

SPORTS



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

BC sophomore John Mitchell swims the butterfly during practice on April 16. Mitchell, who is deaf, is striving to someday compete in the NCAA.

Making a splash

Sophomore swimmer looks to compete at Division 1

By GABINO VEGA ROSARIO
gvega@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

His wish is to swim at the NCAA level and live life in the cattle business. Right now, John Mitchell swims for the Bakersfield College team. "I'm a swimmer, and I'm deaf," signed Mitchell as Lindsey Fuente translated what he signed. "The deaf can do anything," signed Mitchell. "Everybody is equal, even if they have a disability." Mitchell is an animal science major who has plenty of ideas for the future. He wants to be in rodeos, teach children to swim and have cattle shows.

Though Mitchell was born deaf, his lifestyle is not very different from other college students. "It's kind of nice being deaf," signed Mitchell. "I learned English, learned to read, I hang out with friends, I have hobbies, it's the things people do." While growing up, not being able to hear did have some consequences. "Kids did make fun of me for being different," he said. "In high school many were very immature, they all mainly concentrated in being popular." Once Mitchell reached college, there was more communication among fellow students. The only thing that can help Mitchell from hearing is the cochlear implant.

"I think it's our genes," that has caused Mitchell to be deaf. Mitchell really got into swimming as a high school student. "Right now I'm not focused in places," signed Mitchell. "I'm mainly focused in improving my time." Mitchell considers it a huge accomplishment if he makes it to a Division 1 school. The BC swim team has been absent for about 20 years and because of a new interest in swimming, the new team will eventually win a championship. "Charlie and Danielle are great coaches," signed Mitchell. "I'm always willing to help people who need help, to encourage them to succeed."



Softball season is over for BC

By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS
tgombos@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Sports editor

The Bakersfield College softball team will not be taking a trip to the postseason this year. With an overall record of 23-21 and 14-11 in the Western State Conference, the Renegades failed to make the playoffs. The Renegades ended the season by going 4-4, which included a doubleheader sweep of College of the Canyons on April 15. In the doubleheader, the Renegades scored a combined 24 runs, beating Canyons 10-9 in the first game and 14-3 in the second game. In the first game, the Renegades were led by sophomore Heather Spoon, who went 3 for 4 and scored three runs. Sophomore Jenny Zavolovsk added two hits for the Renegades. In the second game, Celina Cruz, Liz Chabolla, Rachele Flores, Katie Sawyer, Deborah Salcido and Spoon had two RBI each to lead the Renegades.

"I felt we played well in both games," said BC softball coach Sandi Taylor. "In the first game, it seemed like no matter what we threw up there, they found a way to put something good on it. The games matter whether you are postseason-bound or not. They matter for sheer pride." Sophomores Flores, Natalie Martinez, Salcido, Spoon, Sawyer and Zavolovsk played their last home games as Renegades during the doubleheader.

"The reality is that it could be the end of playing softball for them, which they have done probably since they were eight or nine years old," Taylor said. "As a coaching staff, you work so hard with them and spend so much time with them for two years. After the season, you lose touch with them. That's kind of hard. It's an odd feeling, but every end has a new beginning."

Taylor felt that her team fought through a lot during the season. "We were on the border of making the playoffs all year long," she said. "I felt like we really fought hard. We had a lot of adversity thrown our way early in the season. I feel like they really accomplished a lot."

Taylor sees a positive future not only for her team next season but for the baseball and softball fields as well.

"We have a pretty good recruiting class that has committed to coming here right now," she said. "We're excited about the future and hopefully getting our baseball and softball complexes modernized with the seating project."

Men's golf team prepares for regional finals

By JOEL R. PARAMO
jparamo@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Editor in chief

Bakersfield College sophomore Bryce Holloway led the men's golf team April 14, tying for first place with an even-par 72 to tie with three others at their Western State Conference tournament at Rio Bravo Country Club. According to BC golf coach Larry Cook, if Holloway has a strong performance April 28, he could possibly pull off player of the year. "We've done our job. We're the team to beat," said Cook. The Renegades shot a 372 for second place overall, two shots behind Ventura College. BC sophomores Danny Hoff shot a 73 and Kirk Harper shot a 74. "We've been preparing for Southern California regionals and finals,"

said Cook. "At our next meet they will decide the four teams going to the Southern California Conference."

Currently the team has been traveling to the course site where the regional will be held in San Jacinto to become more acclimated to the course.

Due to WSC rules, the course that the regional is held at cannot be played by members of a competing team two weeks prior. Only four teams will qualify to go to the Southern California Regional and Cook is confident his team will be there.

"All you want to do is get to finals," said Cook. "My whole team is going to playoffs."

So far, the team has taken four second places, a first place and two third places in WSC mini-tournaments.

BC baseball team second in the WSC

Renegades move into sole possession of second place in the WSC with a win over LA Pierce.

By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS
tgombos@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Sports editor

The Bakersfield College baseball team has gone 3-3 over their last six games including a 10-0 victory over West LA on April 19. In the victory over West LA, the Renegades were led by Brandon Boren who went 3 for 4 and scored three runs, and Tyler Garewal, who went 4 for 5 with six RBI and one run scored. Jared Hoyt pitched a complete game, giving up three hits and recording 10 strikeouts, with three walks to improve his record to 4-4. Jeff Burleson went 3 for 4 with three RBI and Travis Morgan went 2 for 5 with two RBI to lead the Renegades to a 10-9 victory over LA Pierce on April 17. In the victory over Pierce, Jeremy Gonzales pitched a complete game to get the win and gave up 12 hits and recorded 12 strikeouts to improve his record to

7-2. On April 12, the Renegades beat Glendale 19-8. Casey Brown went 3 for 4 with two RBI, and Garewal went 3 for 4 with two RBI. Hoyt pitched seven innings, giving up seven hits and four runs while recording 10 strikeouts. Greg Sanders relieved Hoyt and pitched two innings and gave up four hits and four runs.

Not including their game on April 22 at West LA, the Renegades are in second place in the Western State Conference with an overall record of 25-14 and 15-9 in the WSC.

The Renegades next home game will be April 26 against College of the Canyons at 1 p.m. After their game with COS, the Renegades will go on the road to face LA Valley April 29.

The Renegades final regular-season home game will be May 1 also against LA Valley the game will start at 3 p.m. and will be played at Gerry Collis Field.



LISA VARGAS / THE RIP

Sophomore golfer Bryce Holloway attempts a putt during the Western State Conference tournament April 14.



Wine and dine

BC holds the inaugural Red and White Wine Festival to benefit culinary arts.

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BMT produces 'Cats'

Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Cats" is performed by local artists.

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THE RENEGADE RIP

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Bakersfield College

April 23, 2008

Potential presidents want to take control of BC



Chamberlain

After the candidates' three open screening forums on April 21 and 22, the new BC president will be picked today.

By MARCINDA COIL
marcecoil@bakersfieldcollege.edu
News editor



Taylor

Three open forums were held at Bakersfield College to screen the top three candidates for the position of president of BC.

Question cards, biographies and evaluation forms were available to the audience.

According to librarian Marc Lingo, who is part of the selection committee, evaluation forms will be considered in the hiring process.

Afterward, Kern Community College District Chancellor Sandra Serrano and the Board



Tortorici

of Trustees interviewed and deliberated on who would make an ideal BC president: Greg Chamberlain, Ronald Taylor or Marianne Tortorici.

Chamberlain, Taylor and Tortorici answered questions from the community at scheduled times April 21 and 22 before their closed sessions with Serrano and the Board.

"One of my goals is to open communications," said Chamberlain. Chamberlain, who is currently the vice chancellor of KCCD, specializing in educational services, has prior relations to BC. Not only did he begin teaching computer studies at BC in 1989, he has been the director of academic computing, faculty chair for

See PRESIDENT, Page 4



Cuellar

BC students can vote for next year's SGA officers all this week in the Campus Center foyer near the Fireside Room.

By JOEL R. PARAMO
jparamo@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Editor in chief



Hancock

Student government elections are under way.

Amid the debates for Bakersfield College's new school president, students are deliberating quietly in their minds in front of computers as they type in their choices for student officers.

Polling stations will still be set up April 23 and April 24 in the Campus Center foyer next to the Fireside Room. In total there are 20 students running for election.



Mugema

"If we can continue getting the amount of people that showed up to vote today we could very well surpass our goal of 650 people," said General Counsel Matthew Jenkins. "Though, we were hoping to see more."

As an incentive to get students to vote, a pro-affle off 10 iPods and 40 different gift cards. A little over \$2,000 has been spent toward these student incentives. "Last year there were three iPods and a laptop given away," said Jenkins. "People respond to incentives. We wanted to excite students. It's like when someone asks for a favor, you always wonder to yourself, 'What am I going to see?'"

See SGA, Page 4



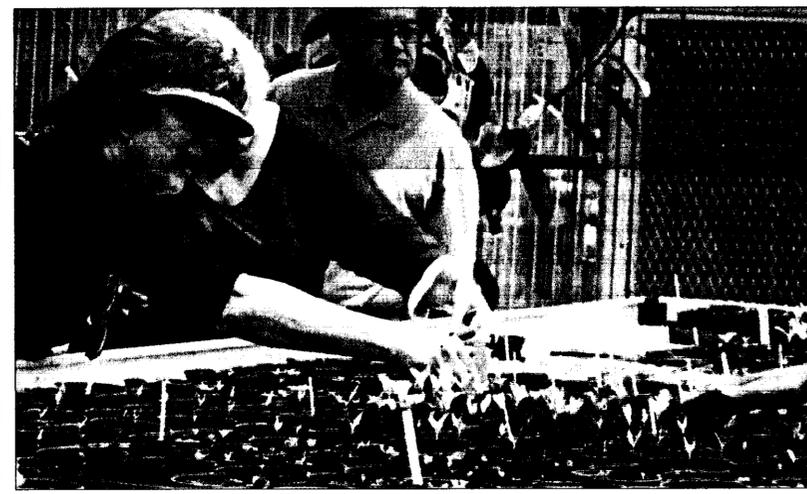
BC blooms for the season

The Bakersfield College Horticulture Department held its third annual Garden Festival on April 19. Above: David Williams, left, answers questions regarding the herbs and vegetables. Below: Margaret Winters looks at small potted plants in a greenhouse. Right: Viewers admire orchids while they wait for a demonstration on potted plants to begin.

Photos by John Ornelas / The Rip



INSIDE: BC horticulture technician Sally Sterns gives details of annual event. Page 4



Sign language professor goes to Romania

By AMBER TROUPE
atroupe@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The Children to Love International is an organization that goes to Bucharest, Romania, to help out severely underprivileged orphans.

DeAnne Sampley, a sign language professor at Bakersfield College, helped to get CTL abroad. In 1991, Sampley and 25 other educators were invited by the government to do a workshop in Romania to educate the instructors on the proper way to teach the deaf and blind.

While Sampley's group was there, they were assigned to an orphanage for the deaf and blind. There she met a 6-year-old deaf boy, Mathew, and she later adopted him. From her experience and thrill she got from being able to guide these orphaned children, she decided to keep CTL International growing. In 1993, CTL made it a part of the agenda to go back every year and to help more orphans.

Sampley assisted the children with their health, vitamins, food and exercise. She also wanted to work on them spiritually by starting Bible classes. She built play equipment for them.

Sampley later decided to get more involved with CTL by getting students from BC interested. Every summer, teens go to Bucharest to work with kids for 10-15 days. There are teens from different churches and clubs that go to Romania.

The boys are taken to a sports camp, and they are given information on hygiene and moral issues. The girls are allowed workshops also get the chance to go to a rehab hospital for the severely disabled and abandoned children.

"It's not easy for a person to see children who are not getting the right healthcare and attention in the one of the most poverty-stricken places," said Sampley.

Monica Walls, a 23-year-old Romanian student, is a product of the care these individuals have shown to these orphans. Monica was an orphan in Romania at an orphanage named Casa de Copii #7 house for children.

Monica remembers what life was like in Romania as if it was yesterday. In fact, it was 12 years ago. Monica remembers when Sampley came to her orphanage; she remembers what was learned from these visits.

See ROMANIA, Page 4

Incident causes first Cerro Coso lockdown

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
kwhite@bc.cc.ca.us
Copy editor

Cerro Coso College recently experienced its first campus-wide lockdown.

