

EYES OF THE RIP

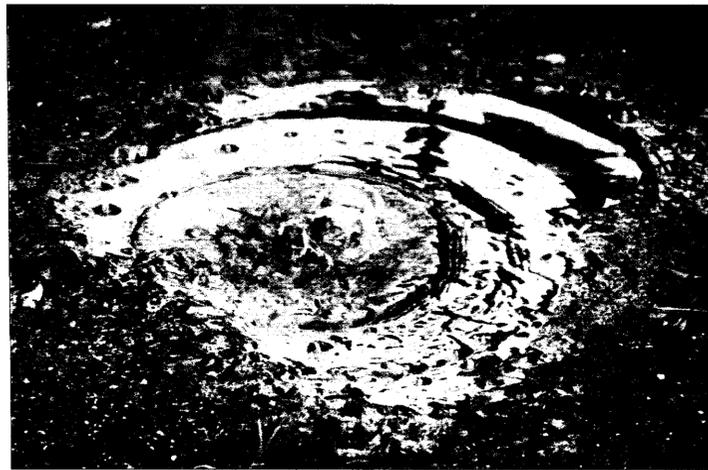
Rainy Daze

As the winter rain falls upon the Bakersfield area, its citizens continue with their daily activities inside or out of the rain.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

A student manages to get some exercise between classes, Feb. 5.



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Rainwater from the roof of the cafeteria in Bakersfield College's Campus Center drips into a puddle formed in the flower beds.



Trumpet and double bass player Jamin Marshall of the Redmond, Oregon band, Larry and his Flask, plays the trumpet in the encore song at Sandrini's on Feb. 9.

DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP



Raindrops hang from a branch at Bakersfield College on Feb. 9.

GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Banjo player and vocalist for the band, Larry and his Flask, sings and dances in a live show.

DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP



Tracey the horse from Bakersfield College's farm stands still against a fence on Feb. 9.

PATII J. LOOMIS / THE RIP



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Gray, rainy skies soak fresh blossoms in a tree in the Campus Center at Bakersfield College.



Tracey the horse from Bakersfield College's farm stands still against a fence on Feb. 9.

PATII J. LOOMIS / THE RIP



Bathrooms disgust staff

The Rip staff is repulsed with the state of Bakersfield College's bathrooms.

Opinion, Page 6



Off to a running start

Track and field teams place third at their home meet. Teams look to improve.

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THE RENEGADE RIP

www.therip.com

Vol. 80 • No. 9

Bakersfield College

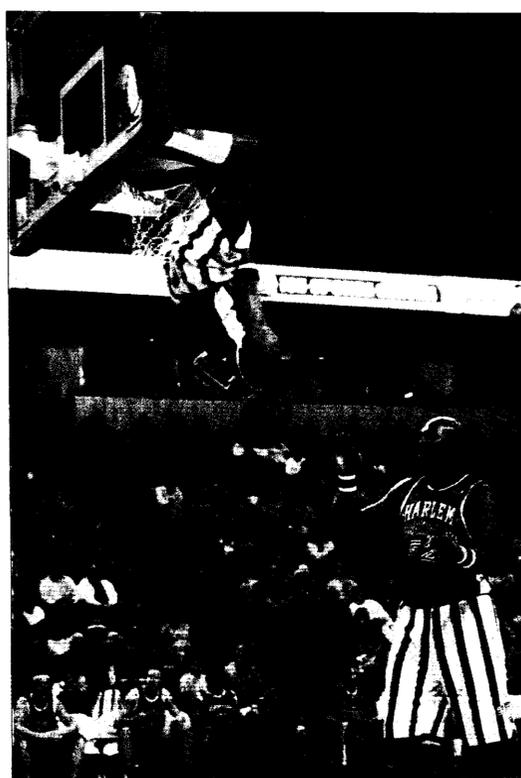
February 19, 2009



Just hanging around and upside down

Above: "Bull" Bullard shows off his dunking ability Feb. 12. Right: "Hi-Rise" Brown hangs from the basket after slam dunking a shot while teammate "Big Easy" looks on. The Harlem Globetrotters played at Rabobank Arena with trick ball handling and aerial antics.

Photos by Gregory D. Cook / The Rip



Administrators work on BC's accreditation

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

Bakersfield College is making some headway. The Accreditation Steering Committee, headed by Ed Knudson, BC vice president of academic affairs, is working to address various recommendations for improvement in the operation of the college set forth by the visiting accreditation team known as the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges. All colleges in this district and in other districts must submit to examination by this official accrediting team and must be found to be in full compliance with the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Education. If BC does not continue to address weaknesses noted by this visiting team, it will lose its accreditation status. That means BC students will not be able to transfer their BC credits to other institutions. Currently, BC has full accreditation status, which was granted by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The BC steering committee is examining the various BC departments and gathering information about them, said Knudson. Many of the recommendations for improvement are connected with staffing, unit planning and program reviews, said Amber Chiang, BC director of marketing and public relations. "We'll be out and about to get evidence," Chiang said. The last ACCJC visit was in fall 2006, and the next visit will be in fall 2012. BC must submit a mid-term report that shows evidence of improvement in the college set forth by the visiting accreditation team known as the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges. According to the steering committee's work plan, by March 2, evidence of improvements at BC must be compiled and recorded. By April 27, a draft of the report must be completed. BC president Greg Chamberlain must examine this report by May 8, and the edited first draft must be sent to the college district office by May 15. Between May 22-Aug. 15, the committee must correct and post the final copy to the college Web site. The final copy must be approved by KCCCD board of trustees by September. Chamberlain describes BC's process of self-examination as intense and ongoing. "We need to respond to all of the recommendations," said Chamberlain. "It's a process of constantly looking for ways to improve." According to Knudson, progress See ACCREDITATION, Page 4

SGA hands out new 'smoke free' policy survey

By J. W. BURCH, IV
jwburch@bakersfieldcollege.edu
News editor

The Bakersfield College SGA has put out a survey to help decide whether to institute a "smoke-free" policy on campus. This is the fourth time since 2004 that a "smoke-free" policy has been considered.

"This has been an ongoing struggle," said Kern County Public Health Department official Nsele Nsuangani, "because the SGA changes every school year, and the previous SGA could not come to a consensus and pass the proposal."

The "smoke-free" proposal will make BC a smoke-free campus except for officially

posted designated areas" and that "the designated smoking areas shall be within a reasonable distance for access by students, faculty, staff, administrators and visitors."

The proposal also says, "Campus maps showing designated smoking areas shall be made available to all employees, students and visitors."

"I'm fine with designated smoking areas," said Gilbert Cordova, psychology and human services major.

"As long as there are enough. It is a big campus, and people aren't going to want to walk across campus just to have a smoke."

California state law says: Smoking is prohibited "within 20 feet of main entrances, exits and operable windows of any building

owned, leased and occupied by the state, county, or city and community colleges."

Whether the smoking proposal is passed or not, the Kern County Department of Public Health will be sending a letter to BC president Greg Chamberlain demanding that BC comply with the California state smoking law.

"State law prohibits smoking within 20 feet of any entrance, exit or operable window," Nsuangani said.

"And BC does not enforce that law. BC is the only school that has been giving us headaches. Porterville College and Cerro Coso College have no smoking signs and enforce the law."

"It's not about smokers. Smokers can

smoke all that they want," Nsuangani said. "It is about protecting those who have decided not to smoke."

Although the proposal has never been to make BC a completely "smoke free" campus, there are those who think of it as a better solution.

"I'm for a completely smoke-free campus," said Christopher Knaak, business major. "But I don't spend a lot of time on campus, so it doesn't really affect me either way."

"I understand that people don't want to be around smoke," Cordova said.

"But cutting down smoking at BC won't stop much. Aren't we still number one for bad air in the country?" Surveys can be found in the SGA office.

Delano works to revise SGA constitution

By GABINO VEGA ROSARIO
gvega@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Editor in chief

In November 2008, the Bakersfield College Delano Center held their first Student Government Association elections but were declared non-valid because of the unapproved constitution. Since the winter break, the Delano Center has been meeting with BC SGA representatives to revise the rejected constitution and plan student events.

A group of 17 volunteer students called the Delano Center Committee is currently meeting every Friday to discuss events and student needs like any other student organization. The committee involves the following students: Rovia Eublera, Dannie Genel, Roberto Ibarra, Maria Zamora, Britney Valov, Loy Salarda, Jack Brigham, Jasirre Heredia, Sandra Ortiz, Jesus Valencia, Travis Underwood, Hector Hernandez, April Hernandez, Elizabeth Santiago, Helen Calip and Marisol Guzman.



GABINO VEGA ROSARIO / THE RIP

The Delano Center Committee holds a meeting on Feb. 13.

Though this is just a temporary group, this committee is planning on being their own independent SGA in the future.

According to Mildred Lovato, vice president of student services, a branch campus is allowed to have a SGA, but the board of trustees has to allow it. "There is a formal process and a legal process," said Lovato.

needed approval," she said. "I thought Lyne (Mugema BCSGA president) gave me the approval for the elections. After this, the communication broke off."

The elections did not count, but the students interested in the project volunteered their time and have been helping make executive decisions.

"The Delano students were not trying to run a coup," said Bonnie C. Suderman, dean of learning measures and IT.

"The communication broke down on both ends. They both didn't know what to do."

But now both BCSGA and the Delano committee have been working together to hold events and keep in contact. Dannie Genel, from the Delano committee, is working close with Justin Salters from BCSGA.

"We are glad to have Dannie," said Eublera. "She is the official communicator for Delano and SGA."

On the first day of school, BCSGA went to the Delano Center to help students find

See DELANO, Page 4

2012 plan still 'going strong' despite challenges

By J.W. BURCH, IV
jwburch@bakersfieldcollege.edu
News editor

The 2012 Plan, which was brought to fruition in 2007, has reached the implementation stage. In the fall 2008 semester, new campus maps and building signage were introduced as a result of the 2012 Plan.

