

SPORTS

Playing to honor a lost relative

■ BC catcher Katie Sawyer hits a home run in a game dedicated to her grandmother's memory.

By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS
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Sports editor

For sophomore catcher Katie Sawyer, this season is going to be about overcoming a family tragedy.

Sawyer, 20, who attended Highland High School, found out that her grandmother, Pearl Smith, had passed away Feb. 12 just days before the Bakersfield College softball team took on Santa Barbara on Feb. 14, a game that was dedicated to the memory of Smith.

"In the first inning, I hit a home run. It kind of felt good. That game was dedicated to her. I felt I honored that by hitting a home run," Sawyer said.

Sawyer shared one of her many memories of her grandmother. "She would always come to our softball games. She would always wear a letterman's jacket that she had. I could always hear her voice out of everyone. She had a very distinct voice. It was good to have her come support us all the time," said Sawyer.

Sawyer feels that her biggest strengths are that she has pretty good leadership, and that she keeps her cool when the team is down and losing.

Sawyer added, "I am pretty vocal, and I like to lead by example." Sawyer detailed her main weak-

"She's a great hitter, and she has a good strong arm. She is solid defensively behind the dish."

—Sandi Taylor,
softball coach

ness: "When I make an error I stay down on myself. Or if I strike out, I get pissed off. I am learning to let it go a little easier."

Sawyer said that the position of catcher comes with certain responsibilities.

"I have to be very vocal and relay signals from my coach to the other players, especially the pitcher, pitching signals and just different defenses

that we have."

Head coach Sandi Taylor said, "She (Sawyer) is our sophomore catcher. She's a great hitter, and she has a good strong arm. She is solid defensively behind the dish. Just a good, hard-working, 'give-it-all-you've-got' kind of kid."

Taylor added that the coaching staff is trying to get Sawyer more involved as a team leader. "We are pushing her toward more leadership on the field and to take more control."

On Feb. 28 the Renegades defeated Cuesta College 4-0, Sawyer had two hits, including a two-run double in the bottom of a four-run third inning.

The Renegades at press time were 9-8 overall and 3-3 in the Western State Conference. Their next game is March 6 at BC against Santa Monica.



ALLY ARMSTRONG / THE RIP

Bakersfield College softball catcher Katie Sawyer is still playing hard after the death of her grandmother Feb. 12.



Three is a crowd
BC's play "Ondine" uses set design and costumes to communicate love.

Features, Page 5



On the road again
Spring break travel hot spots and how to get there explored in The Plug.

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THE RENEGADE RIP

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Bakersfield College

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Accreditation committee wants change

By KATHERINE J. WHITE
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Copy editor

Bakersfield College has only two years to correct its shortcomings, or it will lose its accreditation.

William Andrews, president of BC, recently informed faculty that he

had been sent a letter from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges stating that BC must address 14 recommendations or perceived shortcomings by January 2010.

In the letter Andrews sent to BC faculty, he quoted the Commission, which stated, "I... wish to inform

you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation."

In an interview, Andrews noted that the words "recommendations"

and "deficiencies" are interchangeable. However, he did not have an explanation for the particular period of time given to amend BC's deficiencies; previously, the Commission was going to allow BC six years to address its shortcomings. This, however, was before the findings of the 2006 evaluation team were documented.

Andrews remains optimistic. "It will take a concerted effort by many of us to achieve this result (of correcting the deficiencies), but I have no doubt it can be accomplished," Andrews wrote to the faculty.

As to the change in time allotted to amend BC's deficiencies, BC math

professor Rachel Vickrey, who has been active in committees formed to address the recommendations, said that "The Commission is very concerned about accountability," and that "This is the nature of the accreditation process; new recommendations, new time limits will be added.

See ACCREDITATION, Page 2



CARA JACKSON / THE RIP

BC nutrition professor Leah Carter discusses the effects of fast food and how exercise is essential for a healthy body.

Panel speaks on 'Fast Food Nation'

■ Bakersfield College faculty gathered to talk about the impacts of the fast food industry, the latest recalls and the importance of health.

By EARL PARSONS
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Features editor

The Feb. 20 panel discussion on Eric Schlosser's "Fast Food Nation" at the Grace Van Dyke Byrd Library focused on the cultural, agricultural and nutritional impacts of the fast-food industry, all while tying the discussion in with the recent recall of 143 million pounds of beef, the largest in U.S. history.

The panel consisted of Bakersfield College English professor Scott Wayland, BC animal science professors Billy Barnes and Gay Gardella,

and BC nutrition professor Leah Carter and nutritionist Jodi Friedlander. The speakers were introduced by BC librarian Nancy Guidry, who is on the steering committee for the "One Book, One Bakersfield... One Kern" program. The committee chose "Fast Food Nation," which is about the impact the fast-food industry has on society, as this year's featured book.

Wayland described the fast-food industry as "barbaric and decadent," a "pervasive" element of American culture that "allows you to be detached from the eating experience to maximize profits."

According to Wayland, "We have a sacred relationship with what we eat." People take pride in the meals that they make for themselves and for their families, and when people don't have to cook their own food and can have that food taste exactly the same every time, they buy it. This "works against human interactions" and promotes a "monoculture" of taste, Wayland said.

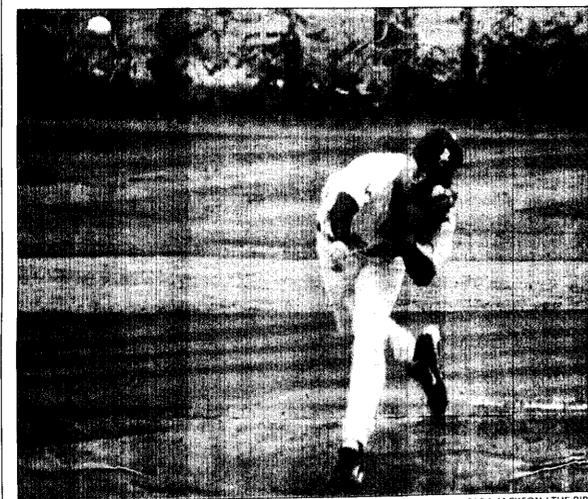
"We have a sacred relationship with what we eat."

—Scott Wayland,
English professor

Wayland said that while people believe that they have the freedom to choose whether or not to eat fast food, "cradle to the grave" marketing takes away that freedom. According to Wayland, children watch an average of 30,000 commercials every year, and many of those commercials promote fast-food companies that "drive the consumerist machine."

Toward the end of his presentation, Wayland described a counterculture that has emerged called the "slow food" movement. The "slow food" movement is self-described as a "progressive" movement that seeks to promote authentic, See PANEL, Page 2

Baseball team wins five in a row



CARA JACKSON / THE RIP

Bakersfield College pitcher Greg Sanders pitches six innings and records the win in a 6-2 victory over Citrus on Feb. 23. BC has won five straight games and is 5-0 in the Western State Conference and 13-4 overall, including a 21-10 win over Glendale.

BC upsets team in playoffs

By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS
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Sports editor

After upsetting No. 5 seeded Mount San Jacinto in their opening playoff game, the Bakersfield College men's basketball team will face a familiar foe.

The Renegades will face fourth seeded Ventura College at Ventura on March 7.

The Renegades lost to Ventura in

the Ventura tournament 129-126 to start the season but beat them 85-75 in January at home.

Head coach Rich Hughes said his team has a plan going into their upcoming matchup with Ventura.

"We have to really perfect our press, make sure that we are putting a lot of pressure on them," Hughes said. "They only play six players, so we are going to try and wear them out and keep that tempo offensively and defensively."

In the Feb. 29 upset of San Jacinto, freshman Bobby Fisher had 13 points to lead the Renegades to an 81-73 win, while Darrin Dorsey and Daniel Williams each added 12 points. Alex Olcott had 10 points.

Hughes said the upset win against San Jacinto was a huge confidence booster for his team. "Anytime you get into the playoffs and you're able to upset a higher seed and do it on the road, that's a big win. So the guys were excited," he said.

Tennis-playing twins share a bond on and off the court

By TYRONE C. BARNER
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Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College women's tennis team is serving up more than singles and doubles. The team has started the season with a record of 4-0. If you take the time to watch them play, you may end up doing a double take when you see Sarena Dickerson and her twin sister, Shabrena, take the court.

