

# SPORTS

## Renegades win two, turn season around

By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS  
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Sports editor

The Bakersfield College football team has used a strong running attack and a quarterback change to win its last two games and improve to 3-4 overall and 2-1 in the Northern National Conference.

their hands and give them a chance to show what they can do."

Chudy said he feels the team has started to play better together as a group.

"I think everybody is starting to understand their role," he said. "They know what is expected of them. I think everybody is pulling for each other. We've done a good job of playing together as a team."

Freshman quarterback Joe Maldonado made his first collegiate start as the Renegades shut out Moorpark College 30-0 on Oct. 18.

"I thought Joe did an effective job doing his role and knowing what his job is. He did a nice job of execut-

ing," said Chudy.

The Renegades started the game against Moorpark by tackling Senegal in the end zone for a safety. On BC's first offensive series, Maldonado threw a 42-yard touchdown pass to William Randle. That was Maldonado's only completion as he finished 1 for 5 on passing. Maldonado also added a 23-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

Frieson, a sophomore running back, had a 53-yard touchdown run, while fellow running back Peralta scored on a 15-yard touchdown run.

Frieson finished the game with 20 carries for 204 yards and one touch-

down, while Peralta had 14 carries for 73 yards and one touchdown.

On Oct. 11 the Renegades racked up 373 yards rushing to run their way to a 34-17 victory over Allan Hancock College.

"The effort was outstanding," Chudy said following the game against Hancock. "We answered the bell defensively up front. We did a great job of tackling the ball carrier and owning the line of scrimmage. We did a nice job of keeping our focus and attention for detail. It's a good win for us."

Smith, a freshman running back, echoed what Chudy said by saying, "It's a big win for us. It's always

good to come out and get a win at home and execute on all cylinders."

With the score tied 10-10 at halftime the Renegades took control by scoring 21 straight points. The Renegades 21-0 run included a 2 yard touchdown run by Frieson, a 2 yard touchdown run by Maldonado, and a 3 yard touchdown run by Smith.

Frieson finished with 23 carries for 131 yards and two touchdowns, while Smith added 16 carries for 169 yards and one touchdown. Against Hancock, Maldonado replaced starter Nick Gauthier at quarterback on the third possession of the game.

When asked why the change was

made Chudy said, "Joe's been battling Nick. We told them going into this week (the game against Hancock), whoever has the best week of practice is going to start."

The Renegades next game will be at home on Oct. 25 against Glendale College (3-3, 1-1 Northern National) at 7 p.m.

Glendale lost to Caynons 43-23 on Oct. 18.

Chudy said that Glendale's teams is a lot like Hancock.

"They're extremely physical. They try to control the ball by running it. They don't take a lot of chances on defense. It's going to be a tough contest for us."



Addison Hay, right, in neutral position with Christian Hernandez during wrestling practice in the BC gym on Oct. 14.

## BC wrestler focused

BC's Hay is influenced by family, MMA, and strives to be the best.

By VINCENT PEREZ  
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Rip staff writer

Freshman Addison Hay dedicates himself to the Bakersfield College wrestling team and does so by staying focused before and during a wrestling match. Hay does not need any pre-match rituals. As Hay said, "I just clear my head."

Hay, 21, discovered wrestling in 2002 at Foothill High School and has enjoyed it ever since. Hay admitted that it was in honor of his late grandfather's wish when Hay was growing up.

Hay's job outside of school and wrestling is working at the local correctional facility in town, Mesa Verde, in east Bakersfield. Hay's major is criminal justice, and he said,

"I'd like to stay in the correctional fields."

Hay's activities outside everything else include video games and not much more. Hay does not have much time left over with work, school and wrestling. Hay said, "I play Rock Band, sleep and eat."

Hay is highly inspired by mixed martial artist Urijah Faber.

Hay said of Faber, "He's bad. He's probably one of the best." Faber is ranked as the number-one featherweight fighter in the world to which Hay adds, "I love his style." Hay's dietary plan is "junk food...but two days before weigh-in, I stop." Hay stops eating those kinds of foods so he can make weight before a tournament.

In another round, Hay won his first three matches against Santa Rosa, Cuesta, and Modesto but lost to Fresno's Marty Rubalcaba 5-4 in the final

round. Rubalcaba won third place. David Travis won his first match in the 150-weight class by defeating Fresno's Zane Platt with a pinfall of 2 minutes, 34 seconds but lost the next to Cerritos' Juan Enriquez by pinfall of 4 minutes, 54 seconds. In Travis' last match, Mt. San Antonio College's Frank Ayala defeated Travis by pin of 4 minutes, 20 seconds.

The tournament for BC was plagued with problems for the wrestlers as Bill Kalivas, head coach, said, "We got guys with skin infections and injuries," which caused many of the wrestlers to forfeit. However, Kalivas is optimistic; he said that the team will do better in future tournaments. The next tournament for the BC wrestling team is the North/South All Star Meet on Oct. 25 in Monterey.

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On Oct. 11, Hay finished fourth in the 125-weight class as the BC wrestling team competed against 19 other colleges at the West Valley Tournament. The BC team finished 14th out of 20. Santa Ana won the overall team score with 132.00.

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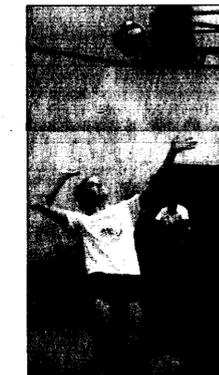
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BC's Katie Cronk serves for the team against LA Pierce in which Cronk had eight kills for BC on Oct. 14.

## BC jumps to top team

BC volleyball team loses to No. 1-ranked L.A. Pierce, but wins in donations for Attack the Cure.

By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS  
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Sports editor

The Bakersfield College volleyball team has been up and down its last two matches, which included a loss to the state's No. 1-ranked team LA Pierce.

Pierce defeated the Renegades in three games 25-18, 25-18, 25-10 on Oct. 14.

During the match donations were taken, and t-shirts were sold for the Attack the Cure fundraiser.

"It was a successful event. Obviously we wanted to win the match. Pierce is a very talented team," Ferreira said.

"We had to execute cleanly, and we knew that going in. They (Pierce) actually won the match more than we lost the match. They're No. 1 ranked for a reason."

Pierce head coach Nabil Mardini felt that the Renegades took his team out of their rhythm early on in the match.

"You could tell that they (Bakersfield) had a game plan against us. They executed it very well," Mardini said.

Mardini welcomes the fact that his team is ranked No. 1 in the state.

"I've always been a big fan of not being the underdog. I don't mind being the underdog. I don't mind being the No. 1 team and having a target on our back," Mardini said.

In the loss against Pierce, sophomore Katie Cronk had eight kills,

while freshman Corissa Alvarez had five kills. Freshman Brockey Holmes added seven kills.

For Pierce, freshman Sarah Martin had 12 kills and six digs, while Janet Alvarado, and Vanessa Murray nine kills and one dig each.

On Oct. 17, Holmes had 12 kills and eight digs as the Renegades bounced back from the loss to Pierce to beat Santa Monica College 25-20, 25-17, 23-25, 25-21.

Also in the victory, Reisa Fessler had nine kills and 16 digs, while teammate Heather Liles had six kills and 11 digs. Fessler is No. 1 in the state in kill percentage.

At press time, the Renegades had an overall record of 11-4 and a record of 1-1 in the Western State Conference.

The Renegades next game will be Oct. 24 at home against Caynons at 7 p.m. They will also be in West LA on Oct. 28.

time of 21 minutes, 39 seconds.

BC's Eayool Atsbeha finished 10th overall and second for BC men with a time of 21:55. BC teammates Elliot Blakeslee, Chris Sanchez and Jose Alvarez finished in the top 50. Host Glendale won the men's team score, and L.A. Valley's Andrew Salg finished first overall, with a time of 21 minutes.

For the BC women, freshman Emily Leming finished seventh out of 102 and first for BC women in the 5-kilometer (3.1 mile) race with a time of 20:46.

BC teammates Lorin Maki, Wendy Trochez, Samantha Pounds, Mariela Sanchez, Brenda Serrato and Erica Garcia finished in the top 60. Glendale also won the women's team score as Glendale's Katie Dunn finished first overall with a time of 19:03.

On Oct. 18, Mireles finished ninth out of 189 and first for BC men in the men's 4-mile race with a time of 22 minutes, 43 seconds at the Santa Barbara Invitational.

At Shoreline Park, BC teammate Atsbeha finished 20th overall and second for BC men with a time of 23:05, and teammates Blakeslee, Sanchez, Cordova, Singh and Rodriguez finished in the top 100 to score BC men in ninth as a team.

Reversely won the team score, and Sequoia's David Sanchez finished first overall with a time of 22:10 seconds.

BC's Magee finished first for BC women, and teammate Leming finished in the top 40 in the women's 5k. BC teammates Maki, Garcia, Pounds, Mariela Sanchez and Serrato finished in the top 110 to score BC women in eighth.

Orange Coast College finished first as a team.

OCC runner Crystal Reed finished first overall with a time of 18:20, and the rest of the OCC team finished in the top 30.

The men's and women's cross-country teams will compete Oct. 28 at the Western State Conference championships in Santa Maria.



**Battle of the beat**  
Local drummers gather to compete to be crowned the best by Guitar Center.

Features, Page 11



**A weekend of art**  
Local artists gather at the annual Viva Arte chalk event at the Marketplace.

Features, Page 9

# THE RENEGADE RIP

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A group of runners carefully walk down a muddy hill during the final stretch of the 5k Volkslauf race on Oct. 11.

JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

## Fun in the Volkslauf mud

By LEIA MINCH  
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Rip staff writer

When picturing a person climbing over obstacles just to jump down into a pool of muddy water, then coming back out just to run through some more mud and go over a few more hurdles, one might think of a military boot camp.

However the Volkslauf run is something that regular people train for and choose to run annually.

Held Oct. 11, this run features a series of strenuous obstacles, brown-colored swimming pools and muddy areas that the participants run in. Sponsored by numerous companies, the Mud Run has been going on for 11 years, and it has approximately 8,000 contestants.

The Volkslauf consists of a 5-kilometer and 10K run for both individual men, women and relay teams.

See MUD RUN, Page 10



Contestants hang upside down on the rope hang obstacle, one of the 75 obstacles on the course at the Volkslauf Mud Run.

JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

## Missing papers still an enigma

By JOHNIE W. BURCH, IV  
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Rip staff writer

Approximately 1,800 copies of the Renegade Rip disappeared from newspaper racks on campus Oct. 8 within an hour after Bakersfield College journalism students had distributed them.

Public Safety is investigating the incident and has interviewed a member of the Rip staff as a witness to the possible removal of some of the papers. Sgt. Chris Counts said, "We don't discuss ongoing investigations."

BC journalism professor Danny Edwards, upon hearing of the missing papers, sent an e-mail to all of the BC faculty and administration regarding the issue. Numerous members of the Rip staff guarded newspaper racks to be sure that the second batch of papers did not get taken, although several racks were emptied more than once throughout the past two weeks.

The reason behind the removal of the student newspapers is still unclear. Some of the faculty and administra-

tion who had responded to Edwards' mass e-mail speculated that it may have been due to some controversial stories in the issue.

One story on the front page was about three Student Government Association members being sent home early from a summit in Washington DC and being removed from SGA positions for consuming alcohol on the trip. Also, the paper included a staff editorial on voting no on the same-sex marriage initiative, Proposition 8, on Nov. 4.