On April 10 at Cerro Coso College, which is part of the Kern Community College District, a campus security officer observed a man walking near the college's library carrying an object that appeared to be a rifle, according to Joann Handeland, director of information, development and alumni relations.

The man was hailed by the security officers but dashed away. The Ridgecrest Police Department was notified of the situation and students were ordered to leave all buildings as police locked down the entire campus. Students complied with orders in a prompt fashion, according to Handeland.

"I am very proud of how the college staff and students responded to this situation," stated Mary Retterer, president of Cerro Coso College.

Cerro Coso has never experienced a complete campus lockdown before.

according to Handeland Cerro Coso College's staff and administration have been working in conjunction with Ridgecrest police on Critical Incident Management training and planning, Handeland said.

Cerro Coso follows the procedures of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services in State Emergency (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Also on April 10, a similar but unrelated incident occurred at Porterville College. The college received a telephone call from an individual who threatened to fire a gun in the college's cafeteria.

According to an issued report, Porterville police were alerted and worked with the college's security and crisis response team to clear and lockdown the entire premises. Porterville police examined the situation and soon found that the call came from Las Vegas, and they determined it to be a hoax. Nevertheless, officers remained on standby around the college.

Porterville College also follows the dictates of SEMS and NIMS.

FEATURES

War birds take off once again

The Minter Field Air Show in Shafter displays vintage airplanes used in war.

By QUINN SCHLUSSEL
quinn@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

"It's good that they are here, but it's sad that so many people died in those planes."

— Jeff Matherly,
Air show attendee

A crowd looked on at the four planes that stood on the runway. The engines roared loudly as the final preparations were being made. The noise and heat intensified suddenly and waves of exhaust swept out behind the small planes, which caused much of the crowd to cover their mouths.

Yet the crowd still stared on unswerving; their eyes followed the small group as they taxied out to the runway.

Finally, Kurt McDonald and the Thunder Dolphins took to the air and made a diamond formation before spitting off and making several passes over the crowd as they looked on eagerly in enjoyment.

Above all of the rickies, two announcers chatted incessantly, yet endearingly, about the various planes and their pilots.

The Thunder Dolphins were only one of many different groups of pilots to take to the air at the Minter Field Air Show on April 19; there was everything from helicopters to bombers showcased at the air show.

Marking a first for the air show was the introduction of an Australian Wingee into the flyers. That particular model of small aircraft has never made an appearance in all of the Air Show's 16 years.

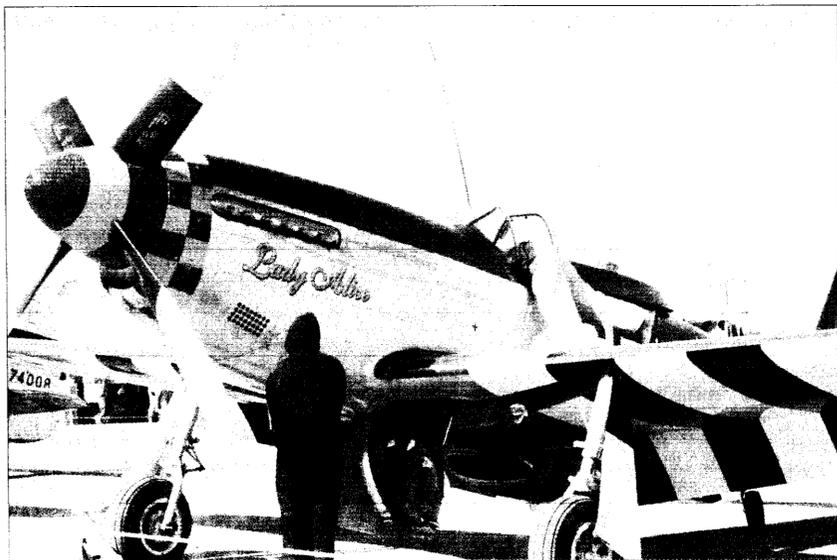
The Air Show itself had a decent turnout with 800 attendees, arriving to take part in the event and watch

some stunning aviation in action. Many of the planes present at the air show were of historical significance. For example, one of the more impressive aircraft presented at the show was the B-25J Mitchell Bomber.

The B-25J was a midrange bomber that was used throughout most of World War II and even into the Vietnam War. This one in particular was presented by Pacific Warbirds, which was an organization dedicated to recovering and restoring historically significant warbirds that originated from the World War II period.

Raymond H. Reck, the President/CEO of Pacific Warbirds, was there to comment on the B-25J, and he stated that many of the existing parts present on the current aircraft piece were actually custom-made designed to withstand extended use.

"It's a very good thing, but it's never made an appearance in all of the Air Show's 16 years," attendee Jeff Matherly commented on the subject of the historical aircraft. "It's good that they are here, but it's sad that so many people died in those planes."



A man hangs out of the Lady Alice, an aircraft that was on display at the Minter Field Air Show on April 19.



Many airplanes from different eras could be viewed by spectators at the Minter Field Air Show.

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Women's Conference seeks to promote success

By AMBER TROUPE
atroupe@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The Business Women's Conference consisted of businesswomen who are teaching and learning more skills to be successful.

There was a Trade Fair and Exhibition that served as one of the major funding venues for the business conference.

The booths that were set up varied from Bright House Networks to Scoopy's Dog Waste Removal to Girl Scouts. They were offering samples and selling products.

The sessions had such titles as "Get Creative: Tax Planning Strategies that Help Your Business" and "Business Etiquette: Communicating as a Professional."

There were three keynote speakers: Soledad O'Brien was the head-

"...I want for these women to take away from this experience is to use a sense of humor every day."

— Jeanne Robertson,
speaker

liner, the opening speaker was Jeanne Robertson and the closing speaker was Anne Ryder.

Robertson, a businesswoman from North Carolina, said in her segment that she wanted women to know information that they would need to have in business.

"The main thing I want for these women to take away from this experience is to use a sense of humor every day," she said.

O'Brien, a journalist from New York, talked about her career, including what it's like to have a mainstream public career.

She emphasized the perks and the troubles of being a female journalist. O'Brien touched on the difference between women and men in corporate America. The main lesson she said she wanted the women to remember is this: "It's not what or how much you know; it's how well you know it."

Each person was an expert in the area she lectured on.

Ryder, a journalist from Missouri, spoke in Bakersfield for the first time and talked about the stories she's covered.

"We get so busy doing things for other people that we forget about ourselves, and that's not what you do that matters, it's how much love you put into it," she said.

Local library helps people find their genealogy and ancestry

By OMAR RAMIREZ
oramirez@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield's Beale Memorial Library, in partnership with the Kern County Genealogical Society, played host to a genealogy open house April 16.

The Kern County Genealogical Society was founded in 1964 with the sole purpose of helping those who desired to know more about genealogy and their own personal history.

The KCGS currently operates in the genealogy room found in the Beale Memorial Library, located at 701 Truxtun Ave.

Volunteers from the KCGS staff the room. They share the same vision to provide resources to any individ-

ual who needs help when researching his or her family's past.

The volunteers have a vast knowledge on how to use the resources found in the genealogy center, which includes military, immigration, birth, death and marriage records.

They also have maps, immigration charts, California obituaries dating back to 1973 and a wall that holds nothing but past genealogy research on certain families.

Dotty Grammes, 19, attended the open house and was overwhelmed by the vast resources found in the genealogy center.

"It's hard, you know, trying to find out more about your roots when you have no idea where to start," Grammes said. "I'm glad this place not only has all these records but someone who can help me read

them."

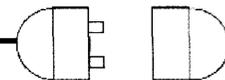
Miriam Martin, originally from Ontario, Canada, has been volunteering since 1980 in the KCGS.

She first learned about genealogy from Mormon missionaries, and she took an interest in genealogy soon afterward because she believes that it's fun.

She has volunteered for the KCGS as well as for the Family History Center while living in Bakersfield.

The genealogy room is open every day and volunteer hours are from 1-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 6-9 p.m. Monday evenings. For information on genealogy and the KCGS visit the genealogy room on the second floor inside downtown Bakersfield's Beale Library or visit <http://www.rootswebancestry.com/~cckgsl/>.

THE PLUG



Alternative Festivities

In this edition of The Plug, we hope to inform the Bakersfield College community of the lifestyles and practices of some of our students and local residents.

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
kwhite@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Copy editor

None of them walked in wearing fishnet stockings or leather. Well, one of them wore leather cowboy boots with stitching. In fact, the members of the Alternative Lifestyle Outreach Group or ALOG looked quite ordinary. The two founding members, BC student Ron Autwell, 31, radiology major, and fellow BC student "Puppy," criminal justice, looked as far removed from the bondage/discipline/sadomasochistic community they represent as possible.

Coming into the Bakersfield-area Starbucks, the clean-cut Autwell, who describes himself as a bisexual dominant, wore a very unassuming and friendly air as well as a Bluetooth in his ear and a fire engine red Dale Earnhardt, Jr. T-shirt with a large "8" on it. "Puppy," who describes herself as a straight woman who is a submissive and involved with a "Master" or "Dom" for dominant, wore a light, gray-blue "Abcrombie" T-shirt with blue-checked shorts and often flashed a shy, dimply smile.

She eventually pointed out the plain-metal chain around her neck, which symbolizes her "bondage." Wearing austere-looking glasses and thumbing through a sheet of handouts, Puppy explained that the organization, founded Nov. 12, 2007, is both an unofficial and nonprofit group, which provides information on the bondage/discipline and sadomasochistic lifestyle.

The group consists of people who identify as straight, gay, bisexual or transgender. The group currently has 27 members. Both Autwell and Puppy emphasized that the group is not a "swinger" or "sex-orgy" group and will not accept anyone under 18. They also said that the group does not accept anyone involved in illegal practices, which includes those involving drugs. However, one group member conceded that the group once included a prostitute who hailed from Nevada where prostitution is legal.

The group stressed that they never allow children in the group, nor do any of the members do anything that involves bestiality. Autwell and Puppy said the group never discriminates against anyone, but they are steadfast in regards to erring on the side of caution. Above all, the group said that it always respects the individual's need for privacy and the discretion of others in regards to job security as well as child custody and safety issues.

"We're all about education, friendship and community," Autwell said. "Safety is also very important to us."

"Sarah," who also attended the meeting, was wearing a sleeveless black dress over a submissive's cheap latex chain around her neck. She is a BC graduate, and describes herself as a bisexual submissive who can "sometimes be dominant with women." She concurred with Autwell by saying that their group strives to be a place where like-minded people can feel comfortable and safe.

"We can answer the embarrassing questions," Sarah said. Autwell said that the group would like to build rapport with both BC and CSLB students.

Autwell stressed that the group wants to build camaraderie, but more importantly, the group wants to educate interested people in safe ways of engaging in the lifestyle and the proper ways of using and cleaning insertables, vibrators and whips.

Mutual consent and a mutual understanding for the need for safety are big factors, and the group feels that its members are responsible for educating people on safe play strategies. For example, the group can teach anyone the safe procedures for engaging in knife play, he said.

There are also safe procedures for engaging in rope play, or "shibara-shibari," without permanent damage being done, according to Puppy.

If the play involves tying the arms, then the ropes should not be bound on the upper parts of the arms, she said. There is a major artery in the upper part of the arm, and the circulation can be cut off.

There is some pain connected with the kinds of activities the group members engage in. However, there should never be any injury or permanent damage inflicted as a result of the various acknowledged forms of "play," according to the group.

According to "Michael," a red-haired Catholic and recent college graduate, some people like a little roughing in their play.

"I know a guy who likes to spank his girlfriend, and she likes to be spanked by him," said Michael, who describes himself as a straight dominant and was wearing leather cowboy boots with stitching. He was also wearing what he called a "Catholic t-shirt" which bore the word "Seraphim" in silver against a black background.

Also on the shirt was Psalm 91:9, which says, "Under the wings, you will find refuge." Michael agreed with the group that there can be some hurting, but there should never be any permanent damage.

"Pain and pleasure are neurologically connected," said "Carrie," who came into the meeting a little later. Many of us look for painful stimulation, but there is a distinction between burning and harming. Burning is OK, but not harming, she said. Carrie, 62, is a blonde-haired mother of a grown son who knows about her lifestyle. According to Carrie, who drove in from Taft, although her son was initially surprised when she told him about being a submissive with a rope fetish, he quickly accepted it.

"Oh, is that what all the rope in the car is all about?" Carrie quoted her son as saying. "My friends told me that you must have a fetish, but I didn't believe it."

