. 31 and Feb. 2 between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.

A 26-year-old female BC student reported that she placed art tools in BC's Fine Arts locker room Jan. 31 at 12 p.m. and came back Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. and saw that her locker had been broken into with a cutting implement, and that her tools were missing. A BC Public Safety officer saw that FS lockers also had cut marks.

Jan. 21 between 11:20 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

A 36-year-old male BC student reported that his pants containing his wallet were stolen from BC's Men's Gym locker room. The student

Reproductive rites of spring



A honey bee collects pollen from the blossoms of an Evergreen Pear tree (Pyrus kawakamii) in the Campus Center. Many trees around campus and the rest of the county are blooming early due to this season's unusually warm temperatures.

CRIME BEAT

Jan. 23 at 8:55 p.m.

An incident of vehicular damage was reported to have occurred at the Delano Center. A BC student parked her car on Timmons Avenue and Contessa Avenue. Upon returning from class, she noticed that her driver's side window was smashed. However, the student said she was not missing any of her property.

Jan. 23 at 9:10 p.m.

The owner of a vehicle reported that while his car was parked on Timmons and Contessa Avenues at the Delano Center, her window was smashed. He claimed to be missing 50 CDs.

Jan. 23 at 10:50 p.m.

The north glass door of BC's Student Services Building was broken.

Jan. 23 at 11:22 p.m.

A report of failure to obey a Public Safety officer was filed. A male BC student was skateboarding on campus and was instructed by an officer to stop. He refused. The officer made the student identify himself and the information was forwarded to the Dean of Students.

Jan. 30 at 2:40 p.m.

A male BC student standing at 5'10" and weighing 195 pounds was reportedly threatened by three other male BC students to stay away from a female BC student. BC security officers spoke to the female who said she had recently broken up with the threatened male. The female was very uncomfortable with the male following her around campus, and said that he was bipolar and very disturbed about their recent break up. She claimed to have taken out a restraining order against the threatened male. The BC officer cautioned the stalking male to stay away from the female subject.

Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

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Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

A BC student parked a vehicle in

Jan. 24

An occurrence of suspicious circumstances was reported. At BC's computer commons in the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, a black male student using a computer pod was observed viewing pornographic web sites. The suspect left the premises before BC officers arrived on the scene.

Jan. 25 at 6:25 p.m.

Suspicious circumstances were reported to have occurred in Language Arts, room 217. Two students were exchanging money for marijuana bags while sitting in the back of the classroom.

Jan. 25 at 2 p.m.

A suspicious car was parked along Panorama Drive north of the Agriculture Department farms BC officers

recovered two loaded firearms and marijuana.

Jan. 25 An incident of property damage occurred around BC's ag farm. An unidentified suspect tried to gain access to the tack room.

Jan. 25 between 11:45 and 5:30 p.m.

An incident of property damage was reported. Unidentified subjects used an unknown implement in the northwest staff parking lot to write the epithet "bitch" on both the front passenger side and rear passenger side doors of a vehicle.

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Compiled by Katherine J. White from BC Public Safety reports

Love is in the air



English major Jennifer Smith, 19, and liberal studies major Reeve Michaels, kiss in the middle of the BC campus. They have been a couple for three years. Valentine's Day was yesterday.

BC Vegetarian Club disbands

By DANIEL PETERSON Rip staff writer

Last fall, vegetarian students from Bakersfield College founded the BC Vegetarian Club, which was approved and made official on Sept. 28. The club was founded in order to place vegetarian meals and food items in BC's cafeteria menu.

The students were concerned that BC did not accommodate the needs of students who were on strictly vegetarian diets.

As of last fall, Alex Gomez, the food service manager of BC, said he understood about the students and faculty aiming toward a broader variety of healthy vegetarian meals on the BC campus, but said that he was unable to accommodate their demands because he did not have enough staff on board working at the cafeteria, and he did not have the time or resources in order to make the items available.

Barbara Braid, who was the club's advisor, said that the club had disbanded because not enough members remained as BC students. She said that last semester things were looking promising for the club, but no one mentioned that they would not be attending BC for the spring semester.

There's no word on whether the club is gone for good, or if it's merely on hiatus, or if people who were members last year will come back for the fall semester and try to re-establish it. "I can't say we went out with a bang," Braid said. "It was more like a whimper."

According to Gomez, many items have been put on the menu since he had heard from the club last year.

The cafeteria now offers garden burgers, vegetable sticks, yogurt with granola on top, and daily soups, with a featured vegetarian soup.