"I personally feel that the newspaper stealing shows a high level of immaturity, intolerance, ignorance and closed-mindedness amongst the culprits," said Natalie Burszty, BC earth science professor. "Those responsible should be ashamed of themselves."

"If someone doesn't like what is written, there are many ways to respond," Clark Parsons, a professor of Academic Development at the Delano campus, said. "The way it was done doesn't even clearly let anyone know what the point was or what was trying to be accomplished."

See STOLEN Page 5



Ashley Martinez (right) describes one of her paintings to Matthew Mitchell at Burn the Witch Oct. 11.

ALEJANDRO MONTANO / THE RIP

## Progress made on cool chiller loop apparent

By GABINO VEGA ROSARIO  
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Online editor

The "chiller loop" is right on schedule. Connecting the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, BC Bookstore and the Language Arts building via pipes will bring an increase of efficiency by more than 50 percent.

The six-foot trench has been completed, and the pipes have been moved into place. According to Keith Keevil, manager of maintenance and operations, this project is a fairly easy operation.

"Now that the trench is done, we just need to connect the pipes and make holes in the buildings," he said.

In the basement of the Language Arts building and the south side of the library, 18-, 14- and 10-inch holes have been inserted to put the pipes through them. By doing this, the chiller will be able to transport cold air in all three buildings.

Using diamond, 50-pound drills will be used to make a perfect circle. In order to keep the building's structure leveled, the process was slow.

"This takes a lot of patience, just to even get the correct measurements

"All that stuff was in the way, sometimes I have to go around just to go to the library."

— Margarito Pascual, history major

can take up a lot of time," said Keevil.

By Oct. 22 the library will have three holes to run hot and cold water into all three buildings. The library has a chiller that is three times bigger than the chiller in Language Arts.

According to Keevil, if the buildings need extra cooling, having two chillers on at the same time can bring a better result for all three buildings.

BC student Gabriela Gonzales, a nursing major, says connecting these three buildings might not bring enough cool air to keep the buildings at a reasonable temperature.

"If they are planning to use one system to cool all three (buildings), there is no way it can cool them," said Gonzales.

According to Gina Valdez, a nurse- See CHILLER, Page 5



A deep trench was dug to accommodate pipes for the chiller loop and greater temperature maintenance.

ALY ARMSTRONG / THE RIP

## Local feminists burn Bakersfield sexism

By MARYANN KOPP  
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Rip staff writer

Upon entering The Empty Space on Oct. 11, a large painting with a nude woman in the center, and "We are the ones we've been waiting for" underneath could be seen directly ahead. To the right were pictures of over 60 local female artists who contributed to this year's Burn the Witch III art exhibit alongside short biographies.

"This is already the best show ever," said curator and co-creator of the all-woman based exhibit, Jen Raven.

As a local artist herself, Raven has had her share of experience in the Bakersfield art scene and not all of that being positive.

"Several of us chicks were pissed," she said. "The group (theater) shows we'd recently been a part of were sexist, in more ways than one, and we were really sick of it."

Over drinks one evening, Jen Wil-

liams, Amber Saunders and Nyoka Jameson were all "discussing the lame situation." They started to joke about where they had found themselves as female artists in "conservative" Bakersfield.

"We felt like we were standing on the town square with townsfolk surrounding us, waving pitchforks and yelling, 'She's weird! Burn her!'"

And, from that, Burn the Witch was created. With only six weeks to pull the exhibit together, the women found 18 artists to participate in their multi-genre show.

The response was so great (breaking records for art sales and take at the door in its first year) that it grew on its own and became an annual event.

This year, Burn the Witch III had two openings, Oct. 11 and 18 and was well received by the community. The exhibit included artwork (over 350 pieces, excluding the jewelry, clothing and ceramic pieces) as well as live performances.

Amber Wilson performed in the theater portion, singing and playing. See BURN THE WITCH, Page 5

# FEATURES

## GETTING DIRTY: All ages gather in Lerdo to compete in Volkslauf, a muddy obstacle course

Continued from Page 1

So what would make someone want to put himself or herself through such an exhausting task?

For sisters Karen Carter, 37, Penny Eller, 38 and Tammy Tillys, 42, this race was a chance to bond.

"It sounded fun and challenging. We wanted to push ourselves and feel a sense of accomplishment," Carter said.

"Also, I was adopted and this was a chance for me to get to know my blood sisters," Tillys said.

The sisters ran the 5K individual but stayed together. They said that the race was surprisingly easier than they anticipated, but a few complications arose.

"The rope suspended over water that you had to pull yourself across took a lot more arm strength than I realized," Tillys said. "And when

I thought I was at least half way, I dropped, but when I looked back, I was barely a quarter of the way across."

Eller's problem was that little pebbles and rocks from the mud kept getting in her shoes and eventually caused the bottom of her foot to blister then pop.

The sisters thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were proud of their accomplishment and plan to run again next year. For anyone interested, they would recommend long sleeves and pants and lots of cardio workouts beforehand.

Like the sisters, most who run the race have no intention of placing. However, 25-year-old Giovanni Perezchica's objective is to finish first.

Including this year's Volkslauf, Perezchica has placed first in the individual men's 10K for the past



Above: "Mack's Wall," a solid wooden wall that contestants climb is one of 75 obstacles laid out on the 5K run. Below: A female contestant tries to hang on to the Rope Hang obstacle.

### Volkslauf Results

<b>10-kilometers</b>		
Overall top five		
1. Giovanni Perezchica	McFarland	47 minutes 35.8 seconds
2. Ryan Luckner	Bakersfield	47:55.7
3. Scott Harrison	Bakersfield	49:21.6
4. Carlos Cabanillas	McFarland	50:23.7
5. Kyler Willett	Studio City	51:45.8
<b>Women top five</b>		
1. Anna Vanderstelt	Bakersfield	58:36.9
2. Valerie Mackenzie	Marina Del Rey	59:41.0
3. Britany Grimes	Bakersfield	1:00.13.5
4. Katherine Patrick	Bakersfield	1:00.28.3
5. Amy Tackett	San Jose	1:05.23.7
<b>5-kilometers</b>		
Overall top five		
1. Richard Winward	Bakersfield	30:38.0
2. Monte Myers	Bakersfield	31:05.7
3. Connor Fisher	Bakersfield	32:05.2
4. David Cervantes	Bakersfield	32:15.2
5. Jake Sampson	Phoenix, Ariz.	32:37.2
<b>Women top five</b>		
1. Carrie Nash	Escalon	37:44.3
2. Samantha Thomason	Bakersfield	38:48.7
3. Allison MacKenzie	Marina Del Rey	41:33.9
4. Aracely Beltran	Bakersfield	42:46.4
5. Kristi Crawford	Bakersfield	43:28.0

COURTESY OF VOLKSlauf

## Annual Bakersfield Gay Pride Festival stresses day of 'love, equality, pride'

Hundreds prepare and gather. People of different ages and races come together to support their sexuality.

By ELI CALDERON  
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Rip staff writer

Bakersfield's LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning), along with other organizations, have been preparing for 8 months for the fifth annual Bakersfield Gay Pride Festival.

"Our theme today is love, equality, pride. Really, that's what this whole year is about," said Chair of the LGBTQ Whitney Wedell.

About 25 vendors and their booths lined the Bakersfield Museum of Art's back patio this weekend as hundreds of people gathered for the event, which included food, live music and entertainment as well as a colorful, inflated jumper in the KidZone.

According to Wedell the event draws about 600 people and raises around \$5,000. "It covers our cost to keep going all year," she said.

The event drew people of all ages who gathered around the stage to watch performances by comedian Robin Tyler, music from Three Chord Whore, and dance performances by the Royalty Performing Arts Centre along with other performers.

"I'm here to express who I am. I don't have to hide. Here you can hold hands, kiss and people won't look at you funny. I get a good feeling coming to an event like this, no one's trying to harass us," said Britany Hunt, a Bakersfield College student attending the festival.

One of the sponsors was PFLAG who were raising funds for their organization as well as offering support to parents of gay children. "We're promoting parents being involved with their gay children," said member Roney Meyer. "We have a local 24 hour helpline. A lot of parents in crisis call us."

Grace Episcopal Church was also there to show support. "We're welcoming the gay community, letting them know there's a safe place for them to come and worship," said church member Jan Dunlap.

Wedell said it was important to create a safe and relaxing atmosphere because the outside community may not always be as supportive. "This is an important year for us, because of Proposition 8. As you drive around you see those yellow signs and they hurt. They hurt a lot," she said as she stood in front of a booth offering bumper stickers, fliers and yard signs promoting Vote No on Prop. 8.

Wedell also said the evening was like a family reunion. "We kind of call it a family, we think of ourselves as a community family."

"It is important to create a safe and relaxing atmosphere because the outside community may not always be as supportive."

— Whitney Wedell,  
Chair of LGBTQ

"We're welcoming the gay community, letting them know there's a safe place for them to come and worship."

— Jan Dunlap,  
Grace Episcopal Church

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# THE PLUG

## Decision 2008

**Proposition 1**  
A YES vote on this measure means that the state could sell \$9.95 billion in general obligation bonds to plan and to partially fund the construction of a high-speed rail system in California and to make capital improvements to state and local rail services.

A NO vote on this measure means that the state could not sell \$9.95 billion in general obligation bonds for these purposes.

**Proposition 2**  
A YES vote on this measure means that beginning in 2015, state law would prohibit, with certain exceptions, the confinement on a farm of pregnant pigs, calves raised for veal and egg-laying hens in a manner that does not allow them to turn around freely, lie down, stand up and fully extend their limbs.

A NO vote on this measure means that state law would not contain prohibitions specifically concerning the confinement of pregnant pigs, calves raised for veal and egg-laying hens.

**Proposition 3**  
A YES vote on this measure means that the state could sell \$980 million in general obligation bonds for the construction, expansion, remodeling, renovation, furnishing, equipping, financing or refinancing of children's hospitals.

A NO vote on this measure means that the state would not sell the \$980 million in general obligation bonds proposed for these purposes.

**Proposition 4**  
A YES vote on this measure means that the state constitution would be changed to require that a physician notify, with certain exceptions, a parent or legal guardian of a pregnant minor at least 48 hours before performing an abortion.

A NO vote on this measure means that minors would continue to receive abortion services to the same extent as adults. Physicians performing abortions for minors would not be subject to notification requirements.

**Proposition 5**  
A YES vote on this measure means that drug treatment diversion programs available primarily for persons charged or convicted for a nonviolent drug possession crime would be expanded. Some parole violators would be diverted from state prison and parole terms would be reduced for others. New rehabilitation programs would be expanded for offenders before and after they leave prison. Some inmates might receive additional credits to reduce the time they stay in state prison. Possession of less than 28.5 grams of marijuana would have a lesser penalty than under current law.

A NO vote on this measure means that state and local governments would determine whether to expand existing drug treatment diversion programs in the future. The state would not be obligated to further expand rehabilitation programs for inmates, parolees and other offenders. The current rules for awarding credits to inmates to reduce their time in prison would continue. The penalty for possession of less than 28.5 grams of marijuana would remain unchanged.

**Proposition 6**  
A YES vote on this measure means that the state would be required to increase spending for specified state and local criminal-justice programs to at least \$965 million in 2009-10. This is an increase of \$365 million, and there will be more increases in future years. Sentences also would be increased for certain crimes — such as crimes related to gangs, methamphetamine sales and vehicle theft — resulting in more offenders being sent to state prison and for longer periods of time. The measure would make various other criminal-justice charges related to such things as parole agent caseloads, and use of hearsay evidence.