Nevertheless, Carrie really stressed the importance of community and safety along with the rest of the group. There are also safe ways of contacting people online, said Autwell. He said the group wants to educate people on the more prudent ways of dealing with online contacts.

"We'll be on hand if anyone needs it," he said.

BC gays explain life

By AMBER TROUPE
atroupe@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Some Bakersfield College students talked about what it's like to live in America as a gay or lesbian individual.

Billie Fox, a 21-year-old student at BC, has been dealing with the ups and downs of living that lifestyle. When Fox was 6 years old, he noticed that he was different.

"I was the product of a masturbation case, and I have questioned my sexuality ever since. I always wondered if that hadn't happened, would I be straight today?" said Fox.

When it came to telling his parents, Fox was a little reluctant. The first thing that his mother said was, "What makes you think that?"

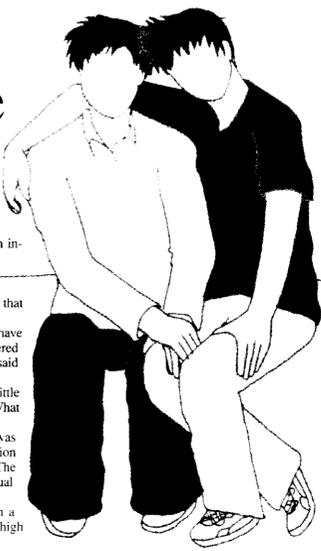
Fox never personally told his father. His father was not a part of Fox's life, so it was unnecessary to mention this. Fox's mom was the one who told his father. The parents still have not discussed the issue of Fox's sexual preference yet.

Fox felt that by coming out, it would have been a positive experience. However, there were times in high school where he encountered bullies.

Fox works at the Community Action Partnership of Kern's HIV Education and Prevention program. The main thing that Fox has learned from his experience, overall, is that "sexuality is only one aspect of a person or his or her lifestyle, and me being gay is only one component of who I am."

Myra Moranda, a 21-year-old BC student, has had a positive-yet-confusing experience involving her sexual orientation. When Moranda was 15, she was getting a better understanding of herself. One day her mother asked her if she was gay. Moranda said, "I couldn't believe she would ask me something like that, but I did tell her the truth."

"I was lucky enough to have a lot of people around who didn't judge me but actually supported me."



People have misconceptions about the Pagan religion

By MARCINDA COIL
marvcoil@yahoo.com
News editor

The United States of America began as various cultures who came and resided here. Since then, those numbers grew along with the number of religions.

Paganism, or some form of it, has existed long before the birth of America. However, there are still many stigmas attached to the religion.

"There are always the stereotypes and myths that need dispelling," said Kern County Pagan Pride board member and Cal State-Bakersfield student Jenn Williams, 33.

"I've had a handful of people assume that I'm promiscuous," continued Williams. "Or they joke that they don't want to come to one of my 'baby barbecues,' and I've had a couple of old ladies give me the bird when they read my Pagan bumper stickers."

People still believe that witches engage in "orgies" and perform "baby sacrifices," said Williams.

However, Williams is actually surprised by the low number of criticisms she has received because of the way her religion is portrayed by the media.

In fact, her biggest obstacle has been getting non-traditional holidays off from work.

"I'll work Christmas, I tell them. Just give me the solstice off," said Williams. "They don't get it. They think I'm trying to pull one over on them."

Along with the solstice, Williams celebrates Samhain (Halloween), Mayday, and KCPP events that involve food drives for charity.

Besides being a part of KCPP, Williams is also a CSLB student double majoring in history and art. "I would like to be an illustrator," said Williams. However, Williams feels fortunate to have a family who accepts and supports her decisions about her religion despite the fact that she was raised Catholic.

do good in the world, and my family sees and understands that."

Not only do Pagans believe in multiple gods, goddesses or deities, their mission focuses upon education, activism, charity and community.

According to Williams, she deviated from Catholicism at the age of 9.

"I was already discontented with the church, but more so with the incongruities between what I was taught what we were supposed to believe and how we were supposed to act, and what I saw fellow Christians doing."

She has remained a Pagan since she was 16. "I haven't wavered since. It still feels like home."

Also, according to Williams, hereditary traits held by her family were not acknowledged by the church. "We could sometimes see spirits or had visions of the future," said Williams.

Although Williams can sometimes see and hear spirits, visions of the future have become less frequent with age.

"I've never been disciplined enough to really cultivate them and control them," explained Williams. "But I do have dreams of the future, and I can often detect spirits and the like."

Her grandmother, however, once avoided a car accident by insisting that her husband move over into the furthestmost left lane. By the time they reached the top of a bridge, an accident occurred in the furthestmost right lane.

"My grandmother has visions and (she's) a psychic sniffer, she can smell stuff before it happens, sometimes," said Williams. "We are all pretty intuitive."

Williams believes that the main goals of religions are the same; the only difference is how they go about achieving those goals.

According to Williams, "It's hard once you get to know somebody and find out how much like you he or she is. How can you still insist that this person is evil because of his or her religion?"

CAMPUS

Students honored for success in formal dinner

By GABINO VEGA ROSARIO
gvega@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

STUDENT SUCCESS HONOREES

Animal Science Student: Quinn Moore Faculty: Billy Barnes Faculty: Bill Kelly Advisory board member: Ralph Mendes	Faculty: Nancy Perkins Advisory board member: Roxanne Wolfe	Computer Studies Student: Shayla Johnson Faculty: Paula Strame Faculty: Bill Mosley Advisory board member: Rick Rodriguez	Advisory board member: Bob Klingenberg
Welfare Registered Nursing Student: Angela Huerta Faculty: Carol Pence Staff: Lori Rogers Advisory board member: Debbie Hankins	Child Development Student: Karen Oberg Faculty: Greg Cluff Faculty: Vienna Battistoni Advisory board member: Kathy Phillely	Electronics Technology Student: Pablo Valdez Faculty: Sean Caras Advisory board member: Roy Allard	Construction Technology Student: Gabriel Rivera Faculty: Mark Dommer Advisory board member: Derrick Dickerson
Agriculture Business Management Student: Eric Garcia Administrator: Ed Knudson Faculty: Gay Gardella Advisory board member: Scott Pavletich	Vocational Nursing Student: Sophia Turner Faculty: Janet Fulks Faculty: Nancy Bliese Advisory board member: Yvonne Chambers	Manufacturing Technology Student: Benjamin Escoto Faculty: Liz Rozell Faculty: Jason Dixon Advisory board member: Pat Murray	Fire Technology Student: Robert Hernandez Faculty: Tim Capehart Advisory board member: Richard Tirmar
Plant Science Student: Kyle Bowker Faculty: Greg Cluff Faculty: Bill Kelly Advisory board member: Richard Enns	Nurse Assistant Student: Caralee Sangster Faculty: Susan Boyd Faculty: Erin Nixon Advisory board member: Diana Redmond	Woodworking Technology Student: Matt Scofield Faculty: David Besst Faculty: Steve Hageman Advisory board member: Neal Bahrmann	Architectural Technology Student: Brandon Whittington Faculty: Duane Anderson Faculty: Sam Wilson Advisory board member: Ross White
Environmental Horticulture Student: Christopher Howells Faculty: Lindsay One Faculty: Bill Kelly Advisory board member: Dale Edwards	Office Technology Student: Nora Nord Faculty: Karen Shah Faculty: Cheryl Crow Advisory board member: Debby Rodriguez	Automotive Technology Student: Jacob Larson Faculty: George Candy Faculty: Mike Ivey Advisory board member: Chris Thornburg	Digital Arts Student: Amanda Spickenreuther Faculty: Michael Koerck Faculty: David Koeth Advisory board member: Alan Unquhart
Forestry Student: Clara Hurley Faculty: Matt Pontes Faculty: Bill Kelly Advisory board member: John Skibinski	Business Student: Carmen Reyes Faculty: Michele Bresso Faculty: Mike Ivey Advisory board member: Chris Thornburg	Architectural Technology Student: Brandon Whittington Faculty: Duane Anderson Faculty: Sam Wilson Advisory board member: Ross White	Welding Student: Theresa Hall Faculty: Mike Komin Advisory board member: Al Williams
Radiologic Technology Student: Evette Ennis Staff: Bill Parker	Architecture Technology Student: Brandon Whittington Faculty: Duane Anderson Faculty: Sam Wilson Advisory board member: Ross White	Fire Technology Student: Robert Hernandez Faculty: Tim Capehart Advisory board member: Richard Tirmar	Woodworking Technology Student: Matt Scofield Faculty: David Besst Faculty: Steve Hageman Advisory board member: Neal Bahrmann

Out of 17,000 students at Bakersfield College, only 23 were chosen to be part of the eighth annual Celebration of Student Success in Career Technical Education.

On April 10, about 150 students, professors, counselors, administration and guests attended a formal dinner held at the BC cafeteria.

"Here at BC, we support students in what they do best," announced William Andrews, BC president. "We have chosen the best and brightest of 2008. This is not an easy place to get to."

The CTE is made out of programs offered at BC, such as animal science, child development, digital arts, engineering, nursing, woodworking and many more. There are 23 CTE programs that choose one student that recognize his or her achievements within that field. The student then chooses two faculty members also to be recognized at the dinner.

Evelyn Feltus was one of the recognized students in the event. "I am proud and honored," said Feltus, "to be chosen out of so many students who put such great effort."

According to Feltus, she may have been chosen because of her volunteer work, her positive attitude, her contribution to the culinary program and her coaching of students. "I would have voted for them [students] before I voted for myself," said Feltus.

Each student received a certificate, a \$200 scholarship, and various comments written by the administration.

"We need more young people like you," announced Ed Knudson, vice president of Academic Affairs, to Eric Garcia who was recognized by his efforts in agriculture business management.

Comments varied from the personal life of students to accomplishments in BC.

"Students, you are becoming what we always love: taxpayers," Knudson said. The crowd laughed.

BC wine festival raises money

Red and White Wine Food Festival featured food, music and wine tasting on April 18 hosted by the BC Foundation.

By ELIZABETH MEEKS
emeeks@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College's north stadium lawn was transformed April 18 by tents, tables draped by red and white tablecloths, the sounds of jazz music playing, and people savoring wine tasting in conjunction with food.

The BC Foundation hosted the first annual Red and White Wine and Food Festival with the goal of raising proceeds to benefit the culinary arts scholarships program.

Admission price of \$40 included tasting over 50 California wines, live music, food prepared by BC culinary students and a souvenir wine glass.

Mike Stepanovich, executive director of the BC Foundation, said, "This is an event to raise money but also re-introduce BC to the community."

Stepanovich joined the BC faculty last October and was instrumental, along with BC Chef Pat Coyle and Chef Suzanne Davis, in orchestrating the event.

Lindsey Holland, former culinary student, said, "There should be more events like this as it exposes the community to what BC has to offer."

Award-winning wineries from all over California came to support the event. Orchid Hill Vineyard from Paso Robles poured their Pinot Noir, which won a silver medal, according to the Dallas Morning News. The menu of hors d'oeuvres included carne asada, ceviche, quesadillas, stuffed mushrooms, fruit and cheese as well as an assortment of desserts. The food was well received by patrons.

Mary Boglesby said, "the chocolate ganach balls rolled in nuts are to die for, and they are excellent with the red wine."

The festival allowed BC culinary students to experience how to plan and execute a major event. Third semester students worked the grills on site, while the rest of staff made sure chaffing dishes were full of food and interacted with guests.

Free parking and shuttles were also provided for the event.

BC President William Andrews was also there to support the event. Andrews said, "This is a great event. The key is to advertise year after year and continue to let it grow."



Ray Maranda, retired BC trainer, assists in pouring wine at the Red and White Wine Food Festival.



Ronda Mazzei (left) and Joyce Downs (right) enjoy a sip of red wine while sampling the array of hors d'oeuvres.

13-year-old student joins family tradition

By JOEL R. PARAMO
jparamo@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Editor in chief

For the Fabers, entering college at a young age has become a family tradition.

"I want to dedicate my time to education," said 13-year-old freshman Natanyh Faber. "I like coming to BC and doing this. It's a family thing. I don't want to go to high school."

After attending school at San Lauren Elementary School in Beardsley for her fifth and sixth grade years, Natanyh decided, just like her 22-year-old brother Josiah, who began attending Bakersfield College when he was 15, that she was ready to go to college on her adult-life goals.