He also said that he was still low on

staff members as he had been for the past couple of years, which makes it difficult to have everything customers want. He said the cafeteria can't provide what it can't afford, and it still focuses on making sure that hot-selling meals like burgers are kept in stock.

Gomez studied vegetarian cooking when he attended culinary at school, and he is aware of what a vegetarian diet consists of.

However, he said that the items aren't very popular, and he and his staff can't spend time and effort on food that very few people eat.

One strategy he has established is that he has just some of the vegetarian meals as "specials" in order to create an interest in the items because the items were available for a limited time. Gomez said he is pretty much set with the expanded, healthier menu, and he hasn't heard any complaints.

Cornell University representative offers admission information

The Ivy League school, which does not admit students due to financial status, offers a variety of programs for students.

By KATHERINE J. WHITE Copy Editor

Understanding how to get into the Ivy League is a skill reserved only for the elite. Dr. Larry Stoenbuser stressed Feb. 3 in Bakersfield College's East Forum 101.

Stoenbuser, owner and general manager of KTRF radio in Porterville and former Cornell University student admitted at the age of 16, stated that students, "shouldn't feel that Cornell is a high school's school."

Along with Cornell's "no-need-to-apply" admission policy, Cornell also will extensively examine a prospective student's financial status.

Furthermore, Stoenbuser said, Cornell, a private institution located in upstate New York in the town of Ithaca, about 400 miles northwest of New York City, prides on its cultural and geographical diversity, although the majority of Cornell students come from the eastern part of the United States and 5% come from the west and the southwestern part.

Cornell has a strong Asian population and a strong bond with Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., Stoenbuser said.

According to Stoenbuser, Cornell has excellent athletic traditions in Quin, Kowal, as well as in boxing. Cornell boasts 120 fraternities and multiculturalism is vital to the university, Stoenbuser said.

Cornell is a "four-season campus" according to Stoenbuser, in a town "smaller than Porterville." Most

of the 100 restaurants and a "legitimate" as "legitimate" symphony and orchestra. A 4,000-chapter and has extensive athletic facilities include basketball, water polo and ice hockey.

Stoenbuser also talked philosophy, secretary Stoenbuser stressed the importance of agriculture studies in Cornell.

"I know of 100 students I know have MBAs and carry titles," Stoenbuser said.

It is especially important for agriculture majors to return to the San Joaquin Valley agricultural area with a thorough education from Cornell and thereby "give back to the community," Stoenbuser said.

Transfer students from community and junior colleges have a much higher acceptance rate than do high school graduates. However, only one in 12 high school graduates are accepted, whereas 1 in 4 transfer students are accepted.

"The odds are substantially higher for transfer students than for high school students," Stoenbuser said.

While Cornell is the destination for numerous high school applicants, Cornell also has high school acceptance, and Feb. 10 will be the last day for high school acceptance, Stoenbuser said.

For more information about Cornell, Stoenbuser said, "I can't say we went out with a bang," Braid said. "It was more like a whimper."

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Advertisement for Career Center listing various services: Business Administration, Corrections Officer, Emergency Services & Safety, Medical Billing, Medical Assisting, Dental Assisting, Pharmacy Technology, Surgical Technology, Maintenance Technology, Refrigeration AC Technology, and Certificate & AS degree programs.

Advertisement for Advanced Women's Health Center.

Advertisement for Skydive Taft, offering student discounts on video, tandem, and accelerated freefall jumps.

Advertisement for CSUB (California State University Bakersfield) with the slogan 'It's your university!' and contact information.

Sharing stories of a life filled with adversity

■ Inspirational speaker
Joan Brock tells her story of
overcoming life's obstacles.

By ANNA ROBLEDO
Rip staff writer

Joan Brock is co-author of "More than Meets the Eye," based on her true-life struggles, heartbreak and achievement against all odds. Her book was made into a movie for Lifetime, and now Brock has been traveling and speaking to audiences worldwide.

On Monday night, Brock spoke as part of Bakersfield College's Eminent Speaker Series in the Fireside Room. Approximately 60 people attended the event.

Brock grew up in Bakersfield. She attended Washington Junior High, Bakersfield High School and one semester at Bakersfield College. On a whim Brock moved to South Dakota, where she finished college and received her degree in recreation therapy. After college, she got a job working in a mental health facility and women's correction facility.

Brock later married Joe Beringer, who was also a recreation therapist, but he was working with blind children. The two moved to Iowa and began working at a boarding school for blind children. "I didn't have a clue what I was doing," Brock admits. "But I really loved it. ... I felt I was really doing good stuff."