A NO vote on this measure means that the state legislature and governor would continue to have current authority over the state funding levels provided for specified criminal-justice programs. Criminal penalties would not be increased. Parole caseloads and use of hearsay evidence would remain unchanged.

**Proposition 7**  
A YES vote on the measure means that the electricity providers in California, including publicly owned utilities, would be required to increase their proportion of electricity generated from renewable resources, such as solar and wind power, beyond the current requirement of 20 percent by 2010, to 40 percent by 2020 and 50 percent by 2025, or face specified penalties. The requirement for privately owned electricity providers to acquire renewable electricity would be limited by a cost cap requiring such acquisitions only when the cost is no more than 10 percent above the a specified market price for electricity. Electricity providers who fail to meet the renewable resources requirement would potentially be subject to a 1 cent per kilowatt-hour penalty rate set in statute, without a cap on the total annual penalty amount.

A NO vote on this measure means that electricity providers in California, except publicly owned ones, would continue to be required to increase their proportion of electricity generated from renewable resources to 20 percent by 2010. The current requirements on privately owned utilities to purchase renewable electricity would continue to be limited by an annual cost cap on the total amount of such purchases. Electricity providers would continue to be subject to the existing penalty process, in which the penalty rate (currently 5 cents per kilowatt-hour) and a total annual penalty cap (currently \$25 million per provider) are set administratively.

**Proposition 8**  
A YES vote on the measure means that the California Constitution will specify that only marriage between a man and woman is valid or recognized in California.

A NO vote on this measure means that marriage between individuals of the same sex would continue to be valid or recognized in California.

**Proposition 9**  
A YES vote on this measure means that crime victims would have additional constitutionally guaranteed rights, such as the right to participate in any public criminal proceedings. Payments of the restitution to crime victims would be required without exception, and any funds collected from offenders ordered to pay restitution would go to pay that obligation before any other. Inmates with life sentences who were denied parole would generally have to wait longer before being considered again for release. Some parolees facing revocation and return to prison may no longer be represented by legal counsel. Early release of inmates to reduce prison or jail overcrowding would be restricted in certain circumstances.

A NO vote on this measure means that victims will continue to have the statutory right to be notified of certain criminal justice proceedings, such as sentencing and parole proceedings. Whether victim restitution would be ordered would remain subject to a judge's discretion, and the manner in which money collected from defendants is distributed would remain unchanged. All parolees would continue to be entitled to receive legal representation at parole hearings. State and local governments could take steps to release inmates early to reduce jail and prison overcrowding.

**Proposition 10**  
A YES vote on this measure means that the state could sell \$5 billion in general obligation bonds for various renewable energy, alternative fuel, energy efficiency and air emissions reduction purposes.

A NO vote on this measure means that the state would not sell \$5 billion in general obligation bonds for these purposes.

**Proposition 11**  
A YES vote on this measure means that boundaries for State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts would be drawn by a new commission made up of California registered voters. Boundaries for the U.S. House of Representatives districts would continue to be drawn by the Legislature.

A NO vote on this measure means that boundaries for State Senate, Assembly, Board of Equalization and U.S. House of Representatives districts would continue to be drawn by the Legislature.

**Proposition 12**  
A YES vote on this measure means that the state would be able to issue \$900 million in general obligation bonds to provide loans for the veterans' farm and home purchase (Cal-Vet) program.

A NO vote on this measure means that the state would not be able to issue these bonds for this purpose.

## Professors experience vandalism

By JOEL R. PARAMO  
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Editor in chief

Theft and vandalism of professors' vote YES and NO on Proposition 8 signs have become a problem that the staff of Bakersfield College is quietly discussing.

BC Academic Development faculty member Susan Pinza had a NO on Proposition 8 bumper sticker on her vehicle on Oct. 6 when she parked for work at 8 a.m. that day in the faculty parking lot next to fine arts. When she returned at 5 p.m. it had been ripped off making it less than a

day on campus.

"I believe in freedom of speech and expression," said Pinza. "What upsets me the most was the removal of viewpoints. Since then I stuck a smaller sticker, the kind you'd wear on a shirt and no one has bothered that."

ESL professor John Hart also experienced vandalism of his YES on Proposition 8 signs posted on his office door. According to Hart it looked like someone took a razor blade and cut through the tape leaving blade marks on his door. "I know there's strong emotions on both sides," said Hart. "Especially when people see

signs they don't agree with. It's happening all over the county. People have emotional reactions no matter what side they identify with, not only in conservative areas."

Pinza believes that there are a place where students are exposed to lots of different view points. "It's a great place to learn. We should respect other's views."

Professors have a general message to whoever is participating in the vandalism of these signs and censorship of their opinions. "Respect property and other people's view points," said Hart. "If you want to express yourself do it in a constructive manner, not destructive."

## Activist speaks about equal rights

By ELI CALDERON  
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Rip staff writer

In 1959, when Robin Tyler was 16 years old, she found herself falling in love with a female classmate. Confused by her feelings, she sought answers and found a flier called "The Ladder" written by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. The flier explained what a lesbian was and, most importantly, assured Tyler that regardless of what people said, it was okay to be who she was. "Because of that, I came out healthy," Tyler said.

Tyler, a comedian and human rights activist, shared some of her comedy and wisdom in Bakersfield College's Fireside Room on campus last week.

Since Feb. 14, 2001, Tyler and her now wife, Diane Olson, have gone to the Los Angeles Courthouse to ask for a marriage license. "Every year they'd hand us a piece of paper and turn us down."

The first year, although disappointed to be turned down, the couple and friends had cake to celebrate anyway. "We were almost arrested for eating cake on the sidewalk of L.A."



Robin Tyler talks about her life and the challenges she has faced as a lesbian in the BC Fireside Room on Oct. 17.

In 2004, Tyler and Olson were in a domestic partnership when Tyler called to inquire her union organization, AFTRA (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) whether Olson would be covered under Tyler's retirement

plan. That's when Tyler learned Olson would not be covered or receive benefits because they didn't have a marriage license.

"That's just the way it is," the operator told her and hung up. Shocked and upset, she contacted her friend, high-profile lawyer Gloria Allred, and together they decided to sue the county of Los Angeles for discrimination and took the case all the way to the Supreme Court. Later, another gay couple joined in the lawsuit. Reverend Troy Perry and his husband Ray de Bleeck.

Although the case got a lot of media attention in San Francisco, Tyler emphasized that it all began in Beverly Hills, where finally on May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples the right to marry in California. Also, Tyler and Olson, who have been together for 15 years, were the first gay couple to officially wed in California.

The conservative side wasted no time, however, with Proposition 8, and Tyler asked her audience to get involved as well to vote no.

"This isn't about sexual orientation. We just want the same thing as everyone else. What are people hanging onto? The notion basically is this: You're not good enough. You'll diminish our importance," she said when she spoke of the conservatives trying to pass Prop. 8.

Tyler has been an activist most of her life and continues the effort to spread equality and civil rights.

## Locals weigh in on Proposition 8 debate at CSUB

By ELI CALDERON  
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Rip staff writer

Proposition 8, if passed, will change the California Constitution and eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry in California. This was the topic of the evening's debate on Oct. 9 at Cal State Bakersfield.

Jacquelyn Kegley, a CSUB professor, moderated the debate between the two parties. It began with Marylee Shrider, columnist for the Bakersfield Californian, a conservative voting yes on Prop. 8.

Shrider stated that she recognized the dispute people had against her for "imposing her religion" on others, but argued that all of our laws recognize the imposition of people's strong convictions thus making it unfair to suggest that people of faith have no right to oppose same-sex marriage. "We will because we can and because we must," she stated in reference to protecting marriage between a man and a woman.

"Countless studies support the idea of a mom and dad being important to a child's well being. Is it right to deprive a child of his or her dad?" she asked the audience.

Annie Duran, associate professor for the department of psychology at CSUB, spoke next. She told the story of her son, who at the age of 12 came out to her but was afraid of his parents being angry with him.

Duran appeared to tear up as she recounted the fear her son had of losing his parents' love. However, she continued saying that the problem does exist in what are called "throwaway kids," which are young individuals rejected by their families and thrown out for being gay. Young adults struggling with the issue of sexuality are at high risk of suicide, she stated.

In regard to children and families, Duran said, "Research has indicated time and time again there is no difference with respect to gender and the health of children of heterosexual parents versus homosexual parents."



Marylee Shrider and Ken Mettler discuss with Anne Duran and Whitney Weddell (on left) about their support marriage is a union between a man and a woman.

district trustee, president of the Bakersfield Republican Assembly, vice president of the California Republican Assembly, and Kern County chairman for Yes on Prop. 8, followed up with what he said were dangers that exist in same-sex marriage.

He is also worried about creating a special class and the possibility of polygamists being the next population of people who want the right to be married.

Whitney Weddell, a local high school teacher, named several restrictions such as age, unfair tax benefits and divorce limitations. Weddell also said diverse families need to be recognized in schools in order to teach children acceptance of gay families.

In response to civil rights, Weddell said, "It's inappropriate to say that the people have voted, because laws are constantly overturned. We are constantly creating laws with the best intentions and years later have to

revoke them."

"When the debate was turned over to the audience for questioning, Diane, who declined to give her last name, asked Shrider and Mettler, "Since you say that being in a domestic partnership is as valid as a marriage license, would you be willing to forfeit your marriage license in exchange for a domestic partnership only?" to which both answered no.

"Eight years ago the people spoke; this year the court said 'ough,'" was the closing statement from Shrider, who added that according to God, marriage is between a man and a woman.

"How do I tell God He's wrong?" she asked the audience.

Several other participants waited in line to ask the panel a question, and the discussion continued by permission an additional 30 minutes after the student union's regular hours.

# NEWS

## Author explains Islam and cosmic war at CSUB

By MARYANN KOPP  
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Rip staff writer

Cal State University, Bakersfield's Kegley Institute of Ethics held its fourth annual fall lecture on Oct. 15 at the Dove Theatre. Reza Aslan, noted as "one of the nation's most respected experts on Islam and the Middle East," gave a lecture titled "How to Win a Cosmic War: Why We're Losing the War on Terror."

Christopher Meyers, the director of the Kegley Institute, introduced Aslan and said that he had read Aslan's book that he was discussing over the summer. "I enjoyed it immensely," Meyers said. "I found out how ignorant I am on the subject of Islam."

Aslan's lecture, which was directed at clarifying what exactly the "war on terrorism" means to everyone involved, started by talking about a small village in Israel. Umm al-Nasr, that he had recently visited. The village had a sewage pipe that had burst and was slowly leaking up from underground to the surface and would eventually become what The New York Times called a "sewage tsunami."

Aslan explained how, through America's "democratization process," the situation was never dealt with. The U.S. had, in the name of spreading democracy, targeted the regimes in Palestine and forced them to open their societies for elections.

In 2007, Palestinians had the choice to vote for their leader. The election was between Fatah or, as Aslan put it, "anybody else," as Fatah had never been truly concerned with the needs of the people. In this case,

Hamas was the other choice.

Unfortunately for Palestine, the U.S. didn't agree with having Hamas in power. (The group is "responsible for countless deaths," according to Aslan, but also "fed people, cleaned the streets, gave scholarships and actually worked for their vote.") In the end, the U.S. decided to shut Hamas down, even though we had promised Palestinians the right to choose.

Gaza was also "cut off from the rest of the world" as we tried to "starve the Palestinians into changing their minds." (Thus creating a prison with 1.5 million "angry, hungry inmates.")