Sarena and Shabrena are 19-year-old freshmen at BC who attended Golden Valley High School. The first time that they picked up a tennis racket was at a National Youth Sports summer program at California State College, they said in unison.

At the time, they did not know that they would be playing serious tennis until their freshman year at Golden Valley when they both took a serious interest in the game.

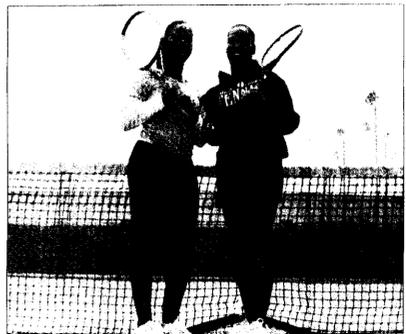
At Golden Valley, the coaches noticed that they had talent and potential and advised them to get a private coach. That was the one time that they thought that they would have to give up because they could not afford a private coach.

So, Sarena said, "I prayed about it, and our prayers were answered in the form of Robben Gillem."

The twins met Gillem at the Martin Luther King summer league in 2005. Gillem offered to coach them free of charge.

Just about everything they do, they usually do it together. Once they decide to do something, they go at it. BC women's tennis coach Gene Lundquist saw them in a local tournament and approached them about coming to BC.

Sarena said that she traveled about going to BC, and her prayers led her to decide that BC was the place for her and her sister Shabrena.



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

Twins Sarena and Shabrena Dickerson practice at BC on Feb. 25. Both of them attended Golden Valley High School.

They both agreed that their parents were happy with their decision because it would keep them closer to home.

Shabrena, who started the season playing No. 1 singles but has now been switched to No. 2, has a record of 2-2. Sarena has a record of 3-1 and plays No. 4 singles.

Shabrena and Sarena started out the season playing together in doubles competition at No. 1 and have a record of 1-1.

Since then, they both changed doubles partners. Shabrena is playing with Katie O'Leary and has a record of 1-1. Sarena is playing with Jennifer Kelly and is also 1-1.

According to Lundquist, O'Leary is the No. 1 singles player. When asked about the team overall, Lundquist was enthusiastic, saying that he knows that his team is going to have a good year. He said

the team has been improving with regularity.

"We have a very fine group of young women," said Lundquist.

BC has seven women on the tennis roster with Megan Campbell playing at No. 3 singles with Pamela Johnson, Lauren McAtee and Kelly rounding out the roster.

In men's tennis, coach Regina Cabi Krueger said the team is ready to play. With a roster of 10 players, Krueger is optimistic about this season and is hoping that everything goes smoothly.

This is Krueger's first year coaching the men's team, and she is really looking forward to it.

Neil Wetterhime is the men's No. 1 player and Chuck Proencio looks good at No. 2, according to Krueger. Krueger expects the best from those players and the rest of the team.

Golf team finishes third

By JOEL R. PARAMO
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Editor in chief

The Bakersfield College men's golf team played through difficult conditions March 3, placing third overall at their fourth Western State Conference meet at Oakmont Country Club hosted by Glendale Community College.

The team posted a 394, four shots behind Santa Barbara, which posted a 391 for first. College of the Canyons took second, posting a team

score of 391. BC sophomore Bryce Holloway led the team once again after shooting 69 Feb. 25, to tie for first. He placed in the top ranks again, this time tying for second, shooting a 75.

"Bryce is the most accomplished golfer of the conference," said coach Larry Cook. "He's one of the most decorated players. He takes second place as an individual player."

Teammate freshman Kirk Harper trounced class behind Holloway and shot a 77 for eighth. Sophomores Tony Danesha and Danny Hoff both

shot an 80. Cook is still optimistic for the rest of the season, sure that his team can win the next four WSC meets.

"We have a team that's capable of winning them all," said Cook. "Faking third didn't hurt us much, we're ranked number two in the state. We've got three first places and a second. We can still take the conference."

Currently BC is tied for second in the WSC with College of the Canyons. Their next WSC meet will be in Moorpark on March 10.



Headed to the hall

Former NFL player Brock Marion, left, chats with former Bakersfield College coach Dallas Grider, right, after both were inducted to the Bob Elias Kern County Sports Hall of Fame on Feb. 21.

ERIK AGUILAR/SPECIAL TO THE RIP

Cuban professors discuss life and the changing times of Cuba

By GABINO VEGA ROSARIO
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Rip staff writer

A hope for change is wished upon Cuba's current state by two natives from Cuba: Bakersfield College professors Maritza Salgueiro-Carlisle and René Trujillo.

Spanish professor Salgueiro-Carlisle and philosophy professor Trujillo both had different memories of what it was like growing up in Cuba.

In 1959 the dictator of Cuba, Fidel Castro, gained power through the Cuban Revolution. Recently Castro resigned supremacy and handed office to his brother Raul Castro. "How can they pass the power to a blood brother?" said Salgueiro-Carlisle. "They are treating that power like it's no big deal."

"It's a slow approach," said Trujillo. "With Raul in power there might be some change because of Raul's connection with the people."

Both professors have the same idea of change. The change could be slow, but there's hope.

"There's an old Spanish saying," said Trujillo. "It's better to live with the devil you know than the devil you don't know."

"Here in America, there are always positive

views of 'change,'" said Trujillo, "but every Cuban will question if it will change for the better or the worst."

Cubans had different views of the way Castro ruled Cuba in forms of the currency system, public transportation, economic change and the educational program.

"What I remembered the most about Cuba was the desire to learn," said Salgueiro-Carlisle. She said the educational system was provided for all ages and any kind of ethnicity. "The literacy level dropped," said Carlisle.

"What I remembered the most about Cuba was fear," said Trujillo. "If my family and relatives were going to be OK, because it was prohibited to speak about the government."

Salgueiro-Carlisle described the land structure in Cuba and how they were being watched by federal agents.

"Each block had a committee, which watched each house," said Salgueiro-Carlisle. "They were watching and making sure we were not against the revolution."

Growing up, Trujillo had a father who spoke against the government and the previous government. "Because of the government, my father was forced to leave the country and cause my family to be separated."

Salgueiro-Carlisle had a similar situation

regarding separation of the family structure. "Some sort of military figure was chasing my brother," she said. "That terrible system forced us to hide my brother, but there was no reason to chase my brother."

According to Salgueiro-Carlisle, all schools wore uniforms and all were forced to wave the Cuban flag when Castro spoke. "It was a huge robotic society. It was frustrating to live like that," she said angrily.

Trujillo mentioned that Cuba lost its ideal for the people a long time ago. "The 1959 Cuba does not exist for those who left and are hoping to go back, and the dream does not exist anymore."

Both professors left their homeland at an early age, Carlisle at 11 and Trujillo at 10. "We left in a small raft to Mexico and were able to locate my father there," said Trujillo. "Under John F. Kennedy, the Cuban Refugee Act helped us get to the United States."

Salgueiro-Carlisle described her arrival to the United States. "My uncle was able to claim us, and we were able to travel to Miami. From there we traveled to Puerto Rico."

Sometimes, people return to their homeland to visit. "I would absolutely go back to visit," said Trujillo. "I still have relatives over there, and I still have some emotional attachments



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

Maritza Salgueiro-Carlisle, a Cuban Spanish instructor at Bakersfield College, teaches her Spanish class on Feb. 28.

for my homeland."

Salgueiro-Carlisle had a different opinion: "I would not visit Cuba until every-

thing is fixed. It's like an abused kid. Once you hit age 18, the teenager would get out of there, and say 'I'm free.'"

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FEATURES

Hockey marathon earns charity cash

By GABINO VEGA-ROSARIO
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Rip staff writer

The 41-hour Hockey-Thon was held Feb. 22-24 at the Ice Sports Center to benefit the Links for Life organization. The annual event began in 2005.

"Kevin Barrett lost his mother to breast cancer," said Nabele Hoku Kaneakalau, the rink assistant in the Ice Sports Center. In 2005, former Condors player Kevin Barrett came up with a 27-hour event to fundraise for the Links for Life organization.

The Hockey-Thon consists of hockey games played consecutively. This event began at 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 22, with Kevin Barrett dropping the puck for the first game. The event had more than 20 combined games.

A game that attracted a lot of attention was the alumni game played at Rabobank Arena. "I'm going to play in the alumni game," said Paul Willett, hockey manager from the Ice Sports Center. "This is going to be a lot of fun, because we haven't had a 41-hour event. Most of the time, they go for one whole night."