"I learned a variety of positions, I wanted to accept more and more, learn

everything there was to know," said Brock. She became the dormitory liaison, which was a position that was created for her. "I would go out and speak to the community on the schools' behalf ... that is where the public speaking began."

At the age of 32, while working at the school for blind children, Brock began to have trouble with her vision, and within a three-week period she was blind. Brock's vision loss was due to macular degeneration, which usually affects only the elderly.

"Here I was working at a school for blind children, and I went blind," Brock chuckles. But her work at the blind school meant she "had all the tools" to be able to lead her life as a blind person. "It was my choice to take those tools and integrate them into my own life."

Brock's daughter, Joy, who was only 3 at the time Brock went blind, was the focus of Brock's thoughts. "One of the hardest things for me when I was in the hospital was what I will never see again. I'll never see my daughter's face again."

Five years after going blind, Brock lost her husband, Joe, 36, to cancer. Joy, who was then 8, had to become Brock's "eyes," helping her pay bills. "She thought she was my secretary," Brock said.

Brock moved back to Bakersfield and "rekindled some friendships from high school." She and Jim Brock married six months later.

With so many things happening in her life, Brock decided to begin writing

"My husband Jim likes to say, 'She had to go blind to see the world.'"

— Joan Brock,
BC guest speaker and co-author

a journal for her daughter.

"Writing was very cathartic, very therapeutic for me," she said. "I didn't know what I was doing, I was writing a journal for my daughter actually, because so many amazing things had happened, and so that was eventually the basis for my book, and in 1994 I published the book."

Her book, "More than Meets the Eye," was published in 10 languages, and has also been available in Braille and cassette.

Brock's book was also created into a movie for Lifetime in 2003, which starred "Law & Order's" Carey Lowell as Joan Brock. The title of the movie was "More than Meets the Eye: The Joan Brock Story," which can be seen periodically on Hallmark Channel.

After the release of her book, Brock began making appearances and has become a well sought-after speaker for various organizations, according to her Web site. With target topics that include women's issues, education, wellness and medical, insurance and finance, Brock is able to speak to a wide variety of clients.

Brock has traveled around the world giving her speeches: Malaysia, Singapore, Hawaii, Canada, Bermuda and

Puerto Rico. "My husband Jim likes to say 'She had to go blind to see the world,'" she said.

While discussing her public speaking in BC professor Mark Staller's communications class on Monday morning, Brock said, "My one benefit is I don't have to look at the audience, I can just pretend I'm standing in the shower." Brock also stresses the importance about knowing your subject, "... know you know what you are talking about."

When asked if she had any dreams or thoughts about where she would like her life to go from here, she replied "No."

"If 23 years ago you would have told me that this was all going to happen, I was going to go blind, Joe was going to die ... I would have been appalled," she said. "So making plans is certainly not the path that I am going to plan. A lot of people say what are your goals. I don't know, I just want to be happy."

At Brock's talk Monday night, Jim Brock was in the audience. He has published several books, including "Butterflies of Arizona," "Butterflies of North America" and "Field Guide to Caterpillars." Jim also spoke to biology classes during the day at BC.



Joan Brock addresses the crowd Monday night in the Fireside Room as part of the Eminent Speaker Series.

JACQUELINE WHITE / THE RIP

BC BRAINS

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



Adam Belter, philosophy: "A Middle Eastern water pipe."



Bethany Bahmet, art: "A type of tobacco."



Pablo Zavala, criminal justice: "Some type of animal?"



Gabriela Castro, child development: "I don't have a clue."



Clinton Tibary, child development: "I think it has to do with Hawaii."



Brandon Torres, undeclared: "Something you smoke."

Compiled by Victor Garcia / The Rip

What is a hookah?

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Men's hoops two wins away from postseason

By LEANNE CAVE
Rip staff writer

As far as winning the Western State Conference is concerned, the Bakersfield College men's basketball team (17-11, 7-3 WSC) controls its own destiny.

"If we win out, we can win conference," said BC coach Rich Hughes. "We haven't won the conference since 1998 or made the playoffs since 2001. Our goal at the beginning of the season was to win conference

and make the state playoffs." The team's destiny will begin tonight when the Renegades travel to College of the Canyons. The "Gades hope to be successful in getting the first two victories in order to secure a conference title. Even though the team's success is greatly due to an overall team effort, two players have contributed greatly with consistent scoring, rebounding and assists. Terrence Johns, a product of Chicago, is averaging 22.5 points a game and is second in team rebounding.