The people of Umm al-Nasr had no one to go to for help regarding the septic problem as a result. After the leaked sewage had become a lake that spanned two acres, the pipe finally gave and caused the "sewage tsunami" on March 27, 2007, killing five people.

"I want you to know," Aslan said. "That there are people in the world, right now - men, women, and children - who are literally drowning in shit."

That statement seemed to create an impression that was reinforced throughout the lecture.

Aslan's first question he wanted to address was what, exactly, the war on terror is. He described terror as "a tactic," terrorist as "a wastebasket term," and said, "if we're considering the war on terror to be a clash of civilizations that there is a much larger framework to consider. He said that

if the U.S. were, in fact, engaged in a war on terror, that we would be fighting movements from all over the world, as the Middle East is not the only place where "terrorists" reside.

"By lumping all of these [Middle Eastern] groups together - most of which loathe each other and never saw the U.S. as an enemy - we created an undifferentiated enemy," Aslan said. "So, who is the enemy?"

The enemy, according to Aslan, is "religious transnationalism." That is, the belief that some people hold that religion should not be bound by borders or nation-states. The Islamic religious transnationalists, like Al-Qaeda for example, believe that the entire world should be Islamic.

Aslan also pointed out that, according to a recent study done by Rice University, 46.5 percent of Americans polled are also considered to be religious transnationalists in the sense that they believe that everyone, everywhere should be Christian.

This religious transnationalism is what the "Jihadists" had in mind when they attacked the U.S. on 9/11; to "awaken us to their agenda," as Aslan said. "They wanted to goad us into their cosmic war, and that started a transformation in the United States. Our identity as a nation was at stake."

Aslan quoted President George W. Bush as saying that, in response to the attack that "we [the U.S.] must rid the world of evil," which furthers this "metaphysical conflict" we've



Diana Gholmakani, 21, double major in business and art, gets an autographed book by author Reza Aslan.

found ourselves engaged in.

The Islamic fascism movement is typically comprised of the poor and marginalized, "the fathers of the dead children" in places like Umm al-Nasr. Jihadists, on the other hand, are generally well educated, bright and more financially well-off individuals. While some may consider the two terms to be interchangeable, there are large differences between

states as a sin.

"Political wars can end; cosmic wars don't. There are no winners or losers in a cosmic war," said Aslan. "By transforming a 'war on terror' to a cosmic war, we've lost already."

"We have to stop global conflicts of religious connotations," Aslan concluded. "How do you win a cosmic war? It's simple. You should refuse to fight in one."

## Clinics offer free immunizations to community

With the flu season coming First 5 is offering free immunizations to residents under the age of 18.

By ELI CALDERON  
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Rip staff writer

Toddler Samuel Griffin cried in anticipation of what he knew was inevitable as he stood with his mom Jamie Sherman outside of the First 5 California's free immunizations mobile clinic.

First 5 California began in 1998 when Proposition 10 was passed, which added an additional 50-cent tax to cigarettes, and the funds are distributed throughout California's 58 counties.

First 5 in Kern County provides several critical services to young children and their families through

a system of health, education and other child care programs. One of those services is providing free vaccines against all childhood preventable diseases.

"Our goal is to have every child up to date on their immunizations," said Irma Lopez, LYN for San Joaquin Community Hospital, who has partnered with First 5 Kern.

The free clinics are held three to four times a week in Bakersfield and outlying areas of Kern County such as Taft, Lamont, Wasco and other remote areas. Usually the mobile clinic is stationed at a popular shopping outlet's parking lot for three hours as families gather with their children for the free immunizations.

"It's great for those that actually take advantage of it," said Sherman, who recently moved between counties and whose insurance has not transferred over.

According to Lopez, the program



Blanca A. Gustavo, 40, brings her daughter, Biranna Gustavo, 4, to get a vaccination at the East Hills Wal-Mart parking lot.

is not simply aimed at helping lower-income families but any parent who may need the additional help.

"We're reaching out to the entire community, not just the low-income families. We just stress the importance of having these immunizations." Although the program is most popular among the infant and pre-kindergarten age group, the clinic immunizes children up to 18 years of age. Some of the vaccines the clinic also offers are the flu vaccine and the Human papillomavirus vaccine for young girls, which aids in the

prevention of certain types of cancer. Lopez said since this vaccine is not a requirement to enter schools, parents who wish to have their daughters protected have to pay out of pocket.

"This series of shots could add up to over \$300," Lopez said.

According to Lopez, the immunization program has so far helped 30,000 children in Kern County this year. "And another lump sum since then," she said.

For more information and for a complete calendar of upcoming clinics, contact Lopez at 661-869-6740.

Immunization Dates	
<b>Oct. 23</b> County Fair Market, 10415 Main Street (parking lot), Lamont, 9-noon	<b>Nov. 11</b> Wal-Mart, 8400 Rosedale Hwy (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3
<b>Oct. 27</b> NOR Neighborhood Place Riverview Park, 434 Willow Dr. (parking lot), Bakersfield, Noon-3	<b>Nov. 12</b> Kern County Dept. of Human Services, 100 E. California Ave., (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3
<b>Oct. 28</b> Save Mart Supermarkets, 2325 State Hwy (parking lot), Wasco, 9-noon	<b>Nov. 13</b> Wal-Mart, 2601 Fashion Place (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3
<b>Oct. 29</b> Vallarta Supermarket, 5951 Niles Street (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3	<b>Nov. 17</b> Ranch Market, 2705 So. H Street (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3
<b>Nov. 2</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Community Health Fair, 601 E. California Ave. 9-3	<b>Nov. 18</b> Ideal Pharmacy, 9905 So. Union (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3
<b>Nov. 3</b> Sports Authority, 4821 Ming Avenue (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3	<b>Nov. 24</b> NOR Neighborhood Place Sears Park, 444 Norris Road (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3
<b>Nov. 5</b> Walgreens, 40 Chester Avenue (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3	<b>Nov. 26</b> Vallarta Supermarket, 5951 Niles Street (parking lot), Bakersfield, noon-3
<b>Nov. 6</b>	

## Traveling exhibit visits BC, hopes to send message to students

By ELIZABETH MEEKS  
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Rip staff writer

Officers Rex Davenport and Daniel Wells of the Bakersfield Police Department brought an exhibit, known as A Life Interrupted, to the Bakersfield College campus Oct. 22.

A Life Interrupted was first developed six years ago as a way to better educate local teenage drivers. Officer Don Cegielski of the Bakersfield Police Department set out to create

a high impact intense program, and fostered an idea of using photographs from actual fatal collisions, not only due to alcohol but the reckless choices made by drivers, such as excess speed.

Davenport and Wells, in addition to their 40-hour a week patrol schedule, visit different venues in order to educate young drivers. The officers created a 45-minute power point presentation where they discuss the reality of what happens while driving under the influence of alcohol.

However, the program does not only focus on DUI driving. A Life Interrupted is about the importance of driving safely, and the message is "Be responsible for your actions."

"Although alcohol-related accidents are the worst, we want to educate about safe driving, and safety while driving," said Wells.

A Life Interrupted is a non-profit organization and through the generous donations of local business, such as Three-way Chevrolet and State Farm insurance, gifted a mobile DUI crash exhibit for community benefit.

A customized 30-foot glass sided trailer, which houses an actual automobile driven by a local 20-year-old woman who was killed in a collision with a drunken driver. The trailer allows viewers a tangible glimpse of the results of reckless driving, while being able to listen to a DVD of 911 calls and testimonials of people involved or were affected by an accident.

"The trailer is great because it gives the kids something to look at. It makes it real," said Davenport and Wells take A Life Interrupted to North High school Oct. 24.



Above: A severely damaged vehicle from a local collision is displayed during the presentation of A Life Interrupted as a strong reminder of the hazards of alcohol and driving. Left: Officers Rex Davenport and Danny Wells of the Bakersfield Police Department came to Bakersfield College on Oct. 20 and presented A Life Interrupted, an interactive program that explains the hazards of alcohol and driving.

# FEATURES

## Marketplace becomes more vivid every fall



Katy McGrath works on her chalk art during Via Arte on Oct. 12.

■ Celebrating its 10th year, Via Arte has become an artistic gathering and attracts all levels of artists.

By KELLY ARDIS  
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Rip staff reporter

The Marketplace got a bit more colorful on Oct. 11-12 with the 10th annual Via Arte.

The event, which was put on by the Bakersfield Museum of Art, had artists of all ages and experience levels from all over Bakersfield drawing both originals and re-creations on the two parking lots in front of the fountain.

Participating artists included professionals, amateurs and students. Many worked in a group, but others worked individually.

There was also a separate section for younger children called Via Bambino.

Jennifer Williams, who participated in her seventh Via Arte in Bakersfield and 10th overall, worked on a piece that was a Halloween-inspired recreation of the Dante Gabriel Rossetti "La Ghirlandata" painting.

"There is nothing more fun than inhaling chalk dust, getting dirty and having rainbow snot," Williams said. "Some people like to go off-roading. This is like the off-roading of the art world."



Artists and viewers fill the street during the Bakersfield Via Arte chalk art festival at the Marketplace on Oct. 11.

Marla Kendrick recreated one of

Dante's stretching room portraits featured in the Haunted Mansion at Disneyland for her fourth year at Via Arte.

"My dance company is my sponsor. I do it every year. I just write them a letter saying, 'It's time again. Send me a check,'" Kendrick said with a laugh.

For many of the participating artists, chalk and soft pastels are not their usual medium. Williams said she usually works with acrylic and pencils, and Kendrick said her choice in medium depends on what the project calls for.

"I work in whatever I feel like that day," she said. "Whatever seems to work in the moment."

There were plenty of spectators at the Marketplace both days to see the artists' creativity in action.

"[Via Arte] shows you that there's a lot more talent in Bakersfield than



Sarah Lahorgue, 9, draws on the Marketplace pavement during Via Arte on Oct. 12.

people think," said Kathryn Burnett for the art community in Bakersfield to flourish. "We need to support local art in order



Tony Alvarez, among over 70 other artists, create chalk art in the parking lot of the Marketplace during the 10th annual Via Arte art festival on Oct. 11.

## Local Halloween events scare and care for fun

■ The Chamber offers to frighten anyone, while the Murry Farms October Fest offers a different type of Halloween fun for younger audiences.

By ELIZABETH MEEKS  
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Rip staff writer

From creepy, gory, scary creatures to wholesome pumpkin picking and hay wagon rides, Bakersfield offers all to enjoy through the month of October in celebration of Halloween.

Returning for its fifth year of "fear," The Chamber Haunted attraction claims to be Bakersfield's most horrifying tradition, and according to Asia Marchbanks, 14, it is, "It was so scary," said Marchbanks. "They follow you through the whole thing and get right in your face."

The Chamber and CC Productions Owner David Enloe, has been involved in home haunts for as long as he can remember. "It began as something for the neighbor kids, as well as, my own daughters to experience. No one was home when we went trick-or-treating, so me and some of my friends began doing fun scary things at my home, and it has grown from there," said Enloe.

Grown it has, The Chamber is estimated to scare between 10,000 to 15,000 people during its 5-week run, which ends Nov. 1.

Located at 4009 Chester Ave., The Chamber takes you through a maze, which is 75 feet short of a quarter mile. Inside the maze you will experience horror that is 100 percent original. "We create everything ourselves. You will not see Freddy or Jason here. It is all

100 percent original every year," said Enloe.

The Chamber is an entire professional production, from lighting, sound, security and make-up. Make-up artists are brought in from Los Angeles and the lighting/sound people often work on movies and large concert projects.