The alumni game had former players from the Bakersfield Condors

and the Fresno Falcons, including Scott Hay, Al Murphy, Quinn Fair, Mark Paderson, Jeff Ferguson, Kory Mullin and Jay Johnson.

Former members from the Condors and Ice Sports Center employees took the ice on Feb. 23 at 11:15 p.m. The game had a lot of cheering and boos throughout with the former Condors winning the game.

"Since it was so successful in 2005, we did it again that same year to raise more money," mentioned Kaneakalau. "I believed we have raised more than \$100,000, and with this Hockey-Thon under way, we are not sure how much to expect."

All players participating in the event got free Condor tickets.

Trailers filled the parking lot of the Ice Sports Center, with entertainment and food for those who were involved with the event.

Links for Life provides awareness, testing, and benefits to women across Kern County. This organization also provides scholarships, a resource center, a needle biopsy program and free mammograms for women. They also provide a boutique which provides women with wigs, hats and scarves.

Lift your voices



PHOTOS BY ALLY ARMSTRONG / THE RIP



Above: Bakersfield College's choir performs at the First Congressional Church on Feb. 22.
Left: BC choir members Katie Johnson and Laura Anderson warm up their voices before the performance.

BC's Spring Fling has a Brazilian theme

By TYRONE C. BARNER
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Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College students get a lot to look forward to this March for Spring Fling. The theme of the fling is Carnival, Brazilian, and the Student Government Association hopes for huge student participation.

Ruth Kresha, who has been in charge of campus activities as the activities liaison since August 2007, said that the cost of this year's festivities rounded out to about \$22,000. Kresha said that most of the funds come from the student discounts cards, and that SGA encourages students to purchase these cards not only

for the many benefits students get but also because the card purchases help fund the many activities of the SGA.

This year's entertainment consists of Brazilian Samba Dancers on March 10, the first day of Fling activities. There will be free food throughout the week, and there will be a variety of entertainment and food until March 13.

Kresha said the idea for the Brazilian theme rose from Kresha's desire to go to Brazil this past summer. Since she didn't have the time to squeeze in the trip, she thought that it would be great to bring that party atmosphere to the campus. Along with free food, there will also be free T-shirts given out, Kresha said.

Jazz bands scat at CSUB

By OMAR RAMIREZ
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Rip staff writer

Various jazz groups came together under the Dome Theater on March 1 to play at the Cal State Bakersfield Jazz College House.

This jazz college house was the second event held by the music department at CSUB.

Throughout the evening, groups of musicians and vocalists performed various pieces they have been working on throughout the quarter at CSUB.

In charge of the performance was Jim Scully, a fifth-year lecturer at CSUB for the music department.

He attended CSUB, where he received his bachelor's in Fine Arts and continued to UC Irvine, where he received an MFA in music, with an emphasis on jazz composition.

Scully, who currently teaches music theory, jazz studies and music technology, also took the stage with some of his students.

Scully knows that every student has unique needs.

Overall, he says that he wants to develop well-rounded professional musicians.

Another group that performed that night was the CSUB Jazz Singers, led by Peggy Sears. Sears has been with the Jazz Singers for about four years. Unlike the other performers, these students make music with

their voices.

One of the many vocal styles these students performed was scat, which is known as a way to improvise nonsense syllables with an instrumental accompaniment.

"That was awesome, the way she was singing, and I feel it isn't easy either," said Dorothy Lugo, 23, who attended the performance.

The night concluded with performances from individual students presenting pieces they themselves had composed. Some of the students that performed were Greg Kahar and Eddie Ziegler.

Doug Davis, chairman of the music department at CSUB, also lent a hand for that night's event.

Davis attended the University of Tennessee as well as Harvard University.

Davis seemed very pleased with the students at CSUB and refers to them as "a gifted, lively group."

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CALENDAR

- March 5**
"The Business of Being Born," documentary film, BC Fine Arts 30, call 395-4692 for information.
- March 6**
BC baseball at LA Pierce, 2 p.m.
BC softball vs. Santa Monica, Bakersfield College, 2:30 p.m.
BC men's tennis vs. Fresno City, Bakersfield College, 2 p.m.
BC women's tennis vs. Cuesta, Bakersfield College, 2 p.m.
- March 7-9**
2008 Bakersfield March Meet, Famoso Raceway, 7 a.m.
- March 7**
Bakersfield Jam vs. Anaheim Arsenal, Rabobank Arena, 7 p.m.
- March 8**
BC baseball vs. LA Pierce, Bakersfield College, 6 p.m.
Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra, Rabobank Theater, 8 p.m.
Antique Show and Sale, 5917 Knudsen Drive, 10 a.m.
- March 9**
Bakersfield Jam vs. Iowa Energy, Rabobank Arena, 2 p.m.
- March 10-14**
Cheer Team Tryouts, call Becki at 395-4619
- March 10**
BC men's golf at Moorpark, 10 a.m.
- March 11**
BC track and field, So Cal Finals, Bakersfield College, 9 a.m.
- March 11**
BC baseball at West LA, 2 p.m.
- March 16**
BC softball vs. Citrus, Bakersfield College, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.
BC men's tennis vs. Ventura, Bakersfield College, 2 p.m.
- March 17-21**
Spring Break, no school
- March 17**
BC baseball at Golden West, 2 p.m.
BC men's golf at Ventura, 10 a.m.
- March 18**
BC softball at LA Mission, 1 and 3 p.m.
- March 19-21**
BC baseball at Visalia, TBA
- March 20**
BC softball at Canyons, 2:30 p.m.
BC men's tennis at LA Pierce, 2 p.m.
- March 25**
BC women's tennis vs. Santa Monica, Bakersfield College, 2 p.m.
- March 26**
BC men's golf at Santa Maria, 10 a.m.
- March 14-15**
Planetarium Show, BC's Math and Science Building, Room 112, 7 p.m.
- March 15-17**
19th Annual Lake Isabella Fishing Derby, 6732 Lake Isabella Boulevard, 6 a.m.
- March 15**
BC softball at Canyons, 1 p.m.
BC softball at Cerritos, 2 and 4 p.m.
- March 16-17**
Keyesville Classic Mountain Bike Race, Lake Isabella, 6 a.m.

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OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

Release a wrong solution

Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed prisoner release has angered Bakersfield city officials, and, indeed, the move gives rise to concern for our community. Much has already been said by the Board of Supervisors and by our District Attorney against the Governor's plan to the extent that Kern County supervisor Michael Rubio even suggested busing the some 1,280 released prisoners from Kern County off to Beverly Hills.

We recognize the impact that this plan may have socially, and we recognize that the crime rate may rise. However, more importantly, it is likely that the county and taxpayers will end up footing the bill when the prisoners become repeat offenders, if they aren't already. How much money will really be saved if even 50 percent of the 22,000 California prisoners are released and then arrested again? They will still be housed in county and city jails. They will have new trials, with new juries, same judges and prosecutors, all so they end up right back where they are now and costing the state the same amount per head. However, we have to pay for the process.

This is not a new plan. Former Maryland Gov. Michael Dukakis took heavy criticism when he endorsed a prisoner furlough program that resulted in convicted murderer William Horton being released, who then raped a woman and assaulted her husband. This fact did irreparable harm to Dukakis when he ran for president against George Bush, Sr. in the 1988 presidential election.

Although Schwarzenegger's plan doesn't include the release of criminals charged with violent crimes, we can't help but be apprehensive.

One issue is rehabilitation. If prisoners are just suddenly let loose, it is very likely they will revert back to their old ways. For some prisoners, the only way of life that they know of is the criminal life. For other criminals who may want to change, they won't have much of an opportunity if assistance isn't available. Everyone has the ability to change; anyone who wants to change just needs the incentive.

Another issue, as Kern County District Attorney Ed Jagels has pointed out, is that this action is paramount to the "de-criminalization of most property and narcotics crimes," an aspect that is not wholly unappealing but could have an adverse impact on our community as well.

Overall, the plan appears to be an aggressive approach in closing the gap in the state deficit with very little chance of success, unless you define success by saving the state money and giving counties and cities the shaft.

In the governor's defense, no matter what they do, they are damned. They will have to either raise taxes or cut spending somewhere in order to reduce the California deficit. In other words, there is no right answer, but we believe that this is definitely the wrong one.