"I was thinking of playing for Los Angeles Valley, but Coach Hughes recruited me and I chose to come here," Johns said. "I like it better, it's a better environment and I've adjusted to the system." Steve Alford, a product of South High, averages 13 points a game but contributes a great deal to the team with rebounding as well as assists. Alford, who is interested in an acting career, says he and Johns help each other find openings and ways of scoring.

"He finds a way to get open and teams focus on him," Alford said. "That gives me a lot of freedom to move around so I get a lot of shots. Johns says of Alford, "He knows where I'll be. When I drive, he knows where to cut in making the play." Johns shot his season average of 22 points plus one as he led the "Gades to a 78-74 victory over Santa Monica City College on Feb. 4. His 23 points plus nine rebounds helped BC improve to 16-11 and 6-3 in the WSC, and into a first-place conference tie with College of the Canyons and West Los Angeles College. Aaron Perez also helped with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Alford once again showed consistency in assisting in the win as he added 15 points.

In an exciting game against Los Angeles Valley on Feb. 11, Johns scored 24 points and pulled down 10 rebounds as BC remained in the conference title race by beating the Monarchs 63-58. Johns, a business administration major, says he remains optimistic

about the outcome of the season for the "Gades. "If we come out hard like we did against L.A. Valley, we are capable of winning the conference and making the state playoffs," he said. BC hopes to continue to put a mark in the victory column as it travels to take on College of the Canyons in Valencia. The "Gades defeated the Cougars 78-77 on Jan. 21. Game time will be 7:30 p.m. "We just have to win out down the stretch," Hughes said.

BC's Sisco pitches no-hitter

By ALFREDO ADKINS
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College's softball team lost its first two games then won the next two in a tournament last weekend at Fullerton College.

Before the tournament on Feb. 9, BC pitcher Jennifer Sisco pitched a no-hitter in an 8-0 victory over East Los Angeles.

BC had 10 hits, and only a hit better kept Sisco from a perfect game. Including that game and the Fullerton tournament, the Renegades played five games with four taking place in 26 hours.

"I was very pleased. We were tired and sore," said coach Sandi Taylor after BC won its last game on Sunday.

In the first two games on Saturday, BC's Nichole Lancaster went 4 for 6, but the Renegades lost the first game to Antelope Valley 6-2 then lost to Saddleback 3-1.

In Sunday's games, the Renegades wasted no time scoring first in the first inning in game one against Golden West. BC added one more run in the second inning and held Golden West to no runs and four hits. The win game pitcher Kori Madro (1-3) had her first victory of the season.

In game four of the tournament against Cerritos College, the Renegades, who lost their season opener to Cerritos 2-1 in 12 innings, were able to pull off a 2-0 victory as Sisco (3-1) continues to show herself as one of team's strongest pitchers.

Nichole Lancaster leads the team's offense with a .379 batting average followed by Sisco's .333 and Ashleigh Pryor with a batting average of .304.

The BC softball team travels to Moorpark for a Thursday game.

Baseball

Bakersfield College won four games to capture the title in the Light Brigade Tournament last weekend at Gerry Collis Field.

"Our pitching has been pretty stable for the first 12 games," said coach Tim Painton. "This weekend, our offense started coming around, and as a result we had a four and zero record."

In the first game on Feb. 10, the Renegades defeated Moorpark 7-6. In game two, the Renegades jumped on San Diego Mesa for 15 hits to win 8-6.

San Diego Mesa scored first, taking a 2-0 lead in the first inning. The Renegades came back with two runs in the second inning to tie the score, then scored four more in the third.

In the third game, also against San Diego Mesa, the Renegades won 6-2.

In the championship game, BC and Oxnard were tied 5-5 before BC scored four runs to win 9-6.

The Renegades had dropped to 2-5 on the season before beating Reedley 9-2 on Feb. 7, then BC won the tournament for a five-game winning streak.

Golf

BC's men's team will travel to Whittier to meet Rio Hondo College.