Enloe takes the Chamber around the country, opening it up for the world to experience.

Hailey West, 12, said her favorite part was the costumes that pop out with lights.

Both West and Marchbanks were first timers at The Chamber, but said they can't wait to come back. "It is well worth the money," said Marchbanks.

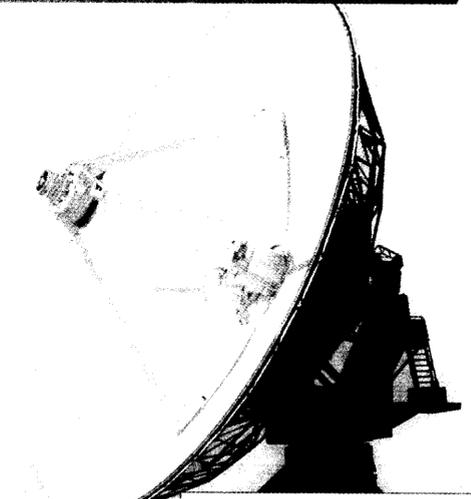
Admission for the attraction is \$10 per person and will take at least 20 minutes to walk through. If this year proves to scare your pants off just wait, because next year, Enloe has even more in store. Plans are in the works for a completely new and different attraction to be added.

Now if you are looking for something not quite so scary then Murry Farms October Fest located at 6700 General Beale Rd. might be right for you and younger children.

Murry Farms offers Halloween fun on Saturday and Sunday where you can experience a new and improved spider maze, critter coral, petting zoo, hay wagon ride, tour the farm, entrance to BERRY funland, BERRY fun activity kit, asparagus maze, plenty of picture opportunities and picking your very own pumpkin. These activities are a packaged day price of \$10 per person and children under 30 inches are free.

Aerin Warkentin, 34, brought her kids last year and says she wouldn't miss this fun. "My kids just love it. There are so many things to do and we get to take a pumpkin home to carve. It's a great day of fun," said Warkentin.

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# FEATURES

## Star Trek club to benefit kids from the future



A table of Star Trek prizes were donated by Steve Menagh's family at the Southwest Bowling Alley on Oct. 11.

By AMANDA SPICKENREUTHER  
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Rip staff writer

Bakersfield's Star Trek club, Nemesis Station, hosted its 10th annual charity bowling for the Jamison Children's Center on Oct. 11 at AMF Southwest Lanes.

The event started with a speech by club president Daryl Curtis, who thanked sponsors and donors such as Logan's Roadhouse Grill, California Living Museum and Enterprise Drilling Fluids. Russo's Books and the East Hills Mall were noted for sponsoring Nemesis Station for 10 years.

The speech ended with the promise that "all proceeds will actually go to the Jamison children."

As the children and Nemesis Station members bowled, there was music to fit the theme. Throughout the event, a CD collection of Star Trek soundtracks was played, as well as music from a Swedish Star Trek tribute band, S.P.O.C.K.

Gold, silver and bronze medals, engraved with "10th Annual Star Trek Bowling," were presented to the 14 children based on their score. With their medals, they each received a \$20 gift certificate for John's Incredible Pizza Co.

Vanessa Soto, who has been working at the Jamison Center since May, accompanied the children this year. "It's really cool to do something for the center, and the kids have fun," Soto said.

Nemesis Station members were sporting Star Trek shirts and Star Trek uniforms at the event. Curtis had a personalized bowling ball with a logo of a dagger driven through a bowling ball, which was inspired by the episode "Mirror, Mirror" from the original Star Trek series in which

the Terran Empire's logo was a dagger piercing the earth.

Klinton Insignias marked bowling ball bags and Nemesis Station's founder, Linda Thuringer showed off her personalized bowling ball labeled "Romulinda," a combination of the fictional alien species, Romulan, and her name Linda.

To raise money for the Jamison Center, there was a silent auction and raffle held during the bowling. The auction and raffle table was lined with Star Trek merchandise such as action figures (some autographed), novels, Star Trek history and behind the scenes books. Star Trek themed Uno, Kites, calendars and mugs. Starting bids ranged from \$5-7.

"These items were donated from some of the club's personal collection," said Curtis. "When club member Steve Menagh died, his family donated his collection to be sold with the proceeds going to charity."

Nemesis Station partnered with the Jamison Center because Thuringer was a reserve deputy sheriff who placed children in the Jamison Center from troubled homes. According to Curtis, she saw the trauma the kids had to deal with and saw the need to help.

"The ideals of Star Trek tie in quite nicely. Star Trek is all about making a better future. We want to make a better future for the kids," said Curtis. Nemesis Station is a non-profit organization that has been supporting the Jamison Children's Center for 10 years.

"Becoming a non-profit organization and getting tax exemption would allow us to compete with other non-profit organizations and do big projects," said Curtis. "We passed the \$30,000 mark. It's a huge milestone for us this year."

Nemesis Station has fundraises and volunteers for the Jamison Center all year round and make sure the money goes directly to the Jamison children. According to Thuringer, "We know exactly where the money goes. If it goes to administration costs, it runs the giving. I get so pissed off at charities that waste money on staff."

"That VW was a great gas saver because we pushed it all the time. It never worked, man," Soto said.

After Fresno City College, Soto went on to Fresno State and then to UC Irvine. He conceded that it took him a long time to hone his professional writing skills, and that he was never very good at keeping up journals. Nevertheless, he published his first book at age 25.

He also admitted that his parents were never very supportive of his writing endeavors. Despite this burden, he said he managed to infuse much of his work with humor. Soto read a poem about making tortillas with his friends as a child, and the tortillas were often not shaped the way they were supposed to be. Soto and his friends joked that their oddly shaped tortillas were their odd-luck countries such as Africa and Australia and others.

In the poem, the tortilla shaped



Linda Thuringer and Daryl Curtis decide what Star Trek things they can donate.

## BIT to perform for Homecoming

By SEGGAN MOORE  
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Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield Improvisational Team (BIT) has recently moved from The Spotlight Theatre to The Empty Space theater. Along with a location change came the addition of some new shows. Head League Improv, or MLI, are short skits performed in a head-to-head competition. Also featured are long form skits.

Matthew Borton, marketing manager and team member of BIT, has been a part of the group since they started eight months ago. The team consists of eight members with three people currently in training. "Before this, I was

doing general improv here in Bakersfield for about 10 years," said Borton.

Since his freshman year in high school, Borton has been acting. "Instead of soccer, I did a musical. One of the guys said that I'd be good," said Borton.

BIT does not only perform MLI and long form skits for performances, but they also customize shows depending on the event. Thursday, Oct. 23, the team will be in the Campus Center at Bakersfield College to perform skits for Homecoming. BIT will be having a performance on Saturday, Oct. 25, at The Park at River Walk for Fall Festival, which is held from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Borton says he enjoys entertaining people on stage. "It's fun to do something off the top of your head."

## Announcing the kings and queens

By ELKA WYATT  
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Rip staff writer

Homecoming week has arrived at Bakersfield College.

There are several activities planned for students, administration and faculty alike, including three-legged races, ultimate Frisbee, and tug-o-war. Prizes include gift baskets with gift certificates for Cruz Thru Car Wash, Coldstone Creamery, and various restaurants, as well as movie tickets. Also, free tickets to Saturday's game will be up for grabs. These events will be held in the Campus Center, Oct. 21 to the 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On the 22nd, Shiloh, a local band, will be playing on the stage in the Campus Center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

On the 23rd it is "Day at the Movies" at Reading Cinema on White Road. Students with a Grades card can watch a movie for \$6.

The Student Government Association has announced their choices for the Royal Court for Homecoming. Students will be voting for the two people who will best represent BC.

The SGA has revamped the process in which students are nominated for Homecoming King and Queen. In the past, students were able to nominate themselves. This year, students must be nominated by either a club or a member of the faculty.

Nominees must be a student currently enrolled at BC, in at least 6 units, have a current SGA card, a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and must be involved in at least one campus extra-curricular activity.

They were then interviewed by a panel of Homecoming Committee members, and submitted a brief essay on why they would make a good King or Queen. Four King and four Queen candidates were chosen.

Candidates have all week to cam-

paign. Students will cast their votes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Voting will be held in the Campus Center. Winners will be crowned during halftime Saturday evening at the BC Homecoming game.

Elliot Blakslee, majoring in liberal arts and nominated by David Frickel, his track coach.

Greg Snider, majoring in mechanical engineering, nominated by Inter-cultural Student Association (ISA). Snider is also involved in the Engineers Club and in H.O.P.E.S.

Gerrit Otten, majoring in agricultural business, nominated by Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Otten is a member of the Renegade football team and is involved in FCA.

Jaffar Agha, biology major, also nominated by ISA. Agha is a member of the Pre-Med Club, H.O.P.E.S.

and ISA. Queen candidates are: Janene Wendrick, early childhood development major, nominated by the African American Student Union (AASU). Wendrick is also the Outreach Ambassador and a member of AASU.

Nicole Romo, majoring in psychology, sociology, anthropology, and communications, nominated by the Psychology Club. Romo is also a member of Sigma Chi Eta Optimist Club, Phi Theta Cappa, and is president of the Psychology Club.

Seggan Moore, a journalism major, nominated by Becki Whitson, her cheer coach. Moore is a reporter for The Rip and is involved in cheer and FCA.

Danae Darron, majoring in biology, nominated by her cheer coach, Becki Whitson. She is involved in FCA and in cheer.

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CALENDAR	
OCT. 22	Everlast at the Dome at 7 p.m.
OCT. 28	Business & Technology Expo 2008 held at the Rabobank Arena from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
OCT. 29	Senses Fall at the Dome at 7 p.m.
OCT. 29	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 8 p.m.
OCT. 30	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
OCT. 31	Safe Halloween at the Kern County Museum at 5:30 p.m.
NOV. 1	Team Poster Giveaway during the Condors vs. Stockton game. Held at the Rabobank Arena at 7 p.m.
NOV. 2	Annie Moses Band at the Rabobank Theater and Convention Center at 4 p.m.
NOV. 5	Condors vs. Victoria at the Rabobank Arena at 10:30 a.m.
NOV. 6	Disney's High School Musical 2 presented by Theater of the Stars. Held on the Fox Theatre at 8 p.m.
OCT. 22	The Women's Conference from the Long Beach Convention Center will be shown at the Fireside Room on the Campus Center. The live coverage will begin at 8 a.m. and a panel discussion will begin at 10:30 a.m.
OCT. 23	Vince Gill Acoustic Tour at the Fox Theater, at 7:30 p.m.
OCT. 25	Toy Collection Drive during the Condors vs. Stockton hockey game. Held at the Rabobank Arena at 7 p.m.
OCT. 26	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 8 p.m.
OCT. 28	Fall Concert from the Band and Orchestra at the Bakersfield College Indoor Theater at 7:30 p.m.
OCT. 29	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 8 p.m.
OCT. 30	Free Flue shors at the Bakersfield College southeast parking lot. Begins at 1 p.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Drive through only, no walkups accepted.
OCT. 31	Oasis in Space at the BC Planetarium at 7:30 p.m.
NOV. 1	Flowers and Vegetables in Containers and Petite Gardens will be a companion planting at the BC Horticulture Lab from 9 a.m. to noon.
NOV. 2	BC Volleyball vs. Canyons at Gil Bishop Sports Center at 7 p.m.
NOV. 5	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 8 p.m.
NOV. 6	Monstertruck Spectacular at the Kern County Fairgrounds at 6 p.m.
NOV. 7	Native American Heritage Preservation Council at the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History at 10 p.m.
NOV. 8	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
NOV. 9	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 10	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
NOV. 11	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 12	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 13	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 14	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 15	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 16	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 17	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 18	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 19	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 20	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 21	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
NOV. 22	Broadway Across America-Atlanta presents: Wick- ed, at the Fox Theater at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
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# CAMPUS

## Poet's BC lecture full of humor

■ Mexican poet and novelist rose from humble beginnings to write about human foibles.