Although much of the student body may not notice any major changes to the campus, the 2012 Plan is still going strong.

"Students might think that nothing is going on," said Ann Morgan, BC director of institutional research and planning. "But we have one to two meetings a month. Organizational change happens very slowly, and it takes time for results to show."

The 2012 Plan is made up of seven initiatives, each aiming at a different area for the plan to focus on. The seven initiatives are student excellence, communication, oversight and accountability, fiscal responsibility, facilities, image and linkage.

"All the initiatives are important," Morgan said. "But communication is at the core of everything we do."

Currently, the 2012 Plan is in the process

of deciding on an artistic symbol. Created by BC art student William Holler, the work of typographic art will be in the shape of a tree with the trunk and roots of the tree being made up of the plans that "form the basis and foundation of the organization." The branches of the tree will be made up of the seven initiatives that form the 2012 Plan. "We believe in the importance of symbolism," said Patti Ross, who is a consultant for the 2012 Plan along with her colleague John Milburn. "We want to demonstrate that the BC campus and community are growing."

The 2012 Plan, a five-year plan to help improve the BC experience, will be incorporated into the existing infrastructure of BC, something that can be a "difficult and long process."

When asked of the 2012 deadline and if it will be met, Morgan said, "Given the recession and other challenges we've had, I can't predict that we will be done by 2012. But there has been good work to date and as much as possible, if not all, will be done by 2012."

"We need everyone to be involved," Ross said. "Including students ... it is their school, after all."

SPORTS

Olcott takes center stage

BC center looks to the future.

By VINCENT PEREZ
vinperez@bakfieldcollege.edu
Sports editor

Nineteen-year-old Bakersfield College sophomore center Alex Olcott is a vital part of the BC men's basketball team.

BC head coach Rich Hughes said about Olcott, "He's the key component to our success the last two years, and he's a good player."

"He's the guy you always want on your team because he's a leader, and he's pushing everybody every day. One thing is that he doesn't care about stats. He wants to win, and that's hard to find these days."

Olcott said about his experience in basketball, "I started in fourth grade because nobody said I could make the team, so I just tried out, and I did. It was fun, and I enjoyed it. It was recreational at first so it ended up being a good thing for me."

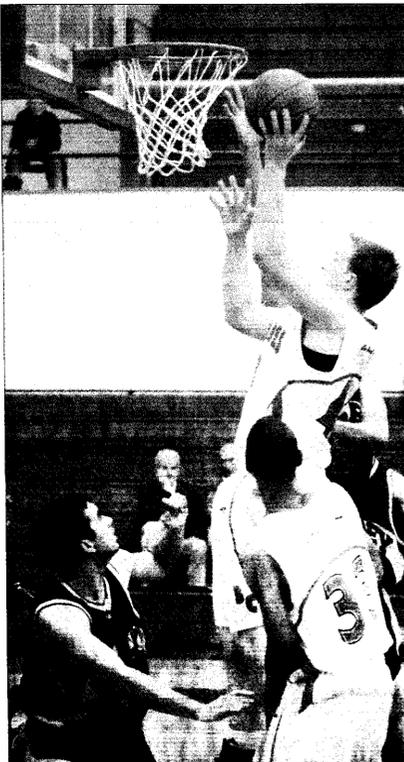
Olcott's uncle Richard Mahlmann played in Major League Baseball and inspired Olcott to succeed in sports. Mahlmann, a left-handed pitcher, was drafted in the 1968 MLB draft by the California Angels and attended Fresno State University.

Olcott's opinion on attending a university after BC is still in question as Olcott said that he is not sure where he will go, but he is hopeful that he will play in college. Olcott will stop playing basketball at university play because he feels that he cannot compete with NBA players.

The season is nearing its end and Olcott reflected on it. "I feel like I can still improve, but overall we're doing all right," said Olcott. Olcott has come from being a guard in high school at Bakersfield High School to a center at BC. At Bakersfield High, Olcott took more 3-point shots, now at BC, Olcott plays more defensively.

"I used to be a facing-the-basket kind of player. Now I am a back-to-the-basket kind of player. It's a one-hundred eighty degree switch."

"I feel like since it's only been a year since I switched, it's been pretty much a great improvement for me."



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

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Men win some, lose one

After defeating College of the Canyons and West L.A. the Renegades were pounded 95-76 by L.A. Valley on Feb. 11.

By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS
tgombos@bakfieldcollege.edu
Photo editor

The Bakersfield College men's basketball team went 3-1 over the last two weeks; the only loss was a pounding from a conference opponent.

The Renegades were dominated for most of the game as they were defeated by L.A. Valley 95-76 Feb. 11.

BC shot 37 percent (27-73) from the field while L.A. Valley shot 54 percent (35-65).

The Renegades trailed 47-37 at halftime, but the closest they got in the second half was down 53-40.

"It was good for us. We needed someone to come in and drill us. We need to wake ourselves up," BC coach Rich Hughes said.

"We've had terrible practices for the last two weeks. When you practice poorly, it translates to the game."

Hughes was embarrassed about the way his team played in front of the home crowd.

"It's embarrassing to lose on your home floor. I'm embarrassed as far as how our team played," he said.

In the loss against L.A. Valley, Skyler Vaden led the Renegades with 21 points.

The Renegades bounced back from the loss to L.A. Valley by beating Santa Monica 78-70 Feb. 14.

"We got down in the first half. We struggled a little bit. Kind of like we did against L.A. Valley," Hughes said.

"We went out in the second half and played a little bit better defense and got hot on the offensive end. We were able to pull away with a victory."

Against Santa Monica, Vaden had 22 points, while Jamar Harrison had 17 points. Eion Lewis added 13 points in the win.

Harrison scored 14 points as the Renegades defeated the West L.A. Wildcats 92-88 on Feb. 7.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Bakersfield College guard Darrin Dorsey drives up-court against L.A. Valley, Feb. 11.

Hughes was frustrated with the way his team's defense performed in the second half against the Wildcats.

"Our defense was terrible in the second half. We gave up too many easy lay-ups," said Hughes.

"If we're going to want to win in the playoffs or win a conference title, we're going to have to stop doing that. We gave them too many easy attempts in the second half."

Also against the Wildcats, Scott Draughon had 13 points before leaving the game with a groin injury, while Lewis and Luiz Gomez added 11 a piece.

E.J. Kirby scored 22 points, and BC forced 25 turnovers as the Renegades defeated College of the Canyons Feb. 4.

"We were able to put together two good offensive halves. We passed the ball well. We had a large number of assists. All in all, it was a good game for us especially on the road to gain some confidence," Hughes said.

Also against Canyons, Harrison had 18 points while Ricky Wofford and Vaden poured in 15 points a piece.

For Canyons, Brannon Bradley had 19 points and 6 rebounds while Justin Smith poured in 17 points and 6 rebounds in a losing effort.

Not including their Feb. 18 game against Glendale, the Renegades are 2-2 overall and 7-3 in the Western State Conference. The Renegades' final home game of the regular season will be Feb. 21 against Citrus at 5 p.m.

Women win, break long 18-game losing streak

By TAYLOR M. GOMBOS
tgombos@bakfieldcollege.edu
Photo editor

For the Bakersfield College women's basketball team, the long losing streak ended with its first Western State Conference win of the season.

The Renegades beat the L.A. Valley Monarchs 64-62 Feb. 11 to snap an 18-game losing streak.

"It's been brutal. The kids only had three wins last year. They were afraid that they were only going to have three wins this year," said coach Paula Dahl. "It was fantastic. We showed a lot of discipline. We got the rebounds that. That monkey has been on our back for months. It was a fun game. I was just really, really proud of my team."

Dahl felt like the fact that her team was able to work the game clock helped her team get the victory.

"When we needed to down toward the end we were able to take care of business. We got some key rebounds. We hustled we didn't give up on ourselves," she said.

Against L.A. Valley, Jacquelyn Rodriguez had 18 points while Julie Thomas poured in 15 points.

For the Monarchs, Mariam Asaryn had 19 points.

After winning their first game of the season, the Renegades committed 31 turnovers as they were defeated by Santa Monica 59-43 Feb. 14.

Nicole Lopez had 14 points and hit four 3 pointers, but the Renegades still lost to West L.A. 57-52 Feb. 7.

Despite the loss, women's basketball coach Paula Dahl felt like her team played their closest game of the season.

"I was very pleased with the way my kids played tonight. We just ran out of time," Dahl said following the game against West L.A.

Dahl felt like the game against West L.A. was her team's best performance of the season.

"It was one of the best ball games we've had. We had teamwork, and we had output from more than one player. I was just really pleased with how hard we played," she said.

Against West L.A., Julie Thomas added 12 points, while Taqieda Brown had 11 rebounds.

For West L.A., Shannon Austin scored 29 points and had 10 rebounds, while CecCee Jeffries added 14 points and 5 rebounds.



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Bakersfield College basketball player Nicole Lopez struggles to make a shot during against L.A. Valley Feb. 11.

Dahl thanked the fans and parents who have supported the team throughout this tough season.

"We've got some great parents and families. They were there (against West L.A.) in full force," said Dahl.

"They have just been so supportive on the road and off the road."

Kristin Alvarez scored seven points as the Renegades lost to College of the Canyons 91-30, Feb. 4.

Not including the Glendale game on Feb. 18, the Renegades record is 4-22 overall and 1-9 in the WSC.

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FEATURES

Energy and Clean Air Expo helps businesses with energy efficiency

By STACEY STAAB
sstaab@bakfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The 4th annual Energy and Clean Air Business Exposition focused on informing and demonstrating the importance of saving energy and cleaning the air.

The expo kicked off with a speaker, Karen Alderman Harbert, who is the president for the Institute for 21st Century Energy U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Harbert designed and implemented energy policy initiatives and oversaw budget reviews for fossil, nuclear, renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

"We have put together an interactive Web site for people to begin to understand some of the energy policy complexities," Harbert said.