Anti-war protesters doing their duty

By KYLE BEALL
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Opinion editor

The recent protests in Berkeley against the Marine Corps recruiting station there, led by Code Pink, has spurred a lot of debate between anti-war sentimentalists and seemingly everyone else.

The Berkeley City Council was drawn into the hostilities when they approved a measure to urge the military recruiting office to leave Berkeley. A group of Republican lawmakers in Washington responded by introducing a bill called the Semper Fi Act of 2008, which would rescind \$2 million in taxes for Berkeley.

I remember when the anti-war protests started here in Bakersfield on the corner of Stockdale High-

way and New Stine. I remember how people literally spat at them as they drove by and how other young protesters soon took to the other corner holding signs ridiculing the anti-war protesters and calling them "un-American." I've even seen an outburst from one of our own SGA representatives against a fellow student regarding the war in Iraq, which is available on YouTube.

How can free speech and the protesting of a war, and now occupation of a country, that was started on false pretenses be un-American? Freedom of speech is the First Amendment of our Constitution. It is not only our right as American citizens to criticize our leaders, but it is our responsibility.

Even the spokeswoman for the Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Gummy Sgt. Pauline Frank-

lin, said, "The Marine Corps is here to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, which does guarantee the freedom of speech. In terms of the situation in Berkeley, the city council and the protesters are exercising their right to do so."

Where in our Constitution does it say, "We, the people, must be blind to the actions and decisions of our leaders?"

Many of the ex-military personnel whom I have spoken with either don't agree with the war or really didn't care. The soldiers can't protest, though, because it is their job. They go and do what they are told and risk their lives because someone in Washington tells them to. It is our responsibility to speak up for them.

Rather than discussing the issues at hand and actually taking a stance to do something about the war in

Iraq, which is what the protests are about, our political officials are trying to extort the city of Berkeley.

Every day more and more people are becoming aware of just how far things have really gone. Our civil liberties are slowly being dissolved and our leaders spread fear, so that an unwilling citizen won't realize what is really happening. Forms of torture have been reduced from "cruel and unusual punishment" to acceptable means of procuring information. They even gave it a catchy name. The federal government is monitoring phone calls in the United States and from every country in the world due to the fact that all the calls are routed through the United States, thereby leading them to believe they have the authority to violate their privacy. We may have relinquished such rights by allowing the Patriot

Act but when did they? Justice may be blind, but our founding fathers were not. They recognized that power corrupts and did their best to write a Constitution that would protect "We, the people" from the government. It is our government and our military. The people waving their American flags and spitting on the anti-war protesters have severely missed one major important fact: Those protesters do support the troops! They care enough to spend their time, their money, and risk persecution so that one day someone will finally make the decision to bring our troops back home.

I not only respect the anti-war protesters, I admire them. At least they have the conviction to stand up for what they believe is right. I only wish that we had more people like that in political office.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Feb. 21 opinion lacked causation

I am sending this letter to both the writer of the article I am responding to, as well as to the school paper itself, because I feel the entire paper staff needs to be aware of what is going on in the Rip since it appears to me that there is little proofreading, if any. I hate to single out one writer, because I feel this way about almost every article I read in the Rip, but this is the one that put me over the edge. To the paper, I want to say that you really should hold your writers to a higher standard of writing quality and journalistic integrity.

In there, Elizabeth, I just read your article in the Rip titled, "TV Rots Young Minds" and I thought I should let you know I am thoroughly disgusted. I am always annoyed by the quality of writing (or lack thereof) in our school paper, and your piece definitely followed suit there. However, you take terrible journalism to a new level with your generalizations, assumptions, and disregard for logical reasoning. You preach that "Children must never watch television," and attempt to provide "facts" to support this claim. However, anyone with any sense of logic can see through your attempt to sound like you know what you're talking about.

First, a study done by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 83 percent of children under the age of 2 are watching television over two hours per day on average." This tells us children watch television for about 8 percent of their day. However, it says nothing about what that fact actually means.

Then you go on to talk about how television shows children inappropriate and unrealistic content. I suppose that's true, but assuming the parents never pay attention to what their kids watch and never attempt to explain to them the difference between fantasy and reality, which is the type of behavior your article is arguing against even though that situation is as common as you attempt to make it sound.

I just wanted to leave some constructive criticism for you and all the writers (if they can be called that) at the Renegade Rip.

netic contributions to ADHD only occur in about 20 percent of cases. These possible causes include head trauma, in utero tobacco and lead exposure and other pregnancy complications. Watching television is not on that list. You also claim, "Children have lost their sense of imagination," with no attempt to connect that statement to real-life events.

Then you move on to obesity. Yes, it's true that sitting is not as physically engaging as playing a sport. However, that doesn't justify saying that "one in five children are obese because they are spending more time sitting in front of the television." Obesity is strongly influenced by genetics. Even if you ignore that (which it appears that you did), the other half of the "television leads to obesity" equation is nutrient intake. It is possible for someone to watch TV every waking moment and maintain a healthy weight. It is also possible for people who are fairly active to become overweight due to improper dietary habits. This should be common knowledge, and yet you attempt to clarify with numbers that "children who watch television are fatter." Now, I'll ignore the fact that you don't clarify what or who they're fatter than and point out the most obvious conflict between your argument and this fact: This means that the other 65 percent of children who watch television are not fatter. Let me continue: 65 is more than 35. Your argument is betting against the odds.

Then you go on to talk about how television shows children inappropriate and unrealistic content. I suppose that's true, but assuming the parents never pay attention to what their kids watch and never attempt to explain to them the difference between fantasy and reality, which is the type of behavior your article is arguing against even though that situation is as common as you attempt to make it sound.

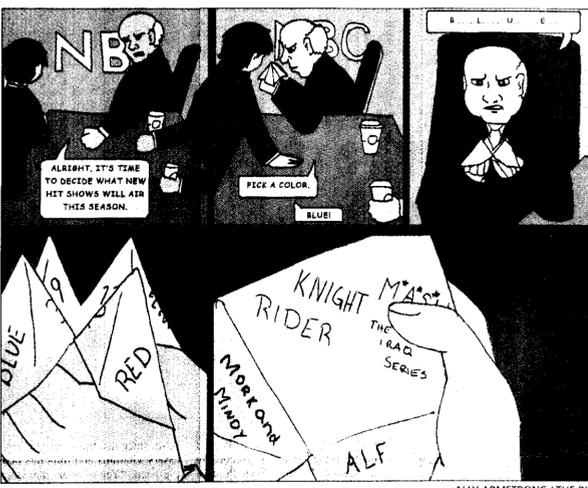
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ALLY ARMSTRONG / THE RIP

Leave old TV shows in the grave

Television producers need to develop new pilots if they want to keep viewers interested.

By BIANCA HERNANDEZ
bhernandez@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

With the writer's strike over, I had hoped that quality television would return, and I wouldn't have to see another rerun until summertime, but the studios have found another way to market remakes.

I'm talking about remaking old shows and then selling them as new ones. NBC made a television movie remake of "Knight Rider." Apparently, NBC is seriously considering making this a series.

This was the embodiment of cheese. As if the dramatic movie wasn't bad enough, it wasn't even loud enough to drown out the terrible lines. While I'm on the subject of television producers, let me turn my attention to another bad show, "American Gladiators." This show may be classified as a reality show, but I'm sure that the banner is from the original because I refuse to believe that any self-respecting writer of today would willingly write any of that garbage.

According to various sites, George Lucas is working on a "Star Wars" TV series, which would supposedly be comprised of the events between Episode III and Episode IV.

I guess George Lucas wasn't finished ruining the "Star Wars" franchise, so this television series will be the stake in the heart for it. I'm just going to cross my fingers that there isn't another "Indiana Jones" TV series in the works.

I hope that the newly resolved writer's strike will remind the executives at the networks that they already have some pretty good shows.

Contrary to what studios may think, it's not possible to take an old show and revamp it so that it's better. All they've achieved are bad lines, bad effects and generic plotlines with familiar characters.

Instead of remaking old shows, try being creative and come up with a new show. After all, most classic shows didn't start out as a remake.

There are more recycled plots on

GADE FEEDBACK

What do you plan on doing for spring break?

Brandon Tamandong, liberal arts: "Going surfing."