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

In 1973, he was a Chicano hippy college student who wore bell-bottoms and tie-dyed shirts.

Poet, Gary Soto is an author of 10 poetry collections and many novels, including "Buried Onions" and "Jes- sie," as well as numerous published essays and short stories.

Soto, who spoke at Bakersfield College's Indoor Theater Oct. 15, described his early life as being marked by poverty. Wearing a long-sleeved shirt with lines of upper- and lower- case brown letters, Soto said that as a child growing up in a working-class Mexican family in Fresno, his toys were pinto beans and cans, and his summers were spent on the front lawn darning around sprinklers. As a student at Fresno City College, Soto and a roommate ate nothing but frijoles three times a day. As a college student, Soto drove a

beat-up Volkswagen.

"That VW was a great gas saver because we pushed it all the time. It never worked, man," Soto said.

After Fresno City College, Soto went on to Fresno State and then to UC Irvine. He conceded that it took him a long time to hone his professional writing skills, and that he was never very good at keeping up journals. Nevertheless, he published his first book at age 25.

He also admitted that his parents were never very supportive of his writing endeavors. Despite this burden, he said he managed to infuse much of his work with humor. Soto read a poem about making tortillas with his friends as a child, and the tortillas were often not shaped the way they were supposed to be. Soto and his friends joked that their oddly shaped tortillas were their odd-luck countries such as Africa and Australia and others.

In the poem, the tortilla shaped

like France was a "tall hat" and the tortilla like Chile was a "long tie."

"Greenland tastes like Mexico," one of Soto's friends had said.

Soto said he also tried to fill his short stories about family life with humor as well. In his story, "Sorry, Wrong Family," the main character, a girl named Catalina, puts up with a lachrymose father and a disgusting younger brother who spits into bottles of Dr. Pepper. Catalina yearns to find someone with manners, Soto said. "Am I related to these gladia- tors?" Catalina asks.

Soto also talked about the stories he wrote about the perils of young people's relationships. In "Accidental Love," Marisa, a young woman who

lives in Fresno, deals with a cheating boyfriend.

"Cheating is a regular Fresno experience," Soto said.

The dismayed Marisa describes the boorish, cheating boyfriend as having fingers that are always tinged orange because he eats Cheetos all the time. Marisa remarks that at least she licks her fingers clean after eating Cheetos.

Soto stated that he is often inspired by the poems of South America's Pablo Neruda, and he writes because his wife tells him to. To the aspiring writer, Soto said to get an agent and submit work to publications as often as possible.

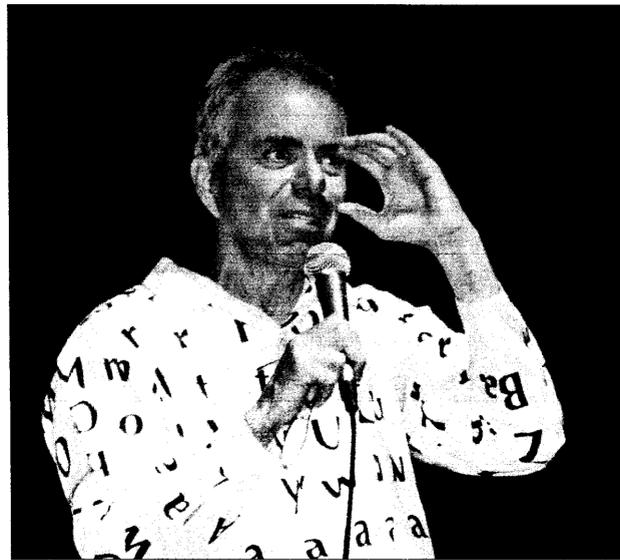
"Play the game," Soto said. "You have to be part of the literary land- scape."

Many attendees of Soto's lecture said they enjoyed the presentation of his works.

"His stories are not hard to under- stand," said Melissa Robinson, 20, nursing major. "You can relate to the characters."

"I really liked the way Soto interacted with the audience," said Corey Domingo, 19, biology major.

BC English professor Richard Marquez says that he uses Soto's work in his classes, and BC business major Katie Lee, 22, says that her mother, a teacher in Bakersfield, also uses Soto's work in her class.



Author Gary Soto speaks to a crowd in BC's indoor theatre on Oct. 16. Soto is from Fresno and has won national awards and is known for his short stories and poetry.

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## STOLEN: Investigation underway to find pilferers of Rip newspapers

Continued from Page 1

The student code of conduct states that "theft of or damage to the property of the college, another student or staff" is prohibited and punishable.

"The student code of conduct is covered in orientation and also in student development classes," An-

gela Guadian-Mendez, BC dean of students, said of the student body's awareness of the rule of conduct held.

Guadian-Mendez would not comment further regarding either the SGA incident or the investigation still in progress. "There is a student

confidentiality rule that has to be abided by."

"I am very disappointed by the im- maturity of the incident," said psy- chology professor Becki Whitson. "I just hope that those individuals who were involved are found and held ac- countable."

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Sean Haywood went to Burn The Witch to support his girlfriend who displayed her photography in the show.

## BURN THE WITCH: Talented female artists were amazing

Continued from Page 1

her acoustic guitar. This was her first year participating in the event and found the audience to be "good and welcoming."

Wilson called the women who were participating in the exhibit "amazing," and she plans to partici- pate next year if she is able.

Another first year contribu- tor, Monica Martinez, displayed several copies of a coloring book that she made as well as a print- ing titled "Goddess Hera," which she made especially for Burn the Witch III.

Martinez said that her expe- rience has been "good," and she said she would return next year.

Todd Powers, Raven's husband -- whose company, Fogslove Photography, provided the photos

of the artists -- believes that this exhibit "fills the niche for darker, less socially accepted work" in Bakersfield's arts community.

Powers and Raven are both pleased that the work they have put into over the years are paying off with a great amount of com- munity and artistic support.

"I put six months of my life into this year's show," Raven said. "I've never been so exhausted in my life."

Still, even with all of the stress she's had to work through to con- duct the exhibit, she was satisfied with the effort.

"I'm so proud of the show," she said. "I'm so proud of all the arti- sts in the show. I'm so proud of all the people who work so hard to make it happen every year."



This piece titled, "Chiller" is one of many paintings artist Ashley Martinez displayed at the all women art show.

## CHILLER: Students put up with inconvenient construction site

Continued from Page 1

ing major, the Industrial Technology building is so cold that they need to bring an extra sweater to stay warm. The IT building is part of the 1950s chiller loop, which has been in operation since then.

While the construction is still un- der way, students still may find the area a little distracting.

Margarita Pascual, a history major, said that the construction has been a distraction to him. "All that stuff was in the way, sometimes I have to go around just to go to the library," Pascual also mentioned that there have been some disruptions during class

due to the construction but nothing extreme.

Cindy Meza, a psychology major, has a class in Language Arts and said there have been no interruptions during lectures.

The trenches will be filled up after the pipes have been properly tested. One of the biggest problems the construction crew faced was the under-ground water and electric pipes that are no more than 10 inches thick.

"These construction workers really need to feel this stuff while dig- ging in this trench," said

# OPINION

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Research president proposals before voting

The presidential debates are over, the polls have remained generally the same, and most people are left unclear on the economic policies of both candidates. We hope you weren't planning to vote based on their plans to save the budget deficit. We still are unaware of the detrimental details of each candidate's budget plan. As presented both candidates cannot account for the spending and cut-backs to save the economy.

Sen. Barack Obama has proposed a net spending cut. For every dollar he spends, he will cut in other areas of spending to match, but researchers have found that not every dime will be accounted for, and the policy as presented will raise the budget deficit over the next ten years.

This holds true in Sen. John McCain's budget plan. McCain believes that he can balance the budget his first term in office by cutting earmark spending. However, unless he cuts spending drastically, according to Fact-check.org, "The Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center estimates that by 2013, at the end of his term, McCain's tax plan would have him facing a \$662 billion deficit." Obama's proposed budget might increase the deficit in 2013 by \$281 billion.

The \$700 billion dollar rescue plan according to both candidates was not enough, but, in February, it was estimated that by the end of 2008, the budget deficit would amount to \$410 billion. Americans can only fathom what the deficit will amount to after this Wall Street bailout.

We cannot base our decisions on who to vote for solely on these candidates' economic policies, but we still must take into account that both McCain and Obama want to balance out the economic deficit the United States is faced with.

Perhaps a closer look at the candidates' health care plans, positions on the war in Iraq, environmental preservation and oil independence are needed. These are topics that are more concrete and feasible. Keep in mind that the last time the budget was trillions smaller was in 1951, so to believe that either candidate can take the US back to that state would be unrealistic in the matter of one or even two terms as president.

Voters should take a moment before Nov. 4 to sit down and take a quick look at both candidate's proposals, read through the propositions and inform themselves on local candidates. It's important to know whom you're voting for and why.

## To tip or not to tip, that is the question

By ELIZABETH MEEKS  
emEEKS@bakersfieldcollege.edu  
Rip staff writer

If you cannot afford to tip when you go out to a restaurant, I have two words for you: Stay home.

I understand economic times have forced people to cut costs wherever possible; however, cutting the gratuity of servers in restaurants is not the place to do it. You are taking away the bulk of their income.

So where did tipping originate? There is evidence it began in 16th century Europe. A UC Berkeley anthropology professor found it evolved from "drink money." It was a message to the server that they should sit down and have a drink in order to avoid envy. Another explanation is that feudal lords threw "tips" of gold to the hostile peasants as a toll for safe passage. Today, it is an acronym meaning To Insure Prompt Service.

So, why tip some employees and not others? Restaurants could simply raise prices to compensate for their salary. You tip because service employees offer a highly professionalized service, and they should be thanked appropriately.

I have been in the restaurant service industry for 14 years, and within those years, I have been tipped well, not at all (stiffed) and everywhere in between. People can sit in my section, and I can predict with amazing accuracy whether or not the table will tip. Certain groups tip well, while some consistently do not. For example, the elderly usually tip poorly, due to fixed incomes, and teenagers and college students usually don't tip due to no income at all, as well as an ignorance of how to tip.

Of course, there are exceptions to every rule, however, for an overall generalization, I am right on the money.

Some say they tip according to the level of service they received. Absolutely! I agree; however, you should never tip less than 10 percent, and I will explain why.

First, the server is taxed on their sales. The government assumes servers make at least seven percent of the total sales. Therefore, when you tip less than ten percent, you not only did not allow the server to make their valued income, you also just cost them money.

In addition, there are many aspects to service: friendliness, promptness, cleanliness and accuracy. The waiter is the one who bares all complaints. Consider for a moment when your order is delivered to your table and it has onions, even though you were very specific in saying no onions, your dish still has onions. Now I realize onions in an entrée is just shy of being as disastrous as the explosion of the space shuttle, but hold your horses, unwrinkle your panties, because many times, it is not the server's fault. Perhaps the cooks in the kitchen

got it completely wrong, or the people responsible for delivering the food to the table messed up, yet with all the variables, the waiter takes the heat from disgruntled patrons, even though it was out of the server's control. Or how about this: It took forever to get your drinks. The waiter does not make the drinks; they only serve them. If the bartender is slow, lousy, or wait — maybe just busy, it affects the promptness of the waiter.