"We were in 25 states, and last year, I went to universities and colleges to talk about the challenges and opportunities in engineering and innovating."

"It's not about a new Hollywood set, but it's about a new reality using energy idea that actually may change the complexity of our country."

After the speaker's presentation, ironically the power went out. How-

ever, everyone went on the day until the power came back on.

There were 37 exhibitors at the expo focusing on their vital roles as businesses and business leaders to help improve valley air quality and increase energy efficiency.

"We're fabricators and a lot of these companies use things that we design and build, so we are here trying to get new customers," Mike Miller of Lortz Manufacturing Company said.

Chris Loedel, with Lortz Manufacturing Company, said, "We are here networking to meet new people."

Hope Cornejo, of American Business Machines, said, "I am here to inform people of the low-energy savings from the Canon products, the recyclable program that Canon offers for their toner cartridges to keep the environment and keep the earth clean."

Danny Meyer, with the State of California Bureau of Automotive Repair, said, "We are here to inform people of the automotive repair industry and smog regulations."

Chris Arias, from Motor City West, said, "You don't necessarily have to spend \$50,000 for a Hybrid vehicle, you have something that is economical, useful, and still gets great mileage, and you are doing something good for the environment."

There were a lot of people mingling and taking in the information that was being given to them, and

several people said that the information about clean air and energy savings is the step in the right direction for the environment.

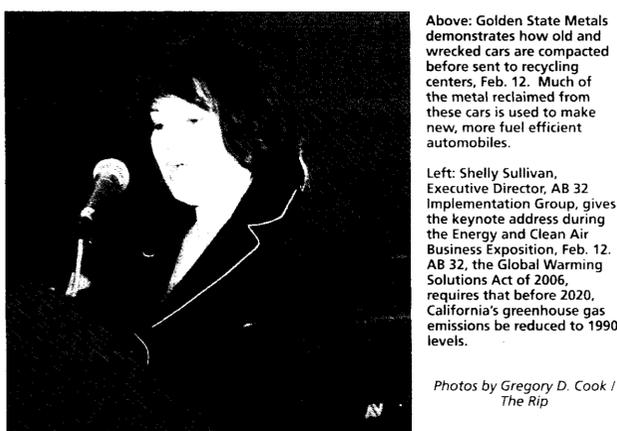
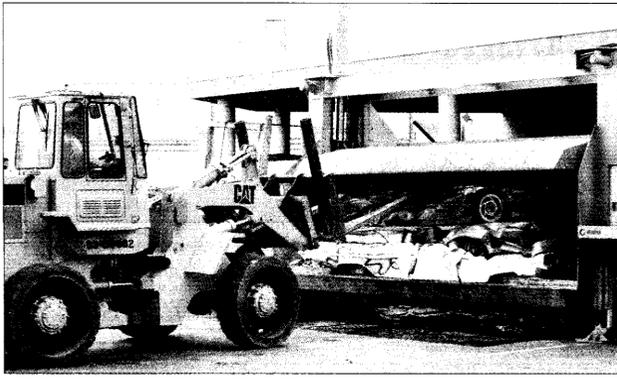
Furthermore, there were many exhibitor booths, mini seminars to learn about the new technology, test drives of the new low emission hybrid vehicles, and a car crushing demonstration to inform people about getting

polluting vehicles off our streets and highways.

Debra Moreno, president of Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, said, "This event will show you ways that you can participate in the effort to clean our air and conserve our resources at your place of business and at home."

The speaker for the luncheon was Shelly Sullivan, executive director of AB 32 Implementation Group, and she works on educating various audiences including colleges, coalition partners, and the media on the issues surrounding the implementation of AB 32, which is the Global Warming Solutions Act.

"College students really need to remain engaged on what is going on at the California Air Resources Board, to make sure that the regulations that are being implemented are ones that can reach the green house gas emissions reduction goals within AB 32, and also keep California's economy strong and growing, and so every one can get involved and needs to get involved," Sullivan said.



Left: Shelly Sullivan, Executive Director, AB 32 Implementation Group, gives the keynote address during the Energy and Clean Air Business Exposition, Feb. 12. AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, requires that before 2020, California's greenhouse gas emissions be reduced to 1990 levels.

Photos by Gregory D. Cook / The Rip

Heart and Stroke Expo offers free health screenings

Hospitals, health agencies and local medical centers all come out to teach the citizens of Bakersfield about the importance of getting regular health screenings and exercising regularly on Feb. 7 at the East Hills Mall.

By AMBER TROUPE
atroupe@bakfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

East Hills Mall was the host of the Heart and Stroke Expo on Feb. 7 with a large amount of booths containing workers from medical and health establishments all

around Bakersfield. Jackie Andreesen, the Community Liaison for the Center for Neuro Skills, said, "I am here on behalf of my employer because Debra Strong, Bakersfield College nurse, puts us on the books to attend each year. She's usually the one organizing it."

The booths were offering free samples from Bakersfield Memorial Hospital as well as San Joaquin Valley College.

The expo was to get the community involved in better health awareness and the participants in the expo demonstrated their drive for it with free glucose, iron and EKG screenings.

There were on-site physician's assistants there to perform each screening with the help of student nurses in

training. The expo was also a center of entertainment around the booths with prizes that were donated from each booth's company.

The prizes ranged from baskets filled with specialized cookies, bikes, stationery from baskets and others.

The people taking advantage of the free health screenings and samples said that they were willing to participate in the prize give-away. Halfway through the scheduled event, the prizes were almost gone.

In order to enter the give-away sweepstakes, people had to pick up a card at one of the booths. Each time people stopped at a booth, they got a stamp, and once the limit of ten was reached, they were entered into the drawing box.

There was music playing all during the event that only

stopped during the 30-minute intervals when the sponsors were giving away prizes.

Donate Life, an organ donation center, also had a booth manned by people who have received organ donations.

They gave out pamphlets and offered people up to become future donors. The booths offered free samples from weight-loss centers like Curves in East Bakersfield, which included free travel bags, a sample of low-calorie cookies and bars and free appointment settings.

Each medical establishment was ready at the assigned booths to perform the blood pressure and vital-sign screenings for the people in attendance.

The booths all held pamphlets to help inform people how to prevent heart attack and strokes and the locations of where they can be treated for any signs.

Travel through Russia without the passport

Clint and Suzie Denn use their international travels to help share the wonders of the world with others without them having to leave their hometown.

By LEIA MINCH
lminch@bakfieldcollege.edu
Feature editor

On Feb. 10, Bakersfield Adult School hosted Clint and Suzie Denn as part of their cultural studies program. The Dennes, who travel across the country and show films of their journeys presented their newest film called "Cruising Russia."

Originally from Granada Hills, the Dennes have traveled all over the world and also made and produced films about vacationing to countries such as Germany, Samoa and Switzerland.

The show was presented in Bakersfield High School's Harvey Auditorium and is part of a class at Bakersfield Adult School that is provided to inform and educate people about other cultures around the world.

The school hosts numerous shows such as "La Belle France" and "Sea to Sea in a Model T" to help give the community an idea of what other cultures are like.

The Dennes' trip began in St. Petersburg, Russia where they took the Amadeus Waterways system to Moscow.

As Clint Denn explained, all of Amadeus' boats are on rivers that go throughout the country. The boat is about 360 ft. long and holds 156 people.

Denn recommended traveling this way because he said it is much more personal than a large cruise liner, and you can get to know the crew and fellow passengers better.

"The second you get off the plane, you are greeted by the Russian custom of breaking bread and traditional folk

music, then you get a chance to unpack, relax and tour the ship," he said.

"Also, your first night on the ship is at the captain's reception where food and drink are served."

Denn narrated his whole trip from St. Petersburg to Russia and gave travelers tips and his knowledge about the country and the culture of Russia.

As his slideshow went from city to city, he spoke of each city's history, and how all of the country's famous landmarks came to be, such as the Resurrection Church of Our Savior.

Denn also showed parts of the cities, such as the underground walkways in St. Petersburg. He said it "was built to keep pedestrians out of harm's way."

Denn gave an explanation as to why each city was important to Russia. Denn said that many of the Russian souvenirs that could be purchased were inexpensive.

However, he recommended places to buy specific things at so that one is not taken advantage of or induced to buy an unofficial product.

He also gave the crowd a look into the theater and entertainment side of Russia and what sights are "must-sees."

In Denn's film, he gave viewers a look into traditional Russia and explained why wood crafting was so important to their culture.

"The town of Mandrogi is like an old wooden museum. It shows the more traditional part of Russia. There are no metal ties in the buildings."

"Everything is made out of wood because in the past, they could not afford metal. The tradition lives on."

According to Denn, his videos are a "great way" for someone to learn about the Russian culture, and if one is interested in traveling, these videos give a "helpful insight to touring different countries."

Bakersfield College Students
"Success is not something you become it is a journey"

-Nakyshta Cummings, STOV 855 Instructor.

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661-395-4277 or visit us at Campus Center 3.

NEWS

Wounded veteran from Iraq gets new home

By MANUEL MORFIN
mmorfin@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

In Bakersfield, 9710 Fitzgerald Drive will be the new address of U.S. Marine Corporal Evan Morgan. "We love the location," said Julian Morgan, his wife.

Morgan, 25, lost both legs and sight in one of his eyes while serving in Iraq.

His home will be built thanks to the patronage of Home For Our Troops, a non-profit organization that builds homes specially adapted for severely wounded veterans. From Dave Packer, the general contractor and many volunteers. "People like Evan give so much to this country, so we got to give back to them," said Armando Pena, a volunteer of Local 600 Cement Mixers. "We hope we can pour the foundation next Saturday, if the weather allows it."

"It's amazing what the people from Bakersfield are doing for me and my family," said Morgan who is currently attending California State University, Bakersfield and is majoring in kinesiology.