Britney Reyes, social science: "Babysitting kids... not very fun."

Chad Sorell, business: "Probably just heading to the beach."

Laura Gayton, liberal arts: "Going to a youth convention."

Georgina Mason, undeclared: "Going to Arizona."

Matt Jones, computer science: "Drugs."

THE RENEGADE RIP

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REVIEWS

MGM Asian Diner offers different experience

By ELIZABETH MEEKS
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Rip staff writer

An alternative to typical Asian fast food, MGM Asian Diner provides made-to-order, quality plates of unique food in a casual setting that leaves you satisfied.

Operating for the past year and located at 1400 Calloway Drive, MGM can be difficult to spot despite the corner-street location. From the outside, MGM looks as if it would be an upper-class, finer dining Asian restaurant, yet it offers quite the opposite, while not compromising on quality.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

★★★★☆

Surprisingly, when I entered, it was a very casual environment with purple flooring, yellow walls and a walk-up ordering counter with the menu largely displayed in front of the register. Country music was playing loud enough to hear but not loud enough to drown out the fan and water sounds coming from the kitchen.

A wall with a glass window just big enough for you to see the one chef preparing food divides the kitchen from the dining room. The food is spaced through one of three small openings in the glass to the server, who is also the cashier.

Large philodendron plants hang throughout the eatery accompanied with paper lanterns and dragons. Other than a few pictures of Asian food, the walls were barren.

The restaurant was empty of customers other than two men eating plates of food that looked delicious. I was immediately greeted by a woman who asked me if I would be ordering for here or to go. I let her know it would be for dine-in and began to examine my options for lunch.

The menu offers a variety of Asian cuisine including appetizers of edamame, soups, salads, kebabs or combination plates that are served with your choice of steamed rice, fried rice or chow mein.

A fan of Mongolian beef, I decided that sounded satisfying with chow mein and my favorite, which is hot and sour soup with a drink.

Filling my own drink from the self-service drink fountain, I found a seat

at one of the many generic brown tables with Asian-style black chairs.

The food came quickly and hot, first with the soup, which I had to ask if she brought the hot and sour because it looked more like egg flower soup. She assured me that it was correct, and I dug in.

The soup was tasty, however, it was not as spicy as many hot and sour soups traditionally are, which for my taste was slightly disappointing. I added sambal (spicy chili paste) to give it a kick making it more enjoyable.

The chow mein and Mongolian beef plate came shortly after piping hot and generously portioned. The Mongolian beef was mixed with carrot strips, white and green onions. A rose carved from a carrot stick created the garnish, which created an elegant touch.

Waiting for the food to cool slightly and using chopsticks, I took the first bite of beef. A bit tough and not very spicy was my first impression, and the chow mein was a bit greasy, but what chow mein isn't? So, I let that slide.

Adding sambal again helped the overall taste as, I love my Asian food

spicy, and by doing so, the dish was quite tasty and overall satisfying.

MGM is not the typical fast Asian food. There is not a buffet line and the food is prepared to order, which is a nice change to the ordain Panda Express.

MGM pricing ranges from \$2.99 appetizers to my plate, which was \$6.95 plus the soup and a drink, for a total of \$10.95.

Finishing my meal with the last sip of my Dr. Pepper, I opened my fortune cookie, and to my surprise the cookie was crisp, fresh and sweet. Far from the stale cookies that are rarely finished, I savored every crunch while reading my fortune (made especially for me). It read, "You could prosper in a few years in the field of entertainment," which when I read the cheesiness of these fortunes, it still somehow always brings a smile to my face.

With friendly service and hot fast food prepared to order (even if it was not as spicy as I like it), I would recommend trying it as an alternative to the dime a dozen franchise Asian restaurants.

Hours of operations are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.



ALLY ARMSTRONG / THE RIP

MGM Asian Diner on 1400 Calloway Drive blends quality Asian cuisine with convenient pricing.

Those puppies make me sick

By EARL PARSONS
eparsons@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Features editor

White Australian trio Sick Puppies and one other band on the marquee at the Golden State Mall on Feb. 23 displayed virtuosity, there wasn't anything that any of the groups had to offer that hasn't already been done before.

Sick Puppies, whom I personally hadn't heard of before the performance but seemed to have a steady fan base that knew their lyrics, had a solid rhythm section. The bass player in particular had some nifty riffs and was not lacking in ability.

CONCERT REVIEW

★★★★☆

However, the singer whined on with juvenile angst about relationships and other lyrical content that makes prepubescent children swoon, reducing the ensemble to a state of mediocrity.

The only great song they played was a Muse cover, while the only creative thing they played was a mix between a Green Day riff and the words to "Say My Name" by Destiny's Child, which for me was like putting live cockroaches in a puke smoothie.

Two things that are horrible by themselves will be even more horrible when you put them together. I may not have been a fan of the music, but I will say Sick Puppies seemed genuine in their discourse with the audience. They delivered an energetic performance that made the crowd of hundreds feel like a crowd of 1,000. Upon the singer's request, the audience would jump around like rabid rabbits to the band's aggressive power chords.

Sick Puppies had a genuine element, but Raising Abel, which preceded them, seemed very disingenuous. Their singer felt the need to pander to the Bakersfield crowd between songs like you know he would if he were in New York City or in Billings, Mont.

Each of their songs seemed to bleed into one another, each sounding as if Creed collaborated with Lifehouse.

Some songs attempted to bring in elements of different genres, but only mustered the ability to brush over the genre



PHOTOS BY JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

Above: Shimon Moore, left, and Emma Anzai, right, of Sick Puppies during their performance at the Golden State Mall on Feb. 23. Below: Local band Meditated Assault was the second ensemble to open for Sick Puppies.

rather than fully incorporate it. After their failed effort, the song would relegate itself back to more run-of-the-mill active rock in the chorus.

Bakersfield natives Meditated Assault had the pieces for a great group. The lead guitarist had some awesome licks and a commanding stage presence.

They were a tight-knit ensemble with the propensity to rock. And while they did in fact rock, that's all they could really do. There was nothing profound or tongue-in-cheek about the lyrics and wailing guitars can only be cool for so long.

Fading Out Of Silence, the first band to perform, was simply pitiful. I almost feel bad criticizing them. The Tehachapi group was without a bassist and a drummer, and they were requesting members of the audience to audition for the open positions after the show. They even asked the crowd if some of them could help take down their instruments so the next act could set up.

Not even the decent keyboard effects could hide the uninspired suburban crybaby rock. At least they had rehearsed material.

Maybe the groups just weren't my style of music. Music, like all art, is subjective, after all. Maybe I'm just an artsy-fartsy, out-of-touch hipster, and I'm expecting too much from a concert at the Golden State Mall. I just feel that good music is music that tries to break away from the shackles of tradition and doesn't embrace the status quo.



SEARCH DISCOVERS

March 7

"Reggae Nite": Josh Fichel, Seed, 3rd Alley and Johnny 2 Bad, Fishlips, 9 p.m.

March 8

Johnny Buell and the Grizzly Owls, Sandtrinis, 10 p.m.

March 17

Eyes Set to Kill, Golden State mall, 6 p.m.

"St. Patty's Day Bash": Menno Burtu, Mystic Red, Dalloways, Black Dogg and DJ Mikey, Fishlips, 7 p.m.

Gondry film lacked coherency

By QUINN SCHLUSSEL
aschlus@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

I'd be lying if I said that I wasn't excited before going to see this movie. By all means it looked stupendous. Unfortunately, I'd also be lying if I said it lived up to expectations.

"Be Kind, Rewind," the latest movie by Michel Gondry, follows the story of Mike, an employee at an old VHS rental store who, after having the inventory of the store wiped out by his eccentric, magnetized friend Jerry, decides to simply remake all of the classics contained within the store.

While the idea behind the movie seems to be inventive to the point where box office success seems inevitable, the execution of the movie falls flat.

The scenes of the movie by themselves seemed very polished and well done, but the movie as a whole seemed a bit unfocused and inconsistent.

The feeling and mood presented at the beginning of the movie doesn't seem like the feeling and mood in the middle, which seemed different from the feeling and mood presented at the end.

The main reason this movie did not seem to perform quite up to standards was due to some directing decisions that may have been unwise, which is a shame because Gondry is usually an expert at directing films and shorts that may be viewed as offbeat.