Next, you are not the only guests needing service. Each server has on average five to seven tables, each being able to seat at least five guests per table. Do the math. That is upwards of waiting on 35 people at once, each wanting something every time you walk by because they can't seem to have the ability to ask for everything at once.

Servers do not intentionally ignore you. We have all experienced service when the server seems to take care of you but you, honestly, serve are just busy, so cut them some slack as they are only trying to earn an honest living, and your tips provide that living.

Even if you have to wait for your server to come to your table for what you feel is too long, be patient. You will not starve. Unless flies are swarming your tear ducts, sit back, relax and enjoy the company you are with. After all, it's just food.

By JOHN ORNELAS  
jornelas@bakersfieldcollege.edu  
Rip staff photographer

Let me preface this by saying I appreciate from personal experience how hard waiters and waitresses work.

The customers they have to deal with (shady types like you and me) give them a never-ending assault of demands and expectations, and restaurant service workers are among some of the hardest entry-level workers around.

That being said, they shouldn't get tips. Let me explain.

Because the government takes taxes out of tips made from waiters and waitresses, it is technically part of their wage. As customers, we are therefore paying parts of the wage directly to the worker. It would make more sense for the employer to pay the worker more, and leave the middleman out of it. That way, the government would tax the worker for the exact amount instead of guessing how much they had made in tips.

Most waiters make minimum wage. By forcing customers to pay them tips and then taxing the tips, the only real winner is the company they work for. They get off paying their em-

ployees less and having a sleazy justification to work them harder. Do I think it's wrong? Of course. Put a petition against it, and I'll sign it, but I won't join in helping the company take advantage of their employees.

I have even heard stories of places like Café Med here in Bakersfield that put an 18 percent tip into the bill automatically, and then give the worker only a fraction of that tip. This is a great example of the true nature behind the tip: exploitation.

Not only exploitation of the underpaid worker, but also exploitation of us as consumers who pay money to companies we did not intend on paying.

However, even if all the taxing issues would disappear, I still would be against tipping.

The fact is that waiters and waitresses are just doing their job. When they fill up my coffee or ask if I need anything, they're doing what they signed up to do and are already getting paid for it.

There is no such thing as "going out of your way" when your job is to please the customer. I'm sure there are plenty of you who have worked retail jobs where you dealt with unruly customers, and did things that weren't in your job description to mend the issue only to receive no tip.

In fact, there are plenty of other jobs with very similar responsibilities to waiting tables that do not receive tips. I've worked at places like Target and Home Depot and would spend over half an hour on a single customer on a regular basis.

However, even when going beyond duties of my job description to please customers, the companies would actually forbid us from receiving tips.

Similarly, people who work at fast-food restaurants don't receive tips, and many times not only do they serve you food, they have to cook it as well.

What entity decides what jobs are tip worthy? I don't remember voting on it or getting any memo on the subject. So why should I have to pay for it? And furthermore, where does it end? Are we going to start tipping the mailman or our college professors?

The fact is that waiters and waitresses work hard and should be paid more than minimum wage. But that's not my problem as a customer wanting a tuna melt.

It should be the responsibility of the worker to demand more than minimum wage for a job that is truly grueling.

If waiting staff workers want extra money, then they should ask for higher wages. Go on strike.

Garbage collectors in New York City did it and now make more money a year than most college graduates.

However, I don't feel that customers should have to pick up the slack of a greedy employee who doesn't want to pay a hard-working employee a respectable wage.



AMANDA SPICKENREUTHER / THE RIP

## All voters should know what they are voting for, about

Whether voting for your first time, or fifth, every voter should research all propositions before they vote; not take someone's opinion or advice because your vote affects everyone.

By KELLY ARDIS  
kardis@bakersfieldcollege.edu  
Rip staff writer

November 4 is fast approaching, and for many of us this will be our first year voting. As voters, we have the duty to research the issues and make a well-informed decision.

Unfortunately, for many people making a well-informed decision simply means asking someone else, someone who they assume is more knowledgeable on the issue than they are.

Instead of taking another person's word for it, we need to find out where we stand on the issues ourselves and not rely on other people to tell us what is "right" and what is "wrong." Values are subjective and what works for them might not work for you.

I've overheard many people say that they are voting for a certain candidate and when pressed for the reasons why, they can't seem to come up with a single answer. Too many people are voting for whom and what they've been told to vote for by their parents, their friends or even celebrities.

The decisions made through elections are incredibly important and affect everyone. Voting is not something that should be taken lightly. Looking at the propositions on the ballot the day of the election should not be the first any voter has seen of them, and there should be more behind one's decision to vote for Obama

than just because he is good-looking. Voters should know all the propositions well enough beforehand, so that they can quickly fill in their bubble of choice without struggling over the wording of the summary on the ballot. They should know where each candidate stands on all the issues and what they plan to do regarding those issues.

From this information we can find the candidate and propositions that match up with our personal beliefs the most and support them. Decisions made based on personal beliefs should remain personal and not be influenced by other people, who have their own personal beliefs.

One might think that becoming informed would take a lot of work and time, but it doesn't have to. Websites like OnTheIssues.org provide simple explanations about where each candidate stands on issues like abortion, health care and gun control. It also gives the voting record

of each candidate. CaliforniaPropositions.org briefly explains each proposition and provides links for more information on who supports what propositions and what you can do to help your causes. At the website, you can also subscribe to a mailing list which will keep you updated on the issues you care about.

With all the issues put before us on the voting ballot, it is reasonable to be a little overwhelmed.

But learning about what you're voting for doesn't have to be hard, and it's worth finding out where you stand on each issue and voting that way as opposed to taking someone's word for it.

Unless you become fully informed, you could end up voting for something you'll later complain about and not even know you did nothing to help it.

Compiled by Ally Armstrong / The Rip

## GRADE FEEDBACK

How is the economy affecting you?



Ox M., Marine Biology: "Everything's too expensive. I can't even afford a movie."



Isela Valdez, Criminal Justice: "I don't have gas to get here in the morning. I'm always broke."



Crystal Garcia, Business: "The only thing it is affecting is the groceries."



Daniel Gandarilla, Business: "I can't do more of the things I like doing."



Taghi Shafiei, Nursing: "It affects me because I'm an international student."



Blaire Howze, ASL: "Gas for one thing because I live out by Shafter. It has a very big effect on my cost of living."



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

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Letters should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by a signature and the letter writer's identity must be verified with a photo ID. The Rip reserves the right to edit letters; however, writers will be given the opportunity to revise lengthy or unacceptable submissions.

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

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# REVIEWS

## Coffee to help youth

A new extension of old establishment offers another food and drink option to downtown Bakersfield employees.

By ANDREW J. ANSOLABEHERE  
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Rip staff writer

Comfort is key at Bakersfield's newest coffee house. Dagny's, at the Dream Center.

Located on 18th Street across from Sequoia's S a n d - w i c h C o . , this new Dagny's location has a grand opening on Oct. 7.

The brick front building has a small outside seating area. On a nice day, the large wall-sized window is rolled up to expand the seating area and bring a nice breeze into the shop.

Inside, a beautifully paneled ceiling and crystal chandeliers combine with modern furniture to make a very artsy feel.

On the white walls hang pictures drawn by students who are connected to Foster Youth Services.

The owner of Dagny's, Mike Walters, has teamed up with Foster Youth Services along with the Network for Children to accommodate emancipated youth.

All but one of the store's employees come from foster homes and now, on their own, have job security thanks to Walters' collaboration with Network for Children.

The shop offers much of the same menu as the original Dagny's location downtown on the corner of 20th and Eye. Their fruit smoothies are fantastic and blended to perfection.

Another great drink to order would be a simple blended mocha. Smooth and creamy, it is a perfect mix of delicious Dagny's coffee and chocolate. My drink was brought right to me by one of the very friendly staff.

A blueberry muffin is an excellent choice for a bite to eat. The baked goods served at Dagny's come from Great Harvest Bakery, located in the northeast. Made that morning, the muffin was moist and full of bursting berries.

The muffin and a blended mocha cost me just over six dollars. Although the food isn't cheap, the prices are comparable to Starbucks.

Dagny's at the Dream Center is definitely on my list of favorite coffee houses. It provides a very comfortable environment with some great drinks and food that tops most other options around town.



ALEJANDRO MONTANO / THE RIP

Dream Center and Coffee House, located on 18th Street, provides an excellent comfortable environment with some great food and drinks.



ALEJANDRO MONTANO / THE RIP

The white walls are decorated with pictures drawn by students who are connected to Foster Youth Services.

The white walls are decorated with pictures drawn by students who are connected to Foster Youth Services. The acting is remarkable. Josh Brolin as President Bush is scary accurate. One odd thing that I noticed was that he was almost constantly eating or drinking something. I don't know if this was done to make the character look slightly less civilized than the other characters or just because Stone liked to shoot food scenes. Whatever the reason, I feel that Brolin must have had a watch his weight from consuming all of that food take after take.

The people in his cabinet were also well acted. The only problem with the cast I had was Thandie Newton as Condoleezza Rice. At points her voice was too nasally for me to pay attention to the lines she was trying

## President portrayed as foolhardy fiend

New movie attempts to capture crucial moments in President Bush's term and key events from his past.

By BIANCA HERNANDEZ  
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Features editor

Watching a political drama isn't my idea of a fun Sunday morning, but I tromped myself over to the theater because "W." was supposed to be controversial, and I love the smell of personal reasons than the security of citizens.

Dick Cheney was portrayed as the warmonger, and Colin Powell was shown as basically the one voice of reason against the war.

I kept in mind that this was a movie, not a documentary; so many of the events were probably not completely factual. I did recognize that a few famous "Bushisms" made their way into the movie.

The music gave a deceptively cheerful note to montages of war and conversations concerning the invasion. "Robin Hood" by Dick James was played many times throughout the movie when Bush was talking about the reasons to invade.

It was like the filmmakers were trying to accentuate the idea that Bush thought he was doing what he thought was best, but really he was setting himself up to look like a fool.

I figured I'd walk out of the theater thinking one of two things: either I would feel sympathetic toward the president, or I would be completely disgusted by him. I wound up feeling neither.

As a political statement, it didn't really make me change my perspective on anything. As a movie it was fine, but I wouldn't watch it again, but I do respect that it was a well-made movie and will probably earn Brolin a nomination or two.

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## Pet product not safe or efficient

Product that claims to be easy and safe to use on pets appears to be nothing more than a glorified household tool.

By AMANDA SPICKENREUTHER  
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Rip staff writer

Among the "enlarge your manhood" junk mail for the penis I don't have, I notice e-mails from Pedi Paws in my spam inbox each time I check my e-mail.

Pedi Paws is a rotary nail filer that is supposed to gently grind down an animal's nails. It's advertised as a pain-free method of nail grooming, unlike clipping with traditional clippers.

My cat, Gigolo, has claws like talons, and I thought he and my leather couch could both benefit from this product, so I put some faith in Pedi Paws. I bought the \$19 contraption with a positive attitude, even though I haven't had much luck with other aspen-on-TV products. I hoped this would be the one that worked.

I've clipped Gigolo's nails with a traditional clipper, and he showed signs of discomfort. He doesn't lash out with claws, teeth and hisses, but he'll put up a struggle. On the other hand, I'm not too fond of straddling his squirming, robust, 17-pound frame to give his nails a regular trimming.

