

SPORTS

Comets win BC Empire Bowl

By VINCENT PEREZ
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Rip staff writer

Clifford & Bradford Insurance sponsored the fifth annual Golden Empire Bowl on Nov. 22 at Memorial Stadium. For the first time in the bowl's five-year existence, the Bakersfield College Renegade football team did not participate in the bowl. The Palomar College Comets (9-3) and the Cerritos College Falcons (7-5) played in a high scoring, non-playoff bowl game that Palomar won 38-33.

Both Palomar and Cerritos missed the playoffs, so the bowl game was the last game of the season for both teams.

Palomar head coach, Joe Early, said, "We had two top-notch teams play and both should have been in the playoffs."

Cerritos head coach, Frank Mazzotta said that the Golden Empire Bowl is the greatest bowl game at the junior college level.

The Falcons scored first with a 32-yard field goal by Pedro Puga in the first quarter on their first drive. Palomar tied the game with a 19-yard field goal by Colin Yost, which made the score 3-3 in the first quarter.

The first touchdown of the game was not scored until a little less than 2 minutes left in the first quarter. Cerritos sophomore fullback Junior Tivao scored on a 1-yard touchdown that made the score 10-3.

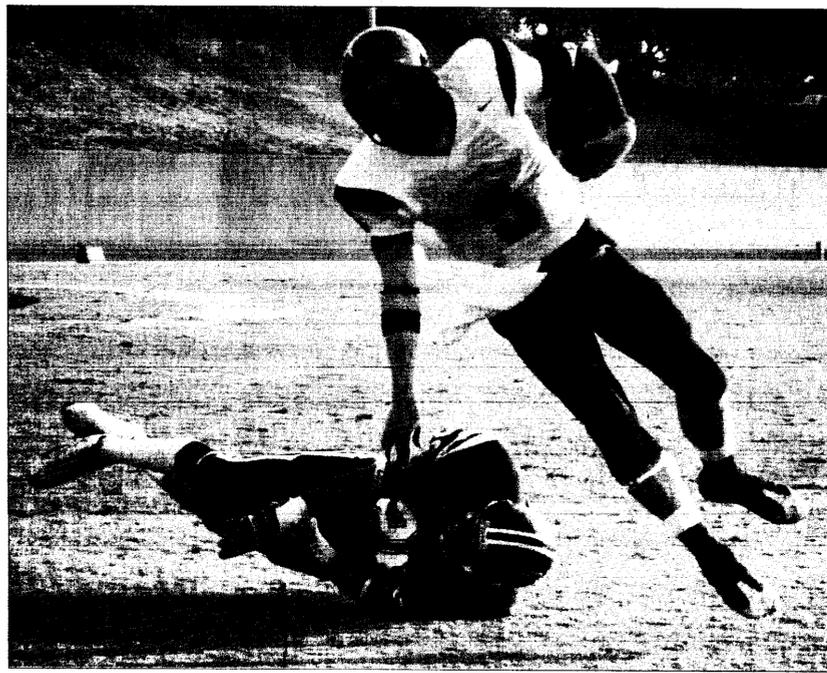
In the second quarter, Palomar scored its first touchdown when freshman quarterback Matt Christian completed a 29-yard pass to freshman wide receiver Maravious Lee, which tied the score 10-10.

Both teams scored back-to-back touchdowns in the first half. Before halftime, Cerritos was kept from a touchdown after their quarterback, Jeffrey Fischer, could only carry the team down to the 37-yard line. Cerritos' Pedro Puga's 37-yard field goal was good.

Fischer went 20-for-33 and passed for 219 yards and one touchdown. However, Fischer was sacked twice by Palomar's defense.

The halftime score was 24-20 in favor of Palomar.

In the second half, Palomar pulled away with a touchdown by running back freshman Orenzo Davis on seven plays, which made the score 31-



Palomar Quarterback Matt Christian escapes a tackle during the Golden Empire Bowl on Nov. 22.

27 in favor of Palomar. Palomar also scored on a 35-yard touchdown pass from Christian to Lee in the fourth quarter.

With 9:52 left in the game, the score was 38-27 in favor of Palomar. Davis was the rushing leader for Palomar with 13 carries for 80 yards and two touchdowns.

Cerritos scored again when sophomore running back Duane Bowen made a 4-yard run with 6:20 left in the game, and the score was 38-33. The game ended with the same score with Cerritos coming up short as Palomar took control of the ball the last 3 minutes of the game and converted a first down after Cerritos used their last time out that stopped the clock at 2:54.

The game lasted a total of two hours and 48 minutes.

Cerritos' Duane Bowen was named Offensive Player of the Game, and Defensive Player of the Game was Palomar defensive back, freshman Anthony Young. The Golden Empire Bowl's Most Valuable Player was Palomar quarterback Matt Christian.

Christian went 20-for-29 with one interception, one sack and passed for 253 yards. Early said, "This type of atmosphere gave them (freshmen) a taste of playoffs, and sophomores a great way to end." Early said about the next season for the Comets, "This will be a huge motivator."



Palomar tight end Jared Bamber attempts to catch a pass at the Golden Empire Bowl.

Sports facilities in bind to start season

■ The BC baseball and softball fields are behind schedule and do not plan to be ready for opening games.

By JOHNNIE W. BURCH, IV
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The Bakersfield College baseball and softball teams are "being flexible" with regards to the remodeling and construction of the baseball and softball fields, according to BC Athletics Director Ian Stuebbe.

The approximate \$11 million remodeling of the baseball and softball fields, to be named the Dean and Adah Gay Sports Complex, will not be ready for the opening games of the season due to a 30-day delay, according to BC president Greg Chamberlain.

The opening games of the baseball and softball season, which included plans for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, are scheduled for Jan. 27. Until then, the teams have been practicing as usual but without a fully constructed field.

"Work has started back up," Stuebbe said.

"There has been a lot of activity this week, and we're happy about it."

If the fields are finished, but are still missing bleachers, ten spectators may have to bring lawn chairs to watch the games.

However, if the now 30-day delay is extended, then BC's baseball and softball teams will have to either play nothing but away games or find a facility that would accommodate them.

"There are a few options that we've talked about," Stuebbe said. "Sam Lynn Ballpark is one of the options."

The delay could possibly force the BC baseball and softball teams to travel to play all of their games instead of playing at home, which would cost "a tremendous amount of money as well as a real unfair disadvantage to our students," according to Sandi Taylor, BC assistant athletic director and softball coach.

"Currently, we are doing the best with what we have in our off-season training," Taylor said.



Breakfast gives back
Local Thanksgiving breakfast for homeless successful in its fifth year.

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Two different teams
Women's basketball starts season 3-7; men finish second at Renegade Classic.
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State budget cuts will affect BC come spring

■ Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed cuts could cost the KCCD \$6.1 million.

By MARYANN KOPP
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California's budget issues could affect Bakersfield College in a potentially big way, should Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposal pass as it currently stands.

The governor is seeking to make cuts in several areas to help California deal with its financial situation, and has proposed taking \$332.2 mil-

lion away from community colleges. The Kern Community College District would, then, stand to lose an estimated \$6.1 million, \$4 million of which goes directly to BC.

What that means to BC in terms of where the cuts will be made is yet to be determined, as an agreement on the budget has not been met at this point.

BC president Greg Chamberlain, when asked for specifics, said, "We don't have any specifics at this point. Nothing has been finalized, and there have been several proposals. We should be OK for the rest of the school year, but next year will be the real problem since the inherent problems in the state budget have not been resolved."

In preparation for the cuts, BC

plans to make up for the money lost by dipping into funds from district reserves, carry-over and unfilled staff positions. The spring and summer sessions will be "reduced somewhat," as well.

"There are two proposals being discussed in Sacramento: one from the governor and one from the Legislative Analyst Office," said John Gerhold, a music professor and the president of the academic senate for BC. "The LAO proposal includes fee increases for students, the governor's does not. The legislature may choose one of these options, mix them or develop their own approach, which is less likely."

Gerhold, like Chamberlain, made an "educated guess" and said that the summer semester will more than

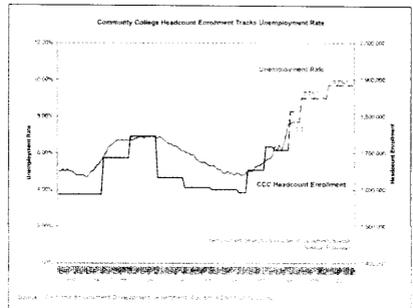
likely offer fewer classes and any low enrollment classes (being less than 24 students enrolled in a class) for the spring semester may be cancelled.

"The reason for this is that our district has nearly met its quota of students for the year and we are not even through the first semester," said Gerhold.

While the financial future for the KCCD seems bleak and has yet to be decided, Gerhold maintains that the situation may not be as bad as imagined for now.

According to the Community College Association, KCCD currently has \$24 million in unrestricted reserves that generates over \$1 million in annual interest income. It also has

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Lack of signers for ASL students

■ Kern Community College District cuts interpreters' wages, causing some sign language students to drop.

By GABINO VEGA ROSARIO
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Online editor

At the beginning of the fall semester, the Kern Community College District noticed a violation to the union contract: American Sign Language interpreters' wages needed to be cut down.

Thus, students were forced to drop classes because of the shortage of interpreters.

The issue is currently under the process of being resolved, but deaf students could not wait much longer. On Nov. 6, the issue was brought up to the board of trustees at the Weill Institute of Bakersfield College. Students wearing blue shirts saying "equal access now" attended the meeting.

"I am pleased to hear that there is attention," said Tom Moran, an ASL professor. Moran attended the board meeting along with nine other speakers who addressed the issue. Among

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Tales of a winter wonder

Above: Natalie Olvera sits on Santa's lap during the CALM Lights event on Nov. 29. Right: Holiday lights at CALM attract many every single year.

Photos by Ally Armstrong / The Rip

■ INSIDE: CALM's sixth annual lights festival attracts audiences. Page 10



Olympic swimmer Jason Lezak reminisces about 2008 victories

By MARK NESSIA
Special to The Rip

During the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, all eyes were on one man, whose goal was to bring home an unprecedented eight gold medals. In the end, Michael Phelps accomplished just that surpassing Mark Spitz for most gold medals won in a single Olympics. But such a task would not have been possible without the help of one man who helped keep Phelps' hopes alive.

In the men's 400-meter freestyle relay, Jason Lezak caught and out-touched French anchor and 100-meter world record-holder Alain Bernard to win the event for the United States and gave Phelps his second gold medal of the 2008 games.

The oldest swimmer on the U.S. men's team, Lezak, 32, swam a record 46.06-second anchor that resulted in a team time of 3 minutes, 8.24 seconds, which is a world record that beat the previous time of 3:12.23 set by the U.S. in the prelims. France, favored to win the event, finished with a time of 3:08.32.

"It felt unbelievable," said Lezak, who attended the Bakersfield Condors hockey game to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House on Nov. 8. "All those years waiting from 2000 to 2004 we were supposed to win, and we came out a little bit short. Finally, the French were the favorites this time around, and we went out there, and we showed it

doesn't matter if you're the favorites or not."

There were many thoughts going through Lezak's mind prior to diving in after France had just caught and passed the United States.

"Before I left, I honestly thought that the first thing was I got to get off these blocks as fast as I can," said Lezak. "The guy's ahead of me; he's a world record-holder, and I can't be standing on this block. I got to go."

Anxious, Lezak thought he had disqualified his team by leaving the blocks too early. During the swim, thoughts of doubt started dwelling in his mind.

"Once I got to the other end and saw he was almost a body length ahead of me, I had some terrible thoughts going through my head," said Lezak. "It's impossible; there's no way I'm going to catch this guy."

Despite his doubts, Lezak was able to stay positive throughout the whole race.

"Obviously, I'm not going to give up," said Lezak. "I kept my positive energy, positive thoughts and kept on going. I was creeping up on him through the lap and about 15 meters left, I got this extra surge of adrenaline and was able to finish real strong."

Unsure of the outcome, Lezak didn't know they had won until he looked up at the scoreboard and saw the official times.

"That's a tough answer," said Lezak. "As far as how much those medals mean to me, they're pretty equal. I definitely feel really strong

about those."

Despite his heroics, Phelps' quest for eight gold medals still overshadowed the relay team's dramatic win. However, Lezak never felt overlooked by Phelps' personal mission.

"What he was trying to accomplish was much different than me," said Lezak. "I was just going out there to win a few medals, and he was going out trying to win eight, so, of course, everyone is going to be watching him as they should be. He's going down for history. I'm just happy to be able to be a part and represent the U.S., regardless if I'm winning medals or not."

Achieving gold in the men's relay wasn't Lezak's only accomplishment during the 2008 Summer Olympics. A personal milestone, Lezak also won his first individual medal by going for third in the 100 freestyle, which was an event won by the man he caught in the relay, Alain Bernard.