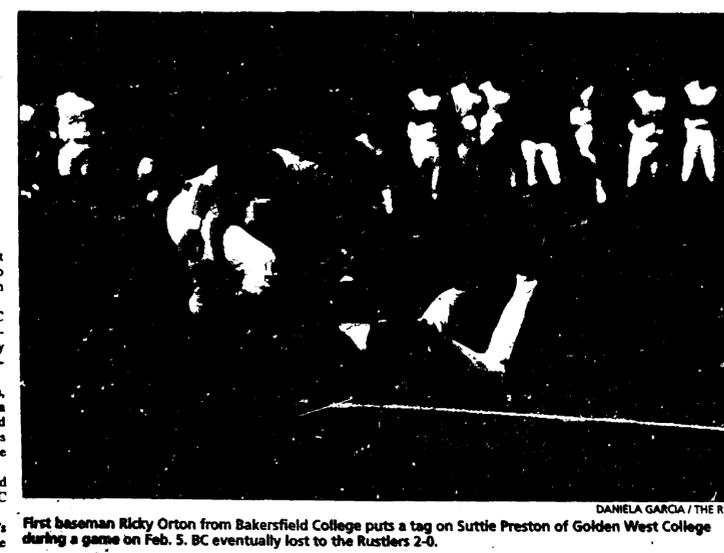
BC returns sophomores Scott LaBare, Kyle Neal, Justin Pinn and Mike Yates. Joining the team this year will be freshmen Chris Baden, Jarrett Coyns, Tony Denesha, Nathan Hamblen, Chris McCracken, Andy Pelle and Nick Vallejo.

Men's track and field

Bakersfield College won the Western Conference mini-meet last Friday at BC. The men were led by Evan Wahl with first-place finishes in the javelin, hammer throw and discus events.

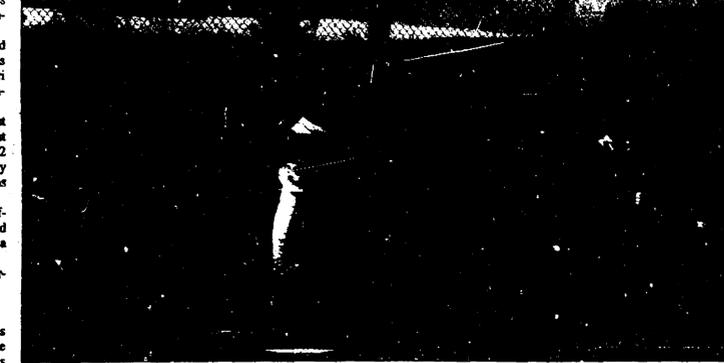
Josh Hamilton also came in with strong wins with victories in the 1,500 and 3,000-meter races.

"It was an early meet, and we had a strong showing overall," said assistant



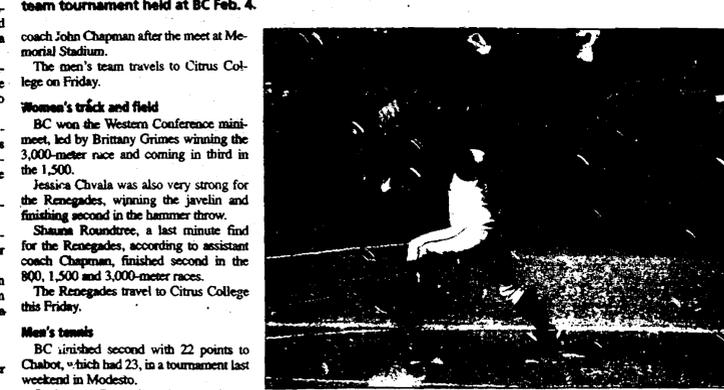
First baseman Ricky Orton from Bakersfield College puts a tag on Suttie Preston of Golden West College during a game on Feb. 5. BC eventually lost to the Rustlers 2-0.

DANIELA GAROIA / THE RIP



Sophomore Karl Ortiz of Bakersfield College dodges a pitch in a game against Taft College during a three-team tournament held at BC Feb. 4.

JOSEPH WHIPKEY / THE RIP



Kory Marko, a freshman from Garces High School, pitches for BC on Feb. 4 against Taft College. BC won the game 9-1.

JOSEPH WHIPKEY / THE RIP

Women's track and field

BC won the Western Conference mini-meet, led by Brittany Grimes winning the 3,000-meter race and coming in third in the 1,500.

Jessica Chvala was also very strong for the Renegades, winning the javelin and finishing second in the hammer throw. Shanna Roundtree, a last minute find for the Renegades, according to assistant coach Chapman, finished second in the 800, 1,500 and 3,000-meter races.

The Renegades travel to Citrus College this Friday.

Men's tennis

BC finished second with 22 points to Chabot, which had 23, in a tournament last weekend in Modesto.

Sophomore Bryan Branch led the Renegades with a victory in the third-flight singles division. In the doubles title, Branch teamed up with freshman Matt Groer and took the title for the second flight.

"We are a better team than we were last year," Branch said. "We have more solid players and our top three players from last year are returning."

No. 2 singles Ryan Stultz, a sophomore, fell just short of the title by losing in the finals, and then teamed up with Jason Droussard to finish second in the first flight doubles division.

In the sixth flight singles division, Josh Halpin made it all the way to finals before losing.