"The two years I attended public school, I realized I didn't like it," said Natanyh. "There's too much peer pressure, and it just doesn't seem to be all about the learning. And I was already having problems with other girls at school."

Natanyh and Josiah were home schooled by their single mother who, between taking care of three children, is an assistant teacher for a Bible course and is what Josiah explained as something of an entrepreneur.

"We're all born-again Christians," said Josiah.

"That's another thing that keeps us strong in what we do," added Natanyh. "Our mother raised us well and

told us to always go for our goals."

Natanyh received her high school diploma in fall of 2007 while taking classes sporadically since 2003.

"This is her first full 12-unit semester, and she hopes to one day go to a good animal science school to participate in equine training. Then she wants to join the army for three years like her brother.

"I don't feel left out or like I'm missing out on anything," said Natanyh. "I can do everything I want, but first I have to finish up here then I can do the fun stuff."

Josiah, after first starting classes at BC when he was 15, will be graduating this semester with triple majors in history, animal science and liberal arts.

"I took classes more slowly. I was more focused on classes towards my major," said Josiah. "Then I had to leave for three years."

Josiah was 17 years old when he joined the Army. He was first sent to Iraq and then was released for a short time to enroll in one semester before he was deployed back to Iraq.

"Some day my little sister will do what we are doing, too," said Josiah. "They both agree that this has made them stronger and more goal-oriented people."

"Doing this means I can go to a medical school for animals much sooner than a lot of other people," said Natanyh.

Health fair will provide awareness

By TYRONE C. BARNER
tbarnerc@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

On May 7, the ninth annual Health and Wellness Fair will be held at Bakersfield College.

This will give students the chance to learn about the different types of associations and programs that are available to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"So far, there have been many vendors to sign up for this year's health fair," said Debra Strong.

Strong has been in charge of the last eight Wellness Fairs and said that they have always had a good turnout of vendors and good participation from the students, staff and the community.

The vendors will set up in the Free Speech Lawn Area, and the Wellness Fair will run 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Free services are available as cholesterol, blood pressure and blood glucose checks are given by Mercy and Memorial Hospitals.

Whatever you would like to know about maintaining good health, you can find out at this year's Health and Wellness Fair, said Strong.

NEWS

Identity theft is prevalent

By AMBER TROUPE
atroupe@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

California had a total of 43,892 identity theft complaints in 2007 and has 15 cities that are listed for a large number of reported identity theft crimes.

Bakersfield was ranked 14th among those 15 with 1,436 total identity theft complaints.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, there are 15,175 victims who reported thefts from California, with 125 victims per 10,000 people, ranking California third.

Identity theft, or using personal identifying information without authorization for criminal reasons, is a felony in the state of California, according to Penal Code section 530.5.

For the investigation and prosecution of an identity-theft criminal, California has five operating regional Hi-Tech Crimes Task Forces.

The majority of the complaints were received from people between the ages of 18-29. Statistics show that it is easier for the criminals to pretend to be an age closer to their target.

Tanya Frazier, a student at Bakersfield College, said that someone stole her identity.

"They had my identification card and my social security card," she said. "They took my checks and cashed them."

When asked how the situation was handled, she replied, "The police don't care. They aren't doing anything about it. I'm still waiting."

Identity theft has been on the rise the last couple of years. With new

"Consumers have the right to know why their information will be handled."

— Doug Broten, BBB associate

technology, it is becoming increasingly easier for criminals to access consumers' personal information. The Better Business Bureau in Central California wants citizens to know how to protect themselves from identity theft. Some suggestions are to shred old bills and financial statements with important information and handle credit cards with care while out in public.

Doug Broten, an associate of the BBB, said, "There is absolutely nothing wrong with politely inquiring why the information is needed and where will it be stored."

Broten also wants to inform consumers about the many ways that can help minimize the probability of theft.

"Consumers have the right to know why their information will be handled, and just because it is not a good or sufficient answer," said Broten.

The BBB offers consumers advice to prevent the chance for thefts. Personal information should never be given out to someone unfamiliar, and any requests including those from schools, employers, and banks should be questioned regarding the utilization of the information.

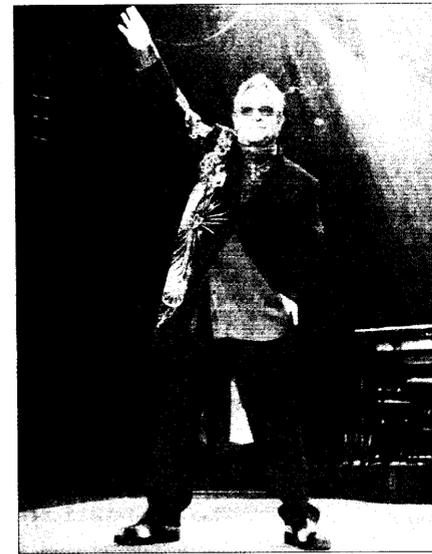


The Rocket Man takes off at Rabobank

Above: Sir Elton John performs during his concert on April 18 on a black Grand Piano made by Yamaha. This was Elton John's third visit to Bakersfield's Rabobank Arena.

Right: Elton John waves to a crowded Rabobank Arena before his concert on April 18. There, the British performer sang many of his classics, such as "Candle in the Wind," "Tiny Dancer," "Crocodile Rock" and "Philadelphia Freedom." His next performance will be in Tallahassee, Fla., on April 23.

Photos by Ally Armstrong / The Rip



Author Rodriguez comes to CSUB

By OMAR RAMIREZ
oramirez@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Richard Rodriguez came to Cal State Bakersfield on April 17 to give the 22nd annual Charles W. Kegley Memorial Lecture.

Raised in Sacramento, Rodriguez is an alumnus of Stanford University and the University of California Berkeley.

He spent two years in a religious studies program at Columbia University, and he studied English renaissance literature at the Warburg University in London.

He has worked with the Pacific

News Service in San Francisco, and is a contributing editor for Harper's Magazine and the Sunday Opinion section of the Los Angeles Times.

He has written an autobiography called "Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez." He has also authored the books "Days of Obligation: An Argument with My Mexican Father" and "Brown: The Last Discovery of America." Rodriguez compared people to crayons in a box.

In his speech, he made reference to a time when the Spanish came to Central America and married or raped the native women, which resulted in children with Spanish and

Indian heritage.

Throughout the course of history, said Rodriguez, those children would continue to breed with other races, which symbolized the crayons melting together.

In time, everyone would have every kind of nationality and race within him or her, Rodriguez said that "in a couple of years, we're all going to look like Keanu Reeves, and everything will taste like chicken."

Rodriguez continued with his view that America has a society that's based on self-interest and personal cliques, while people south of the border live in a society where instead of using the word "I" they use the

word "We."

Rodriguez's style of public speaking was formal and humorous, as student Juan Robles deduced.

"I thought he was going to be boring like a lot of speakers are, but he was funny," said Robles.

In conjunction with the forum, two high school seniors were awarded \$1,000 scholarships for tying for first place in an essay competition.

The topic was "Should the state of California pay for undocumented immigrants to attend public schools?" The two winners were Denise A. Del Cid, a senior from Foothill High School, and Angelina Roman, a senior at Highland High School.

While some feel the hourly minimum wage increase to \$8 is a benefit, others feel it changes nothing.

Minimum wage has been raised, it's still unbalanced. The cost of living still exceeds the pay rate.

Most students don't want to say that the increase is not enough because they do appreciate it. It just seems as if California is still short of actually reaching that goal of equal-pay rate and living.

BC student Roderick Korbacher, 20, and his sister, Edrea, shared similar views.

Roderick thought that it was good because as he says, "It makes more people want to actually get out and work because there's higher pay."

However, both Korbachers agreed that the minimum-wage increase is little help with the bills, depending on what social class people are from.

Furthermore, everything is still going up. Edrea felt that the rich taxpayers were the ones who were more negative about the wage increase because it's their money paying for this increase.

Minimum wage has had a long journey toward where it is now and where it needs to be. The statewide minimum wage for California has remained the same since Jan. 1, 2002, and it was \$6.75.

Assembly member Sally Lieber was the author of the Assembly Bill 48 in late 2004.

The bill increased California's minimum wage from \$6.75 per hour to \$7.25 per hour, which was effective Jan. 1, 2006, and to \$7.50 per hour, which became effective on Jan. 1, 2007.

AB 48 will cover the issue of minimum wage not keeping up with inflation. By doing so, this allows for the reduction of legislation having to raise the wage each year.

The Legislative Analysis Office was concerned with the possible devastating effects the increase would have on the economy in March 2005.

The LAO suggested that because of higher wages, businesses would increase the prices of their products, which in turn could potentially decrease the employment rate.



Scots get swinging at BC

Dan Boyle directs the Highland High School Jazz Band at their ninth annual Swing Dance Fundraiser in the Bakersfield College cafeteria on April 12.

Kyle Beall / The Rip

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OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

IOC picked wrong country

The International Olympic Committee made its own bed by deciding to host the 2008 Summer Olympics in China, and now it must sleep in the justifiable cries of protest against China's human rights atrocities during the Olympic torch relay.

The Olympic Games are supposed to be a time when nations set aside their political differences and unite under the banner of healthy athletic competition. By allowing China to host the Olympics, the IOC has given them the stage to flaunt their authoritarian and isolationist policies and give a big middle finger to all of the legitimate democracies of the world.

The protests for the Olympic torch relay in London, Paris and San Francisco, while belittling the cause of a free Tibet and personal freedom for Chinese citizens by associating it with an angry mob, are indicative of how people do not want the Chinese government to be rewarded for desecrating civil liberties by getting an opportunity to host the Olympics.

With the restrictions, the Chinese government places on the media, the IOC hasn't even been able to receive positive press for the Olympics. Usually, it is around this time during Olympic year where a lot of coverage is given to the new facilities that the host city has built for the Games, and a lot of profiles are written on interesting Olympians. But all of that press has been overshadowed by China's controversial government and its inability to grant the media the access it needs.

The Olympics has historically been a disaster when despots use it as a platform for their political power. The 1936 Olympics in Berlin were bad, even with Jesse Owens' four gold medals because Hitler used the opportunity to flex the Nazi muscle.

The primary distinction between 1936 and today, however, is that Berlin was chosen as the host city before the Nazi Party decided to power in Germany. The IOC decided to place the Summer Olympics in Beijing while fully aware of the events of Tiananmen Square and of China's restriction of natural rights for "national security" concerns.

The IOC should not be surprised that the Olympic torch relay has resulted in so much world-wide controversy. People who live in free societies recognize that rights cannot be denied for any reason. They see how the Chinese government forces its citizens to only have one child, imposes no minimum living wage for employees, and tramples protesters with tanks, and they are outraged.

Turning China into a democracy is something that no nation has the right or probably even the ability to do. However, China should not be rewarded for imposing a Big Brother state on its citizens by being allowed to host the Olympics.

Faith does not outweigh medical need

By ELIZABETH MEEKS
emeeks@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

It is a given that parents love their children and, in most instances, strive to make the best decisions regarding the health and well-being of their children.

As parents, we are given the gift to either provide medical care for our children or choose alternative means, each with its own benefits and downsides.

I am deeply saddened by the recent death of Wisconsin resident Madeline Kara Neumann, who passed away last month from a treatable type of diabetes at the age of 11.

Neumann died because her parents chose

faith over seeking medical attention, which is not only tragic but also criminal.

Should her parents be held criminally responsible for their child's death and be sentenced to prison? Maybe the children remaining in the house should be taken away. I do not have a solution to this complex situation; however, I do believe there should be consequences for the parents, because no matter how you dress it up, Neumann died due to the negligence of her parents.

I am sure the parents are devastated and are in great pain due to the loss of their beloved.

It is a pain that I cannot imagine nor want to experience, however, my compassion stops there. Her death was not due to an unforeseeable circumstance, such as an automobile ac-

cident or random vicious intruder attack. Ironically, her death is blanketed under "faith."

Religion is a sensitive topic at any dinner table, and I respect people's right to believe whatever is right for them.

What gets me about people who use prayer or religious beliefs over seeking medical care is this: they are the same people fighting to save a fetus that is barely formed, yet they do nothing to ensure the health of children who are living here and now, who laugh and run and are joyful in their existence.

Prayer is a valuable tool; however, at no time should it supersede medical attention. We live in the greatest country in the world with cutting-edge technology, and because of the

development of medicine, people are able to live with ailments that would at one time be certain death.