All the labor and materials will be donated. Construction of Morgan's home began on Feb. 16 after an emotional ceremony held at the lot of Morgan's future home. The project is expected to be done in approximately six months or less, according to Rick Clark, superintendent of Dave Packer Homes.

Morgan arrived accompanied by his wife Julian, his daughter Sophie and escorted by 37 bikers, mostly veteran members of the Patriot Guard Riders.

"We are all so proud to be here for a comrade," said J. Zimmerman who rode to Bakersfield from Encino, Calif.

During the ground-breaking ceremony, a couple of organizations recognized Morgan for his service to this country. Also, a trio of young men honored Morgan with a song that they wrote for him.

Scott Williams, 23, Paul Rose, 22, and Matt Walker, 21, are the creators of Trek for Troops. The three men from Westlake Village, Calif., are raising money for Homes for Our Troops.

"As college students, we are broke, and we can't donate money, but we can donate our talents and time," said Rose. The three friends attended high school together and were part of the choir. After high school, Williams joined the Navy where he developed the concern to do something to help the soldiers who come back injured.

That dream took shape when Williams and his two friends reunited and came up with a great idea to raise money and get attention for their cause.

Williams, Rose, and Walker are planning a trek that will cross the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, a 2,600-mile walk that extends from the Mexican border to the Canadian border crossing the states of California, Oregon and Washington. "We are planning to walk an average of 25 miles per day," said Rose.

These guys have the goal of completing the hike in less than four months since they are just off for the summer. "We have the inspiration from the many guys that risk their lives for this country," Rose said.

Their journey, they say, is not going to be a walk in the park, and they are training hard. "We are running seven miles every day," said Williams. He laughed while mentioning that he had lost 30 pounds, most from his beer belly.

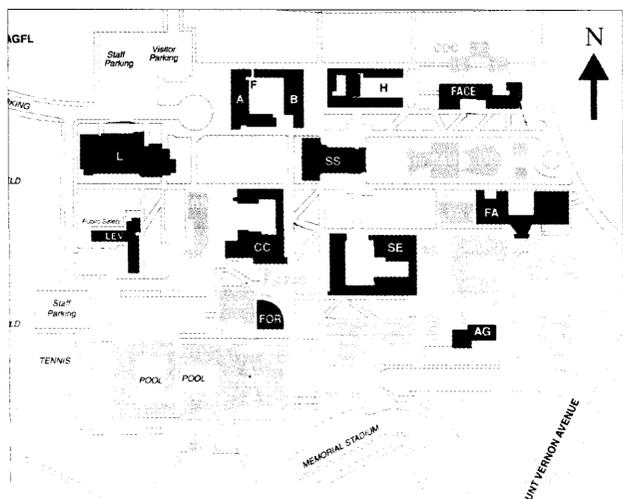
During their trek, they plan to make 26 stops to re-supply, one of them in Tehachapi. They hope to have the opportunity to perform and attract the media's attention, which would help their purpose of raising money. "We are trying to raise awareness," Rose said.

The trio has a goal of \$100,000, and they've currently raised \$7,545.

The guys are also organizing different events to raise money as well as selling gear to get the funds for their hike. "We have done car washes, singing door-to-door and we have a golf tournament coming on April 20," said Rose.

The trek will begin in May just after college classes end. They plan to continue writing more songs during their journey. "I am going to miss the hike after we're done," said an enthusiastic Walker.

More information can be found at www.trekfortroops.com



Wi-Fi hot spots around campus

Please note: All hotspots support 802.11a, b, and g unless marked as b/g only. Wireless reception varies depending on how close you are to the base station, furniture, walls, etc. If you are in one of the areas below and have problems connecting to the wireless network, check your signal strength. Try moving to a different sector of the room/area.

- A (ADMINISTRATION)**
 - Lobby Area, A5 & A17
- AG (AGRICULTURE)**
 - Office Area & Room 2
- B (BUSINESS BUILDING)**
 - Hall by B2 & B3
- CC (CAMPUS CENTER)**
 - Collins Conference Center, Fireside Room & Executive Board Room
- FA (FINE ARTS)**
 - Outside of offices 45, 57 & 67
- FACE (FAMILY & CONSUMER EDUCATION)**
 - Renegade Room and outside of offices 23 & 33
- FOR (FORUM)**
 - East & West
- H (HUMANITIES)**
 - Courtyard outside rooms 6, 13, 19 and offices 46 & 57
- L (LIBRARY)**
 - 1st floor & 2nd floor study area
- LEV (LEVINSON HALL)**
 - Room 40
- SE (SCIENCE & ENGINEERING)**
 - Forums 51 & 53
- SS (STUDENT SERVICES)**
 - 1st floor counseling area & 2nd floor in Title V study area

Welcome to the new world

A new puppy is born on Valentine's Day. Jewels (the mother) gave birth to nine puppies in East Bakersfield.

Photo by Patti J. Loomis/The Rip

Kern high schools gets sniffing dogs

By KAMYLEE POWELL
kstripl@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

It is now official: The Kern High School District will deploy narcotic sniffing dogs to the high school campuses at the end of February.

This has been a hot topic of discussion for many parents, staff and students of the KHSD. "I think they should be on every school campus," said Olivia Stripling, parent of a student.

The policy was approved by the KHSD board members on Oct. 6 of last year. The budget for this program was estimated to be somewhere around \$55,000, but the dogs are going to be a free courtesy of the Bakersfield Probation Department.

After this bill passed, there was a flow of mixed emotions between parents and students. "It's crazy, but I'm kind of glad," said April LaPerre, mother of a student.

Several different questions have come up about the safety of the students because of the dogs. According to John Teves, KHSD public safety officer, the dogs will be nowhere near the students. "It defeats the whole purpose of the dogs if they aren't sniffing out the kids," said LaPerre.

The dogs are going to be sniffing out lockers, parts of the school and classrooms. Safety is one of the main priorities of KHSD, and that is why the dogs are not going to be in direct contact with the students.

The board of trustees believe that this program will help the rising incidence of dropouts to decrease to a lower percentage than what it is now. According to the statistics put out last year by KHSD, there were 500 expulsions due to drugs on campuses.

There hasn't been a direct link to any particular event that led up to these dogs being put on campus. "This city has a rising drug problem, and it has been deemed necessary for safety purposes," said Teves.

Some students do not really have any feeling toward this subject. Some of them really feel like it's not that big of a deal if you're not the one doing it. "They're just trying to keep it at least out of the schools, but if you're smart, you won't bring it with you," said Matt Rivas, a KHSD student.

"I really don't care; it doesn't affect me. I'm not that stupid to bring anything like that," said Dustin Stripling, KHSD student.

A few students, though, do see the use of drug-sniffing dogs on campus as a bigger issue because it's an invasion of rights. "They have no right to be going through our stuff at all; it's our stuff and not theirs," said Amber Amos, KHSD student.

DELANO: BC and Delano Center unite to accomplish future goals together

Continued from Page 1

their classes and show the Delano Committee some support. "Since the campus is much bigger, some needed help. It could have been really chaotic," said Lovato. Since last semester the campus has been using the Robert J. Kennedy High School forum to hold more classes. "We really needed a booth there, and SGA really helped out," said Salarda.

Some of the possible events that the Delano committee is working on are these: a Dolores Huerta visit to the campus, having the Houchin Blood Bank come to the Delano Center, having a Delano logo contest and having a Spring Fling. Dolores Huerta is planned to make a speech in the Delano Center on March 5, and the Houchin Blood Bank will be on campus on March 30.

The Valentine's Day event fell through and has been the only one.

BC and Delano did not receive the proper funding to have the events on their campuses.

The Delano committee will submit their constitution by April and will await the board of trustees' decision.

"We are on track. I think it's great we are doing this," said Salarda. "This is a way to get the whole community involved."

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ACCREDITATION: Bakersfield College to be examined, although students see nothing wrong with its current state

Continued from Page 1

has been made at BC. For example, BC has completed a code of ethics written specifically for employees. The visiting accreditation team noted that this code was missing in BC policy. Knudson also said that a budget allocation model has been completed and is in full day-to-day operation.

"A foremost concern is the expansion of efforts to assess student learning outcomes," Morgan said.

Many BC students admit that they haven't noticed that BC needs improvement.

"Has BC had any problems?" asked Amer Olorunda, 19, BC nursing major.

Beatriz Loera, 22, child development, said that she hadn't noticed BC had areas that needed to be addressed for corrective purposes.

"I haven't seen anything wrong here," she said. "But I only come here at night," she admitted. She said that she hopes that BC retains its accredited status because she wants to transfer out. Some BC students express some concern that BC might not keep its accredited status.

"I'd hate to take my classes over again," said Janelle Rhodes, 47, culinary arts major. Some BC students are confident that BC operates the way a college should.

"Things are running smoothly," said Ben Vidales, 21, computer science major.

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CAMPUS

BC e-mails blacklisted due to spam

By J. W. Burch, IV
jwburch@bakersfieldcollege.edu
News editor

Bakersfield College's e-mail system has been plagued again with spam, resulting in major e-mail providers such as Yahoo, MSN and Hotmail to blacklist e-mails from BC. This is not an issue new to BC: last semester saw a similar incident.

"What happened last semester was essentially our fault," said BC director of Information Technology, David Palinsky. "What has happened since were a couple of incidents of phishing," in which one a student and the other, a staff member, responded to spam messages.

The phishing incident involved an infected computer as well.

Spam is defined as "unwanted e-mail usually of a commercial nature that is sent in bulk." Phishing is defined as "the act of sending an e-mail that falsely claims to be from a legitimate organization in an attempt to obtain such information as user names, passwords or credit card details."

"The more often this happens," said Bonnie Suderman, BC dean of information technology, "the longer we will be blacklisted."

"Although spam and 'phishing' will always be a problem, BC is looking into several different technology options to help combat these problems better. One of those options is moving BC e-mail to get a college-based e-mail account.