"It was only a bronze," said Lezak. "But it's just as special to me as any of those other medals that I've ever won. It was just a lot of years of hard work, and a lot of disappointments and a lot of learning from them. Finally being able to get that medal felt great."

When asked which was a bigger accomplishment, getting gold in the relay or his first individual medal, Lezak was indecisive.

"That's a tough answer," said Lezak. "As far as how much those medals mean to me, they're pretty equal. I definitely feel really strong

about those."

Even though the Olympics have come and gone, and Lezak is now back in the United States, things still haven't settled down for him just yet. He has been on the road a lot doing appearances and promotional events.

"I'm trying to motivate as many kids as I can," said Lezak. "I'm going out to different clubs, different teams, different clinics and also taking a stab at the corporate world. It's just a lot different than what I've been doing for the last few years of my life."

Lezak also plans to start a family with the former Olympic swimmer Danielle DeAlva. The couple has been together for four years after getting married in April 2004. DeAlva represented Mexico in Athens during the 2004 Olympics. She is now a nurse and occasionally helps coach Lezak during his training.

When asked if he wanted his children to follow in his footsteps and become swimmers, Lezak replied, "I want them to try all kinds of things. Whatever they have fun with. That

was important to me in growing up. Just make sure you're having fun with whatever sport you're playing or school in general."

Despite the Olympics being over, Lezak said that there isn't much of an "off season" for him.

"We have a lot of meets throughout the year," said Lezak. "Right now, I'm not training much. I really take about a month off in my off season, and then I get straight back at it and get into a full-time training regimen."

Lezak will be 36 years old by the time the 2012 Olympics come around, but age isn't going to be something that will hold him back. During the 2008 Olympics, 41-year-old Dara Torres won three silver medals, making her the oldest Olympic swimming medalist in history.

"She did an amazing job," said Lezak regarding Torres' performance in the 2008 games. "She had a lot of years off throughout her career, so she hadn't had the same kind of beating on her body as I did. I've never taken a break. Hopefully, I'll be able to hold up, and that'll be the major factor for me."

When asked about retirement and how he would like to go out, Lezak answered, "Obviously, I'd like to end it with success in the next Olympics. Regardless, I feel like I've done pretty well in my career and if it doesn't work out the way I want it to, I'm happy with how things went."

Mark Nessia is a student in BC's JRNL B2 Beginning Reporting class.

Gas prices decline

■ BC decides whether gas prices are too good to be true.

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
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Copy editor

It's a gas. At least for now. It appears that gas prices are a little more reasonable these days: a lot of gas stations are selling gas at \$1.75 a gallon.

Some at Bakersfield College are pessimistic and don't believe this will last.

BC economics professor Stephen Smith said these gas prices could be both a blessing and a curse.

Of course, the lower prices of gas mean that consumers can spend more money on other items such as food.

But in the wake of a worldwide recession and a drop in the demand for oil, there is a problem: oil companies may refrain from seeking out new sources of oil supplies.

Michael Harvath, also a BC economics professor, said one good thing about high prices for oil is that it encourages the search for alterna-

tive fuels.

Some BC students are happy about the gas prices, and others believe the low prices are a trick the oil companies are playing on consumers.

"It'll flip back up, and then we'll be back where we were before," said Conrad Nieto, 48, psychology major.

"It'll slowly get worse. Whoever's in control of gas prices is giving us a break, that's all," Nieto said.

Patrick Turner, 18, biology major, agrees that the prices are probably going to go back up, but for now, he said he is enjoying the cheaper price.

"It's \$1.75 at Fastrip. That's pretty cool," Turner said.

Psychology major Henry Garcia, 28, suspects a scheme by the oil and gas companies.

"They (companies) could have cost \$1.50, and people would throw a fit. Then they might raise the prices to \$1.75, and people might throw a hissy fit. Then they could bring it back to where it was before at \$1.50, and people would be happy," he said.

"Leave it at the low prices for a year, then you'll really be saving some money for people."



Maggie Ocanpo, 20, a BC student, gets gas before class.

BC Delano campuses become one

■ BC Delano centers join after being apart since introduced and can offer more classes.

By GABINO VEGA ROSARIO
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The old and new Delano campuses have been 10 to 20 miles apart from one another, but now all teachings will be at the Delano Science and Technology building along with 10 new buildings.

The Delano Campus Center building has been the base of operation for the Delano campus since 1972. The DST building was built miles away and offered students more classes but a longer

trip. In November, all classes and materials were transferred to the DST with the exception of the child development. But now all teachings will be in one area.

According to Bonnie C. Suderman, dean of learning measures and IT, students can now get a full college education because the campus has expanded a little. "We are offering more night classes and Saturday classes," said Suderman. "We have some of the latest technology in the district."

In the DST area, 10 new multi-use buildings have been added. About six of them are used for admission and records, counseling, assessment and a bookstore. Along this new site, a separate restroom building has been added, which is located just east of the buildings. A new library has been approved and will begin construction in the future.

The Delano campus is now getting a new journalism program and updated science equipment. "We have state-of-the-art chemistry equipment," said Drow. In the future, the new library will include more classrooms for students. "The new buildings are better equipped; the old campus is really outdated," said Rodriguez.

"The BC labs are obsolete. I've seen the equipment never used," said Visico. "This new equipment will make students happier. We are keeping up."

On Dec. 5, the administration will hold an open house for the community at the new Delano campus.

According to Richard McCrow in order to get more funds from the state, the Delano campus must have an attendance of more than 1,000 students for the Spring semester.

"The push is pretty significant," said McCrow. "It's pretty significant to increase in the last five years."

The old Delano center is now leased out to a private school but still belongs to the main campus.

"The confusion is a small disadvantage for the meantime," said Reggie Visico, English major.

FEATURES

CALM lights 'relax'

The lights will shine brightly at CALM over the holiday season. The sixth annual event will run through Dec. 30.



ALLY ARMSTRONG / THE RIP

By LEIA MINCH
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Rip staff writer

Two million lights will be displayed this year at CALM holiday lights. This is the sixth year that the California Living Museum has held the event, and the nonprofit organization displays its lights until Dec. 30. They also offer \$2 off admission Monday-Thursday and free train and carousel rides.

But just what makes these lights so special? Danielle Basser has been taking her niece and nephew for three years now, and sees it as a bonding experience for them. "It's something that we look forward to every Christmas season. Unfortunately, I don't get to see my sister's kids as much as I would like to. So, I hope that this whole experience, freezing our butts off, drinking hot cocoa and enjoying the light displays is something that they will look back on and remember about their aunt."

Basser said she was impressed with how many lights shows are actually displayed, and how beautiful they are. Her personal favorite display is the lights that dance to music. "It must have taken a lot of time for someone to program the lights to fit perfectly with the song. And it's so cool to watch."

New to the CALM light display this year are pirates lighting on a pond and the symphony of lights that perform to music.

Newlyweds Jordan and Denise Hall came to the CALM lights to get away from the every day stresses that life brings and to relax and enjoy each other's company. "It's cool because this is such a hectic and stressful season. Just walking around enjoying the lights takes your mind off of everything that is going

"The lights here really bring the holiday season together."

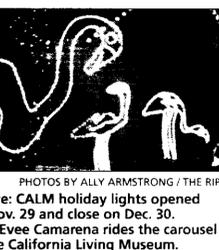
—Denise Hall, observer

on. It gives you a chance to really appreciate everyone, and everything that you have in your life," Jordan said.

"If you haven't been yet, you really need to go," Denise added.

They also think that the lights are not just for people who celebrate Christmas, but for anyone looking for a relaxing evening.

"The lights here really bring the holiday season together. No matter what holiday you celebrate you can appreciate everything that is going on. There is no focus on just one holiday. Whether you're young, old, black, white, purple or green this is one event that is truly for everyone," Jordan said.



PHOTOS BY ALLY ARMSTRONG / THE RIP
Above: CALM holiday lights opened on Nov. 29 and close on Dec. 30.
Left: Eevee Camarena rides the carousel at the California Living Museum.

Visions of sugarplums danced in their heads



Visions of Sugarplums held at The Kern County Museum on Nov. 22 celebrated the magic of Christmas by serving baked goods and showing numerous trees, all decorated with different themes.

Photos by Alejandro Montano / The Rip

BARC magical forest an event for families

By ELKA WYATT
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Rip staff writer

Dec. 5 and Dec. 28, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Each year, since 2006, the top of the parking structure of the Stockdale Towers, at the corner of California Avenue and Mohawk Street, has been transformed into a Magical Forest by BARC. "This is becoming our signature event. We love doing it," said Karen Odle, vice president/project coordinator of BARC Foundation, of the family event, which begins

On the top floor, kids can write a letter, visit or take pictures with Santa.

They can also shop at Santa's secret shop where they can wrap the gifts that they buy.

Ticket prices are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors 55 and over, \$4 for kids 6-12, and kids 5 and under are free. You can go to www.barc-inc.com for a discount coupon.

All proceeds go to BARC as well as other non-profit organizations in the community. Money

raised in the community stays in the community.

When asked why the Magical Forest was created, Odle said, "We felt Bakersfield needed a fun, family event. There is something for everyone."

Volunteers are still needed. Student groups are welcome to volunteer.

Please contact (661) 834-BARC (2272) for information. Come on out, bring the family, and make it a new holiday tradition, Odle said.

NEWS

Graffiti at BC has gotten worse in the past year

By AMANDA SPICKENRUETHER
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Rip staff writer

Tagging on campus isn't a new issue, but the Student Services building has had several reports of tagging this semester.

The amount of graffiti on campus varies, according to Sgt. Chris Counts of campus security. "There's sometimes a spurt of it. We sometimes go a month without a report. It just goes through phases," Counts said. Tim Bohan, department chair of academic development, has noticed an increase in tagging in the stairwells of the Student Services building and asked his students to keep an eye out for taggers as they enter through the stairwells to their classes at the learning center.

According to Bohan, level two has been a heavy targeted area for taggers. Bohan also noted that tagging in general has gotten worse in the past year. "It's all over the restrooms, sometimes on desks and on soda machines," said Bohan.

"It's always on the stairwells because they can get

away with it easier," said Wanda Boardman, department assistant of academic development. "Occasionally on a desk, but not usually out in the open where someone can be watching."

Boardman also noticed that tagging happens mostly in the morning. It's uncertain if the taggers are enrolled students or not. According to Counts, "all the ones we've caught have been students."

Wanda Boardman recognizes tagging as an act of expression, but wants them to express themselves on their own property. "Do it on your car or your own stuff instead of private property," said Boardman.

Tim Bohan believes the tagging to be a turf war. "It's a sort of territorial thing. And if we don't clean it up, they'll start writing over each other."

BC's current approach to lessen the problem is to clean it up as fast as possible in hopes of discouraging them from continuing to tag. "Taggers want it to stay up and be displayed, so we try to have it cleaned up as soon as it's reported," Bohan said.

Due to numerous reports to maintenance and operations to clean the student service's stairwells, the paint peels. Because cleaning off the graffiti removes

the paint, a work order to get the stairwells repainted will be sent in.

According to Bohan there's really no solution. "There are ways of catching them, but it's time consuming. Campus security is too busy," Bohan said.

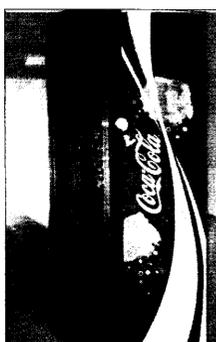
While some taggers have gotten away with defacing school property, some have been caught. In the past, taggers have been caught by comparison of handwriting or been caught walking out of a place that was known to be free of graffiti beforehand.

According to Bohan, campus security rejected the proposition of installing surveillance cameras due to heavy cost. On the other hand, Counts said, "if we install cameras, we wouldn't tell if we're doing it."

Taggers don't only face expulsion or being kicked off campus as consequence for their actions. "If we catch them, they will be arrested and charged through court," said Counts.

Wanda Boardman doesn't understand why students would risk their education.

"I don't know why they'd chance their education. They should consider that they'll harm themselves by getting expelled."



Vandalism has taken place recently on the Bakersfield College campus. This photo, taken on Nov. 26, shows a soda machine near the Student Services building with graffiti. The consequence of being caught tagging is expulsion. Students are encouraged to report vandalism if they see it.

ALLY ARMSTRONG / THE RIP

ASL: Job descriptions need revision and approval

Continued from Page 1

one of those speakers, hard of hearing student Alberta Garrison, a business administration major, explained her situation as an anatomical interpreter translated. "Some are able to sit with their professor, but I couldn't," she said. "I couldn't meet with my professor because I need an interpreter to come with me."

There have been complaints about a shortage of interpreters and poorly trained interpreters.