Perhaps it is God who gave doctors the knowledge of technology creating "medical miracles" so we can live longer. We do not take advantage of that and incorporate prayer as back up.

As medical attention does not solve every illness, I concede that people still die even when the best medical procedures are sought out.

However, when a child dies needlessly, the world is a sadder place. Madeline Kara Neumann is now a tragic statistic; her life ended early because she did not receive the medical attention she needed and deserved.

Smokers treated unfair

By ALLY ARMSTRONG
allysa_armstrong@hotmail.com
Rip staff photographer

Advertisements and other forms of media force us to believe that smoking is morally wrong. We've been brainwashed into believing this, and now most non-smokers tend to treat smokers as second-class citizens.

The ads are all wrong. The sin tax on tobacco products is so high that smokers can't afford to just give cigarettes away, as the advertisements suggest. They cost about \$5 for a pack. If I, a non-smoker, were offered a pack, I'd just kindly decline instead of overreacting and forcing my morals on others.

The media is also influencing young children to believe cigarette smoke is morally wrong instead of just unhealthy.

We are taught to believe that those who smoke are foolish. We teach our children these beliefs in grade school with special programs and red-ribbon weeks. It has become common for young children to disagree with their parents who smoke because the children believe that smoking makes their parents bad people. They are not told to be sensitive to the fact that their parents might have been trying to quit smoking for a number of years, but their brains' dependency on nicotine has hindered their ability to quit. They are also not taught to be sensitive to others' decisions to smoke or not smoke.

I won't disagree with the American Cancer Society when it comes to the dangers of smoking. I'm positive that smoking does cause lung cancer; however, I don't believe that standing within 10, five, or even three feet of a person smoking a cigarette will cause major irreversible damage to my lungs.

I've noticed that people tend to think that the smoker is being selfish by smoking near a building, outside of a restaurant or around people. I've also noticed the non-smokers sometimes selfishly force their ideas and beliefs on the smoker. Yes, the smoker is the real victim!

The non-smoker will sometimes respond with a repulsed expression on their face when someone lights a cigarette around



ALLY ARMSTRONG / THE RIP

them. They sometimes cough, gag and give stink-eyes. They do this to the poor smoker without a second thought. The non-smoker treats the smoker as if the smoker is forcing the non-smoker to have lung cancer or like the smoker just insulted the non-smoker's grandmother.

The air in Bakersfield is already unhealthy; I don't think a little bit of second-hand smoke is going to do much of any-

thing, especially if the smoking is going on outdoors.

Unfortunately, most smokers regret becoming addicted to this unhealthy habit. The smoker is already aware of what he or she is doing to his or her body but can't stop. Smokers don't really need anybody to remind them that what they are doing is unhealthy. The non-smoking public shouldn't ridicule them as rude and despicable people.

Taking Bible literally causes dogmatic contradictions

By KYLE BEALL
kbeall@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Opinion editor

The Bible is a great self-help book, but other than that, it reads as pure fiction to me. Anyone can write a book, but the Bible is more of an anthology or literary magazine than it is a literal map to that mystical place referred to as Heaven.

In the beginning, in Genesis, the book resembles a family tree. It is not without irony that during the period in which the gospels were written the majority of humanity was illiterate.

At least, that's what our history books indicate.

I think it is quite logical to deduce that no-magic-family trees and stories, which were originally passed on to new generations via bedtime stories and campfire lore, ended up

being documented on paper by someone who was passing through on his way to Mecca and was eventually buried or hidden for unknown reasons.

Not that I am trying to use cold, hard documentation to discredit the Bible, but there are many things within that Bible that seem not only impossible and contradictory but also embellished to the degree that many of my grandfather's tall-tales were.

It aggravates me that almost every denunciation of Christianity tries to put its separate views on the teachings of Christ and the Bible all in the same pot and claim that they are all the same when they are so invariably different. The same problem arises when anything is written so subjectively that anyone could twist the words and meaning to fit what it is they want it to mean. Yet, people are so surprised and shocked when an entire cult commits suicide, and neglects to notice and acknowl-

edge that the religious group which they have pegged as a "cult" actually considered themselves Christians.

Christianity means "Christ like." It is impossible for everyone, or anyone for that matter, to be right about what was meant in the Bible, especially considering that the generally accepted version has absolutely no quotes from Jesus or Jehovah.

Another irony is that there are gospels missing from the Catholic version of the Bible, such as the gospels of Mary and Judas, some of which have been time-dated as far back as 180 A.D. The Catholic Church refuses to recognize the validity of these gospels, in my opinion, because it so drastically contradicts its version of the Bible, which they have been using for centuries to direct the lives of their parishioners.

It is a commonly accepted fact that throughout history, religion has been used as a means

of control for sociopolitical gain. As evidence, I would cite Alexander the Great, the Roman Empire, the Inquisition, or just about every imperialistic conquest of North and South America over the last 500 years.

There is much I can say and write about my views on religion and the Bible, but the bottom line is this: I consider myself a Christian because I treat others the way I want to be treated and that is with dignity and respect. I do my best not to judge others. Furthermore, I do not follow blindly anything that another human being tells me, no matter who that person is.

I do not accept the Bible as the teachings of Jesus or Jehovah because the gospels in the Bible were written by men, and men are corruptible, no matter how true or decent their intentions.

Let me put it another way: Ask yourself how much of any print publication you believe to be accurate and fair.

CAMPUS

Join AmeriCorps to help fight poverty

■ The antipoverty program AmeriCorps wants BC students to get involved.

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
kwhite@bc.cc.ca.us
Copy editor

AmeriCorps wants you to join their army.

Joining AmeriCorps means fighting poverty, said Michael Figueroa, who oversees the Cesar E. Chavez Service Learning Club, which is one of seven programs under AmeriCorps.

"AmeriCorps is a federally funded antipoverty program," Figueroa said during AmeriCorps' April 9 BC Fireside Room presentation of its various programs. "It's the domestic version of the Peace Corps."

AmeriCorps wants Bakersfield College and other Kern County residents to get involved with AmeriCorps. Individuals with high interests in health and education are encouraged to examine not only the Chavez Service Learning Club but also the Volunteer Center of Kern County and the Academic Center of Excellence as well as KernCorps AmeriCorps. Through AmeriCorps, interested people can also gain experience through Clinica Sierra Vista, First Five Kern and national Health Services, Inc. Through these avenues, people can tutor children, refurbish trucks, help seniors and homeless and train volunteers.

"It all depends upon the interests of the students," said Jeff Coomber, AmeriCorps program manager. "We can direct anyone into the right area. We can help with college expenses, but moreover, AmeriCorps is about service to the community and helping others."

Coomber said the process for applying entails drawing up a written application and submitting to an interviewer.

According to Figueroa, the Cesar E. Chavez Service Learning Club is a one-year commitment from Aug. 11, 2008 to Aug. 11, 2009. Applications for this program are due June 20, 2008. Recruits tutoring children will work in conjunction with two Kern County middle schools and will be paid \$398.16 biweekly and given a living allowance and education award. Preferred applicants, said Figueroa, have Spanish language skills.

The Volunteer Center of Kern County needs applicants to help nonprofit organizations and public agencies meet their program goals. Applicants must have high writing and oral skills and must be computer literate, according to Brenda Ratliff, who oversees this program. The starting date is mid-August 2008 with the application deadline being the end of June 2008.

Working with the Academic Center of Excellence requires a recruit to have a preference for Christian surroundings because the center works in conjunction with Compassion Christian Center as well as schools. The recruit must also have some college experience, according to Amy Green. The program offers a \$398.16 biweekly salary and a \$4,725 education award.

Clinica Sierra Vista, said leading director Ana Velasquez, helps uninsured families and individuals in Kern County. Applicants in this program help people choose health-care plans and complete Medical and Healthy Families applications. Applicants must be bilingual, have a valid California driver's license as well as a high school diploma or GED. Ap-

licants work 40 hours a week and can look forward to a \$4,725 education award.

Interested individuals can apply for the KernCorps AmeriCorps Tutor/Mentor program in which applicants will work with children during and after regular school hours on reading and math skills. The recruit must have recording keeping abilities as well as competency in math and reading. The applicant must be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and work 40 hours a week, according to program overseer Jeff Coomber. The applicant receives \$1,100 as a monthly living allowance and a \$4,725 education award.

First Five targets literacy improvement activities in early childhood. Recruits will engage parents in literacy-home activities with their children. Applicants must submit to a background check, according to Margarita Holman. This program includes childcare, medical insurance and a \$15,300 annual stipend.

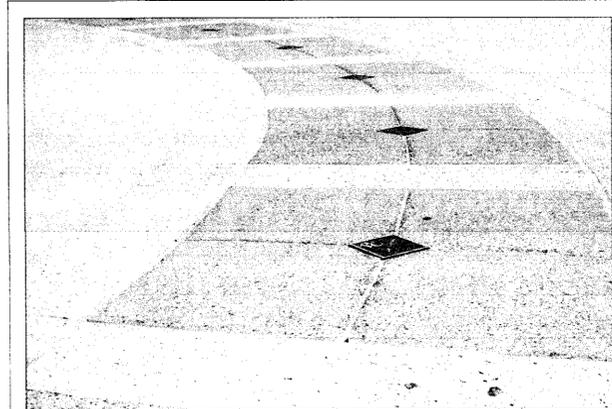
According to Maundy Joshi, National Health Services, Inc. provides childcare benefits, health insurance, a monthly salary and an education award of \$4,725. Applicants may work in the pharmacy, medical lab or accounting departments.

Many BC students who attended the April 9 presentation were enthusiastic about their prospects through AmeriCorps.

"These programs will teach me more about children," said BC student Marcia Garcia, 20, sociology major.

"This will help me with grad school," said John Scott, 48, BC student of computer studies who has a bachelor's degree in psychology from CSUB.

The Web site to visit for more information is www.kern.gov/schools.



LISA VARGAS / THE RIP

A circle in front of the gymnasium has some of the plaques placed in the cement with the BC insignia.

Lost plaques finally installed around BC

By ELIZABETH MEEKS
emeeks@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

After 13 years, plaques that were originally sold to raise funds for the augmenting of the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library were installed April 10.

The forgotten project originated and was launched by former Bakersfield College president Rick Wright back in 1994 to celebrate the opening of the library in 1996. Plaques were sold for \$1,000 each and raised \$114,000, which would have the name of the buyer.

Even though some plaques

"We should honor these people who died. It seemed to me it was a shame they had not been installed."

—Mike Stepanovich, executive director of the BC Foundation

were installed on campus, others were stored in boxes and remained there until Mike Stepanovich, executive director of the BC Foundation,

found them.

According to Stepanovich, some of the people who made the commitment to purchase a plaque have since passed away and were never able to see what their money paid for.

"We should honor these people who died. It seemed to me it was a shame they had not been installed," said Stepanovich.

The last 71 plaques were installed to make a grand total of 114 plaques that may be found around campus. Those interested in purchasing a plaque may contact Stepanovich at the foundation.



LISA VARGAS / THE RIP

This plaque can be found in front of the gymnasium in honor of Bob Hodel.

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GRADE FEEDBACK

Are you going to participate in SGA elections? Why or why not?

 Vincent Estrada, fire technology: "I believe so. As for voting for someone, I don't know."	 Caryscla Bangi, business marketing: "No, because I don't know if I remember."	 Jesse Lykins, business administration: "I don't even know they were going on."	 Liliana Gonzales, undeclared: "No, because I don't care about those things."	 Christopher J. Garza, child development: "Yeah, because I'm a student here, and I get free candy."	 Judith Garcia, criminal justice: "Yes, because everybody votes."
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Compiled by Gabino Vega Rosario / The Rip

Winner of the 2003 JACC Pacesetter Award

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THE RENEGADE RIP

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Write The Rip

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.

How to reach us

- Address: Bakersfield College, 1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305
- Newsroom: Campus Center
- Phone: (661) 395-4324
- Fax: (661) 395-4027
- E-mail: noraml@bakersfieldcollege.edu
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REVIEWS

Red and 3 Doors Down play in Bakersfield

By **KYLE BEALL**

kbeall@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Opinion editor

The crowd took to its feet and cheered as 3 Doors Down took to the stage at the Rabobank Arena on April 19.

CONCERT REVIEW

★★★★☆

The act they came to see was about to begin.