BC will play Fresno City College at 2

p.m. Thursday at BC. From that point, No. 3 Laura Houser, No. 4 Amy Cowan, No. 5 Tiffany Gragg and No. 6 Elizabeth Carnal all defeated their Fresno City opponents easily.

In doubles action, BC's Houser and Cowan lost to FCC's Arnold and Shepherd 5-7, 7-6, 7-6.

BC's No. 2 doubles, Jamie Mitchell and Tiffany Gragg, easily defeated FCC's Danielle Raley and Vici Laird 6-0, 6-3. In the No. 3 doubles, Christina Audelo and Elizabeth Carnal defeated FCC 6-3, 6-1.

The Renegades will travel to College of the Sequoias in Visalia this Thursday.

Playoffs still a possibility

■ The BC women's basketball team is on a five-game winning streak, and a strong finish in the regular season could foster a postseason berth.

By LEANNE CAVE
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College women's basketball team, which is 15-13 overall and 7-3 in the Western State Conference will travel to College of the Canyons tonight to play in the most important game of the regular season for both teams. A win by the Lady "Gades would improve their chances of tying for first place in the conference.

"This game is huge," said BC coach Paula Dahl. "We are currently one-half game off of being in a second-place tie with Los Angeles Valley in the WSC. Canyons is in first."

The "Gades are currently riding a five-game winning streak in which they have been road warriors by winning 3-of-5 contests against competitive teams within the WSC.

Athletic ability and teamwork has contributed to a dramatic turnaround for the women, who at one point of the season had a 10-13 overall record.

"The women have one of the most athletic teams they've ever had," Jan Stuebbe, BC athletic director, said. "At this point they are playing well and have a chance to tie for the conference title."

For two straight games (against Los Angeles Valley and Santa Monica), the "Gades had at least four players score in double figures and have dominated the boards with consistent rebounding. They have also played tough on the perimeter, knocking down three-point shots in key situations. Led by Sharrei Washington, the defensive game has also been stellar.

"Washington is probably the most unsung hero," Dahl said. "She is a real defensive threat. We put her on opposing star players because she frustrates them with her aggressive style of defensive play."

The "Gades needed that aggressive style of play in the second half against L.A. Valley as they came back from a four-point deficit to beat the Monarchs 85-69 on Feb. 11.

Stephanie Roberts led the way for BC as she scored 23 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. Roberts had an impressive overall performance as she took control in the second-half comeback by nailing four 3-point shots, recording seven assists and adding four steals to her credit.

Also contributing to the victory was La Shay Bagsby with a double-double. Bagsby had 14 points and dominated the boards with 19 rebounds and four blocked shots.

Neha Joshi and Sharrei Washington also scored in double figures with 10 points each.

"We became a team in the second half against Valley," Dahl said. "I'm really pleased, this game was huge."

The "Gades also had team production on Feb. 4, with four players scoring 20 or more points to help knock off Santa Monica on their home court, 100-78.

"I have never had four players score 20 or more points in a game," Dahl said.

La Shay Bagsby led the way for BC against the Corsairs as she pumped in 28 points and controlled the post with 19 rebounds.

Sarah Ortiz added 26 points while Roberts had 22 and Maddi Padgett nailed six 3-point shots in a 20-point effort. Ortiz and Roberts had 11 rebounds apiece.

Washington's play was also a key factor in getting the road win as her defensive effort helped on the offensive end of the court.

"We've stepped it up on defense," Washington said. "On offense we've just fine tuned our game."

Ortiz echoed Washington's thoughts. "We've really picked up on defense, defensive transition has led to scoring points."

The "Gades hope to average the Jan. 21 loss to Canyons and pick up a share of a conference title. Game time is at 5:30 p.m.

"We didn't really deal with the pressure at the end of the game against Canyons," Washington said. "We've been conditioning, and this time I think we'll be ready to play until the end. We lost in the last few minutes the first game."

SPORTS

Fighting to overcome the odds

Nolan Portillo has beaten numerous setbacks in his quest to become a boxer.

By ALFREDO ADKINS
Sports Editor

Nolan Portillo, a 2003 Bakersfield College graduate, is scheduled to fight his seventh professional fight on Feb. 28 in Southern California. Portillo manages himself and travels to all of his bouts, but his greatest struggle was living on the streets while he enrolled at BC.

For most of his freshman year at BC, Portillo was homeless until his financial aid came in.

He even had the misfortune of catching the flu while staying at the park across from campus off Mount Vernon Avenue.

With all of these obstacles, Portillo struggled with his desire to prove himself.