There are about 20 deaf students at BC, and most of them were forced to drop classes, are currently getting poor grades, or not getting equal access. "Students need interpreters who are qualified and certified," said Moran.

"They need to be able to talk about the subject and simultaneously translate properly."

According to Angelica Gomez, director of the Disabled Students Program and Services, there were two levels of sign language interpreters. Because the job description needed to be revised, a level three has been added which requires a higher wage.

"Level one does not require a (state) certification but requires some interpreting experience," said Gomez. The human resource center, DSPS

and BC faculty have contributed in the job description process.

The process is slow and requires approval from the district to finalize, approve or reject. "As of last week, it was in the district, and we are waiting for it to get approved," said Gonzalez. "With every challenge, we are looking for a possible solution."

According to Moran, the community offers interpreters at about \$45 an hour. The way interpreters were paid before the semester began was an invalid form of pay. The cut was a 50 percent decrease, which caused interpreters to quit.

The lack of interpreters caused board members to use other forms of teaching methods for students. Michelle Bendig, the deaf service coordinator, gave an insight on what new technology can be offered for students. Remote captioning is one of the possible solutions.

Basically, a student attends class as the professor lectures. Miles away, a translator listens through a microphone over the Internet. The translator must type 200 words per minute in order to keep up with the lecture.

"These solutions may be good for some students but not good for the others," said Bendig. "I would like to try it [the new

equipment] if there is still a shortage of interpreters," said Garrison. "But it may not be the same. I would rather have an interpreter."

Interpreters who are still interested in interpreting for BC must accommodate the student's schedule, which makes it difficult in some situations. "At the beginning, I had an interpreter for economics," said Garrison. "But he was removed because he was needed for another class."

Another form of new technology that may be offered might be remote interpreting. "We are currently looking at video technology for students," said Gomez. "Just in case we need it."

Remote captioning involves an interpreter listening to the lecture and the student watches the video. But once the job description is revised and approved, there may be no need to get the equipment.

"Once it's approved, we can get the word out and hopefully recruit the necessary interpreters," said Gomez.

Local agencies were also taken into consideration, but it is more expensive.

"It also depends how many students enroll, what the schedule is like," said Bendig.

BUDGET: Students encouraged to speak out against budget cuts to community colleges in California

Continued from Page 1

\$6 million in restricted reserves and \$6 million in reserves for the Self Insured Schools of California.

In addition to these figures, the KCCD also added \$7.4 million to the unrestricted reserves during July and expects a \$6.2 million reduction in state revenue for August of 2009.

All the same, with the unemployment rate increasing, community colleges have seen an increase in enrollment. This poses as a problem when considering the number of classes that will actually be offered to the increasing number of students.

The Community College League of California is involved in the current struggle. According to its Web site, the CCLC "is a nonprofit benefit corporation whose voluntary membership consists of the 72 local community college districts in California." Its main office is located in Sacramento.

Scott Lay, the president and CEO of the CCLC, said in an e-mail. "The legislative analyst's long-term fiscal

analysis shows that the state will continue having to make difficult choices for several years.

"We learned that 1,526,000 Californians are now unemployed, bringing October's rate to 8.2 percent from 7.7 percent in September. By 2010, the number of unemployed is expected to increase by over 400,000 Californians, creating even greater demand for community colleges."

Lay has been encouraging students and faculty to speak out against the cuts and spoke about the students at Merced College who recently held a protest against it. He also added that Bakersfield and the surrounding areas may be crucial in passing a budget that would be in favor of community colleges throughout California.

"In addition to telling compelling stories about their lives to local television stations and newspapers, the students were collecting postcards to send to their local legislators — key Central Valley swing votes from both parties," Lay said, and concluded that he hopes others "will join us in our fight for community colleges."

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NEWS

BC students collect cans for people in need

The SGA organized a canned food drive to provide food for the holidays for those in need.

By AMANDA SPICKENREUTHER
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Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College's SGA organized a campus wide canned food drive from Nov. 17-Dec. 2. According to SGA student senator Kenneth Whitehead, SGA partnered with BC's CalWORKS and CARE to collect canned food donations and to distribute to local needy families this holiday season. These three BC programs weren't the only ones contributing, though SGA encouraged complete campus participation. "Every department, every club, any student or teacher can

contribute," said Whitehead. SGA had support from several departments including Admissions, Allied Health, DSPS, Behavioral Science, Counseling and the library. An average of 100 cans were donated each day. By Nov. 26, SGA had collected 743 cans from campus participants.

As of Dec. 1, 910 cans and 23 toys were donated, and the departments with the most donations were Admissions and Allied Health. According to Whitehead it was neck and neck between Admissions and Allied Health throughout the food drive. "Admissions had 323 cans and Allied Health had 284," said Whitehead.

This food drive doesn't only help feed local needy families. A prize of up to \$1,000 will be awarded for the club or department that donates the most cans by Dec. 2.

According to student worker Trivette Hernandez, this was SGA's first



JOSEPH WHIPKEY / THE RIP

Bakersfield College's EOP&S donated food to needy families for the holidays. The canned food drive ran from Nov. 17 to Dec. 2.

canned food drive. "This is the first year SGA is doing this. It was Kenneth's idea, and SGA approved," said Hernandez.

Whitehead, who was in command of the food drive, already made a total of nine deliveries. "Since it started, I've made deliveries every day. I count them and take them

to CalWORKS and CARE," said Whitehead.

Cans remaining after Thanksgiving will not be wasted. SGA has plans for the leftovers. "Any cans after this point can be given to the Bakersfield Homeless Center," said Whitehead. "We will do what seems fit. We can make Christmas baskets.

The Renegade Culture link enhances Web site

By SEGGAN MOORE
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Rip staff writer

A new link has been added to the Bakersfield College homepage. The Renegade Culture Web site is a new link for students about college success, campus events and club and athletic information.

This Web site was created by a group based out of the Foundations of Excellence. The Campus Culture CLIP, or Community of Learning Inquiry and Practice, made the Web site to encourage students to get involved with BC.

Natalie Bursztyn, Beeki Whitson, Nancy Guidry, Clark Parsons, Rick Brantley and Janet Tarian made up the Campus Culture CLIP team that created the website. Bursztyn, professor of physical science, and Whitson, professor of psychology, came up with the idea of making a Web site after coming

home from the Great Teachers Seminar two years ago.

After coming back to work, a CLIP had been created for this subject, and the two jumped right in and got involved.

"When I try to navigate the BC Web site, I have a hard time. As an educated person trying to navigate, I knew it was probably hard for someone who is trying to get educated. We want them to find out what BC has to offer," said Bursztyn.

The hope for this Web site is to instigate a sense of pride in BC students.

Bursztyn wants students to get involved and care about their school. "We want to generate a new generation of alumni," Bursztyn said. For more information on the Campus Culture Web site, visit www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/culture. The CLIP team encourages everyone who visits to fill out the feedback form, which can be found through a link on the site's homepage.

Studying impeded by obnoxious BC students

By DANILO CASTRO
Special to The Rip

Grace Van Dyke Bird Library etiquette dictates that cell phones should be kept on vibrate or silent and that students must be considerate to others.

But it seems that many students do not take basic rules of library usage seriously. The ways that annoyed teachers, students and administrators deal with noise problems differ.

Deborah Carmona, library assistant said, "I shush people all the time."

Carmona works at the circulation desk at the library. She said the noise is usually cell phones going off in the lobby by the front doors where people think they are not actually in the library. She also said sometimes people bring their children, and they don't know the rules. She said that this semester has been better.

"Usually, it's young guys that are just loud," she said. "Sometimes it's the ladies, too."

Carmona said that the school police cadets usually spend two to three hours in the library. "It's getting better," she said.

Nancy Guidry, a reference librarian, said it is usually noisy in the morning. She works in the upstairs part of the library. She said she gets to work at about 9 a.m. when most of the tables are occupied. She said large groups are sometimes the problem.

"At around 1 or 2 in the afternoon" the noise goes down, she said.

Britani Allison, 19, journalism major, said, "It's more quiet in the morning." She gets to school around 8:30 a.m.

When comparing this semester to others, Guidry said, "It's the most crowded it's ever been." She also said, "It's the noisiest." Guidry said that students who are serious about studying usually look for a place in the back. She said it is usually the front section of the upstairs that is the noisiest. She said that the reference librarians are patrolling more often now. When they see a large group they suggest a group study room, which can be reserved "at the front desk with your Gades card."

Those who are not really studying will usually disperse and leave while those serious about studying will either quiet down or get a study room.

"Students are rarely very disruptive," she said. If they do get disruptive, then the librarians would ask the students to leave.

She said people nowadays are going to the library "to socialize and talk on their cell phones instead of coming to study." Guidry describes "very disruptive" as being loud, shouting or using profanity.

Guidry said they rarely call security, but they have called them before. She called once when a student was swearing at her and would not coop-

"Students we have now see it as a place to socialize. They are used to using computers in their own home with a drink and a snack. They would like to have the same environment here. They don't realize it impacts others."

— Nancy Guidry,
Reference librarian

erate. But that was eight years ago.

She mentioned that last semester there was a student who was throwing books around, and she had to call security.

She said she thinks that students appreciate the library and are willing to cooperate when asked to do so. She said the librarians walk around and communicate with each other saying things like this: "There's a noisy student back there. Keep your eyes on that person."

Even so, she said it is mostly students who complain about the noise. It is usually about a group being noisy or cell phones going off in the back of the library. She said the librarians spot noise more often because students hesitate to report noisiness. But she said the librarians appreciate it because they "can't be in both places at once."

Allison said this semester, "There are more people in the library, and they talk on the phone all loud." She said she never has to complain because the librarians "usually hear them." She doesn't go to the back of the library because she doesn't know what is back there.

Guidry says she wants students to feel comfortable in the library. But she would like to not have to police them as she does now.

She said the reason she thinks students are more disruptive nowadays is that they are unfamiliar with the expectations. She said many times it's the older or returning students who complain because they grew up in a time when the library was respected.

"Students we have now see it as a place to socialize," she explained.

"They are used to using computers in their own home with a drink and a snack. They would like to have the same environment here. They don't realize it impacts others. What they want is a comfortable situation."

She said that the Library Etiquette page is available as a handout in the revolving rack in the upstairs library or online under "Service and Information" on the library's web page. She said they sometimes just give them to disruptive students.

Guidry said that she went to a

meeting of the American Library Association in Anaheim and that there she found out that in other colleges "Millennial's library attendance has gone down." But attendance in the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library has gone up "because students feel welcome, there is wireless internet, and it is a nice facility." Millennials are people born in the 1980s, otherwise known as Generation Y.

Jesse Garcia, 40, a business administration major, said, "It's OK most of the time, but it should be quiet." He said he had been annoyed twice in the commons with phones going off. He said, "It's better in the evening."

Mark L. Graf, chief of the department of public safety, said that when they get a call from the library, it is usually an overview of what has happened. Then if the situation merits, they send an officer over.

He said officers are trained to deal with emergencies. First officers will try to calm down the student. If the situation does not cool down, they write a report.

Then the student would be taken to the dean of students' office and would then be given the appropriate punishment. The result could be either suspension or being kicked out of the library. He said the first couple of weeks are usually the noisiest. He considers this semester to be normal.

Joseph Barry, 28, a music major, enrolled into Bakersfield College in 1998. He enrolled in the army in 2000, and this is his first year back. He said that he "could barely stand it" in the library when he was doing research for his midterms. He said he tries to go where it is most secluded. Compared to other libraries he's been to, there is more noise at the BC library. He thinks it's the maturity level. Many BC students are "just out of high school," he said.

In the computer commons, employees have been told to call Bob Shimmin, the network technician, when things get rowdy. "That's what he told us to do," said a student employee in the commons.

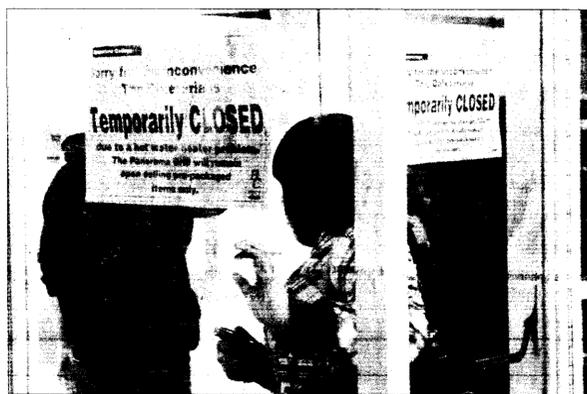
Shimmin said that it's "better this semester." Even though he did mention that there have been two incidents in which school police had to be called this semester.

Complaints about the commons come from students in neighboring pods, the librarians and operators in the library.

"When school police come, they usually try to calm students down," Shimmin says. "Usually we can calm them down. We ask them to leave or take a break."