As I expected, it was a great show. They started off rocking the house and shaking the walls as the music deafened the roar of the crowd. I could hardly hear the people sitting directly next to me as they sang along with "Kryptonite." The light show and backdrop visual displays were awesome. And yet, I was slightly disappointed by their stage presence.

The band Red had played before them, and although Red didn't appear to have the same quality of equipment and stage props, their stage presence outshined 3 Doors Down. It is difficult to admit that, but it was merely my observation. Perhaps the difference is that 3 Doors Down's name value alone is what packs the stands, and since they have been around so long and their songs are played so

frequently on the radio, they aren't as concerned with pandering to the crowd. Red and 12 Stones, on the other hand, are both riding the waves of their debut albums and, being semi-new, they stepped it up a notch in order to entertain the audience.

I was unfamiliar with 12 Stones but was not very impressed with their act. Their sounds were decent, but perhaps they weren't happy with the audience's reaction to their music or maybe it was just part of the act, but I really didn't see the point in flipping off the crowd. "I think the singer could have done better as far as getting the crowd involved," said David Fagundes, from Tulare. "I am excited for 3 Doors Down."

While 12 Stones was playing, I took the opportunity to look around the stadium and noticed that a fair amount of seats were unclaimed. At first I thought that the show sellers didn't sell enough tickets to fill the arena.

Red had a commanding presence, as everyone but the drummer simultaneously jumped into the air right at the beginning of their first song. I could tell that they had fans in the stands as the crowd responded to the vocalist's commentary with cheers.

During one song, the lead singer asked for the audience to wave either a lighter or cell phone in the air. I was reminded of older concerts and mar-



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

Michael Barnes and Jasen Rauch of Red play at the Rabobank.

veled at how technology has adapted into pop culture. And yes, I had my Zippo lit along with the rest of the crowd. Red put on a good show, and I am looking forward to hearing more from them in the future.

While they were setting up for the next act, I took the liberty of checking out the vendors. Beer was being sold, and people were complaining about the prices. There were also two booths set up to sell band merchandise. There were T-shirts, CDs, posters and other items. Apparently, Red had chosen to sell their own mer-

chandise at a reduced cost to them—rather than letting the house vendor do it for them and charge them a higher percentage.

I was pleasantly shocked to find that I couldn't even get back to my own seat, much less find it, when 3 Doors Down began their act. So, either everyone was hanging out outside, and they were just waiting for the main act, or a lot of people showed up late. Either way, I had a lot of fun and it was a great show. I can't wait for 3 Doors Down and Red to come back to Bakersfield.



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

Brad Arnold and Matt Roberts of 3 Doors Down perform at Rabobank Arena on April 19.

Quality meals offered near BC

Local convenient store Country Club Liquors offers an affordable lunch in northeast Bakersfield.

By **EARL PARSONS**

eparsons@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Features editor

What the deli inside of Country Club Liquors lacks in atmosphere, it more than makes up for with thick and fresh sandwiches, reasonable

RESTAURANT REVIEW

★★★★☆

Located on the corner of Columbus Avenue and Oswell Road, Country Club Liquors is a close location for Bakersfield College students to purchase both sandwiches and the necessary "fluids" to consume them.

There is also a wide array of wines for those who want to add a little



LISA VARGAS / THE RIP

Country Club Liquors offers sandwiches and wine on the corner of Columbus Avenue and Oswell Road.

class to a meal they feel like cooking themselves. However, keep in mind that although Country Club Liquors has dining areas, alcohol is not permitted to be consumed on their premises.

On the recommendation of an employee, I decided to have the hot White Cadillac, which consisted of ham, turkey, salami, lettuce, vinaigrette, pepper jack cheese and cheddar on a sesame seed French roll. Costing \$5.49 alone, I chose to add mayonnaise, mustard and tomatoes to it at no additional cost.

My White Cadillac was absolutely stacked with exquisite ingredients,

which were prevented from falling loose by the adhesive melted cheese.

Everything on the sandwich was toasty and fresh, unlike the often-funky Subway meat.

I usually feel guilty buying a sandwich because I feel I should've just made one for cheaper at my home, but the White Cadillac left me feeling satisfied and a little bloated.

I could've bought any chips to go with my White Cadillac, but for some peculiar reason, I bought Sun Chips, which I forgot have the texture of sandpaper. The sandwich, bag of chips and a fountain drink all cost approximately \$7.20, which is a far

better value than can be provided at Subway or Quizno's.

The added convenience of the liquor store really completes the experience.

Not only can the everyday liquor store purchases (candy, cigarettes, and of course, liquor) be found, but Country Club Liquors has its own U.S. Post Office bureau located right inside.

Country Club Liquors may not have a person in a uniform delivering your food to you and picking up your mess, but it does have a deli, post office and liquor store all under one roof.

Unforgettable new comedy hits theaters

By **QUINN SCHLUSSEL**

aschlus@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

There has been a recurring theme in comedic movies as of late, and that is the aspect of realistic dialogue and

MOVIE REVIEW

★★★★☆

reactions to otherwise unbelievable storylines. Spurred on by the recent successes of such movies as "Knocked Up" and "Superbad" comes the latest in the trend of witty banter and realism amid absurdity: "Forgetting Sarah Marshall"

"Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is directed by Nicholas Stoller, a relative unknown to the directing scene. His past work in movies mostly revolves around writing.

The movie is written by Jason Segel, who also stars as the movie's protagonist: It is the sweet, naive, yet tragically depressed Peter Bretter.

"Forgetting Sarah Marshall" details the coping process Bretter must endure after his girlfriend for five years and fabulously popular Sarah Marshall (played by Kristen Bell), breaks up with him.

Bretter eventually decides to travel to Hawaii in an attempt to unwind and try to forget about his problems. He's completely unaware that Marshall has traveled to the exact same resort on vacation with her new boy-

friend, a delightfully scathing Bono caricature Aldous Snow (played by Russell Brand).

The movie itself is quite well done and manages to deliver its humor in a graceful manner without being too hackneyed. The characterization present in the movie seems inconsistent though, and despite the fact that the main characters manage to become very dynamic, realistic people, many of the supporting characters seem to be absurd and quite over-the-top.

The direction and mood presented in the movie is adequate, and while it doesn't hinder the overall storytelling, at the same time, it feels a little raw and unpolished.

It seems that the director didn't quite know how to portray certain feelings. However, the lack of mood altering music or colors did allow the natural flow of the movie to play out to its fullest.

While the jokes in the movie have the tendency to be on the better half of clean, there are some rather crude spikes of humor present, including several glimpses of male genitalia.

Barring all of the negativity, though, the movie still proves to be a very enjoyable experience and well worth the trip to the theaters to see. "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" stands solidly on its two feet and provides the audience with an authentic break-up story as well as fresh, well-delivered humor.

Relaxing sounds in Vampire Weekend's debut album

By **EARL PARSONS**

eparsons@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Features editor

Vampire Weekend's self-titled debut pulls off a refreshing mesh of

ALBUM REVIEW

★★★★☆

Afro-pop, classical music and an Ivy League aesthetic that makes them the most interesting new band of the year so far.

Vampire Weekend, formed by students at Columbia University, has cre-

ated the most ambitious first album since Arcade Fire's depressing-yet-nostalgic "Funeral" in 2004. Their inspiration from African contemporary music draws obvious comparisons to Paul Simon's "Graceland," but the band adds enough variety to distance itself from that classic.

The album opens with "Mansard Roof," captivating listeners with Christopher Tomson's percussive snare playing, Rostam Batmanglij's mellow keyboards, and Ezra Koenig's undistorted double picking guitar. The song, like the entire album, takes you to a South African beach with a cup of Earl Grey, two lumps

and a false sense of entitlement.

Bassist Chris Baio, who is related to Scott Baio of "Happy Days" and "Charles in Charge" fame, is adept at facilitating Tomson's shifting changing in tempos, sliding and dipping in unison.

Tomson's style is reminiscent of someone lightly pounding away in a suburban basement, and Koenig yelps about Cape Cod, college professors and ion displacement. Most notable and most overlooked is Batmanglij's keyboard play, which completes the sound the band is looking for. Hollow and tranquil, it is featured most prominently in practically

every song.

Just so the band doesn't make you think that they're too preppy, Koenig's lyrics in "Oxford Comma" rant against materialism. Those who have "diction dripping with disdain" insisting on lying about "how much coal" they have, and Koenig asks them to "know your butler, unlike other guys." Pointedly humorous is the line "Lil' Jon, he always tells the truth."

"Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa" is the most Afro-poppy song on the album, going as far as to reference world music aficionado Peter Gabriel, while "M79" reinforces their clas-

sical chops with its harpsichord and syncopated cymbals.

Transitions feature prominently both in the music and in the lyrics. In "Campus," Koenig is leaving his alma mater to never come back before he sees his significant other, having to ask himself the question "How am I supposed to pretend / I never want to see you again?" In "M79," the tables have turned on Koenig, and his significant other is leaving him, as indicated in the verse "So go I know you would not stay / It wasn't true, but anyway / Pollination yellow cab." People are coming and going, closing chapters and opening new ones

along the way.

Vampire Weekend's music is so soothing, however, that they lack tension when necessary. "Walcott" is a great song about someone from Cape Cod running from a monster with a "lobster's claw," but it lacks the aggressive climax that would have perfectly complemented "The Kids Don't Stand A Chance," the quasi-political subsequent and final track.

A debut this exciting raises the question of what Vampire Weekend will be able to do next. While a novel concept, the African influence could fall into gimmickry if replicated on their next album.

BC BRAINS

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

What does intercalary mean?



Julian Navarrette, psychology: "Inside a calorie."



Juan Zavala, undeclared: "A calorie inside a calorie."



Elizabeth Sanchez, business economics: "No, I don't know what it is."



Jacob Gaur, art: "I don't know."



Diana Diaz, child development: "I'm not sure."



Christopher Rodriguez, business administration: "I have no idea."

FEATURES

Local band The Natural Movement moves up

By CRYSTAL ROBERTS

c roberts@bakfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The Natural Movement is a local hip-hop group that sells CDs, T-shirts and tickets. While performing original music, the lead group member manages to find time for school.

Bakersfield College student Estevan Noel (a.k.a. Nerd Guy.) leads The Natural Movement as he raps and writes lyrics. Noel also helps to self promote the group and sell their merchandise. It seems that the group has become popular at local clubs as the group continues to book shows in

and out of Bakersfield.

The group is made up of four local guys, who go by the names of Art the Influence, DJ Kwizz, Hypeman Garvey and Nerd Guy.

Noel explained that the group came together in 2002 after DJ Kwizz and Nerd Guy exchanged beats and rhymes at BC. They met DJ Kwizz, who had a friend who also made beats and introduced them to Hypeman Garvey to complete the group.

Noel explained the group started booking shows after they played a show for Production Company Numbskull Productions; the company now helps to book the group with

shows.

Noel said they started to get more requests to play at clubs after a show they did when they opened for AfroMan at Fishlips. Noel also commented that Mental Guru, another local band who plays at Fishlips, frequently call and ask The Natural Movement to play with them as special guests.

"The owners of Fishlips asked us come back because we did such a good job in the previous performance," Noel said.

The group performs many of their shows free to the club owners while the club allows them to sell CDs and

T-shirts.

"There's usually a cover charge, but the promoters make all the money because they put a lot of money into it," Noel said. "They pay us whatever we agree to, and we put all of our earnings into a bank account and use it for what the group needs."

The Natural Movement doesn't just play locally but in Los Angeles, Ventura, Chico, Long Beach and the Bay Area.

"It's tough to book shows out of town," said Noel, who said that he has to contact different promoters whom he meets while attending various concerts.

The Bakersfield crowd is generally warm and receptive of the hip-hop group. "The crowd is good, and we always get a positive reaction from them," said Noel.

The last show performed at The Replay Lounge was April 17 and seemed to get a positive reaction as the crowd yelled out. When asked to say, "Hell, yeah," the crowd responded by yelling, "Hell, yeah."

It seems that people generally enjoy the music that the group plays. Noel described the group as a mixture of different sounds and genres. "Actually picture Fela Kuti meets Miles Davis, with words from

Langston Hughes and an attitude like Chairman Fred Hampton. There you go. That's what I compare our sound to."

As the most upfront person in the group, Nerd Guy (Noel) spoke out the most and explained the position of each of the group members. DJ Kwizz is the primary DJ, while Art the Influence produces the music and does some scratching. Hypeman Garvey hypes the crowd up and also helps write many of the songs. On average, the group performs about 16 to 20 shows per month.