# THE PLUG

## The Countdown Begins

### Kern County locals weigh in on presidential hopefuls John McCain and Barack Obama as they race for the White House

By JOEL R. PARAMO  
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Editor in chief

By BIANCA HERNANDEZ  
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Features editor

A shift in the air seems to be turning Kern County into a much more democratic place. According to Bakersfield College Communication Professor Helen Acosta, democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama has a message, which is "a message that's focused on solving the problems people see in their own lives." Kern County Democratic Headquarters is optimistic about the upcoming election, but Chairman Candi Easter says that anything can happen in the last weeks of the race.

"A lot of excitement has been generated by Obama. We've been registering a record number of people to vote at the fair we registered 1,000 where we'd normally only register about 200 new democrats," said Easter. "We're not going to stop. We're going to keep working till the polls close on Nov. 4."

Last weekend, nearly 17,000 local households were visited in support of the democrats. Local supporters have never seen in the past the enthusiasm that they're seeing in this election.

"People are mad at what's happened to America," said Easter. "They are ready for new politics and leadership in the White House."

Bakersfield has a really strong environment for democrats according to phone bank coordinator Tom Webster.

"This town has always been a lot more liberal than we appear to be," he said. "In the last four months, we've registered over 7,000 new democratic voters."

Acosta, who has been teaching at BC for 13 years, has also noticed a shift in students' political views.

"We used to see 60 to 70 percent of students as conservative," said Acosta. "I've seen a complete flip. Students are becoming more progressive than before."

In a normally republican area, it has been observed that conservative Bakersfield has become balanced with the liberal.

"Every vote counts. It doesn't matter whether or not it's a blue county or red. We had a huge rally in the park, about 1,000 people were there," Easter said. "Bakersfield is turning a nice shade of purple."

According to Webster, major changes are occurring by districts, and what he's seeing is a lot of county seats that are changing their republican views.

"People are moving parties," said Webster. "What you're seeing is lots of people that have not voted for 10 to 15 years registering again and coming into our office. I just registered a 52-year-old woman who will be voting for her first time. People have a candidate they can identify with and stand behind."

Currently, Acosta has noticed that students are paying much more attention to the "big problems" of the country, especially when it comes to the economy.

"The economy issues hit us faster," she said. "We have huge gaps: from extreme poverty and then the people who live dramatically beyond their means."

According to Acosta, who recently spoke with a member from Habitat For Humanity, Bakersfield has so many vacant homes that no one should have to build a new one until the year 2011. She feels that the economy and the campaign both parties are leading play a huge role in the shift to more progressive points of view.

"Right now, republicans are doing what they accuse the democrats of doing: attacking with no solution," said Acosta. "Barack Obama has provided a steady influence and has stayed with his core message with looking to our better angels. He's focused on what's good instead of constantly tearing down the other side."

Not only did local democrats register in large numbers, headquarters are now having trouble keeping up with providing the posters to support the campaign.

"We've seen a huge participation this election. Over 3,500 yard signs have been distributed all over the county," said Easter. "We've sold all of them, and we still have people coming in at least every 15 minutes looking for them."

A candidate with experience appears to be what is setting Sen. John McCain apart from his rival. The republican nominee will face off against Sen. Barack Obama Nov. 4 for the office of president of the United States of America.

Scott Raab, the Kern County coordinator for John McCain, said that McCain represents working with the other side.

"This election has been hyped as one of the most important elections to take place in our lifetime, and people appear to have taken notice of that idea. 'A lot of people came out for the first time,' said Raab of this election. He went on to say that voter turnout and volunteer turnout were both up. Raab commented that there weren't just new voters, but people who had not voted for many years. He also said that the voter registration in Kern County was record breaking.

"I look at it from an experience perspective," said Kayo Anderson, 18, of why she is leaning toward voting for McCain. McCain has served on the U.S. Senate since 1986.

According to his website, McCain's economic plan will not only create more jobs, but it will also support small business, help families, improve healthcare, even cut taxes and create cheaper and more efficient forms or energy.

The addition of Gov. Sarah Palin to the ticket appears to have had a positive effect on the campaign, according to Raab. Of Palin, Raab said that though she is not the most popular republican, "She puts country first before our party."

He also said that she has helped to energize the party, and she represents what McCain wants for the future of the party. "Palin has 80 percent approval rating," said Raab.

"I think Palin is a great speaker, and she really represents what I would like to see in politicians," said Chase Timmons, 20. "In my opinion, America doesn't need more corrupt government to be involved in every part of everyone's life, and I would like to see the current corruption taken care of."

According to Raab, Palin has fought against corruption in her home state.

Raab also said that he felt Hillary Clinton's loss in the primary, and Obama's choice of Sen. Joe Biden for his vice presidential candidate instead of Clinton has helped bring her supporters over to McCain.

"McCain is pretty comfortably the underdog," said Raab.

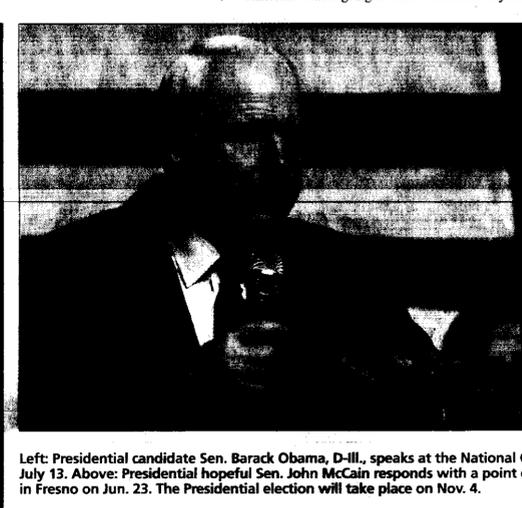
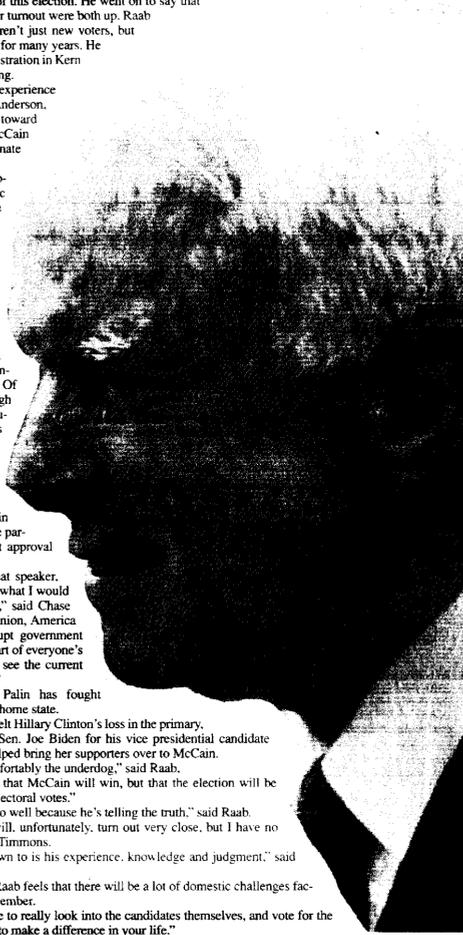
In the end, Raab feels that McCain will win, but that the election will be close: "within 20 or 30 electoral votes."

"I think McCain will do well because he's telling the truth," said Raab. "I think the election will, unfortunately, turn out very close, but I have no idea who will win," said Timmons.

"What it all comes down to is his experience, knowledge and judgment," said Raab.

No matter who wins, Raab feels that there will be a lot of domestic challenges facing whoever wins in November.

Anderson urged people to really look into the candidates themselves, and vote for the candidate "whose going to make a difference in your life."



Left: Presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks at the National Council of La Raza Convention in San Diego on July 13. Above: Presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain responds with a point during the town hall meeting at Fresno State on Jun. 23. The Presidential election will take place on Nov. 4.

# FEATURES

## Drummers follow their own beat in Bakersfield

■ Bakersfield drummers gather and compete at Guitar Center for a chance to win \$25,000. Winner Adrian Nevarez was "surprised" he won but "well prepared to hold the title."

By ANDREW J. ANSOLABEHRE  
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Rip staff writer

Adrian Nevarez is a little surprised but well prepared to hold the title of Bakersfield store winner of the Guitar Center's Drum Off '08.

Guitar Center's Drum Off is the largest drum competition in the world. The Drum Off '08 celebrates the 20th anniversary of the competition. In honor of the 20 years, the grand prize for this year's winner is \$25,000 in cash and prizes.

Nevarez is a first-time Drum Off competitor and has been playing drums in a band and toured the country for two summer seasons in shows as a member of the Vanguard Cadets for Santa Clara Vanguard.

Nevarez will go on to compete on Nov. 4 in Rancho Cucamonga for the District Finals. Those who win in Rancho Cucamonga can go on to compete in the Regional Finals on Dec. 2 and possibly the Grand Finals in Jan. 2009.

Nevarez had spent little time on the drum kit until the past few years. "I haven't played drum set too much, about... two and a half years." His experience with drums made his transition to drum set fairly smooth. "I'm pretty much gonna stick to drum set," said Nevarez. "That's where I'm at. Drums is my passion."

Although it is his passion, he does not think drums will be a part of his profession. "I see music as a hobby. Something to take the stress away."

Nevarez gave drum lessons in Bakersfield but soon stopped. "I used to teach around the area. I didn't like making music my job."

Nevarez is going for his bachelor's degree in business and is hoping to specialize in Human Resources management.



PHOTOS BY JOHN ORNELAS / THE RIP

Top: Adrian Nevarez, who won the Bakersfield regional drum battle, performs to a cheering crowd. The competition was held at Guitar Center on Ming Ave. The winner for the nationwide contest includes \$25,000, a drum set and thousands of dollars in other prizes. Bottom: Cory Perry, the first of the six Bakersfield finalists, competes in Guitar Center's drum competition.

## Art teacher's work shown in BC library

By KATHERINE J. WHITE  
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Copy editor

Everything about the Earth and its elements are good, said BC art professor Martene Tatsuno.

And she loves manipulating and shaping those elements: clay, glass, etc. Ever since high school, Tatsuno has enjoyed the sensations of working with clay and glass.

At Tatsuno's "Hands On: Home Grown" reception on Oct. 16 at Bakersfield College's Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery in BC's Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, the public got a look at her handiwork. Many attendees made favorable remarks about her product.

Of Tatsuno's "Chips and Chiles" glass and stoneware presentation, Taft College theater student, Morgan Von Sydow, 20, said that he never thought of the possibility of glass being shaped into chiles and chips. "It opened my mind," Von Sydow said.

Beverly Munguia, 19, BC art student, concurred with Von Sydow and admitted she simply loved the display.

Of Tatsuno's "Rocks" display consisting of variegated stoneware clays and sand, William Guerra, 21, theater student, remarked that he was fascinated with the display's different shapes and colors.

Former students of Tatsuno's, retired Bakersfield elementary school teacher, Phil Romley and retired San Diego photojournalist, Sally Larsen admitted being blown away by Tatsuno's blown glass displays and delicately colored jewelry. Another former student, Lynne Helfrick, admitted to taking all of Tatsuno's jewelry classes, and she said that she gained a lot of useful knowledge from the classes. Helfrick ran a bead and jewelry store in Bakersfield, but she is now retired. Her husband, a silversmith, took many of Tatsuno's jewelry classes, and the experience helped him improve his craft.

Tatsuno's displays included her microscopic "Ancient City," which consists of pit-fired and high-fired stoneware.

Tatsuno's work will be on display at the gallery until Nov. 25.

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