Shimmin said the biggest problems are the clustering of people in pods, which increases volume, viewing offensive material that may cause problems for neighboring students and loud music that is loud even with headphones.

Daniilo Castro is a student in BC's JRNL B2 Beginning Reporting class.



ALEJANDRO MONTANO / THE RIP

Famished Bakersfield College students file past the sign that informs them of the water problem and that only packaged food is available.

BC's Panorama Grill shuts down after broiler breaks

By MARYANN KOPP
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Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College Grill and Café was restricted from selling any food that wasn't pre-packaged for the week of Nov. 24 due to loss of hot water in the food prep area.

The sudden prohibitions prevented the staff from being able to make and provide hot food for students and faculty, but the situation did not last long as the staff were back to cooking the following Monday.

"We had a broiler broken, but it has been fixed and we are back in operation," said Theresa Rodriguez, a staff member in food services.

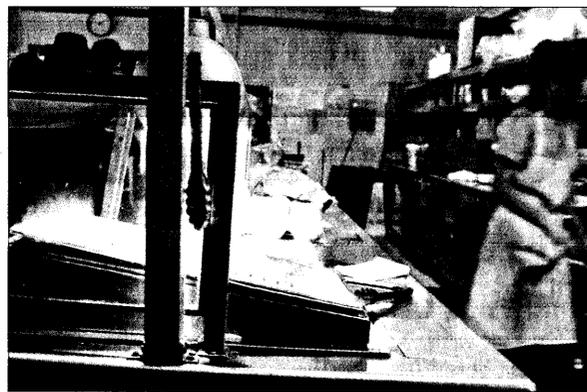
Aside from the incident itself and having to turn the water off in the Campus Center for 90 minutes on Nov. 26 to make some repairs, the general inconvenience was not great.

The situation was explained via e-mail to staff from LaMont Schiers, the executive director of administrative Services.

The e-mails included why limited food was being offered and a warning concerning the Campus Center's water being shut off.

"We had a broiler broken, but it has been fixed, and we are back in operation."

— Theresa Rodriguez,
food services staff member



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

The Panorama Grill is up and running again after being out of commission due to a broiler problem.

FEATURES

Homeless given food and clothing



ALEJANDRO MONTANO / THE RIP

James Moore eats pumpkin pie on Nov. 27 at the Thanksgiving Breakfast for the Homeless at Jefferson Park. The Bakersfield College MAIZ club organized the meal.

By SEGGAN MOORE
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Rip staff writer

Thursday, Nov. 27, marked the fifth year that Carlos Gomez has hosted a Thanksgiving Breakfast for the Homeless. As president of Bakersfield College's MAIZ club, he organized the breakfast with help from local high school students, BC students, MAIZ members and other people from the community.

"Five years ago, I started with my mom. We had lots of leftovers. We decided to go to a park and feed people. We've been doing it ever since."

The first year, they served 15 people. They estimated this year that they served about 200 people.

Volunteer Greg Lamb was inspired to help Gomez and his team because his wife and a group of women take lunches once a month to different shelters.

"It's not the day. It's the sentiment. The idea of trying to help other people," Lamb said.

Winter clothing and blankets were also handed out along with gift baskets, which included deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, two bars of soap, a comb and washrag. Coffee and cookies were served followed by a turkey meal.

"I'm thankful for all the volunteers and everyone who came out today," Gomez said. "It's for the good of the people. That's why we do it."



ALEJANDRO MONTANO / THE RIP

Sweaters, jackets and shoes donated to the homeless were given out on Thanksgiving.

BC student publishes second book

By JOSEPH WHIPKEY
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Rip photographer

Author, artist and illustrator of his own books, Loren John Presley, 21, an autistic BC student majoring in graphic arts, will be signing his new book, "Starship One," Dec. 6, at Russo's Book Store.

Presley has been writing since the age of 6 and is "always striving to express this imagination as a storyteller."

"When Presley was 14, he was diagnosed with autism. Many of my schoolmates could see I was an oddball, and many of them shunned me. I was often asked what planet I was from," Presley said.

Around the age of 15, he was struck by chronic depression where he'd "hit rock bottom" and thought he'd never live his dream.

"I tossed all my stories. I deleted them from the computer and got rid of my notes, illustrations, everything," Presley said.

While depressed, Presley was writing "The Anastasia Project," which he said was about his fight to stay alive and to keep happy.

Presley said, "I can do this; this is what I do. I have to keep doing this. I have to keep being a writer because this is what my life is about."

His first book, "The Anastasia Project," which is about a dolphin who is in an unfamiliar area in the ocean trying to find her way home, was published in February.

Recently, "The Anastasia Project" has been distributed into bookstores in the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and Great Britain. Presley said he feels happy right now about himself, and "the future looks pretty

bright."

"I'm also marketing as a vendor at local autism conferences as well since a great deal of my book has been dedicated to helping children and families affected by autism," said Presley.

Because of good teachers, friends and family as well as Presley's undying will and his ability to function in his environment, he can communicate more clearly and is able to reach out to other fellow human beings.



JOSEPH WHIPKEY / THE RIP

Loren Presley holds his second novel.

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Bakersfield Roller girls battle Smog City



Top: Bakersfield Roller girls' Miss Taken recovers from a fall to catch up with the rest of the pack and fight for a Bakersfield win. Right: Proceeds and donations from the roller derby were donated to Smog City's Marisol Nunez to help with all medical expenses during her battle against uterine cancer.



Left: Bakersfield Roller girl Bonecrusher (left) gets ready to go head to head with Smog City's McRed (right) during the roller derby match at Rollerama. Right: Smog City's Busy Chops tries to keep up with Bakersfield's Tonka Toy on Nov. 22.

Photos by Alejandro Montano / The Rip

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FEATURES

Country hall of famer Ray Price rocks Bakersfield

By ELKA WYATT
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Rip staff writer

Looking dapper in a gray Nudie suit with a turquoise tie, at the ripe age of 82, Ray Price took the stage of Buck Owens' Crystal Palace and performed many of the songs that gained him popularity in the '50s, '60s and early '70s.

Some of those hits included "Release Me," which was recorded in 1954, 13 years before Engelbert Humperdinck made it a top five pop hit, and "For The Good Times," which earned him a No. 1 spot on the country music hit list and No. 11 on the pop charts.

On Nov. 25, the Country Music Hall of Fame member, along with his band, The Cherokee Cowboys, brought Bakersfield back to the days when honky-tonks were the happening places to be.

Once a roommate of the late Hank Williams, Price originally used Williams' band, The Drifting Cowboys, as his back-up band. He formed The Cherokee Cowboys in 1953 with remnants of Williams' band. Price has been known as a steppingstone for other talented artists, such as Willie Nelson, Roger Miller and Johnny Paycheck, who all played with his band at one time or another.

An innovative songwriter, Price developed what was referred to as "the Ray Price Shuffle" or "the Ray Price Beat," a 4/4 arrangement of honky-tonk with a walking bassline. This could be heard on his hit, "Crazy Arms," as well as hundreds of other songs since then.

Throughout the '60s, Price experimented with "the Nashville Sound" which included crooning ballads and string arrangements. His rendition of "Danny Boy" leaned toward the pop end of the music spectrum. His old fans were not impressed, but he gained new ones from another genre. Later on, "For The Good Times" received favorable response from

both sets of fans.

Opening the show for Price was his son, Cliff Price, who performed favorites by Merle Haggard, Mel Tillis, George Strait and Bob Wills. The younger Price now fronts The Cherokee Cowboys.

The elder Price then stepped onto the stage and began by singing "Crazy Arms," which was recorded on March 1, 1956 and spent 20 weeks at No. 1 in the country charts, establishing him as a star.

After a set of several songs, including "Heartaches By The Number," "Release Me" and "City Lights," Price took a break while the band played, showcasing individual players.

Price again took the stage, starting with "The Nightlife" and then "Crazy," both written by Willie Nelson. "Make The World Go Away," which was recorded by Price in 1963 but made a hit by Eddy Arnold in 1965, and finally "For The Good Times."

After leaving the stage, Price came back and wished a woman who was in the audience a happy 83rd birthday.

"In six weeks, I myself will be 83," said Price.

He then sang "I Wish I Was Eighteen Again," which had been recorded by several other artists as well as Price in 1999 and was sung by George Burns in the movie "18 Again."

Price then met with fans in the lobby and signed autographs.

Standing in line for an autograph, one woman was overheard saying, "It was good to go to a concert where I didn't need earplugs."

"I have seen him three times," said David Jones, 48, of Bakersfield. "I love traditional country music. That's why I came to tonight."

Karen Ellis, 52, said, "My daddy used to listen to Ray Price all the time when I was a girl. I grew up listening to him and feel fortunate to have been able to be here tonight."

Junior League holds its 21st annual Wine Fest for charity



CARA JACKSON / THE RIP

The Junior League of Bakersfield held their 21st annual Wine Fest at Stier's RV Park on Nov. 22. The event benefits women and children in Kern County and many volunteers including Jon Halpin, who served food and poured wine.

■ The Wine Fest attracted more than 400 people and 20 local restaurants and wineries.

By ELIZABETH MEEKS
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Rip staff writer

The Junior League of Bakersfield held its 21st annual Wine Fest Nov. 22, raising upwards of \$80,000 in order to support local non-profit organizations.

The long-standing fundraising tradition of Wine Fest spotlighted over 20 local restaurants and California wineries allowing the estimated 400-600 people in attendance to sample food and sip on wine. Throughout the night, guests were able to participate in both the silent and oral auctions. Prizes being bid on ranged from subscriptions to the Bakersfield Californian, to private martini parties or gourmet German dinners delivered to your home. Even Mexico get-aways were available to the highest bidder.

The recipients of the money raised by Junior League will be decided on in the spring after the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) carefully screens grant requests from charities.

"The process then continues when the board votes where the money will best be used. Although it is not always the case, the main focus of the Junior League is to support non-profits aiming to help women and children such as the Jamison Center, Bakersfield Homeless Center and the Girl Scouts. These are just a few charities as the Junior League supports countless worthy organizations in Bakersfield.

For years, the Junior League has grown to over 400 members comprised of dedicated women, who volunteer their time and energy helping the needy and becoming trained philanthropists in their community.

Former president of Junior League and now a sustainer, who mentors and provides financial support for members, Cynthia Hess is passionate about the cause Junior League represents.

"The Junior League is a special group of women who want to help those less fortunate, and that is a wonderful thing," said Hess.

One misconception of Junior League is women must young and be of an affluent stature in order to become a member. Hess explained the Junior League consists of women of all ages over 21 and comes in all shapes, colors and financial backgrounds. What is most important is they have hearts that want to help others, Hess said.

Hilarious changes for a Christmas play

By ANDREW J. ANSOLABEHERE
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Rip staff writer

Every year, people go out to see the same Christmas shows, they have been watching since they were children. You could go to Stars Dinner Theater and listen to Christmas songs, or go to Spotlight or Bakersfield Community Theatre and watch a traditional Christmas show, The Empty Space, however, just has to mix it up.

For the past five years, The Empty Space has had a production of "Hurry Up, Santa!" a show written by Bob Kempf and Andy Philpot.

"This year, the theater is presenting "A Christmas Carol... and a Play

in regards to Christmas" written by Bryan Maddem. Maddem, and his fiancée Jennifer Hatzman, direct the show.

"The show is an adaptation of the "A Christmas Carol" the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his acceptance of the Christmas spirit.

The show makes some hilarious changes to the traditional story, introducing Tiny Tim's brother Big Tim, a variant of Led Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song" sung by dance number and a beautifully cheesy number.

Maddem wrote the script in 2006 while living in New York.

"We marketed an off-Broadway stage in Manhattan, and I didn't even have a completed script," said Maddem. Even once rehearsals had

begun in October, the script was not yet complete. "I refused to do more revisions after Thanksgiving," said Maddem.

Maddem had to make some major adjustments to the script for The Empty Space stage. "The script was really geared towards adults," said Maddem, "so we had to clean it up a bit to do here."

This year's production is on a bit of a grander scale than past versions with a very detailed set.

"This is quite elaborate for me," said Maddem as he looked at the newly painted theater walls, sliding wall panels, and a five foot tall wood furnace.

Hatzman's work with stage design has turned The Empty Space stage into a mini London that even has cobblestone streets.

Actors Jason Monroe and Jay Campbell play the lead part of Scrooge. Monroe, who suffered major injuries in an ATV accident in September, is making his return to the stage with this show.

Jay Campbell, most recently seen as Feste in "Twelfth Night" at Bakersfield College's Kern Shakespeare Festival, will be playing Scrooge the first production of the run.

The weekend shows at The Empty Space on Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 14 and 21 at 2 p.m.

Admission is \$10 for students and \$15 for general admission.