Gondry has past moviemaking experience as the creative engine behind the breakout hit "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," and also several music videos for artists such as Beck and The White Stripes. But his ability might have fallen short for "Be Kind, Rewind," and while his creativity still shined through, the overall coherency of the movie suffered in the end.

The remaining aspects of the movie were fine, however.

Acting was above par. Jack Black and Mos Def playing the two main characters proved to be quite the duo, and worked together spectacularly bouncing dialogue off each other. Black, in particular, continues to amaze with his ability at improvisation.

The cinematography was great as well, and at least Gondry was able to present his work in a way that allowed his knack for the artistic to be evident.

I did find the music of the film to be slightly lacking.

Considering the director was Gondry, a man who has spent most of his career directing and designing music videos for remarkable artists, and the two main stars were Jack Black and Mos Def, musicians in their own right, the music simply did not stand up to what it could have been.

Altogether, "Be Kind, Rewind" was not a bad film. It was enjoyable and funny at best and downright strange at worst.

But if you come into this film expecting a dynamic movie that is guaranteed to be a new classic, it's not.

FEATURES

BC play 'Ondine' well written but ill performed

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

The character of Ondine from the Jean Giraudoux play is hard to define. She is not a mermaid or a changeling, but she seems to be a gamine of the waterways, a denizen of waterfalls and lakes, and a wild child of the forest primeval. She actually appears to be a naiad, or water nymph or water spirit.

PLAY REVIEW

★★★★☆

In Bakersfield College's production of Giraudoux's "Ondine," set in the Middle Ages, directed by BC theater professor Randy Messick and shown in BC's Indoor Theater, the viewer soon finds that the water sprite Ondine (Sarah Taylor) replaced the child of a peasant couple, Auguste (Justin Thompson) and Eugenie (Kelly Haggas) such as a fairy changeling would.

However, traditionally speaking, fairy changelings are usually very ugly, and Ondine is very attractive. Nevertheless, her sudden appearance in the couple's lives is a mystery. Auguste tells the visiting knight errant Hans (Ronnie Hargrave) that "there wasn't a mark on the sand, nor a footprint—nothing to show how the child (Ondine) got there." Furthermore, going by alchemist Paracelsus' definition of mermaid, although a dweller of any and all bodies of water, including the sea, Ondine is not a mermaid because she does not appear to need to marry a mortal to gain a soul.

Ondine just seems to have an inordinate craving for human love and companionship and to be a personified water spirit. Auguste, Ondine's adoptive father, says of Ondine, "She is the storm... She is the lake... the waves lapping at our feet... the rain



JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

Costume designer Kat Brinkley demonstrates costumes for the BC play "Ondine" during a presentation on Feb. 27.

on our cheeks..."

However, no matter how Ondine is defined, Giraudoux, who also wrote the plays "Electra," "Amphytrion 38" and "The Madwoman of Chailloit," drew an engaging character in a play about how two contrasting worlds cannot mix.

Unfortunately, some of the performances in the play were only adequate. For example, Sarah Taylor,

with her gentle voice and manner, played the 16-year-old Ondine with appropriate girlish intensity. Taylor also conveyed Ondine's bluntness and lack of courtly sophistication well enough. However, there seems to be a tentative air about Taylor that seems to be connected to lack of theatrical experience and sophistication.

Also, her voice was weak and did not project particularly well throughout

Workshop discussed 'Ondine'

By AMBER TROUPE
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Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College workshop, "Love's Duality," headed by BC theater professor Randy Messick, explored love and what love is through the fantasy world of Jean Giraudoux's play, "Ondine."

"Ondine" is brought to life through the set designs of Jarred Clowes and the costumes of Kat Brinkley. "Love's Duality" shows how love changes things and people, according to Messick, the director of "Ondine."

The love between the characters Hans and Ondine is an example of unconditional love. Ondine is an "elemental" spirit; she is not of this world and is immortal.

Hans is a mere mortal betrothed to the princess Bertha. During his test to prove his love for Bertha, Hans encounters Ondine in the forest. They fall in a love at first sight, but their love can never truly be.

Ondine, who loves Hans unconditionally, makes a deal with the Old One of the Sea to be with Hans. The only stipulation is that if he cheats on her, then Hans will die, and Ondine will forget everything about him and that he even existed.

Through a play on colors and background settings, the production came alive.

The costumes that Brinkley designed were made to help the audience associate bodies of water with Ondine. For Hans, brown and green colors were used to connect him with the earth, according to Messick.

The costumes and sets blended together with the actors, which created a mystical atmosphere, Messick said.

Clowes uses a sea foam effect and earthy fabrics in the background on one of the sets to express vertical lines and space.

Messick said that life can be painful, and theater is used as a way to relieve stress. He debated that tragedy plays a major part in humanity. He wants the audience to experience the production rather than to watch it

in front of themselves.

Again, lack of experience and sophistication could be at the root of the problem. Choate's other problem was that he was wearing a preposterous and incongruous outfit with what looked like Cossack pants and a traditional monarch's crown.

Sadly, Ronnie Hargrave as Hans is as Johnny One Note as he always is in all of his performances. As usual, Hargrave comes across as a sweating, tightly grimacing Parsifal-like buffoon. Hargrave even had a hole in the seat of his black leotards.

However, other performances saved the production. Steven Little as The Old One had the best projected voice, and Laura Lopez and Tracy

Heads as the judges were both loud and clear and fully animated.

Furthermore, playing the gloating fisherman, Randy Messick was as satirical, avaricious and smug as his character was supposed to be. Stephanie Jones as the mischievous Woman in Pearls was also interesting to hear and to watch. The voiceovers done by Ondine's chorus of sirens (Natacha Spickenreuther, Jetye Bryant and Heather Bryson) were appropriately eerie and well orchestrated.

BC's next production will be "Two Sisters and a Piano," by Nilo Cruz. "Two Sisters" will run April 24, 25, 26 and May 1, 2, 3.

The play will be directed by BC theater professor Kimberley Chin.

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BC BRAINS

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



Jordan Scott, chemistry: "I have no 'trippin' idea."



Alex Gay, photography: "Some sort of destruction."



Lauren Lorenz, art: "A type of musician."



Emmanuel Briones, sociology: "A dumb person."



James Jasper, music and computer graphics: "It's an insult."



Stuart Lancaster, industrial technology: "A word I don't know."

What is a petard?

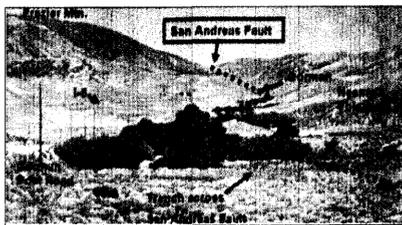
Compiled by John Ornelas and Ally Armstrong / The Rip

Correct answer: An explosive device formerly used to break down doors, walls, etc.

FEATURES

Huge quake long overdue

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



The red dotted line shows the San Andreas Fault at the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History.

The "Big One" is coming. In fact, Chevron geologist Tim Elam, who spoke March 1 at Bakersfield's Buena Vista Museum of Natural History on Chester Avenue, said California is overdue for a huge earthquake with a magnitude of 8.0. For approximately every 130-185 years, California is supposed to have an earthquake at least 8.0, he said. Of course, the next big earthquake of over 8.0 will occur around the San Andreas Fault, Elam said. A fault like the San Andreas Fault is a "right-lateral, strike-slip transform," which is a geologist's fancy way of saying a major break in the Earth's crust, Elam said, as he used several slides, including one of a picture of a physiographic map.

The San Andreas Fault is 780 miles long and extends from offshore Northern California to the Imperial Valley and is about 60 miles wide in places. The fault is about 29 million years old, he said.

The (San Andreas) Fault has a slight component of subduction," Elam said by way of further description of the fault's state.

Subduction occurs when two parts of the Earth's crust, or the outer and uppermost layer of the Earth under the continents crash together and one part or "plate" is pulled down underneath another, Elam said.

Underneath the San Andreas Fault are two crustal plates in constant motion. The Pacific western plate is moving toward the Northwest while the North American plate moves. This activity causes earthquakes about the fault, according to Elam.

The activity also creates odd landforms including elevated landforms, sag ponds, pressure ridges, creep (soils traveling down hills), offset creek drainages and scarps, which are elongated cliffs, created by land movements or displacements, said Elam. According to Elam, approximately five meters of visible land movement has taken place since San Francisco's 1906 earthquake. During

the 29 million years that the fault has been in existence, experts figured out that about 340 miles of land movement or displacement from earthquakes happened, Elam said.