He graduated Phi Theta Kappa and magna cum laude with honors with a 3.83 GPA and is now at Cal State Bakersfield majoring in Communication with a 3.72 GPA.

Growing up on the east side of Bakersfield, Portillo felt he had a sheltered life and is grateful to his mother and stepfather Richard Pacheco.

He was an above-average student and not necessarily a candidate to end up on the streets.

"When I finally got out there, I was making up for lost time," Portillo said. "I think I overdid it."

Graduating mid-term out of high school then dealing with a long-distance relationship and getting into the wrong crowd eventually led Portillo to living on the streets.

It was a slow process that led from living with friends and at the Bakersfield Rescue Mission.

Portillo, who began boxing in high school, recalled that before he attended BC, he even started to not take boxing seriously.

He once beat a guy who was 7-0 in Fresno. Portillo offered the fighter a rematch, and they fought a week later.

However, with his girlfriend away at college, Portillo didn't put enough effort into training for the fight. "I spent the whole week with her. I did not train, I literally ran one block, you know! I was over confident! I had hickies all over my neck and everything. I got my ass kicked, he kicked my ass, he kicked my ass."

Portillo's grandfather was a professional boxer and had boxed in the 1930s at Madison Square Garden in New York.

But Portillo got into boxing by watching fights with his stepfather. They would watch Mike Tyson fight and hope he got knocked out.

From there, it was a pair of cheap gloves bought at the swap meet progressing to boxing in class when the teacher would step out and at football practice.

High school football teammate Brandon Gonzalez introduced Portillo to his father, Mike Gonzalez, who ran the South West Boxing Club, later known as the TKO Club.

The club eventually went to the Martin Luther King Center and is now settled at the PAL center on Fourth Street off Union Ave.

At one point, Portillo finally listened to his birth father, Victor Portillo, who had a good relationship with his son, and registered for college. From there, Portillo did what he could to maintain his grades.

Through all of this, Portillo remembers all those who helped from his parents to his birth father to even those at the Bakersfield Rescue Mission.

His first job as a freshman was as a custodial assistant where Bakersfield College custodian Edison Cruz was not only Portillo's boss but also a mentor.

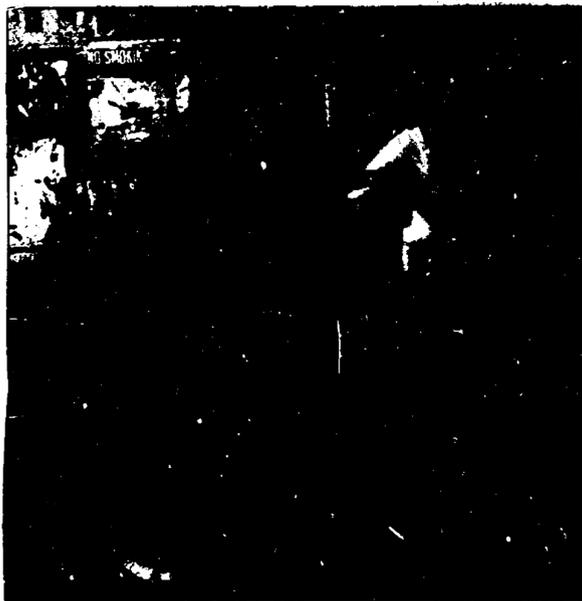
Anita Allen, a sociology teacher, was also another mentor for Portillo. She guided him, day by day and encouraged him until he finally graduated with honors in 2003.

While looking forward to his next fight in southern California and reflecting on everything, Portillo said, "I think I had the big man watching over me. I do not know how I did not get into trouble."



PHOTOS BY ALFREDO ADKINS / THE RIP

Professional boxer Nolan Portillo, a former Bakersfield College student, hits a punching bag.



Portillo trains with Paul Munoz, owner of Munoz Gym, on East California Avenue.



Amateur boxer Jesus Alvaredo, 28, receives advice on boxing techniques from Portillo, left.

Eight BC football players receive scholarships

■ Tajiddin Smith, Thomas Peregrin, among others accept offers from four-year universities.

By LEANNE CAVE
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College has always been blessed with gifted football players, and the 2005 team was no exception. As of Feb. 1, eight players have received full-ride scholarships to play football and continue their educations at Division I or Division II colleges.

"When the dust settles, I think we will have around 14 guys sign letters of intent with full scholarships," Jeff Chudy, head football coach, said. "This number is indicative of our success as a team this year."

Corey Actis, center, has signed with the University of Mississippi. As a matter of fact, Actis is already in Mississippi getting ready for the upcoming season.