The Dore experiences jazz

Left: The CSUB Jazz Ensemble plays in the Dore Theatre at CSUB Nov. 21.

Below: A CSUB Jazz Ensemble member performs the solo in Benny Carter's Sunset Glow on his trombone.

Photos by Ally Armstrong / The Rip



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OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

Recycle: Save the Earth

Whether or not you believe in the global climate change, it's important that every one of us takes an interest in preventable measures to save our natural resources and environments. For every ton of paper we recycle, we save 4,100 kilowatts of electricity for three hours and that means saved energy and saved trees. Saving trees is not only a concern, it's imperative in a time when deforestation accounts for nearly 20 percent or more of global carbon dioxide emissions. Global deforestation is leaving behind desert and non-farmable land. If this continues, we can all say goodbye to the world as we know it.

According to conservation.org, human impacts including the burning of fossil fuels and the destruction of forests and other natural habitats are largely responsible for increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that are altering weather patterns worldwide, causing droughts and water shortages, more intense hurricanes and coastal storms, increased transmission of diseases and declining habitats for plant and animal species. Currently, we are seeing the beginning of the effects of our careless behavior and habits that will detrimentally get worse.

Styrofoam is not recyclable. You cannot make it into new Styrofoam, but the industry wants us to assume it does. But The Green Consumer recommends that you don't buy it. 500 years from now, the coffee cup you may have used this morning will still be sitting in a landfill.

Among the many other daily products humans use on a daily basis, production, manufacturing and distribution all go into the things we use. The bottled water we carry, the watches, pens, pencils and you name it: A natural resource was used.

We live in a fast-paced world. New things are on the market on a daily basis at our disposal. Our personal and professional lives keep us busy, and most Americans currently cannot fathom the effects of our carelessness. It is so convenient to throw our trash in the garbage. After all, that's how we were taught to take care of the things we do not need. If it is not possible to recycle, at least make sure your trash gets into the garbage. Still, to this day, we have problems seeing our garbage to the trashcans here on the Bakersfield College campus. You would think educated people have the sense to take their trash to conveniently placed disposal bins.

We're not advocating the "hippie lifestyle," just a common courtesy. Consider this: California alone is estimated to generate nearly 92 million tons of waste a year.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed."

There are solutions to the problems we create although it would be best if they were not first created. For the future we, The Rip, urge you to recycle.

Gifts that keep on giving

■ Instead of spending half your paycheck on a Juicy Couture purse or a new Xbox game, buying your friends a practical holiday gift not only saves you money but shows your friends you care.

By BIANCA HERNANDEZ
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Features editor



AMANDA SPICKENREUTHER / THE RIP

Every year people waste so much time stressing about getting someone a gift that has meaning only to wind up buying some generic box of candy topped off with a lame Hallmark card. Instead of wasting so much effort only to fail, I suggest a different approach to gifts this year: practical gifts.

Why waste money on a ceramic sculpture someone will be ashamed to show when you can give them something they can actually use like a 24-pack of toilet paper.

As gross as this sounds, it actually makes sense. Practical gifts will actually be used and not thrown into some dark corner never to see the light of day again.

If toilet paper is too intimate then why not give something else that someone will be guaranteed

to use over the next month or so like mayonnaise?

Why stop at items that will only last someone throughout the month? Branch out into economy-sized items. An economy-sized container of shampoo could last someone months and possibly years in the event of a zombie invasion. When there are zombies on the prowl, people can't be wasting their time trying to find a way to get rid of a dandruff problem.

Waking up Christmas morning and unwrapping a 12-pack of Fresh Spring may not sound romantic, and may even result in a good slap, but there are ways to convince people that practical gifts are kind of

thoughtful, too. Just tell the receiver of the gift that you've spent many a sleepless night worrying yourself over the state of the economy and how it will affect everyone.

The fact that you've actually sacrificed precious hours of sleep over the person will flatter/guilt them into pretending to like the gift.

Not only will practical gifts save friends and family money, but, if done properly, it can save you money, too. While family members are rifling through the Sunday papers and grabbing everything in sight that advertises clothes or electronics, you can sit back and peruse the specials on paper plates.

On the weekends when people are pil-

Schedules the same online and on paper

■ While some protest the discontinuation of the printed schedules at Bakersfield College, other students feel that whether their schedule is online or in their hands makes no difference as long as schedules are somehow available.

By MARYANN KOPP
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Rip staff writer

As of next semester, Bakersfield College will no longer be providing printed schedules of available classes. Does anybody care? Not I.

I personally think that the printed schedules were useless to begin with. Whenever I would actually remember to pick one up, I never, the one time I did pick one up I completely forgot about it until I found it crumpled in my backpack one day

while looking for something more useful. After throwing it out, I told myself I wouldn't bother with going out of my way to get a hold of something that I didn't actually need. In the end, it was just trash.

Considering that everyone who doesn't use cave walls and chisels to communicate uses the Internet to figure out classes, it only makes sense to use the Internet to register for course descriptions along with dates and times of said classes.

Then you can either print the information up or write it down. The process is easy and relatively painless, depending on how the BC website is functioning.

The entire process isn't something so obscure or new that people can't figure it out all on their own and then act accordingly. But even though it seems like common sense, there are still people who are somehow jarred by this decision. Try as I may, I can't quite wrap my brain around it.

Despite it being cheaper for the school (which is facing possible financial difficulties due to state budget cuts), it's also just sensible. Bearing in mind the cost of printing versus how

many students actually benefit from the printed schedule, there really shouldn't be any room left for guessing.

For someone who is seriously upset by this decision: Stop worrying about something so unimportant. You may have heard of choosing your battles in life. This certainly is nothing worth freaking out over.

That is, unless you're really just that uncomfortable with the Internet that you would rather have a hernia than figuring it out. Then I would have to say that you might have bigger problems than not having a printed schedule.

With the state of the economy and so much more going on in the world and in life, in general, this definitely just does not matter. I am actually surprised that more people didn't applaud BC for cutting such frivolous things so that the money can be used toward something more important.

What will be construed as more important is the money my knowing, but I can at least hope that whatever the money saved will go toward, it will not end up making more backpack stuffers.

Making school a priority more important than 'life'

By ELIZABETH MEEKS
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Rip staff writer

Knowledge is a gift being abused and neglected by young college students every day.

Higher learning has become a necessity in today's highly competitive world, and it is nearly impossible to find a well-paying professional job without a college degree.

This I know to be true, which is why I have returned to Bakersfield College in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. As I sit among my fellow students, I am astounded by their lack of time management skill, lack of priorities and their self-centered mindset of how professors should accommodate or be more forgiving

when assignments are not being turned in on time.

Attention, boys and girls: This is the beginning of self-responsibility. Everyone has a life filled with drama outside of class. You make your own decisions whether you are going to stay up watching a movie, drinking too much or simply fooling around instead of doing what is most important: school.

I have two young children. I have been raising them by myself, working full time and still managing to find ways to get my work done. The secret? Because I want to, because it is important, because I do not want to work for minimum wage my entire life.

Hey, life happens. Believe me, I understand. Life has happened to me more this semester

than at any other time. It is hard and challenging to get it all done.

If it wasn't for the communication I established with my professors, I would probably be failing my classes. I bit off more than I could chew. Yet in all of the craziness, I'm still hanging on without complaint and without blame on anyone else but myself. The disorientation of my life is not one's fault but my own.

In addition, please, for the love of God, stop complaining that your professor gave you a less than desirable grade.

First of all, your professor did not just pull the grade from a hat. You and no one else earned that grade on your transcript. It is a direct reflection of the time, will, and dedica-

tion you applied. Nothing and nobody else is to blame.

This is your golden opportunity to reach and achieve any dream you have. You are young, able people who are attending a well-respected community college staffed with dedicated professors who are there ready to support that dream any way (within reason) possible.

So stop complaining how you don't get enough sleep. You will get enough when you are dead.

Focus on school. There will always be a party or a beer to drink. I guarantee it. Besides, you beer will taste a whole lot better when that finish school and can actually afford it.

'GRADE FEEDBACK

Do you volunteer or donate during the holiday season?



Eddie Castillo, communication: "I have before but not recently. I would like to do it again though."



Jose Calderon, volunteer: "I volunteer for the elementary school in Lamont during their food drives."



Lauren Strong, communication: "My family and I donate toys to the less fortunate."



Chanel Reeves, business: "I help with food drives."



Alexis Galloway, computer science: "I used to help with the food drives in high school. I would like to do this year too."



Eva Coe, American sign language: "I used to volunteer with the North High cheer team and also with churches."

Compiled by Alejandro Montano / The Rip



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Publisher Award

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THE RENEGADE RIP

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

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

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REVIEWS

'Twilight' dazzles fans

By KELLY ARDIS
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Rip staff writer

Ever since I was 13, I have wanted to be a vampire. I started with movies then moved on to Anne Rice novels. I'd mostly gotten over it by the time I was 16, though. Then Stephanie Meyer's "Twilight" fell into my hands. "Twilight" tells the story of Bella



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

Lines stretch around all sides of the Edwards Cinema in Bakersfield for the "Twilight" movie premiere at midnight on Nov. 26.

Swan, a plain-Jane type who moves to Forks, Wash., from Phoenix to live with her father when her mother remarries. There, she meets the handsome, mysterious and oh-so-brooding Edward Cullen. She later learns that Edward and his family are "vegetarian" vampires (meaning they survive on animal blood instead of human blood). Forbidden romance ensues.

To be certain that I set myself apart from the other "Twihards," I will admit that while I enjoyed the book the first time I read it, the function-like writing somewhat put me off.



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

People run into the building as Larry Evans takes tickets at Edwards Cinema during the midnight showing of "Twilight."

and the books' long lengths did not particularly encourage me to read the sequels. But when I heard the first book was being made into a movie, I decided to read the book again, and that's when the obsession began.

I don't know what changed; I guess I set aside my "I should be reading more sophisticated works" attitude and just dove in because I quickly read the three sequels ("New Moon," "Eclipse" and "Breaking Dawn") back to back.

I fell in love with Edward Cullen just like almost every other "Twilight" fan and eagerly awaited Dec. 12, the day the book would be put to life. I imagine my shock and excitement when the release date was moved up to Nov. 21. Within the first week, the movie had been in theaters. I had seen it three times and was still not satisfied with that number.

One reason for the excessive viewing, and perhaps the most dominant, is Robert Pattinson, who plays Edward. Edward is an intense character, a wise hundred-something in the body of a 17-year-old. He's a tortured soul, torn between his love of being with Bella and his overprotective desire to keep her safe from him as her blood just so happens to be his personal favorite.

Hardwicke, who directed and co-wrote with Reed her breakout movie, "Thirteen."

Reed is quite possibly the worst casting choice I have ever seen in a movie adaptation of a book. Rosalie is supposed to be the most beautiful girl in the world, a natural beauty with movie star good looks. While Reed is an attractive woman, she is not right as Rosalie. She is not the natural beauty that Rosalie is supposed to be as evidenced by her very obviously dyed blond hair. She did a decent job in her acting, but it was impossible to get past how terribly wrong she was for this character.

The movie sometimes felt a bit rushed, but that's understandable given the length of the book. The scenes added and dropped in the movie make sense and go along with the essence of the book. What it lacks the most is the relationship Bella (and the readers) forms with the other Cullens. In the book, each Cullen is introduced in depth and they are all such interesting characters that it is a shame they were more minor characters in the movie. But the movie focuses on Bella and Edward's relationship, so again it is understandable why it was made the way that it was. Although I

Tom Jones album a comedic endeavor gone stale

By JOHNIE W. BURCH, IV
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Rip staff writer

I appreciate the music of Tom Jones, more for comedic relief than a serious musical endeavor, but nonetheless, I do appreciate his more well-known hits.

That being said, I think Tom Jones needs to stop making music or at least stop making new music. The new album titled

"24 Hours" is a "perfect" argument for my case. The new

release from the performer of "She's a Lady," "Black Betty" and "What's New, Pussycat?" is a big disappointment.

From the opening track named "I'm Alive," the listener is dragged along another typical journey through the stylings of Tom Jones. This is my main complaint. After a music career that has lasted several decades, I would like to see some evolution in this musician. I understand the concept of sticking with what you know people like, but a musician should move forward in his or her stylings and not remain at a standstill.

The only song that I truly liked off the 13-track album was titled "In Style and Rhythm," but, once again, this was for the comedic aspect of the music and not any serious analysis. I would not recommend the new Tom Jones album to anyone. It would simply be better and more worth your while to buy a greatest-hits collection and enjoy Tom Jones' previous songs.

Lam's Chinese does not please

After ordering meal and bad service, staffer would rather go to food chain Panda Express than Lam's.

By LEIA MINCH
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Rip staff writer

Lam's Chinese restaurant is the typical family owned Chinese restaurant. Paper lamps hung from the ceiling, and Chinese art hung on the walls.