"A good show is when the crowd gives you good energy," Noel said.

Red's Jasen Rauch reveals exciting experiences

By KYLE BEALL

k beall@bakfieldcollege.edu
Opinion editor

Red released their debut album, "End of Silence," March 29, 2006. Since then, they have been riding a "wave" of success, as guitarist Jasen Rauch referred to it, and touring the country with bands like Breaking Benjamin, Flyleaf, Seether, Seven Dust, Three Days' Grace, and are currently on tour with 3 Doors Down and 12 Stones. On April 19, they rocked the Rabobank Arena.

Question: So tell me a little about the kind of music you guys play.

Answer: We've been together for about five years. We kind of grew up listening to a lot of different kinds of music. So our influences ... everybody kind of brings something different to the table, but we try and fuse some of our classical influences with a lot of the heavier music that we were big fans of and mold it into something that is attainable and acceptable to the pop audience.

Q: Is this your first tour with 3 Doors Down?

A: This is the first time we've had an opportunity to meet and play with them. We've kind of crossed paths in the past but never really done any shows together, so it's been a great tour.

Q: I was reading online that you are a Christian band, is that where your influence came from?

A: A little bit. I mean, that definition to us is kind of basically that we're all Christians. The content is more of just things that we've been through.... We just basically write from what we know and where we come from."

Q: Do you like Bakersfield?

A: Yeah, we've been here several times.



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

Michael Barnes and Jasen Rauch of Red performs at Rabobank April 19.

We've been here with Seven Dust, Breaking Benjamin, Seether and Three Days' Grace.

Q: What are the shows like here compared to other places?

A: They're awesome, man. It's really cool coming here. Anytime we come to California, we get stoked. The weather is great, and the crowds are great.

Q: How are you guys doing with your debut CD so far?"

A: Good, we've been very fortunate to have the doors open that we have open for us. We spent so much time working on the record and to finally release and have it kind of catch on, any amount of success at all has been wonderful and not taken for granted at all. We've

been really fortunate with that. We started working on our next record just now, but we're still riding the wave from the first one. So, it's a good problem to have.

Q: So, you guys just started working on it. So, nothing you could hint at or anything?

A: We took six weeks off at the beginning of the year just to do drums and some chords and strings and things like that. The rest of it we're doing actually out on the road, on the bus, or on our days off and stuff and studios here and there. Our touring schedule keeps us busy enough that we don't have a lot of time at home.

Q: What's that like?

A: You know, it's a double-edged sword. We get to see some amazing places and do some amazing things, but it is a sacrifice being away from family.

Q: Yeah, it looks like you are married.

A: Mhmm, I'm married, and we got a baby on the way. Four of the five of us are married and two of us have kids.

Q: What do you hope the audience gets out of your music?

A: More than anything, a goal of ours is just to connect with people in any way we can. If they connect to our music because we play heavy music, and they really can get into it, if they get that from it, then I think we've succeeded. If they connect on a lyric level, you now connect with the lyrics from personal experience or tragedies or something we might be talking about, then I think we've succeeded there. We try to put as much into our live shows as we can bring and if they can connect on that level, then I think we've succeeded. I think most of all, if we can constantly be in front of new audiences and see new faces and connect on a personal level, then everyone can get something from it, hopefully. That's what we strive to do.

Q: What do you get out of it?

A: First of all, doing what you love is one of the most rewarding things ever. Just to be able to express yourself creatively and have it accepted by people, anybody, let alone large audiences, is one of the most amazing things. Oh, and being able to write stuff on such a vulnerable level, when you're talking about personal experiences and things you've been through, when people grasp onto that, I think that's the most rewarding thing ever.

Q: Where are you guys going next?

A: We've actually got two days off, and we're heading up to Tulsa of all places, and then we begin a little onslaught of our summer festival season and do a couple of radio shows. We have some amazing festivals coming up.

Q: Anything fans should look for?

A: Yeah, we're playing Rocking Range this year, and we'll be out with Filter for a few dates, and we end up playing with Stone Temple Pilots. We're super stoked about that, obviously. Yeah, and in another three days, we meet back up with Seether and Flyleaf for the next six weeks.

Q: Is it tiring always being on the road like that?

A: Yeah, it can be. We're fortunate right now to have tour managers, and guitar techs and a bus. Those things all look nice on the exterior, but it allows us to do interviews and [acoustic] performances like the one we were going to in ten minutes.

There was a time when we were doing those things with eight of us in the van and us doing it all. And, we've paid our dues, and we're still paying our dues. To be where we're at, and you know, all the people that contribute and make Red Red is a really cool thing. So, it can be very tiring, but, fortunately enough, we have enough hands to help lighten the load as much as we possibly can.

MxPx's Yuri Ruley discusses change and longevity of the band

Rip reporter interviews drummer Yuri Ruley before their performance April 7.

By NICHOLAS SPARLING

n sparling@bakfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Before the show I had a chance to sit down with Yuri Ruley, the drummer from MxPx.

Question: I heard you recently became a father.

Answer: Yeah, in May, May 7, to a little girl.

Q: You guys also just recently toured in Europe.

A: Yeah, I actually missed that.

Q: Since the beginning of your band you guys have gone through many different stages. What sparks the change or evolution in the band?

A: What sparks our evolution is every time we make a record, we view that as like the cutting edge of where our band is at.

We can then look at that and work on pushing ourselves as musicians, you just see what you've done and continue in that direction.

Every year, we do more and gather experiences to add to who we are as a band. Then when it's time to make a new record, we look at our last record and see what we liked, what we want to change, where we are, and where we would like to be.

Having that record is like having a snapshot of where we're at as a band.

Q: In relevance to where you guys started out, where would you say you are now?

A: Wow, miles and miles and miles of change. We started off in a small town in Washington as just three guys who wanted to do something punk and it just turned into a 16-year-long career, making music and traveling the world. It's hard to quantify all that's happened because there has

Three bands draw many fans to The Dome

By NICHOLAS SPARLING

n sparling@bakfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Over 1,000 people showed up to The Dome for the Mike Shea Is My Baby's Daddy Tour 2008, featuring bands Chiodos and MxPx. Tim Garcia, who promotes shows from Bakersfield to Fresno, presented the show.

Protest the Hero was the opening band followed by The Color Fred. The two headliners were MxPx and Chiodos. The bands had kicked off the Bamboozle Left, a West Coast version of the East Coast music festival Bamboozle.

The show lasted for four hours which was well into the night. Protest the Hero Guitarist waited for the end of the show saying, "When this whole thing is over we're all going to The Mint tonight."

MxPx played shrouded in fog machines, and the Chiodos set was filled with light effects and energy. "They had a great set; they really got into it," said Bayleigh Wiggins, one of the concertgoers.

Kyla Krause said, "They played a lot of their new stuff, but the show was still awesome." The bands were heading to Chino the next night to continue the tour.

just been so much. I mean, there's you personally, then there's you as in your band.

Q: How have the fans changed since you guys started as a band?

A: Well, we have them. When we first started as a band, it was hard. It takes years for a band to gather a following. People love us, and people hated us. When you're a new band, it seems like nobody likes you. You have to work to gather any kind of following. We started locally, then went on tour, and that's just how you did it. This was before the Internet. We had a record out, but no one had heard it.

Q: People call your sound "skater punk." Would you consider that an accurate label?

A: The two have always had a connection: rock and skating. You know the connection between fast music

and extreme sports? When we started on the punk scene, it was sort of down here. Then bands like Green Day started to get famous. It's just like any other trend, and I don't want to say I have an opinion that I like or dislike it, I think it's just the nature of the beast. Bands start showing up on the radio or MTV. But being a band for a year and a half you see all the changes, like ska, and there are still bands like Real Big Fish that draw a huge crowd every night wherever they go.

Q: Around the year 2000, MTV started playing music from the punk scene. This led to bands being labeled as sellouts. How did your band fair through that whole time?

A: The whole sellout thing is now like passed on where it used to be a big deal. You heard words like "sell-out" or "poser," but it just isn't an is-



PHOTOS BY JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

MxPx frontman Mike Herrera plays at the Dome on April 7.

sue like it used to be.

Q: Is where you're at now where you wanted to be when you started out?

A: Well, I guess you dream of it. You just work hard and dream on being successful, and I think we've far exceeded that goal.

The longevity tends to speak for itself. We're not the biggest band, but we've been maintaining and at least making a living for ourselves.

Q: Now being a father, how have things changed?

A: It changes everything. All of a sudden, you're in charge of another life, another life than needs a lot of attention. It changes your life and the life of the people around you, and if your lucky like I am, they understand.

Q: Do you have any part in the song

writing?

A: Yeah, in the very end, we all get a say. Mike will write the song, then we go into record it, and sometimes it will be a definite song, and sometimes it will just be a loose idea of a song.

We all learn the song, then we put in our parts since sometimes a song gets changed completely or sometimes not at all; it just depends on how happy we are with it.

Q: What are most of your songs about? If you had a single message that you as a band want to get across, what would that be?

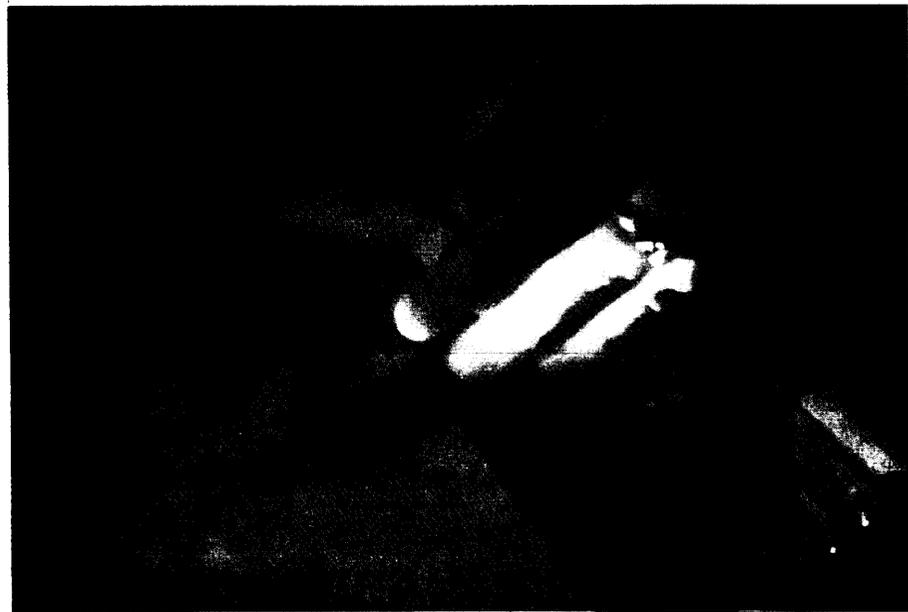
A: The word "hope" comes to mind because I think it's something everybody wants: They want to have hope that tomorrow will be better. I think it's a real powerful thing.



Yuri Ruley, drummer for MxPx, talks with The Rip during an interview at the Dome April 7.

FEATURES

Spirits in the material world



A BPS member uses an infrared flashlight to label equipment before the investigation of Kindra Hill's house on April 12.

The Bakersfield Paranormal Society, in existence since October 2006, scours Kern County for evidence of the paranormal.

By EARL PARSONS
eparsons@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Features editor

Kindra Hill awoke one day to a young girl at the foot of the bed who she thought was her daughter. The girl asked to play with the family dog outside, and in the typical haze that befalls everyone when they first pop into consciousness, Hill gave her the OK, forgetting that she didn't want the dog outside. When she woke up, she realized what she had let the girl do, but when she reprimanded her daughter for taking advantage of her morning delirium, her daughter had no idea what she was talking about. This was just the first of many strange occurrences in the Hill's household. According to her, the basement has been opening by itself and a can of coffee grounds was thrown across the kitchen. "At first, you chalk it up to being alone," said Hill, but when several roommates began corroborating similar experiences, she made a call to the Bakersfield Paranormal Society, an organization that searches for evidence of paranormal activity in Kern County. "Most calls we get from people are to make sure they're not nuts," said Bakersfield radio personality "The Real" Bruce Wayne, one of the founding members of the group and participant of paranormal investigations for the last 11 years. The BPS, which formed from a Web page on meetup.com, has been in existence since October of 2006.