"We're trying to use other methods to contact students that the students are more likely to use," Suderman said. "We have user groups who are using such networking sites as Myspace, Facebook and Google Groups."

Student and staff should know that the personal information from you, such as your username or password.

If it was absolutely needed, the IT department has access to the information. If there are any questionable e-mails should be forwarded to Todd Coston at Information Technology at tcoston@kccol.edu.

Welding department receives new equipment

By STACEY STAAB
sstaab@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The welding department at Bakersfield College has some new equipment for the students to learn how to weld on because in the past there was obsolete equipment that had to have repairs all the time.

"It was outdated and antiquated, and the equipment had to be repaired every day," associate professor Mike Komin said after being asked about the equipment in the welding department when he first started teaching. "Some equipment had parts that were hard to get. It was a nightmare."

Komin has been teaching in the welding department for five years full time and 12 years before that as an adjunct instructor. After graduating from Fresno State with a bachelor's degree, he went in to the welding industry for 35 years.

Professor Dale Gradek has been teaching at BC for 32 years in the welding department after graduating from Humboldt State University with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. Gradek said, "I have been fortunate to spend my whole teaching career at BC. It has been a nice ride."

The new equipment in the welding department is a Miller Deltaweld, a 52-ton ironworker with two stations, a 20-ton shear and a finger and pan brake.

The Miller Deltaweld is a machine that has multipurpose uses for welding. It has all new power sources and a dual-wire feeder which is the next generation of industrial-class wire feeders.

The 52-ton ironworker, 20-ton shear and finger and pan brake are all used for fabrication.

The classes that are offered for students to be able to learn how to use the equipment are introduction to the welding processes, shielded metal arc welding, tig and mig welding, welded steel structures and some advanced classes too.



Above: Mike Komin, Miguel Martinez and Jonathon Ugos stand ready to use the new Miller machine. Left: Ugos and Martinez look over the new equipment.

BC play explores racial stereotypes

"This is How it Goes," written by Neil LaBute will be performed in the indoor theater opening March 5.

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

A dark theatered the marriage of a white ex-cheerleader and her black ex-athlete husband in Bakersfield College's production of "This is How it Goes."

The play will be performed at BC's Indoor Theater and runs March 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14. All shows start at 8 p.m.

The play is directed by BC's Kimberly Chin.

The dark, known simply as "Man" (John Spitzer) went to high school with the black ex-jock, Cody Phipps (Jacare Calhoun) and the white ex-cheerleader, Belinda (Mandie Sopher). Cody and Belinda have become the quintessential American married couple living in a Midwestern town with the requisite two children. Man, a quintessential loser who had a crush on Belinda in high school, comes to the Phipps' town and rents a room from them. Man is still interested in Belinda, and, of course, that causes some domestic tension.

Jacare Calhoun described Cody as a self-centered, defensive and overbearing man. He said Cody's mother left his father, and this naturally torments his psyche.

"He tries to be the alpha male. He's very bitter. His attitude in his relationship with people is 'I'm going to hurt them before they hurt me,'" Calhoun said.

Mandie Sopher said that her character, Belinda, does not like her husband's controlling attitude toward her, and she wants him to be more loving and affectionate.

"He makes it all about himself," Sopher said. "He's a jerk."

Of Man, the catalyst of the play, John Spitzer said that he is a manipulator who relishes manipulating people. However, he does it without malice and only for fun.

"Man likes to cause mayhem but in a friendly way," Spitzer said.

The most important aspect of this play is that it explores where society stands on racial stereotypes, said Kimberly Chin. The foremost character, Man, remains unnamed throughout the play because he could represent anyone of any ethnicity or background who retains racial stereotypes. However, the play does not simply promote social awareness; artistically speaking, the play is high-caliber.

"LaBute's style is a lot like Harold Pinter's," Chin said. "There are silences and pauses in this play that build dramatic tension. It focuses on a natural and realistic situation, and the characters are multi-dimensional and not clear-cut."

LaBute also wrote the stage plays "The Distance from Here," "Bash" and "In The Company of Men," according to Chin. LaBute is also a film director and screenwriter whose credits include "Lakeview Terrace" and "Nurse Betty."

BC's next play will be Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs" in April. "Memoirs" will be directed by BC's Jennifer Sampson.

Students attend Relationship 101 class to learn about 'dating practices,' not 'hook-up script'

By AMBER TROUPE
atroupe@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

In Bakersfield College's Fireside Room, students were getting a lesson in Relationships 101.

The room had six tables with white tablecloths and an assortment of candies on the tables, survey sheets and prize drawing slips.

There was a table next to the speaker's podium set up to look like a homemade picnic with the dishes, tablecloth and a basket that speaker Ken Christensen had set up.

There were students of all ages and races in attendance and there was even a sign-language interpreter for the deaf, all occupying the tables with candy.

The topics were dating and romance with each covered by a different speaker.

The Relationships 101 is an organization owned by both speakers, Dawn Swidorski and Christensen, both experts in their fields, but with Swidorski on the West Coast and Christensen covering the East Coast.

The first topic covered at the seminar was dating, but Swidorski wanted to focus more on college dating because she felt it was more relevant to the current audience.

Dawn spoke about the "dating scripts," which America has been utilizing for centuries.

"College students are mostly following the 'hook-up script,' which is two people after a group event, concert or campus sports game branching off to do something private," Swidorski explained.

The seminar was not about the "hook-up script," but about "dating practices," which is the traditional style of dating used over centuries where the two people take each other out and get to know each other.

Swidorski also covered the reasons people date such as physical attraction, companionship and marriage. She went on to talk about things men should learn about men and vice versa.

"There are things that dating people should be looking for and aware of, something I called 'fatal flaws,' high maintenance, addicted, hysterical, energy vampire and controller are the most common types of people you might encounter while dating," she said.

She defined those terms and talked more about personality traits and tips on how to protect yourself and ways to make a relationship work when people choose a relationship.

"One of the most important things you should remember is relationships that are built on friendships last forever," Swidorski finished.

Her partner, Christensen began his speech about romance and how to communicate on a regular basis and understand each other's interests. "Romance can be looked at so many different ways," he stated.

Christensen listed ways to create romantic dinner with light budgets and how to be caring and creative with the ideas. Driving around town on nice nights and watching the sunset or moonrise would be a great and easy way to get quality time.

He suggested especially for the younger student attendees this important fact: If they had to meet a date's parents then they should be prepared. "They should dress nice, and they should pick up a newspaper to see what's going on, so they can have something to talk about with the parents."

A very inexpensive way Christensen suggested students should think about when choosing a place to spend quality time is checking out restaurants ahead of time and asking questions about seats and menus. "I have found that ordering about two appetizers or sharing a salad is less expensive," he stated.

He finished his speech with a few more tips on being romantic, like flowers, notes, walks on the beach and rides around town with a full moon and soothing music. They passed out fliers of romantic things to do in and around Bakersfield.

They had a guide they had created titled "Making the Most of Your High-end Date: Dining Out at a Restaurant" that can only be reached at their Web site.



Dawn Swidorski gives a speech for successful dating in the fireside room at Bakersfield College on Feb. 12.

CAMPUS

BC's student restaurant the Renegade Room opens

By **SEGGAN MOORE**
seemoore@bakfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

At the beginning of each semester, the Renegade Room has a grand opening. Brand new culinary students embark on the journey into the restaurant world to serve Bakersfield College and the community.

Chef Patrick Coyle heads the operation along with his students and other instructors from the Food and Nutrition program. The Renegade Room has a lot to offer not only to its patrons but also to the students.

"It's busy," Coyle explained. "Students are trained in a real restaurant atmosphere."

Coyle has been at BC for 30 years

and has witnessed over 60 grand openings each semester of the Renegade Room.

"It's fantastic to see students on opening night petrified because most of them have never been in a kitchen. By the end of the semester, the instructors are stepping back because the students know what to do," Coyle explained.

Although the restaurant is open to the public, Coyle reminds visitors that it's a training program.

The spring menu has a few changes to it, such as featuring in-season vegetables. Coyle explained that by the end of the semester, the menu will have lots of fresh fruits.

The Renegade Room is open to the public for dinner and buffet services

on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Lunch is served on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Prices vary from \$6.50 to \$7.25 for lunch and \$10.25 for dinner and buffet. Reservations must be placed and can be done by calling 395-4441 or by visiting www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/renegaderoom.

On April 25, the Renegade Room will be hosting its third annual Renegade Room Wine Dinner. This dinner benefits the Bakersfield College Foundation Food and Nutrition program.

There will be four wines served throughout dinner. Tickets are \$65 each, and reservations must be made. The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. There are limited seats.

Professor speaks about religion and medical decisions

Cal State Bakersfield professor Christopher Meyers gives two examples about religion versus medicine.

After Meyers stated that he was going to cut back on the philosophy, he moved on to ethics. He pondered this question: Is it ethically okay to put the religious beliefs of the surrogate ahead of the patient's interests?

"Religious beliefs are profoundly special in the clinic," said Meyers.

In many observed cases, some patients' surrogates believed that God would intervene.

In the seminar, Meyers talks about how clinicians have a very hard time wanting to challenge religious beliefs.

"It creates a significant harm to the patient sometimes," said Meyers.

Meyers talked about two specific cases that he and Stewart Eskew looked at for "The Journal of Clinical Ethics."

One basically talked about how, due to religious beliefs, a woman suffered and died because medical authorities were not allowed to use pain medication. The other one talked about a woman who died because she didn't want a blood transfusion due to her religious beliefs.

The basic question of the whole lecture was this: Should one choose biological reasoning or religious reasoning?

There is no definite answer to this question, Meyers said.



Cal State Bakersfield professor Christopher Meyers speaks to a mixed crowd in the Fireside Room on Feb. 11.