After being seated in the small, simply decorated room, my drink order was taken. I noticed

that the place was pretty busy for only 30 minutes after opening.

After my food tea was brought out, the server took my order of pot stickers, Kung Pao chicken and chicken lo mein.

Almost immediately after my order was taken, I was brought egg



JOSEPH WHIPKEY / THE RIP

Lam's Chinese Restaurant on University Avenue offers patrons "delicious" egg flour soup, but not much else.

flour soup. Similar to egg drop soup, (which I am not fond of), this soup tasted delicious. It wasn't overdone with extreme amounts of egg and did not taste like I was drinking raw eggs as it normally does.

The potstickers I ordered were okay, but I prefer Panda Express's, which is something I never say. They were a little overcooked and burnt on the edges.

While waiting for my main course, I noticed that country music was playing on the speakers in the res-

taurant, which I thought odd for a Chinese restaurant and did not fit the aura of the room.

When my meal was brought to me, I was a little disappointed. The Kung Pao chicken, which is my favorite Chinese dish, was gross.

The chicken and vegetables were not spicy at all. The chicken itself was gummy and stringy and had to be chewed on quite a bit before it could be swallowed. The lo mein was okay. I prefer a thicker noodle and more sauce than how their recipe was made.

The moderately priced menu fits a college student's budget. However, in this situation, I feel that you get what you pay for.

The service was not very good, and I was never checked on once I received my food; the waiters came around only to get the bill and to take my plates.

I've eaten a lot of Chinese food in the past. However, I am disheartened to say that the only thing I was satisfied with was the soup, and that I would prefer a meal at Panda Express rather than at Lam's.

Project: Turkey Day lacks character work

The script for Project: Turkey Day okay; overall acting not believable. Actors show lack of commitment.

By ANDREW J. ANSOLABEHERE
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Rip staff writer

Late night shows at The Empty Space generally leave audiences laughing and sometimes feeling a little naughty. Those who saw the most recent late night show, "Project: Turkey Day," may not have left in such a good mood.

"Project: Turkey Day" was directed by Bakersfield College communication professor Helen Acosta. Acosta, along with Greg Goodsell, Lorenzo Dunning and husband Enrique Acosta, wrote a series of one acts centered around Thanksgiving. The scenes go in chronological order from the frantic early morning cooking all the way to shoppers waiting in line for the newest games. The scene "17 Thanksgivings Ago" was especially well written. Acosta had written the poem for her husband and had actor Jose Hernandez direct the scene.

While the writing for the show was fine, the performances weren't exactly stellar. It's hard to get into a scene when you can't hear many of the lines. Most of Act 1 seemed to drag along. Interaction between some side characters was good, but overall much of the acting was not believable.

Part of this has to be attributed to what seems to be a lack of commitment. Actor Julia Foreman looked as if she didn't even want to be on the stage at some points. Even though she seemed to know her lines, her character work seemed lacking. The use of the set did help the show. Many of the scenes made great use of all set pieces. However, there was a mired door that seemed to open any way you wanted it to.

There were two scenes that did impress me. "Thanksgiving in Rehab" by Lorenzo Dunning shows a group of addicts in rehabilitation celebrating Thanksgiving. Actors Jared Cantrell and Julianna Paz were quite believable and really got into their roles. The other scene that brought a smile to my face was "Black Friday" by Greg Goodsell. Watching people camping out at a Target or Wal-Mart is fun enough as it is. Enrique Acosta shined in this scene trying to skip the line altogether and get the newest game. He tries to pawn off a toy that talks to you but only once it gets to know you.

A solid script needs a solid cast to perform it. Sadly, that just didn't happen for this show. While Thanksgiving dinner left a great taste in my mouth, "Project: Turkey Day" did not.

THE PLUG



FACT: EXTINCTION IS FOREVER Humans could end their own existence

By JOEL A. PARAMO
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Editor in Chief

The speed discussion of global climate change is ongoing. It has been brought to the attention of many people, and steps are slowly being made to "go green." There are arguments against what some have described as a government hoax or a serious global concern. But despite whether the environmental changes occurring are reversible or not, they are undoubtedly happening.

Bakersfield College professor of geology and physical science Natalie Barszyn openly discusses the possible detour humankind is inflicting upon itself. Her studies in the geological realm have led her to many educational conclusions. The end of the world is not anywhere close, rather the extinction of the human race is a much more feasible conclusion and consequence.

As far as regards to global climate change, is it a serious problem that we should seriously be concerned about? And is there anything we can do to stop it? Natalie Barszyn: Yes, it is a serious problem but from the human perspective. We are a highly specialized species, and we will have a very hard time adapting to global changes that continue to happen at such a rapid rate. We already are incapable of accepting the way that nature operates, and blindly try to make barriers that will inevitably fail. For example, the New Orleans levees, Sacramento Delta levees, and Netherlands dikes are all already at or below sea level. Regardless of the causes of global warming, it is in fact warming, which means that sea ice will melt, produce more water vapor in the atmosphere, which is a powerful greenhouse gas, that will cause more warming, that will cause more ice to melt, that will continue to increase sea level, that will put more water vapor in the atmosphere.... you see the pattern, right? If we look at this "problem" from a strictly egocentric point of view, regardless of penguins, polar bears and the like, we are going to run out of space on land eventually, rapidly than we already are. Should we be concerned about it? How about yes and no for an answer? Humans are going to die out anyway. The less concerned we are about it, the sooner we'll die off and the more rapidly the Earth will be able to repair itself. If, however, we want future generations of humans to continue to thrive on this green Earth, we'd damn well better be concerned about it because it's not going to stay green under our current energy-land-sucking lifestyles. Can we really stop it? Again, yes and no. Yes, if everyone, today, immediately ceases to eat meat and to drive. Is that going to happen? No. Why would that help? A) The meat industry uses a tremendous amount of energy in production and because it is so costly, the incredible population extent that we farm them, are methane producers of another greenhouse gas, in fact, B) Driving, be it propane, diesel, gasoline or electric cars, consumes fossil fuels and outputs greenhouse gases. Electric? But they're zero-emission vehicles! But, where do we get that electricity? Here, despite the commercials seen on TV, most of electricity comes from coal-burning power plants. So can we really stop it? I don't think so. I am highly skeptical that the majority of first-world people would be willing to trade in their lifestyles of luxury and privilege for a few more centuries of time on planet Earth.

RR: Rapid growth, poor land-use strategies, uncontrolled tourism development, and regional and global demand for natural resources are altering the land and seascapes of North and Central America. Is it possible to put a time span on the amount of time we have to save the planet from occurring? NB: No. From a strictly scientific and statistical perspective, any prediction has to have a reliable and functional model first. We don't have that. We only have a sample size of one: One planet Earth, and from that sample size of one, we will only ever be able to make a wild guess on a time frame as we have absolutely nothing to compare it to.

RR: Has mankind in a way become the exterminator of our own species, and is this possibly the beginning of our extinction? NB: Yes. Good for us! The dinosaurs were around for 180 million years and did just fine from a biological perspective, even without Hummers and Xbox's. But us, we will absolutely be our own exterminators. I think that's just fine, perhaps that's the Earth's way of saving itself. Every population goes through peaks and valleys of growth, but we've been pretty damn good at extending our peaks. Inevitably, we will hit a valley and it's about time. Our species has fattened the land and energy resources available for our use.

RR: Does the rate in which we deplete our resources play a role in the amount of time we have? NB: Only if you consider us incapable of living without our resources! We have to keep in mind that "resources" does not only mean fossil fuels, but it also means metals, building materials, non-metallic minerals, water and land. Besides that, we are the only species that has ever burned fossil fuels. We are most certainly making a mess of our available landscape and our fresh water supply.

RR: In respect to the old saying, "If there's a will there's a way," is it possible for us to survive global climate change if we were able to adapt? Will need that they don't carry, I'll go to Lasseus if I can afford it." Burnett said. "Unfortunately, though, our local shops don't have everything I need or want. So, about once a month, I end up taking a trip to a Whole Foods store in L.A. It'd be really nice if we had one here."

Melanie Garza, 21, agrees that Bakersfield needs a Whole Foods store and likes it to Trader Joe's "but bigger and better." Garza is a vegetarian who also makes efforts to live as environmentally friendly as possible. "I don't consider myself 'green,'" she said. "I just try to be aware of what I eat and use."

For those in Bakersfield looking to be environmentally conscious beyond organic food and products, the new store Fresh & Green on Meany Avenue offers organic clothing, body care products and pet products, as well as many other products. Co-owners Sasha Winkler and Jennifer Jordan opened the store in June to create awareness and to see if anyone came. They were surprised at how many people showed up.

"There are only so much resources for our planet. We need to start paying attention," Winkler said. "One of our mottos is this: 'My kids need a place to live....'"

A problem with the few stores in town that do cater to organic needs is the price. Most organic food and products cost a lot more than their inorganic counterparts.

"I think it'd be really cool if there was a community resource center that had local happenings and shops that cater to this lifestyle," she said. "Because there are so many organizations that promote green living, but so few people know about it."

"I am highly skeptical that the majority of first world people would be willing to trade in their lifestyles of luxury and privilege for a few more centuries on planet Earth."

— Natalie Barszyn, Geology and physical science professor

we migrate like species during the ice age and continue to evolve? NB: Only if there is a will! We have shown pretty clearly absolutely no will to make a drastic change to our lifestyles that uses less energy (in the United States anyway). But if you want me, you'll find me in an off-grid yurt in the mountains. I've already got my migration mapped out. I'll be there, you'll be there. Or do you think there are enough people in the world willing to give up their lifestyles? NB: The importance of conservation is to not deplete our natural resources. We are actually capable of exploiting our natural resources, we can just look at the Republic of Namibia to see how easily that can happen. Are there enough people in the world who can conserve our resources? Yes. Are there enough who are willing? I doubt it. But if things keep going as they are, I imagine the biggest consumers will wipe themselves out, and the few remaining conscientious individuals will generate new "greener" human populations to fill in.

RR: Are greenhouse gas emissions from energy production and fossil fuels the main cause of climate change, or do deforestation and other factors contribute to the emissions? And for those who are already taking action, researchers aren't reporting that could equal the same kind of deriment? NB: Now this is a loaded question! I need to refer you back to the statistics problem that I mentioned previously. We cannot know the full effect of the output of greenhouse gases through the burning of fossil fuels; we have no complete model that is as complex and long-lived as our planet. The "main" cause of climate change is hotly debated from those who think that we are the sole contributors and those who think that the Milankovitch cycles and sunspots are the sole contributors. One thing that we do know is that climate has nothing to do with emissions and has nothing to do with climate change whatsoever, that lack of correlation has been shown throughout the entirety of the Earth history that we have in the rock and ice record. Deforestation does not contribute to emissions but does contribute to a decrease in greenhouse gas absorption, specifically CO2 and H2O vapor. More importantly, perhaps, is that deforestation contributes to increased solar energy absorption -- trees contribute to albedo -- the reflection of sun's energy. With more barren land to absorb the solar energy, the warming of the Earth. Additionally, as we begin to clean up our act and remove atmospheric pollution output, we are going to see another albedo-related issue arise. Atmospheric pollution is a bunch of little molecules of dust and particulate matter floating around in the air; this stuff actually reflects the sun's energy as well. It has been shown in parts of Europe and India that the amount of solar radiation reaching the Earth is significantly decreased by the amount of particulate matter in the air. So, what happens when this stuff is cleaned up as we get stricter and stricter regulations on atmospheric emissions? We will get more and more solar radiation reaching the increasingly paved landscape, and this will result in more warming of the Earth. Hokey, (That was said with sarcasm.)

RR: How would a three-degree Celsius rise in climate change affect the Earth and the inhabitants, and when was the last time we saw something similar to the global warming occurring today? NB: A three-degree Celsius rise would have the most detrimental effect simply by melting sea ice and raising sea level. With a dramatic rise in sea level we can say goodbye to coastal regions as we currently know them (there will still be coastal regions, but they will be a lot farther inland than they are at present). We can say goodbye to Louisiana, parts of Texas, Florida, and all sorts of other parts of the world that have low-lying regions. We can expect flooding of tributaries that paved landscape, and encroachment of sea water up estuaries and flooding rivers everywhere. We can expect major changes in local weather patterns as a result of the change in water pathways. We have never seen anything similar to this present-day occurrence. I would like to emphasize the word "seen" there. We most definitely have not seen anything like this, ever.

RR: Some people claim that climate change isn't a problem, and we are just really ants on the surface of the Earth. Do you feel that ants could really destroy the planet? NB: Tiny little ants on this Earth's surface are a good analogy for us. And to explain why, I would like to remind everyone of the song "High Hopes" in which an ant succeeds in moving a rubber tree plant, despite everyone knowing that an ant can't move a rubber tree plant.