When the BPS gets a call to investigate an area, they first research the history of the neighborhood and house before carrying out the investigation. Hill theorizes that the young girl she saw at the foot of her bed may have been the ghost of Jeni Marie Klawitter, the 7-year-old girl who, along with Andrew Cole Le, died in an explosion on Aug. 29, 2006. Hill said that Klawitter, who lived in her neighborhood, liked to come over and play with her dog.

When the time comes to investigate, the BPS sets up digital recorders and infrared video cameras in what they deem paranormal "hot spots." Then all of the members are split up into separate groups, each group armed with its own digital recorder, a digital still camera, a temperature gauge and an electromagnetic force (EMF) meter. The temperature gauge is used to measure energy naturally absorbed by the spirit's presence, while the EMF meter measures spikes in electromagnetic frequency that may be caused by an apparition.

In a previous investigation on April 12, all of the power in the house was shut off to prevent bias in the EMF data caused by insulation and electrical wiring.

According to BPS head organizer Greer Keeve, while advanced equipment like digital imaging cameras that cost about \$20,000, can be used, "we use basic stuff because we've found it gets the best results."

The group looks for visual evidence of ghosts on their cameras, but most of the BPS' recorded activity comes via Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) caught



Before the BPS starts an investigation, they place digital recorders in all the "hot spots."



BPS member Jodi McDullough sits in the closet to try and sense a possible spirit.

"I saw something that didn't make sense, and when I couldn't figure it out, I had to look for alternatives."

—Denise Wilson, BPS member

on digital recorders. EVP is static noise that forms linguistic expressions on electronic recordings, expressions thought to come from spirits.

In order to elicit EVP, each group, when they enter the investigation site, will ask the potential spirits at the site questions, and then wait several seconds for a response. According to Keeve, knowing the history of the site will help to garner answers, and, as BPS member Louie put it, "At first, you feel like a fool [when asking questions], but if something pops in your head, say it." Louie requested his last name be omitted from publication in order to preserve his privacy.

According to BPS member Jody McDullough, "The real thing is when you review the evidence." The week after every investigation, BPS members review all of the audio and video footage that has been collected to check for visual and EVP evidence. McDullough said that the BPS has three classifications for EVP evidence: Class A EVP is clear and audible; Class B EVP is clear but not as easily understood as Class A; and Class C EVP is a potential response, but other conditions prevent it from being conclusive evidence.

In their April 19 review of the video evidence from the April 12 investigation of Hill's house, said Keeve, the BPS found an orb-shaped object floating in the air. When McDullough was in the closet of the guest room during their investigation, she said that she felt something touching her arm, and in a photograph of McDullough, Keeve said an orb-shaped object similar to the one seen in the video footage is visible. However, the orb is "questionable" to many of the other members, according to Keeve, because there is the potential that it could have just been a dust particle. Keeve also mentioned that on the digital recorders from April 12, there is evidence of "big-band type" music at a time when no outside music was playing, and the voice of an old lady is distinctly heard saying

"hello."

While the report the BPS will submit to Hill has not been formalized as of press time, the group has concluded that there was evidence of paranormal activity in the house and wants to conduct another investigation there in the future.

A selective organization

Denise Wilson and Jennifer Williams are the only two members to be added to the original BPS roster. Membership was only recently opened, and to even be considered for the BPS, one has to go through an exhaustive application and review process. New members have a six-month training period before they can participate in investigations. The April 12 investigation was the first one Wilson and Williams participated in with the BPS, although they had both been performing investigations privately. Wilson said that in her previous investigations, she had "a lot of personal experience, but not a lot of evidential experience" with paranormal activities, and that the investigation process is "so hit and miss."

Wayne, who was not in attendance for the April 12 investigation, always tells people going on their hunt that it is "a whole new experience," and added, "If we go on a hunt, [new members are] usually eager but trepidulous."

Many BPS members said that their interest in the paranormal developed out of the need to explain the unexplainable. "I saw something that didn't make sense, and when I couldn't figure it out, I had to look for alternatives," said Wilson. Keeve always felt touched by spirits growing up, so she "wanted to see what was out there and see if I was crazy."

Some members of the organization are actually skeptical as to the existence of ghosts and want to see if their assumptions are correct. Their input is necessary, said Keeve, because "you need balance. If everyone was a believer, you wouldn't find the evidence."

According to Wayne, the BPS has "a good track record" of finding activity at investigation sites, which have included homes, businesses, and even Clowis' famed Wolfe Manor, the subject of its own webcam show on the Internet. Seventy-five to 80 percent of the sites the BPS investigate yields evidence, said Keeve, although the group cannot explain exactly why.

People have the misconception that paranormal groups have the ability to "cleanse" a spirit from a house, said Keeve, adding that paranormal groups are only able to detect whether something's there.

"It's not our purpose to go in and bust ghosts," said Wayne.

According to Keeve, the BPS has leads on investigations for the next six months. Aside from another investigation of Hill's home, the BPS plans to investigate the Springville Inn and wants to go back to Wolfe Manor.

With regard to finding evidence of the dead, Wayne feels the BPS has its work cut out for it, as "there's a lot of dead people out there."



Denise Wilson, Jennifer Williams and Greer Keeve begin their group's investigation.



Rip features editor Earl Parsons and members of Team 2 close their eyes to prevent being blinded by camera flash in the darkness of the house.

Rip staffer has senses tested at investigation

By EARL PARSONS
eparsons@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Features editor

When you're looking for ghosts in a pitch black house in the middle of the night, the aperture of your eyes opened to its fullest with the only light at your disposal shimmering crimson, your senses become amplified to everything around you, and the line between perception and reality becomes distortion.

When I got the opportunity to participate in an investigation with the Bakersfield Paranormal Society, I didn't know what to expect. I've never personally experienced the presence of anything outside of mortal existence, but I can't say for certain that ghosts don't exist. I made sure to go into the investigation with an open mind.

On the evening of April 12, Rip photo editor Lisa Vargas and I met up with the BPS at a central location before going to the house we would be investigating. When we got there, "base camp" was set up in one corner of the front yard and the tech team began setting up their equipment in the house.

I was surprised at how scientific an approach the BPS takes toward their search for paranormal activity in Kern County. They treated the investigation site in the Westchester area like a laboratory, each of them following a precise protocol for consistent results.

The weekend after the investigation, the BPS would meticulously scour every second of audio and video footage for evidence of Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP), or unexplained direct responses to louic expressions by investigators.

BPS member Louie informed me that he was the leader of Team 2, the group with which Vargas and I, as well as BPS member Jodi McDullough, would be entering the house (Louie requested his full name not be published in order to preserve his privacy).

A little bit after Team 1 went in, Louie gave me a quick tutorial on how to use the temperature gauge and electromagnetic force (EMF) meter. The EMF meter, which I operated for the duration of my group's excursion, can be easily thrown off from electrical wiring and insulation, so all of the power in the house was turned off to get accurate EMF readings, further adding to the brooding atmosphere of the evening.

After my briefing, I waited intently at base camp for Team 1 to finish, while Louie, McDullough and the members of Group 3 patiently conversed and fiddled with electronic devices. They had obviously learned the patience necessary to find empirical evidence of paranormal activity. During my wait, an amiable cat from somewhere in the neighborhood made for eager company.

Eventually, it was our turn to enter the house. We spent about five to ten minutes in every room of the house, asking questions to what potentially could respond through Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP). Ignorance of the site's history, my questions naturally lacked substance. It was only after I asked whether or not the spirit had seen God that I realized my question was too complex and random to actually pick up EVP.

We first examined the living room, and then we went into the dining room, where I felt a cold chill overcome me between a table and a vintage arcade system. The EMF meter didn't move, and the temperature gauge didn't drop. There's a 99 percent chance it was nothing, but it was still creepy.

After going through the kitchen, we proceeded into the children's room, where the questioning really focused on the potential for the ghost to be a young child. We then spent a long time sitting in the guest room, where activity has been reported by some of the owner's roommates.

When the questioning changed from targeting a child to targeting an adult, the BPS members acted a little more aggressively, asking questions to invoke a response from the apparition. It is this belligerent line of rhetoric that inspires the strongest responses for the last group to go, as the ghost is said to become irritated.

I ran the EMF meter through a precarious closet silhouetted by the street lights beaming through the window. No jump in EMF levels, but crumming yourself in a dark corner of a supposedly-haunted house tends to give off a bad vibe.

After our investigation in the house was over, Team 2 and I went into a shed in the backyard where it was rumored that someone committed suicide. Aside from a couple rusty chain hooks inside, that wasn't as scary, probably because there was more artificial light shining in.

While I waited for Team 3 to finish the last investigation, I started drifting to sleep while taking notes in my chair, a very rookie move. The two Benadryl I had taken to suppress my violent allergies started taking their toll. I use this as an excuse, of course, because I obviously wasn't able to stay up late with the big boys at the BPS.

In the end, I don't really know if I came into contact with the paranormal, but I'm also not spending countless hours looking over ambient noise to find out. I'm just glad to have been part of a unique, interesting and gonzo experience.

Photos by Lisa Vargas / The Rip

FEATURES



Actors perform in the Bakersfield Music Theatre production of "Cats" on April 12.

BC students deliver 'purrific' performance

By KYLE BEALL
kbeall@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Opinion editor

The "Jellicle" cats were in the junkyard singing and dancing at the Harvey Auditorium April 12.

This performance of "Cats" by the Bakersfield Music Theatre was the last of three public showings.

Many of the spectators and actors alike had fun and enjoyed the final show.

"I enjoyed every bit of it," said Madeline Grahek, who played the role of Electra. Grahek is a 20-year-old BC business marketing major and one of four BC students who were in the play.

"I enjoyed the entire thing from the beginning of the overture to the ending of the bows. It was so much fun," she said.

"It was really good, actually," said Kinsey Love, 11, who attended the performance with her mother Shannon Love, 40.

"I got to recognize a lot of dancers I knew. It was fun, like, watching them sing and dance at the same time," Shannon Love said. "My daughter dances at [Civic Dance Center] so we came to support a lot of the dancers that were in it."

"The only thing I didn't like was how long it was," Kin-

sey said amid giggles. "I was getting kind of tired."

According to Grahek, Kevin Trueblood, who was meant to play the role of Mankustrap, one of the main narrators in the performance, hurt his back "after [their] Thursday morning young peoples' concert that [they] do for students around Bakersfield."

I Love said, "I didn't know. I thought they had an understudy that covered his part. They actually took that out and worked the whole thing around it. So, the fact that the dancers and everybody came in early and worked the whole thing to make up for that ... I think that's amazing that they pulled it off."

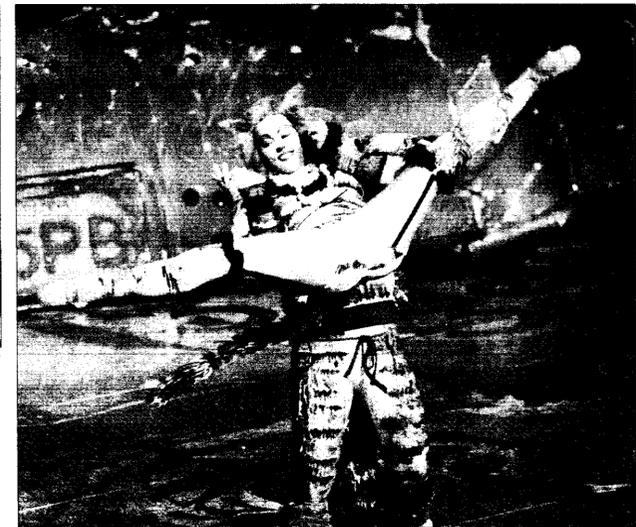
"I'd seen it before, not here, but a national production in Minneapolis where I used to live."

Seeing "Cats" for the first time, Saveena Smith, 12, said she "kind of" understood the storyline but wasn't quite sure.

According to Grahek, by knowing the other performers, it created a fun environment for rehearsing and performing.

"I enjoyed the company of the cast," said Grahek. "A lot of us were friends before. So, we all could easily relate to each other and be very comfortable with learning the hard lyrics and hard dancing."

"We would do anything and everything to become a cat."



"Uncle Jerry" (Armando Guillen) and "Rumple Teaser" (Caitlin Shearer) perform together.



Far left: Among the cast of main characters is Mistofoles (Mason Trueblood) and Demeter (Ali Dougherty).

Left: Mason Davis, playing as "Shimblehanks," has recently appeared in many BMT shows.

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