Cheerleading tryouts coming soon to BC

By **BRITANI ALLISON**
ballison@bakfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Get ready, set, cheer.

On April 3, there will be cheer tryouts for Bakersfield College students.

Many may be thinking that cheerleading is only for women, but this is not true. The cheer squad would gladly accept males on their team.

The squad is led by Becki Whitson and her assistant Linda Good. Whitson is an amateur when it comes to cheer. She has been coaching for 28 years and coaching at BC for seven years, so she knows a thing or two about shaking pom-poms.

Whitson is certified by the American

Cheerleading Association and advisers. She created the first competitive cheerleading squad, and she also has been gathering the alumni cheerleaders for homecoming games.

Whitson hopes for a large squad filled with excited cheerleaders. "Just look hard, show spirit and want to really lead," she said.

Although being a part of the cheer team may sound like fun and games, it requires each cheerleader to attend all home games, and, winning or losing, they must support their school.

Try-out clinics take place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Mar. 30 through April 2 at the BC "Huddle" in front of the gym. The actual tryout is scheduled at 5 p.m. April 3 in the dance room.

Ag Department holds event

By **KAMYELLE POWELL**
kstripl@bakfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The Agriculture Department fundraiser was a halfway success with an exceptional amount of fruit bought, participants said. On Feb. 4 and 5, the Agriculture Department was selling fruit from the Ag farm to raise money for various activities.

"The money will go to sending the kids to leadership conventions and

field trips," said BC professor Bill Kelly, Ag Department Chair.

The fruit was sold for \$5 dollars a bag if a buyer wanted volunteer workers to pick it, and \$3 dollars a bag if the buyer wanted to pick it himself or herself.

"We sold a total of 90 bags altogether," said Sally Sterns, horticulture technician II. The buyer had chosen to get a pre-picked bag, then someone from the department would hand deliver it to the buyer wherever the buyer wished.

BATTLE of the SeXes

Featuring:
The sleep challenge

Editor's note: Battle of the SeXes puts both genders against each other. A challenge will be made testing them physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Sleep deprivation proves to be a bigger challenge for male journalist

By **KAMYELLE POWELL**
kstripl@bakfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

My challenge was to stay up for 32 hours while doing everyday normal activities. These activities would seem rather difficult to do with sleep left alone without sleep. Somehow, though, I have prevailed over my competitor Matt.

This means, ladies, that we have hit this one right out of the ballpark. The challenge took place on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6 and 7. So, this actually means that I stayed up for 32 hours during the weekend and did some rather tedious activities ... which seemed rather simple but ended up not being so simple in the long run.

I woke up at around 6 a.m. That is actually a pretty normal time for me to get up anyways. Plus, I also wanted to get a head start.

The main rule of this venture was to not have any caffeine at all, including energy drinks. That was something that was really hard for me. Since, like most people, the first thing that I want to go for is a Red Bull.

One of the other rules was that we couldn't have any illegal substances. That didn't prove a problem to me. Since I do not do illegal substances, I found this one quite funny.

My day actually went by pretty fast. I had to baby-sit most of the day. After that, though, I got dressed and went to run errands before having to meet up with my boyfriend for dinner at the Marketplace.

By midday, I was getting kind of drowsy and started to think that this was a really bad idea.

I snapped out of that when I got to Wal-Mart and found out that they didn't have my phone charger in stock.

You could say I got my second wind really quickly after that, the

first of many, actually.

After meeting up with my boyfriend and eating, it was around five o'clock. This is actually the moment when I almost gave up completely. I got so extremely full and tired.

When we were finished, I met up with some of my friends to tell them why I wasn't going to be able to hang out with them. They laughed by stereotypically after what I had told them.

They made a few jokes about it, since I am usually the one who talks asleep first.

That is why I was extremely anxious about this challenge, because, yeah, I am that person who is usually in bed by 10 p.m. So, I made it a point that I was going to do this and win it.

Moving along, I headed home about 8 p.m. so that I could start on some of the challenges that were set in front of me. I wanted till about midnight to do the first challenge, which was to read a chapter of a book while you start to feel sleepy. I found this one rather difficult, to the simple fact that it made me incredibly sleepy.

I honestly made it through two entire chapters of a book. I was really excited that I made it through that many. I thought I was going to inevitably give up at that point.

The only thing that I knew was going to wake me up out of this half-asleep stage was a horror movie. I mean, come on, that would wake anyone up really quick.

So I got up and hooked up my DVD player and threw in an old school "Friday the Thirteenth" movie. That actually woke me up quickly.

I had no more problems staying awake after that. Well, to be honest, that was just until my next challenge. Next up on the list was lying in my bed in the dark with no noise or sounds. I did this one around 3 a.m. This challenge was actually a real challenge.

I thought I was going to die (metaphorically) during this one. It turned out to be somewhat easier than I imagined.

Don't get me wrong, I totally wanted to fall asleep, but it gave me some time to actually just lie there and think about stuff. Sure, it was very incoherent stuff, but at least I had a chance to think.

I continued to read a whole book while waiting for the sun to rise. That's when I decided that I would take it a step further and try some real-world activities with absolutely no sleep.

I got all my clothes together and waited for my laundry room to open. I had to go back up the stairs a couple of times, though, because I forgot a couple of essential things I needed such as the laundry room keys and my laundry.

This was a very tedious activity, though. I actually had to turn on the laundry machine for a split second. After that, I attempted to introduce myself to the new apartment manager, which I'm sure caused him to think that

I'm absolutely crazy.

I actually decided to try to give up at 11 o'clock, but for some reason I couldn't fall asleep at all.

By two o'clock, I started to hallucinate a bit and decided the only way I was going to fall asleep was by pulling out my history book and reading. It was a very useful tool for this. I fell right asleep.

All in all, I won and learned a very valuable lesson. Don't ever stay up for 32 hours!

When put to the test, most people can handle staying up for 24 hours straight, but other people may find the task very difficult. Recently, I participated in a Battle of the SeXes sleep test against fellow Renegade Rip reporter Kamyelle Powell. I must admit that burning the midnight oil was a lot harder than I thought.

When you're not allowed caffeine or energy drinks at all, it makes staying up for 24 hours a very long and tiring process. Toward the beginning, it wasn't that bad. I was simply determined to last all the way through. However, when the clock struck, I admit my willpower started to give away a little, and I started to feel a little sleepy.

I finally managed to read 20 pages, but I really couldn't remember what that whole chapter was about.

Finally when five a.m. came, I decided to call it quits. I was way too tired to go on, and I figured I gave it a good effort. If I stayed awake three more hours, I would have made it, but my mind was working against my body, and my mind was winning.

Staying up for 24 hours is no easy task, and it definitely sounds a lot easier than it looks, and I'm simply amazed at the people who can do it.

I also am amazed at all the people out there who have insomnia and have to deal with this every day. If I had caffeine or an energy drink, I would have made it with no problem, but without it, I am a sitting duck. I may have lost the competition, but I am happy that I lasted as long as I did.

My congratulations to the winner.



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OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

Staff horrified by monstrosity of bathrooms

Let's talk dirty. Cobwebs hanging from skylights, unflushed feces in a porcelain bowl and a strange substance splattered all over a wall.

What else could we be talking about besides Bakersfield College's restrooms?

While thankful that we're not in a foreign country where bathrooms are a mile apart and that we are provided with numerous bathrooms on our campus, it's hard to help anything but disgusted when entering any of the restrooms (with the exception of the ones in the library and the automotive tech building).

While it would be nice if our bathrooms were trimmed in gold, an attendant was there to meet our needs and an air freshener was provided, it is understandable that this is a community college. Not The Ritz.

However, it still would be nice to change the restroom experience from this scenario that could come out of a suspense novel:

After walking in the door an awful stench fills your nostrils that instantly triggers your gag-reflex. Every inch of your body is pleading with your brain that you will walk out and hold all urges. However, nature calls so you proceed into the chamber of doom.

There is nothing more exciting on this journey though, than sitting down to do your business and hovering directly above you is a web of dust and dirt so thick, large and copious that it would make a nice, cozy home for a spider from the movie, "Eight-Legged Freaks."

Repulsed from the nest hanging above your head, you look to the side where a lovely combination of, "I love Joe" and "God rocks" graffiti complement the tan, throw-up colored stains on the stall.

Deciding you've had enough, you reach for the toilet paper, but, of course, there is none. Some comedian thought that it would be hilarious to imitate a 2-year-old and decided to take it all and throw it on the germ-infested ground. So you take it old school and decide to wipe like the Romans.

Luckily for you, we're living in the 21st century where there is always a bountiful amount of soap to wash your hands with.

Not.

Water will have to make do, because all four of the soap dispensers, (which have been out of soap for days) continue to run dry. But, of course, our excursion doesn't end here. Just when you've thought you've had all you can take, you reach for a paper towel. You are just fortunate enough though to walk into one of the many bathrooms where the paper towel dispenser is broke ... and out of paper towels as well.

You're done and pissed off by this point. Annoyed, you wipe your hands on your pants and swear to yourself you're just going to hold it next time.

OK, we admit this might be a minor exaggeration. However, the trips to the bathrooms here on campus are more often than not unpleasant.

So, we call for a change.

Maintenance, we students are not asking for renovations or brand new bathrooms. However, it would be nice if we could get them a bit refurbished. Maybe check the soap, paper towels and toilet paper once a day? And fix all dispensers that are broken? We would also like to request that someone brave the trip up to the ceiling and remove the millions of cobwebs hanging. Also, if you could clean the walls and stalls that would be a large improvement, too.

Students, we can do our part, too. Stop using toilet paper in excessive amounts and then throwing the remainder on the floor for maintenance to clean. It's not funny or cute.

And if you really feel the desire to tell the world how much you love Mike or how much Sally broke your heart, write it on paper, photocopy it and post it around the campus. Don't write it in permanent ink where the rest of the student body has to look at it during their personal time.