Bakersfield next on new trend wave to 'go green'

Eco-friendly people struggle to find what they need to be "green."

By KELLY ARDIS
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Rip staff writer

Bakersfield is certainly not known for being a particularly eco-friendly place. There are not many places for environmentally conscious people to shop like there is in other cities. But that doesn't mean there aren't some Bakersfield residents who care about being "green."

Kathryn Burnett, 19, considers herself environmentally conscious. She does not eat

meat, and she uses eco-friendly products like dish soap. She also drives a "green car" that does not put out emissions. She mostly buys secondhand clothing and has a recycling bin at her house. She also eats mostly organic food and believes that it "tastes cleaner."

"We have very limited resources," she said. "I feel better. I feel like I'm making a conscious effort to maintain what we have." Unfortunately for Burnett and others like her, there are not many places to get what is needed to live "green."

"I try to shop locally as much as possible, so I do most of my shopping at Green Frog Market. If there's something that I

Recycling a part of BC

By BIANCA HERNANDEZ
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Features editor

Going green seems to be a fad that isn't going away soon, and the Bakersfield College SGA is trying to improve the environment and the campus by placing recycling bins at various locations on campus.

While the recycling bins are not here yet, when they do get here, they will be put to good use. According to SGA President Lyne Mugema, student government has ordered 10 bins. Half of the bins are for paper, and the other half for plastic. Mugema felt that since most college students have a lot of paper, bottles and class papers, these items would be the candidates for recycling.

When the bins do get here, they will be placed in different "heavy traffic" locations. Mugema said that the bins would not go in specific classrooms but in "public use locations" like outside of the Humanities and Language Arts buildings. Each location would have two bins, one for paper and one for plastic.

SGA has already worked out details with BC Maintenance Manager Keith Keevill. The bins will be emptied by maintenance into other recycling sites on campus and will become part of their daily routine.

Mugema feels the bins will be put to good use. "Students have said they would like to recycle if they had a place to do it," said Mugema.

"I know if I had an avenue I personally would recycle," said Mychal Phillips, 22. "I hope that the student body would share that desire with me."

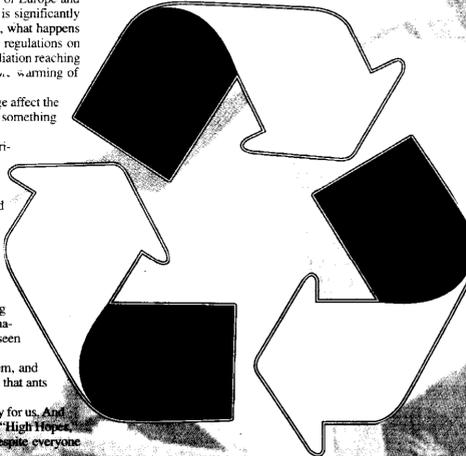
The SGA also tries to set an example by using only recycled stationary and having recycling bins in their office. "SGA makes it a point to carpool," said Mugema.

As for the future, Mugema said that next semester would have more improvements, too. One thing to look out for next semester is Spring Fling with more green influences.

About the rumor of solar panels, Mugema had this to say: "It's something the SGA would love to see done... but because of the budget, it's not something we expect to see happen soon." Mugema estimated the cost of solar panels to be \$36 million.

Mugema also mentioned that the Geology Club is doing green things around campus. "I think they're doing a fantastic job," said Mugema. She also said that members of the faculty have been doing a great job being green.

"I think the attitude of the campus is to go green," said Mugema.



BC BRAINS

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



Jessica Mil, marketing: "An important guy, I don't know."



James Anderson, biology: "I think he was a great astronomer in the 16th century and discovered Mercury."



Jonathan Prine, business communication: "A congressman, maybe a lawyer."



Daniel Peterson, digital arts: "Someone running for office."



Tom Helms, child development: "The janitor."



Daniel Andriano, undeclared: "A politician."

Who is Greg Chamberlain?

Compiled by Alejandro Montano / The Rip

CORRECT ANSWER: He is the president of Bakersfield College.

CAMPUS

BC against receiving unsolicited commercial e-mails

After using the Barracuda spam blocker, the Kern Community College District was still struck by more than 1.2 million spam messages.

By ELIZABETH MEEKS
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Rip staff writer

Anyone who has an e-mail address and accesses it regularly has probably been the victim of spam mail, and Bakersfield College isn't immune to the problem.

David Palinsky, BC Director of Information Technology, sent out an e-mail informing BC faculty about how much spam was being sent

to the Kern Community College District. Even with preventive measures being used, such as the Barracuda spam blocker, KCCD was still getting hit with more than 1.2 million spam messages a day.

Spam is described as unsolicited commercial e-mail or a flooding of the Internet with many copies of the same message in an attempt to force the message on people who would not otherwise choose to receive it. Students who have a BC e-mail address have usually been protected against receiving spam messages due to the technology department at the KCCD until recently.

The KCCD conducted a survey for Institutional Research, and, to make the survey easy to send out, a temporary listserv with all of the student e-mail addresses was devised. According to an e-mail sent by Systems Manager Todd Coston, the Information Tech-

nology department sent a test message to the list. Unfortunately, they accidentally sent an e-mail to the list after they had already populated the list with student e-mail addresses. The problem was compounded when several students replied back to the list thus generating more messages to all of the students on the list.

Some students were affected while others were not. Student Michaela Ruth, 19, was one of the students who received the test message and did not take much notice to the e-mail. "I received between five and seven messages and was mostly confused by it, but I was too busy to care," said Ruth.

BC student Jill Candia, who works in Records and Administration, also received the messages but did not open it. Candia also uses Yahoo as an e-mail address and found when she tried to reach her professors via Yahoo she did not get a response from her professor, which she normally does.

BC English professor Denise Mitchell experienced a brief period when BC was blacklisted and sent e-mails to students. Mitchell only receives maybe three to five spam messages a day on her BC account. "The filters BC has in place seem to be doing their job quite well," said Mitchell.

Due to the test message sent out, it was considered to be spam. Therefore, Yahoo, G-mail and Hotmail blacklisted BC e-mail users. Coston immediately began working to solve the blacklisting problem by working with the companies to get them off the blacklist.

Coston would like students to know it is not a good idea to reply to spam messages. Replying to a spam message only indicates to the spammer that you are actively monitoring your e-mail, which is gold to a spammer. The best choice is to ignore and delete spam messages completely.

In addition to Coston's message, Palinsky posted a letter to all students on BanWeb explaining how it is not the policy of the KCCD to spam students, or any other group, with unnecessary e-mail, and they sincerely apologize for the trouble it may have caused.

"I received between five and seven messages ...but I was too busy to care."

—Michaela Ruth, BC student

BC hosts International Week

By MARYANN KOPP
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Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College's Intercultural Student Association held its first ever International Week on campus the week of Nov. 17.

The days were each divided among different cultures. Monday was Africa, Tuesday was Asia, Wednesday was Latin America and Thursday was Yemen.

Each day featured cultural films, speakers, dancers, exhibits and free henna tattoos, all varying from day to day. Events took place in and around the BC Fireside Room.

The area was decorated with flags from all around the world and vendors selling cultural items like ponchos, bags and jewelry set up in front of the campus center. In front of the Fireside Room, there was a board that read, "Thank you, BC, for hosting international students" with a world map drawn on it.

Intercultural Student Association member John Dickerson stood in front of the board with several markers, encouraging people to stop and put names on the spot where their families originated. Dickerson said, "This is the first year BC is doing this, but it's actually a nationwide event."

Inside the Fireside Room, several "world artifacts" were on display from places like Iran, Ethiopia, Native America and Yemen. Free henna tattoos were given to students or anyone else who was interested in the Fireside Room as well. The artist present wore a backpack and did some of the work while standing. A fairly elaborate hand design took about 10 minutes to complete.

Ermet Habebo, the president for the Intercultural Student Association, said the event started with her and the adviser to the club, working together to allot the days to different cultures.

"We decided on a theme and wanted to hold the event to encourage students to study abroad," Habebo said. "We want to motivate students to learn more not only about culture here in Bakersfield but abroad as well."

The purpose of the Intercultural Students Association, according to Habebo, is to help international students feel more comfortable in their environment while attending BC. They also aim at creating a support system between local students and international students.

Due to the overall success of the event, the association plans on doing International Week again next year. They also have plans to improve upon some of their activities.

"The board where the students signed their origins has been very successful," said Habebo. "It has shown students that there are other people that come from the same place. Next year, we plan to make it so that people who sign the board are from the same area can contact each other if they're interested."

One thing that could improve next year's turnout, according to Habebo, would be the faculty to help inform the students of the activities "especially the speakers."



Photos by Cara Jackson / The Rip

Above right: Punjabi student Rimmi Dhillon, along with others, demonstrates the traditional folk dance of India on Nov. 27 for International Week. Right: An example of an Indian artform called Henna, which becomes a tattoo and lasts for weeks after it is applied and dried. Left: During the week club members shared artifacts from their countries, like this tapestry from Egypt.



Final exams are not a threat for students

Most Bakersfield College students have more than one final but are not intimidated by the exams' pressure. Since the semester has been a breeze, there is no concern.

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
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Copy editor

What, me worry? That's what Alfred E. Neuman usually says, and so do many Bakersfield College students about upcoming finals.

Megan Lillie, 20, psychology major, says she's not fretting over her finals.

"I've got French and world religions, but I'm not worried about it. I'm pretty confident I'll do fine. It's been a pretty easy semester," Lillie said.

"I got just one final. She (the professor) don't know what she gonna do yet. It's a health class. Naw, I'm not worried," said Mike Hannah, 24, carpentry major.

Even students with three or four finals aren't getting upset.

"I've got four finals, but I'm not really concerned. I'm good to go.

It's just my personality," said Austin Scales, 20, business major.

"I've got three finals, but I'll just study. Go over the book," said Jonathan Wilson, 20, biology.

Even with three finals, Tina Wolfe, 20, digital arts major, thinks her semester in sum was a breeze.

"I'm not taking as many classes as I usually do," she said. Mansol Castillo, 20, criminal justice major, admitted this semester has been fairly rigorous for her because she's taking 15 units, but she says she's doing well in all of her classes.

But the first part of her Communication 5 class was challenging for her, she said. The second half was much easier for her.

"She's not terribly worried about her grades. "It's all been very manageable," Castillo said.

Erivan Pelayo, 20, nursing major, admitted that he has lots of memorization to do for medical terminology, and he's concerned about his math class.

Beatrice Jackson, 18, nursing major, is studying hard for English 60 and especially for the FEE.

"I'm working on building my vocabulary and improving my word choice," Jackson said.

Final Exam Schedule

Final examinations of 110 minutes are scheduled for all courses. Final examination days are included in the 175 instructional days required by law. Final examinations are to be held in the regularly scheduled classrooms on the dates and times listed below in order to comply with college policy.

Table with columns for class meeting times and final exam dates/times. Includes sections for MW, MWE, MTWR, MTWR, M, W, or F and TR, T, or R.

Table with columns for class meeting times and final exam dates/times. Includes sections for TR, T, or R and Friday/Thursday classes.

* Friday, Dec. 12 from 8:30-9:00 or 10:11-11:15 will be reserved for one day per week classes that conflict with the above schedule.

** Saturday classes will have finals on Saturday Dec. 6.

SPORTS

Men second at own tourney

By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS
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Sports editor

The Bakersfield College men's basketball team finished in second place at the Renegade Classic.

The Renegades were defeated by the No. 2 team in the state, Fresno City College, 80-72 on Nov. 30.

The Renegades trailed 44-36 at halftime but didn't get much closer than that as Fresno started to pull away. The Rams' biggest lead of the night was 73-63 with 5:19 remaining.

"They (Fresno) got their first run, and we just could never crack them. It was a highly contested game. It was very competitive."

BC head coach Rich Hughes said. "We had chances to make plays, and we didn't do it."

Fresno head coach Ed Madede felt that the game was a battle between the two teams.

"It was a real hard-fought game for both teams. We were fortunate to come out on top. We're happy to come out of here with a 'W,'" Madede said.

In the loss to Fresno, Ricky Wofford had 18 points, and Jamar Harrison and Nick Young both added 13 points.

For Fresno, Sultan Toles-Bey, who was named tournament MVP, scored 16 points.

In other Thanksgiving Classic action, freshman Skyler Vaden scored 30 points as the Renegades defeated Allan Hancock 89-77.

"It's been coming. He's had two straight really good games. He's getting that confidence now. When that confidence is flowing, he just knows that he can play," said Hughes of Vaden's performance.

Hughes said the key to beating Hancock was the fact that the Renegades hit their free throw attempts in the second half.

"We executed down the stretch. It was good for us. It teaches us how to win games that are close," Hughes said.