There are several Kern County faults capable of major quakes larger than 6.0. These include the Garlock Fault, Pinto Fault, White Wolf Fault as well as the Wheeler Ridge Fault. Two faults near Bakersfield are the Kern Gorge Fault and Edison Fault near Arvin.

Kern County earthquakes, Elam said, typically occur 50,000 feet or eight miles below the surface.

"We can never predict quakes, and we will never be able to," said Elam. Ben Nafus found the lecture to be fascinating. Nafus, whose paintings in the Buena Vista Museum depict Pleistocene and Miocene eras, said that "geology is an ongoing process of evolution."

Tim Elam's next lecture at the Buena Vista Museum will be April 5 at 3 p.m. and will delve more into Kern County earthquakes.

Foreign students meet

By MARCINDA COIL
mcoil@yahoo.com
News editor

Students of various cultures from around the world met in Bakersfield College's Fireside Room Feb. 28 in celebration of Black History Month.

"Global Celebration, Meet and Greet," hosted by Dr. and Mrs. John Mugema and Mr. and Mrs. Likamem, was attended by bringing together international students attending community colleges to share their experiences and spread their cultures.

"I don't play soccer. I don't dance Samba," said BC economics major from Brazil, Bruno.

Though there were students from an array of African heritages present to emphasize Black History Month, many other students came to represent their country or continent: Canada, South America, Asia, Japan, Lebanon and the Philippines.

More specifically, people from Liberia, Tanzania and Kenya, for example, came to represent the different heritages in Africa.

"This is truly an international event," said the host as she welcomed everybody and explained how the night was to progress.

Students and faculty were instructed to find their table, which was adorned with different countries' flags representing their country. After people poured in and received complimentary drinks such as hot cocoa and food such as cookies, the introductions began.

"Our most effective marketing is word of mouth," said BC President William Andrews as he introduced himself.

To help students feel more comfortable, other students who helped put on the event began introducing themselves.

The sheet of questions that were placed on each table prior to the event were used as a basis to understand and learn about each student's culture. More an example of different languages that the students know such as Swahili. They

also talked about stereotypes that are present in each country. "How long did it take your hair to grow like that?" asked a participant. "Five years," answered a BC student from Canada.

One of the hosts spoke about his cultural shock that was ignited by his move from Liberia to New York 24 years ago. "The weather switched."

Soon, students became more comfortable as they stood up to the podium one after the other.

One Canadian student who attends Cal State-Bakersfield engaged everyone by performing on a drum.

Others spoke about how much cultural diversity they picked up while growing up such as being born in Germany and raised in both in Hawaii and Hawaii.

According to Shohreh Rahman, international student counselor, "The international students at Bakersfield College represent the rich cultural diversity of Kern County."

production of livestock. National Animal Identification (NAID) tags are placed on livestock to indicate where the livestock was produced and by whom, so that if a contamination occurs in the food chain, it is easier to determine where the meat was treated, not because the meat was tainted. The animals were being pushed and prodded to slaughter, which is against U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations.

Gardella emphasized that while she was not at the panel to "defend" the beef industry, it has "the safest food system in the world because of [its] protocol."

Barnes, who specializes in pork production, said that Hallmark's improprieties will lead to jail time for the individuals accused of breaking protocol. According to Barnes, the Iowa Beef Producers is a federal organization that teaches producers the proper way to handle cattle, and those outlined procedures were not followed by Hallmark. Barnes went on to discuss changes going on in the

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PANEL: After recalls, 'Fast Food Nation' relevant

Continued from Page 1

According to Gardella, who is also a beef producer, the primary reason the beef produced by the Hallmark Meat Packing Agency was recalled because of how the cattle were treated, not because the meat was tainted. The animals were being pushed and prodded to slaughter, which is against U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations. Gardella emphasized that while she was not at the panel to "defend" the beef industry, it has "the safest food system in the world because of [its] protocol."

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styles. Exercise is such an integral part of a healthy lifestyle, said Carter, that "not exercising is actually a risk factor for disease."

Friedlander described how the high fructose corn syrup in fast food and in processed food is a contributing factor in the obesity epidemic. High fructose corn syrup gets shunted into the liver and must be stored in fat.

Corn, which has little nutritional value, is the most subsidized crop in the country. As a heavily subsidized crop, corn is in a vast majority of livestock feed, including feed for cattle. Since cattle do not have a digestive system designed for grain, they have to great an intake of protein and require antibiotics.

According to Friedlander, over-inflammation is the leading cause of most degenerative health conditions. She argued that since the leading causes of over-inflammation are stress and overeating, and since stress cannot be controlled, people need to control their over-eating.

ACCREDITATION: Recommendations are issued

Continued from Page 1

Things will change. "People will need to take warnings seriously; that's normally how you crack down on some people," said BC engineering major Daniel Cowart in regards to the new time limit.

Andrew Moore, 19, BC criminal justice major, agreed with Cowart.

"Two years... this will help keep us on our toes," Moore said. BC web design major Kimberley

Christopher found the new time limit somewhat disconcerting. Nevertheless, she conceded that it would be in the best interests of BC and its transferring students for the Commission to get strict with colleges. "It may seem harsh, but this will force BC to do what BC has to do to get accredited," she said.

A few of the recommendations issued to BC include a recommendation to arrange training on several

planning procedures, including training in the employment of information in unit planning and program review. Another recommendation orders that BC build more reliable networks between campus planning, program review, curriculum and assessment.

Another recommendation states that BC must develop and acknowledge a documented agenda that can predict staffing requirements and service-area demographics.

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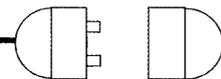
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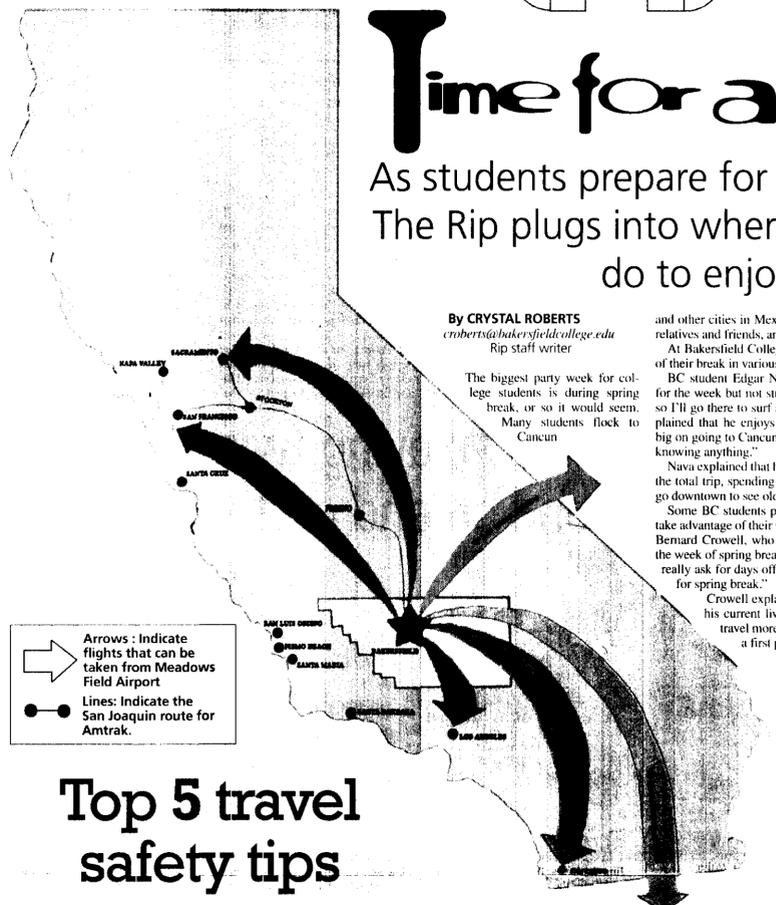
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THE PLUG



Time for a vacation

As students prepare for spring break March 17-21, The Rip plugs into where and what students could do to enjoy the holiday.