If you do number two, flush it. Do you like walking into a smelly bathroom, or walking into a stall where someone "forgot" to flush? Finally, if you're pretending to be Kobe Bryant but fail and miss that shot then be the mature college student you may (or may not) be and pick it up and place it in the garbage.

If both sides do our part then we will no longer have the horror story bathrooms, and everyone will be happier to do their duty.

PRO-CON: COLLEGE STUDENTS AND CARTOONS

Cartoons seen by some as harmless escape, and by others as childish

MANUEL MORFIN
mmorfin@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

There is no such thing as an established age limit to watch cartoons, but it just takes a little bit of maturity to understand that a cycle has ended.

Of course, we had wonderful years watching a coyote fail on every attempt to catch the roadrunner or Scooby-Doo earning a cookie by solving mysteries, and those are good memories that will remain with some of us for the rest of our lives. However, children should not watch grown-up stuff, adults should watch television according to their age.

Children are not allowed to watch programs with a high-sexual content because they may be induced to act ahead of their age. In the same way, adults who continue watching cartoons, as their most regular form of entertainment, tend to make childish decisions.

Watching cartoons keeps some adults out of reality. Instead of watching funny characters on TV, people should be more concerned about global problems and be informed. Usually, adults who watch cartoons don't want to watch news or other informative programs because they think those programs are boring, and that attitude maintains them apart from the real world.

I understand that those animated worlds seem happier and more exciting than the one we live in, but we can't deny reality and lead a family as Peter Griffin does or laugh at Bart's misbehavior and then try to tell our kids not to do the same stuff.

I don't see anything wrong in taking your kids to the movies and watching an animated film, or watching some cartoons with them so you can have a better idea of what is good or bad for them.



Real world Cartoon world

GABINO VEGA ROSARIO / THE RIP

CON

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I don't see anything wrong in taking your kids to the movies and watching an animated film, or watching some cartoons with them so you can have a better idea of what is good or bad for them.

what is good or bad for them. What bothers me is that some people can't accept that their childhood is gone.

No, I don't hate cartoons. I used to spend hours watching them every day. But at some point, I had to accept that I was not a child anymore.

By **KELLY ARDIS**
kardis@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Opinion editor

I may be 20 years old and an "adult" now, but among the many ways that I have changed since I was a kid, one thing has stayed the same. I don't play with Barbies anymore. I no longer hate vegetables and my taste in music has greatly improved since my Myspace days. What hasn't changed is my love of cartoons.

Sure, there are cartoons aimed toward people my age. "South Park," "Family Guy," and "Futurama" are all great. But these aren't the only cartoons I'm talking about. When school, homework and other "adult responsibilities" allow it, I enjoy watching cartoons like "SpongeBob SquarePants," "The Fairly OddParents," "Chowder," and "The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack."

On a good day, I would consider myself fairly intelligent. I can carry on a sophisticated conversation, and I know what to do in the case of an emergency. I rarely miss a day of school, I take good notes and get good grades. In most ways, I am a mature adult. But I love cartoons, and I'm pretty sure all the maturation in the world wouldn't change that. My parents always joke that they spend so much money sending me to college, yet I come home to watch kid shows they deem "stupid."

I see Kelly's improving her mind, continuing her higher education," they say as I watch "SpongeBob." Even I can see the oddity in me studying for a huge biopsychology exam while watching cartoons.

I'll be the first to admit that I am maybe a little bit older than these shows' target-audience members. They're made for kids, I get it. But what I like about children's cartoons is that they don't rely on vulgarity for humor, and they don't have to try too hard. These cartoons are pure and simple fun. They might be a little dumb at times, but that doesn't cheapen my laughter and enjoyment, and it certainly does not negatively affect my intellect.

Up until recently, I stuck with the Nickelodeon cartoons I liked when I was a kid, like "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "The Fairly OddParents." But my recent discoveries of Cartoon Network's "Chowder" and "The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack" have fully taken my love of cartoons to the next level. "Chowder" is about a kitchen apprentice who always gets into some sort of trouble while trying to help his mentor, Mung. In the kitchen, Chowder and Mung make dishes like "thrice cream," "sing beans," and "froggy apple crumble pumpkin." "Flapjack" is about a kind-hearted boy who was raised by and lives in a whale named Bubbie. Flapjack longs for adventure and follows the jaded pirate Captain K'nuckles, whose cynicism threatens to crush Flapjack's spirit but never to any avail. Flapjack always learns a lesson from K'nuckles' pessimism.

The animation in both of these shows is so unique that if the humor itself weren't enough to catch my interest, I would still watch just to admire their cartooning techniques. The creators of these shows use different textures in their animation, instead of the plain, flat animation most other cartoons use. It's exciting and new and, for me, impossible to turn off. Kids aren't the only ones who can appreciate this.

Just because I'm 20, and soon I'll be living on my own does not mean I'm too old to watch cartoons. My full school schedule stresses me out and watching cartoons like the ones I've mentioned reminds me of the simplicity of being a kid. Obviously, I can't go back in time and be a kid again, but if I can be as simply amused by cartoons as I was as a kid, even if only for 30 minutes, I'm going to take that opportunity and love every second of it.

Digital TV just another problem for TV viewers

By **J. W. BURCH, IV**
jhburch@bakersfieldcollege.edu
News editor

By now it can be safely assumed that everyone is aware of television's transition to digital transmission. We've all probably seen the commercials boasting of "how digital has made everything better." So much so that it is now mandatory to spend money on either a new TV or a converter box.

Although a coupon has been offered to help with deflating the cost of the converter box, the funding for the converter program has run out. You may still get a coupon ... but now you must apply for a coupon and hope that your application is accepted.

Recently, my family was put in the situation of having to choose to either buy a newer model TV or sticking to an older TV and getting a converter box. We decided on getting a newer model where no converter box would be needed.

I like nearly any man in the world, was more excited than a pig in excrement when we brought our new set home. I set it up and began programming the channels and immediately began watching the new "better" channels. But, short of a slightly better picture, I was not very impressed with the new digital channels.

Like a fool, I for some reason had expected there to be no static. After all, if digital TV is so much "better" that would mean improvements to the current state of broadcast media.

But instead of fuzzy pictures and the occasional fluctuation from color to black and white reception, now our channels get pixelated. Like watching a video on the Internet with a slow connection ... only worse.

At least when I had analog TV and static began overtaking the screen, I was still able to either see or hear what was happening or being said. Now with the digital signal, if the "static" starts attacking my reception ... there is no hope, and I lose both the visual and audio aspects of the show.

But alas, there is nothing that can be done in regard to this ... short of getting cable TV, but I am not about to pay money for something I will barely use. We'll just have to take it, accept it and learn to adapt.

Here's a post-script: Initially, all full-power stations were required by law to solely broadcast via digital by Feb. 17. However, Congress has recently passed an extension making the new and final deadline June 12. This does not mean that you can postpone buying a converter box or new TV, though. However, numerous stations will still be switching on Feb. 17 regardless of the extension.

When people say they love nerds, they typically don't mean the ones like that kid in class who knows all the answers and talks way too much. They mean people like comedian Demetri Martin, who now has his own show on Comedy Central called "Important Things with Demetri Martin."

Martin's knack for puns, palindromes and labeling coupled with his one-man-band joke accompaniment and "large pad" drawing routines make him a candidate for the most lovable nerd ever.

"Important Things" has a different theme for each show, and the theme for the first show, which aired on Feb. 11, was timing. The show started with Martin in a studio with a live audience, where he told a few jokes like, "I think the worst time to get amnesia would be Halloween. 'What is your name?' 'I don't know, but I'm pretty sure I'm a hobo ... who's got a sweet tooth,'" and "I was in this building and there was a door, and on the door it said, 'This door must remain closed at all times.' 'Dude, you're thinking of a wall. That is a waste of a door.'" This was a great start to a show I had very high expectations for, and, with that, I knew the show would be excellent.

The show continued with a sketch called "Anger Management," featuring actress Amanda Peet, who, for whatever reason, really irritates me. But she couldn't ruin the sketch. Martin played an actor who can't act angry for his role but gets incredibly angry in between takes at his inability to be angry for the role. Another sketch later on in the show was the very funny "Jerry Pappas: Time Gigolo," about a janitor who stumbles upon a time machine and goes to the past to write the Rip.

'GADE FEEDBACK

What or who is your favorite cartoon and why?

Emory Colborn, psychology: "Invader Zim, because he rocks!"

Mario Perez, art: "Patrick from 'SpongeBob,' because he's funny and dumb."

Raisa Lora, undeclared: "Scooby Doo, because I love him!"

Shaina Laurence, political science: "'Tom and Jerry.' It's funny."

Susie Cruz, child development: "'SpongeBob,' because he's funny."

Molly Foster, history: "'Rugrats.' It brings out the best childhood memories."

Compiled by Julie Johnson and Alejandro Montano / The Rip

THE RENEGADE RIP

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Winner of the 2003, 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes, printed by Bakersfield Envelope & Printing Co. Inc., and circulated on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters.

The newspaper is published under the auspices of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, but sole responsibility for its content rests with student editors.

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

Write The Rip

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

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

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

How to reach us

Address: Bakersfield College, 1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305

Newsroom: Campus Center 1

Phone: (661) 395-4324

Fax: (661) 395-4027

E-mail: nrip@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Web site: www.therip.com

Reporters: Britani Allison, Dara Gholston, Matt Humble, Jimmy D. Laurent, Seggan Moore, Manuel Morfin, Karmylee Powell, Nicholas Sparling, Stacey Staab, Amber Troupe

Multimedia: Liz Clarke

Photographers: Gregory D. Cook, Julie Johnson, David Karnowski, Patti J. Loomis, Alejandro Montano

REVIEWS

Product makes shaving dull

BY **LEIA MINCH**
lminch@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Feature editor

Ah, the horrors of shaving. The razor burns, cuts and the awful, time-consuming task.