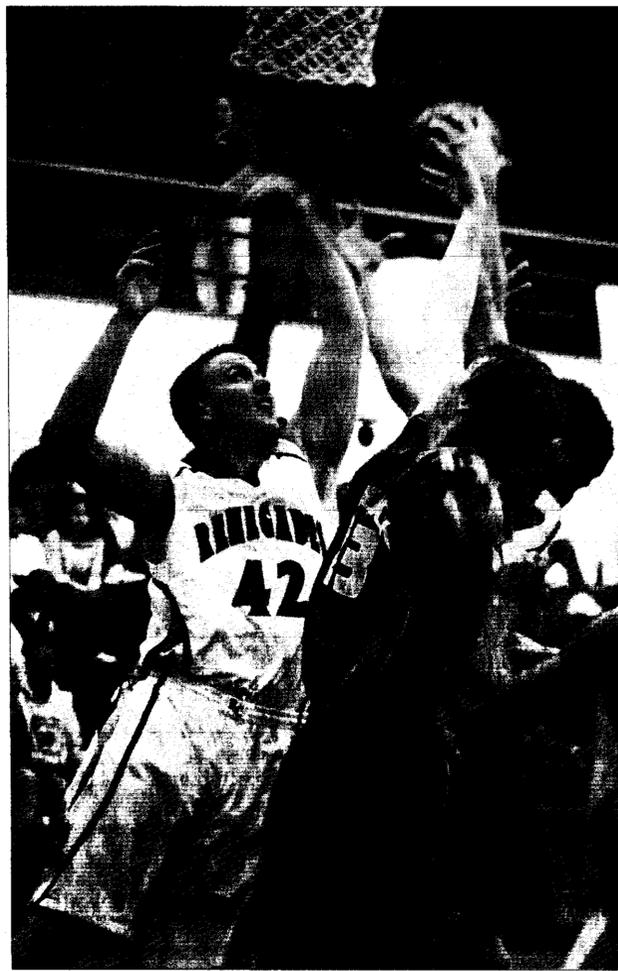
Also in the victory over Hancock, Harrison added 16 points, and Jerome Grayson added nine points.

On Nov. 28, Harrison led the Renegades with 16 points as the Renegades defeated Porterville College 88-70 in their opening game of the Renegade Classic.

The Renegades' biggest lead was 15-2 at home in the first half.

"We started off strong which is good for us because sometimes we tend to get off to slow starts. It was one of those games where they (Porterville) couldn't quite crack us," said Hughes.

Hughes says that the Renegade Classic was a success because the



CARA JACKSON / THE RIP

BC's Alex Olcott attempts to block the ball on Nov. 29 against Hancock. BC won 89-77.

Renegades made it to the championship game and because they gained experience against good teams.

The Renegades also participated in the Fresno City tournament on Nov. 21-23.

Ricky Copeland scored 26 points and hit six 3-pointers as the Renegades beat Los Angeles Trade Tech 102-89 in the tournament's opening game.

Also in the victory, Scott Draughon scored 18 points, and Harrison added 11 points.

Despite getting 28 points from Harrison and 20 points from Darrin Dorsey, the Renegades fell to Fresno 100-89 Nov. 22. For Fresno, Russell Gregory had 25 points, and Aaron Hill had 18 points.

In the final game of the Fresno tournament, the Renegades were defeated by Los Angeles City College 112-104.

In the loss to LA City, Wofford scored 21 points while Dorsey added 19 points in a losing effort.

"Our biggest problem was turnovers. We gave up over 300 points, so defensively we weren't very good," said Hughes about the Fresno City Tournament.

Not counting their Dec. 2 game against Barstow, the Renegades have a record of 7-3 overall.

The Renegades next game will be at Porterville on Dec. 9.

The Renegades will then head to the San Diego Mesa Tournament Dec. 12-13 and the COS Tournament Dec. 19-21.

The Renegades next home game will be Jan. 10 against College of the Canyons at 5 p.m.

Women's basketball

The Bakersfield College women's basketball team has started the season with a record of 3-2.

Freshman Ashlee Taira scored 24 points, and Julie Thomas scored 15 points, but the Renegades still lost to Porterville College 72-61 Nov. 25.

On Nov. 22, the Renegades took a 36-32 lead at halftime, but key mistakes in the second half led to a 77-66

defeat against College Of Sequoias. In the loss to COS Taira scored a season high 32 points while Kristin Alvidrez had 13 points. Nikki Lopez poured in 10 points. Lopez also hit a 3-pointer to end the first half.

Lopez scored 18 points and had eight rebounds as the Renegades lost their home opener 82-57 to Rio Hondo Nov. 21.

The Renegades trailed at 30-20 at halftime but again couldn't come back from that deficit.

Also in the loss to Rio Hondo, Thomas scored 14 points while Taira had 11 points.

The Renegades next game will be Dec. 13 at home against Santa Ana at 5:30 p.m.

The Renegades will participate in the Antelope Valley Tournament Dec. 18-20.

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Mireles leads BC at state competition

By VINCENT PEREZ
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Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College cross country runners Cesar Mireles, Emilly Leming and Lorin Maki finished with their personal best records at the California Community College Athletic Association cross country state championships in Fresno on Nov. 22.

Mireles finished 50th out of 199 men on the four-mile course with a time of 21 minutes, 24.91 seconds. Mireles was the only BC male to qualify for state this season.

The only BC women that qualified for the state championship individually were Leming and Maki. Leming finished 49th out of 191 women with a time of 19:38.15 on a 5-kilometer course (3.1 miles). Teammate Maki finished 89th with a time of 20:25.48.

San Bernardino Valley won its third straight men's state championship with a total time of 1:43:14 and a score of 50. Muliken Beressa of San Diego Mesa College took the men's individual title with a time of 19:56.46. However, SBVC had six runners in the top 25 of the men's 4-mile race, which led to their state championship.

Orange Coast College won the women's title with a total time of 1:33:13 and a score of 84. Crystal Reed of OCC took the individual women's title for the second consecutive year with a time of 17:35.11.

BC cross country coach Dave Frickel was pleased with the season. "I think we did well. It's going to help them in the spring in track," he said.

Frickel is also the coach for the men's and women's track and field teams in the spring. Frickel mentioned that the men's cross country team has half freshmen runners who will be returning, and that the women's team will need more runners next fall. "We have to shop for girls," said Frickel.

as she led Santa Barbara to the state team title with a 637.

Sacramento City College (652) finished second, and Palomar College (663) finished third.

BC golf coach Larry Cook said about the season, "We did well; we had two golfers go to state, and that says a lot about them." Cook added, "They've gained a lot of experience."

Cook said that if the golfers stay active in the off-season, then they would be successful. Cook also said about the next women's golf season and incoming freshmen, "We're still trying to develop a team."

The only returnees that will play next season for BC women's golf will be freshman James and freshman Krausse.

Top two BC golfers finish top 11 in state

By VINCENT PEREZ
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Rip staff writer

On Nov. 17-18, Bakersfield College golfer Ellen Krausse tied for seventh place at the California Community College Athletic Association Women's Golf State Championships in Ventura.

Krausse finished with a score of 160 over the two-day tournament. Krausse shot a 78 on the first day and an 82 on the second day on the par-72 Olivias Links Golf Course.

BC teammate Katherine James finished in 11th with a score of 163. James shot a 77 on the first day and an 86 on the second day.

Santa Barbara City College's No. 1 player, Asaka Sim, finished first individually. Sim had a score of 153

as she led Santa Barbara to the state team title with a 637.

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Immaturity humbling

By VINCENT PEREZ
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Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College wrestling team participated in the Cal State Fullerton Open tournament on Nov. 22.

BC's Alvaro Zermeno, 157 pounds, finished 4-2, and teammate Alex Alcalá, 184 pounds, finished 5-2 at the tournament.

The tournament consisted of junior colleges Cuesta College, Rio Hondo College, West Valley College and College of the Canyons. Division 1 schools Stanford, Arizona State, Cal State Bakersfield and host Fullerton also competed.

The tournament also had National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic schools Cal Baptist and Embury-Riddle participate.

BC wrestling coach Bill Kalivas said, "That tournament is a humbling experience for our wrestlers. It gives your athletes a barometer we need. Some of the guys had some tough matchups."

BC wrestling finished 4-4 on the season, and Kalivas expressed his dissatisfaction with the season. "We're disappointed. There was some immaturity in the season," said Kalivas. Kalivas added, "There were no serious injuries just skin infections."

Kalivas plans to take his top nine wrestlers from BC to the Southern California regional Dec. 6 at West Hills College. The top six wrestlers from each team at the regional qualify for the state championships Dec. 12-13 at Victor Valley College.

"We're thrilled with the way the girls played this season. As a program, I think we made a lot of progress from the last two years. I feel like we played an attractive style of soccer," said Dameron.

Dameron felt that the best moment of the season was a victory against LA Pierce.

"It (the game against Pierce) was a game that everyone was very prepared for and very interested in emotionally. It was probably one of the most intense games I've coached in a long time."

Dameron said that the team had success this season for several reasons.

"I think we owed our success to great sophomore leadership, strong team unity, solid and consistent defending players that want to learn and challenge themselves."

The Renegades finished their season by winning the Western State Conference with an overall record of 15-5-2 and 11-1-2 in the WSC.

Students have mixed reactions about printed schedules

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
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Copy editor

There will be no printed schedule for the spring semester, Bakersfield College students will have to use the online schedule. There are a few reasons for this, according to Sue Vaughn, Director of Enrollment Services. It saves thousands of dollars in printing costs to have just the online version, she said. Also, the information in the printed version often becomes obsolete before the end of the semester.

For example, a large part of the current printed schedule became inaccurate by November. Another reason for having only the online version is that it forces students who may not be computer literate to develop useful computer skills. There are people available in the admissions and records office to assist students who need help registering online, Vaughn said.

"The people I've trained have the patience to help," Vaughn said.

Some at BC prefer having the printed version. Sandra Bartlett, sociology major, says it is much easier for her to find her classes using the printed schedule, and that is because of her disabilities. Bartlett has polio on the left side of her body and arthritis in her back and legs. She finds it very hard to manipulate a computer, but she can manage somewhat using her right hand. She does not have a home computer and does not like having to ask for help at the Van Dyke Bird Library computer commons.

Tammy Veley, 41, nursing major, doesn't like the switch to just online, either. "I don't like this," she said. "I don't have access to a computer, and I'm not computer literate. It's harder for students like myself," Veley said.

Students are not the only people who are disgruntled. "I have three to four programs on my computer all the time, and to add Banner to that is cumbersome, especially with 20 students around my

desk," said Midge Ladd, Tutorial Coordinator at BC's Tutoring Center.

"It's just easier to show students the printed version while I'm looking at something on my computer," Ladd said. "It's easier for me not to close out any programs."

Some BC students don't have a problem with having just the online schedule.

Lee Hogg, 41, history major, says the online version works for him, and if BC saves money, then that's fine with him.

Others agree that having just the online version poses few problems.

"I didn't know we weren't going to have anymore printed schedules," said Vanessa Swain, 20, nursing major.

"But that's fine. The only way I get my schedule is online, anyway. But this is bad for people without a home computer, though," Swain said.

"I never use the printed schedule," said Steven Alonso, 26, criminal justice major.

"I just look at the computer."

New Insight Metaphysical Gift Shop - Holiday Open House - December 11th, 5-8p.m. Inspire your loved ones with our unique collection of Jewelry, Candles, Oils, Incense, Herbs, Crystals, Soaps & More. Iridology, Hypnotherapy, Intuitive, Tarot, Mini Reading. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call (661) 637-1037. *Gift Certificates Available*

BC teams exit early from the playoffs By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS tgombos@bakersfieldcollege.edu Sports editor The Bakersfield College volleyball team ended their season by being defeated in the state playoffs. The Renegades were defeated by defending champion El Camino College 25-18, 25-22, 25-21 on Nov. 25. "We played very very well. We were probably equal in hitting if not outlasting them (El Camino). Serving and passing is where we maybe lost the match. We served and passed well, but we had a few breakdowns that caused separation on the scoreboard," head coach Carl Ferreira said. "When you are playing against the defending champions on the your efficiency has to be extremely clean." Ferreira feels that the Renegades had a successful but feels disappointed that the Renegades couldn't continue on in the playoffs. "I thought we had a great season. From a performance standpoint this was the most efficient team I've had since I've been here," said Ferreira. "I only have one disappointment and that is that we didn't play as well as we were playing extremely well in the month of November." Ferreira said now his focus will be on recruiting for next season. "Recruiting for us is all local. We need to recruit the setting position. We need to recruit the outside hitting position. I am looking for players who have great character that want to do the things we're asking them to do at a high level," said Ferreira. Ferreira said that he definitely has some players that he wants to recruit, but whether he recruits those players or not depends on what