By CRYSTAL ROBERTS
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Rip staff writer

The biggest party week for college students is during spring break, or so it would seem. Many students flock to Cancun.

and other cities in Mexico, others return home to visit relatives and friends, and others stay in town. At Bakersfield College, students take full advantage of their break in various ways.

BC student Edgar Nava plans to leave Bakersfield for the week but not stray too far. "I'm from Ventura, so I'll go there to surf and drink," said Nava as he explained that he enjoys having a good time. "I'm not big on going to Cancun and getting hammered and not knowing anything."

Nava explained that he usually spends about \$400 on the total trip, spending \$200 only on gas. "I'll usually go downtown to see old friends," said Nava. Some BC students prefer to use their break time to take advantage of their work schedule. Like BC student Bernard Crowell, who says that he just works during the week of spring break. "I just chill and work, I don't really say for days off. I don't ever travel out of town for spring break."

Crowell explained that once he moves out of his current living situation, he will probably travel more, but as for now, traveling is not a first priority.

Like Crowell, BC student Jaelyn Acosta looks forward to spring break as a time to relax and enjoy her time off. "I don't do anything, just baby-sit. I just want to stay home and relax."

Still there are the students who look forward to the traditional trip to Mexico or look forward to traveling to the coast to get some time away from school. Student Maribel Cuevas said that she tries to get the days off to go to Rosaritos or Lasanada in Mexico. "I've been there before, during spring break. I'll usually carpool there and go to the beach, check out the area and look at the shops."

Cuevas explained that she usually spends \$100 at least, and said that she likes to find her element when she goes on spring break. Some BC students like to get out of town but do not enjoy the traveling aspect of getting to their destination.

Sharon Aricwelo said that she'll probably go to a beach nearby like Pismo. "I don't feel like traveling, it's tiring."

Aricwelo also said that she doesn't even know how much she spends, when she takes her short trips during spring break. "I don't calculate, I just spend."



Over spring break many students and Bakersfield residents will visit Pismo Beach, less than a two hour drive from town.

JOEL R. PARAMO / THE RIP

Top 5 travel safety tips

Provided by travel.state.gov for students.

1. Read country-specific information and public announcements or travel warnings, if applicable for the country you plan to visit.
2. Register your travel with the State Department through a free service at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. Registration helps ensure that you can be contacted if there is a family emergency in the U.S., or if there is a crisis in the area in which you are traveling.
3. Make sure you have a signed, valid passport and visa, if required. Also, before you go, fill in the emergency information page of your passport. For more information, check out the State Department's Web site.
4. Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs of the countries to which you are traveling. While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws. Avoid illicit drugs or excessive use of alcohol and reckless behavior.
5. Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas and never accept packages from strangers.

Bakersfield offers spring break fun

By BIANCA HERNANDEZ
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Rip staff writer

The ultimate cliché uttered by many college students as spring break draws closer is that there's nothing to do in Bakersfield.

Janet Barrios, 18, expressed the fact that she will not stay in town for spring break because "there are no beaches here."

Manuel Vicery, 32, said, "There's not really much you can do in Bakersfield." Vicery went on to say that he usually has a lot of homework at this time. "It seems like none of the classes let you have time off."

There are things to do for students who don't have to work or study. Bakersfield may not have any beaches, but it does offer numerous diversions in the form of bars, sports and shows.

For students 21 and older there are numerous bars downtown, but there

are a few that offer more than just drinks.

Kosmos Restaurant and Sports Bar, located at 1623 19th St., offers karaoke every Thursday night at 9. Schweitzer's Pit Stop, 10807 Rosedale Hwy., offers karaoke Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

According to Erica Snyder, who works at Schweitzer's, people ranging from ages 21 to 45 participate. Schweitzer's also has a live band on Fridays and Saturdays.

According to Jessica, a student, Samirini's offers a lot of entertainment.

"On Thursday nights they have open mic night and we get to listen to undiscovered bands," she said.

There are also things to do for students who are not 21 yet. Metal music lovers might want to check out a concert on March 24 at The Dome, which is located at 2201 V St. The concert will feature Beneath the Massacre, See You Next Tuesday, Born of Osiris and Tony Danza Tap

Dance Extravaganza. According to Pete Madera, an employee at The Dome, about 200 to 300 people turn out for this particular show.

Theater fans might be interested in attending a show at the Star's Theatre Restaurant, located at 1931 Chester Ave. "Two for the Show" will be playing during spring break and tickets cost about \$50.

According to John Hinzoo, who works at the Star's Theatre Restaurant, "Two for the Show" is a two lounge singer type of act and is appropriate for all ages.

Robin Albany, 22, said she would probably attend this show. "I go to plays all the time," said Albany. "It's fun for me."

Bowling is one activity that could involve multiple people. Regency Bowling Lanes offers Cosmic Bowling on the weekends, which lasts until 1:30 a.m. Frisbee can be an exciting activity if the weather is nice enough. On Truxtun Avenue across

from Woody's, there is an area set up for Frisbee enthusiasts.

There's always the option of throwing a party.

Allison Clark, who has thrown some pool parties in past years.

Also, many students choose to spend the week with friends.

Ben Warren, 20, said his church is open during that week which allows him to spend time with friends who come back from college.

"We always go to the gym and play sports," said Warren.

Sometimes nothing beats hanging out with old friends.

"I've had about old times. Talk about what they're doing now with their lives," said Greg Rizo, 21. Rizo went on to say that he played sports with his old friends at Hart Park and Lake Ming. "You have a lot of fun. It's like a stress reliever," he said.

Whether going to bars, or hanging out with friends, there appears to be a little something for everyone to do in Bakersfield.

Online travel services continue to replace traditional agencies

By LAUREN KIZZIA
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Rip staff writer

Travelocity offers great packages and special offers that a travel agent wouldn't have. Customer satisfaction is something that Travelocity takes pride in.

"We take care of our customers the whole trip," said Harrison. "It's an entire experience that we help people with. If you go on your trip and something doesn't work out the way that you expected it to, you can call us anytime and we will try to make it right for you so you can enjoy the rest of your trip."

They also continue the contact with their customers long after the trip with evaluations of the locations and the opinions of the people that experienced the vacation. Harrison said that people enjoy the convenience of doing things online. She said with Travelocity, people can

look through pictures and videos of destinations they might be traveling to using "Experience Finder" or plan itineraries, and they can do it all from the comfort of their own home.

She said that a great function they offer for college students or just friends living in different locations is called "Meet Me In". When using "Meet Me In" program, two friends can plan a trip with two different starting locations and meet at the same destination to have a fun and exciting reunion or just a vacation.

Kevin Knudsen, a rocket scientist for Boeing, said he uses the Internet no matter the excursion. "I always use the Internet."

Our family lives in Norway so I try to visit them as often as I can, and every time we do go, I find better deals on the Internet, and it's faster." He

also said he uses online travel agencies for things like concert tickets and amusement park tickets for his nieces and nephews.

His sister, Kandi Knudsen, a businesswoman who travels frequently for work, said that she prefers to use the Internet to book flights and hotel rooms because it is more convenient.

"I used to use a travel agent because they have good deals. Now it's hard finding the time to go down there and set everything up, whereas with the Internet I can do everything when I'm not busy, which is usually late at night when travel agencies aren't open," said Knudsen.

She said that for business the convenience is in the Internet, but if she were to plan a vacation with her family she might use an actual agent.

Travel agencies have felt the decline in business over the last few years, but people like Karen Blockley of Air & Sea Travel continue in the business of making people's vacations a great experience despite their online competition.

Blockley, who has been a travel agent for about 32 years, said that Air & Sea Travel helps a couple of thousand people a year plan their vacations and trips.

Blockley said that although there may be service charges at a travel agent, the outcome may still be cheaper and more thorough than using the Internet.

"I would like to say that we probably would get you a better price," said Blockley. "We may charge a service charge, but your price may be less because we will give you the best... Our fingers are on the pulse of

travel. It's what we do all day. People don't think about all of the details. There's a lot more to it."

Blockley said the boom in online agencies has affected her business a little, but she said, "...the more complicated things, they still like us to coordinate for them."

She knows that a lot of people use the Internet for the convenience. "A lot of people think it's fun to do their own travel planning, and it's convenient. They can do it when the teakettle is boiling."

But she said that if the project is a complicated one with different starting locations, and a whole family of people traveling at one time, then you need a travel agent to watch over it.

As a travel agent, she can offer you more firsthand knowledge about destinations and vacations.