"I chose Ole Miss because of the coaching staff and because the facilities are outstanding," Actis said. "It's a part of the SEC (including schools such as Tennessee, Florida and Kentucky), and that's exciting."

Actis said that playing football for BC was a good stepping-stone to Division I because there were some things he needed to work on, the coaches were outstanding and he learned a lot from them.

Keith Camp, defensive back, has signed with Jackson State but has a semester left at BC before he can leave for football training.

Camp said he chose Jackson State because it is close to home (from the Southeast) and the opportunity to start and get some exposure at a ma-

ior university.

"It's more East Coast where I'm from," Camp said. "It seemed more like family as far as the players and student body. I will get to play, and everything was upscale."

The weight room is one of the top 10 weight rooms in the country, and there is a new 65,000 capacity stadium.

"Other schools didn't know if I would start, but Jackson State said I could be their No. 1 guy," he said.

Camp is interested in communications as a major but hopes to get a chance in the National Football League.

Larry Norton, offensive tackle, has signed with Syracuse University. He is already in New York getting ready for spring training.

Norton said he chose Syracuse because he likes the coaching staff and the players/school seem like family. Norton hopes to major in business.

"When I visited, I liked everything about the school and the education department. It has a lot of tradition," he said. "It has a brand new weight room, and I will be starting right away. It gets cold, but we play inside a Dome in front of about 60,000."

Norton said the coaches at BC are great. He wants to thank them for everything they did for him, and he would recommend BC for anyone who is interested in the junior college level.

Tajiddin Smith, wide receiver, has also signed with Syracuse University.

Smith said he chose Syracuse because it is close to home (New Jersey).

"It is a good opportunity to be close to family and friends at home," Smith said. "Everybody is friendly and the coaching staff embraced me. It also presents a chance to do what-



Bakersfield College quarterback Thomas Peregrin is one of eight Renegades who signed with a Division I school.

ever I need to do as far as school is concerned."

Smith's interest in school is Child

and Family studies.

Smith states the coaches are going to give him the opportunity to

start, but if he doesn't, he will red-shirt. Smith also said the BC coaches helped him in making the right decisions as far as football and life itself.

Thomas Peregrin, quarterback, has signed with Western Michigan University.

Peregrin is already in Michigan and has started some training to prepare for tryouts.

"I visited Western Michigan after the Canyons game," Peregrin said. "I chose to play here because of the coaches, and it presented a great opportunity. It's really nice here, great facilities and the team is on the rise."

Peregrin said he and the fifth year senior will compete for the start and if he doesn't get it, he will red-shirt.

"It is an opportunity to learn as far as the plays are concerned because it's different verbage than BC," he said.

Redshirting will also give me the opportunity to get bigger and stronger to play at the Division I level," he said.

Peregrin wants to coach and teach special education when he finishes school. He said he is glad he made the decision to play for BC and he is already missing everyone.

Tyler McCann, offensive lineman, has signed with Missouri Western State University, a Division II school.

"I made the decision to play for Missouri Western because I will have the opportunity to keep on playing at the next level," McCann said.

"The school is pretty nice and the classes aren't crowded. There are approximately 25 to 30 people in each class, so it gives you an easier opportunity to learn."

McCann is undecided as far as his major is concerned.

He states attending BC gave him time to develop into a bigger, faster

and stronger player.

"The coaches at BC really helped in getting us looked at by Division I and II coaches."

Jose Martinez Jr., kicker, has signed to play for the University of Texas at El Paso.

Martinez said he chose UTEP because it was his first option with a three-year scholarship. Also because it is close to Mexico where he has family and friends.

"They've got a senior kicker coming in to do the kicking this season so I wanted the extra year as far as my scholarship goes. They are looking at me to fulfill the needs on special teams."

Martinez attended a competition in Las Vegas and is listed as the No. 1 prospect in the country.

Martinez said the BC coaches are some of the greatest coaches. He learned a lot and got a lot of experience from great coaching.

Bryant Matthews, defensive back/strong safety, has signed with Montana State. Matthews said he chose Montana State because it is a good environment. He stated that the players he has met are "cool."

"I also picked Montana so I could play in the snow," Matthews said.

Bryant wants to major in sociology. He said that the coaches at BC helped to prepare him for the next level.

"The coaches at BC are really good coaches and they helped us to learn our defensive reads and the game."

Chudy said his sophomore class was outstanding. "They have set the bar high for future Renegades," he said. "We thank them and wish them well."

"This is the biggest recruited class in this day," said Jan Stuebbe, BC athletic director. "This year's class of players was a very good class."