With Smooth Away all those worries are gone, or so it claims.

The Smooth Away system includes: a travel case, one large and one small applicator and five flex-crystal replacement pads for each.

Discovered in Europe, Smooth Away's box says it is safe and effective for all areas of the body, including upper lip, bikini line and armpit area. Its claim to fame though is how it "removes hair instantly and pain free."

I hate everything about shaving. I hate how much time it takes and how by the time I'm done shaving, my hands and feet are pruned from taking 15 minutes to completely finish my legs and arms.

To add on to that, I have quite possibly the most sensitive skin on this planet. Every time I shave I feel like my skin is being peeled off, layer by layer. There has been more than one occasion when my pores have literally bled after shaving. For the reasons above, during winter I rarely shave my legs and they get to the point where my legs could compete with a man's for hairiest leg.

This grosses most people out, especially my boyfriend, and when I saw the Smooth Away commercial on TV, I deemed it could be the absolute perfect tool for me. The commercials made it look so easy. All you had to do was rub it over your skin a couple of times, then bam! Hair was gone, no razor burn or bumps and all for \$9.99 at Walgreen's.

I rubbed clockwise three times, then counter-clockwise three times, as the directions told me to ... but there was still hair on my arms. So, I tried it for a bit longer, and the hair was gone! I continued until all the hair on my arms was removed. Then, as the directions stated, I used the smaller applicator on my elbows as stated, but this task was far more difficult and didn't catch all of the hairs.

Trying my armpits was terrible, however. It felt like I had a super dull razor, and the hair was literally being pulled out. It also felt the skin on my armpits red and blotchy.

Although the process was for the most part successful, it was far more time consuming than a regular razor, and I couldn't get all the hair on my edges. It also left my skin looking very ashy and feeling a little burnt.



Smooth Away removes hair and smoothes skin.

PRODUCT REVIEW

★★★★☆

smoothly. I went through the same process again on my legs and had just about the same results. It took a lot of time to get every area of my legs, and it was even more difficult with my knees.

Trying my armpits was terrible, however. It felt like I had a super dull razor, and the hair was literally being pulled out. It also felt the skin on my armpits red and blotchy.

Although the process was for the most part successful, it was far more time consuming than a regular razor, and I couldn't get all the hair on my edges. It also left my skin looking very ashy and feeling a little burnt.

I had a halfway success with Smooth Away. On the positive side, I had no razor burn or bleeding pores, and I could definitely tell that my skin was softer.

However, Smooth Away is pretty much a low-grade sand paper, and my skin felt like it had been sanded down by the time I was done.

Unless I was going somewhere where I showed exceptional leg, I don't think I would take the extra time needed to use Smooth Away.

While I give them kudos for no-razor burn and for smoothing my skin, I just don't have the time in the day to spend 20 minutes shaving my legs and arms each.

Film answers typical dating questions

By **DARA GHOLSTON**
dgholston@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Ever have one of those days when you feel like you just don't know how that date went last night? He says he'll call you later, but he never does, and you wonder if he's even interested?

Well, maybe "He's Just Not That Into You" answers all of the questions above and more.

In a very subtle way, this blockbuster hit has attracted both men and women (mostly women) to see exactly how the opposite sex really feels. The title phrase insinuates this question: Are you the exception (women) or are you the rule (men)? Is there any doubt that this film will answer your question? If there is any doubt, then that's even more of a reason why you should see this movie.

"He's Just Not That Into You" poses the same questions every person in the dating game wonders: Why hasn't he called me? What does she really want? Is it me? Is he even interested, and, of course, who should call first? I could give you the answers to all of these questions, but since this movie is definitely a must-see, everyone should go see the movie to understand the opposite sex.

Of course, the answers in this movie vary by relationship, so it may not be applicable, but it's still very entertaining, cute and funny. The movie follows around four or five (it gets complicated) couples and the dilemmas presented by each individual person. Each of the character's relationships have a humor about them that is evident in the different situations and the characters themselves.

Speaking of the characters, the "He's Just Not That Into You" cast is star-studded with Hollywood's A-list of actors. There's Ben Affleck, Jennifer Aniston, Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Connelly, Kevin Connolly, Bradley Cooper, Ginnifer Goodwin, Scarlett Johansson, and Justin Long. Talk about an all-star cast!

From the cast to the actual movie, there's something for everyone to love. "He's Just Not That Into You" is a lovable movie that anyone can enjoy with friends, date, spouse or even alone.

Smoking jokes, helpful tips still remain true in weed manifesto

By **ANDREW J. ANSOLABEHERE**
aansolab@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Online Editor

Pot, reefer, ganja, Mary Jane, weed. If you haven't guessed, this is a 60s review.

No, I'm not referring to a sack of weed that's older than your Uncle Bruce.

That's idiotic and ridiculous that you even thought that was a possibility. Although, it's not nearly as ridiculous as "A Child's Garden of Grass: The Official Handbook for Marijuana Users." Written by Jack S. Margolis and Richard Clorfeine in the late 60s, the handbook delves into nearly every aspect of the way of weed.

Thankfully, this is no ordinary reference book, not at all like something you would find near the librarian's desk. From how to buy to using it as an aphrodisiac to discussing whether or not it's morally wrong to light one up, "Dick and Jack" have picked apart the stoner way of life.

It's obvious that these authors know their audience well, seeing as how you can't go half a page without laughing out loud. The handbook features a style of honest and positive humor and most of the cannabis smoker's expense. If these jokes are taken personally, you may need to smoke a Jay and remember that this book is obviously written in good fun. Well, at least try to remember.

To get half the jokes, though, you had better read up on your mid-century trivia. While references about major social entities like Bob Dylan or Jefferson Airplane still ring a bell today, there are some things that never made it very far past the Summer of Love. Ever listen to Florian Zabach? That's what I thought.

And let's not forget that "grass" is the key term used throughout this book. Sure, it's still used but it is now few decades ago. The topical humor of this book does make some possibly hilarious jokes very difficult for future generations to understand.

I did get a stupid grin on my face, though, when I read about "The

Birdlady of Tehachapi," a little old woman who served 10 years for having a backyard converted into a forest of green, and I'm not talking about trees. It's nice to know that Kern County is on the map for midnight tokers nationwide.

Opening the cracked spine of this 1977 edition, I found that this isn't just a book of jokes. There is some sound advice given within these yellowed pages. What smoker wouldn't want to know a way to increase the potency of his stash? How many nervous non-smokers want to know what to expect from that first high? It's all laid out over 172 pages, keeping it short just like the attention spans of its chief audience.

Although much of the topical humor may be too dated for today's average college student, there are plenty of jokes and green, crystal-covered nuggets of information that make this book well worth a read. It can be found in smoking dens all over the world. When you're done reading it, pass it on to a friend. And make sure you pass to the left.

Lovable nerd is a great comedian, one-man band

By **KELLY ARDIS**
kardis@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Opinion editor

When people say they love nerds, they typically don't mean the ones like that kid in class who knows all the answers and talks way too much. They mean people like comedian Demetri Martin, who now has his own show on Comedy Central called "Important Things with Demetri Martin."

Martin's knack for puns, palindromes and labeling coupled with his one-man-band joke accompaniment and "large pad" drawing routines make him a candidate for the most lovable nerd ever.

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'Skate 2' shreds competition

By **JIMMY D. LAURENT**
jimmydlaurent@aol.com
Rip staff writer

"Skate 2" is fresh. It is much better than its predecessor in almost every way. The sequel has definitely lived up to the hype. The main goal of the game is to take your created skater and finish missions that include learning new tricks and out-performing other skaters. For each completed challenge, you win cash.

Toward the end of the game, you can also get sponsorships from brands such as DC, Spitfire, Element and many more. You can use your cash for buying new gear, new apparel or new skate parks.

Among the things that have improved are trick repertoire, map size, storyline, and realism. Pro skateboarders are a big part of the game as well. Skaters like Marc Johnson, Colin McKay, Danny Way, Eric Koston and many more are featured throughout the game. Rob Dyrdek is also involved in a couple of missions and is accompanied by the co-star of his hit television show, "Rob and Big," Chris "Big Black" Boykin. "Big Black" is Dyrdek's bodyguard in real life, but in the game he can help your skater finish missions.

The city of New San Vanelona (where the game takes place) has been "skate-proofed" and is crawling with security guards on every block. If you are skating in a highly populated area, chances are that New San Vanelona security will run up on you and knock you off of your board, keeping you from performing the necessary tricks to finish the mission. But if you complete enough of Dyrdek's challenges, you acquire Big Black's phone number, enabling you to buy his "services" for \$500, effectively keeping the guards off of your back.

This game is anything but boring. If you get tired of trying to complete missions, (and there are plenty of them), you can always "freeskate" online with gamers from around the world. You can also switch it up and play "S.K.A.T.E.," which is a

version of HORSE, a game usually played in basketball. Each player has to land the same trick as the skater before him.

Skateboarders know all too well the risks they take when attempting these acrobatic tricks. The "Hall Of Meat" challenges give you money and points for your gnarly wipe-outs. Actually, it's pretty entertaining. There's even a game mode called "Hall of Meat" where you go up against your buddies and the biggest, most hardcore crush wins.

I love playing online and talking to friends while we try to out-trick each other. Some of the drops in the game are terrifying, but since it's your "character" and not you dropping down into a 100-foot ramp, there's no hesitation.

Another great addition to the sequel is the ability to get off of your board, run around and move ramps and rails to the positions that you want. This ability not only helps with completing some difficult challenges, but also brings a whole new "user-generated" feel to the game.

If there's a picnic bench, you can move it. If there's a dumpster blocking your way, slide it out. Ramps and rails can be moved anywhere in the map along with many other objects.

If there's one thing that I dislike about "Skate 2," it is the character movement when you are off of your board. It's sometimes difficult to move in the direction that you want to go. Sometimes that means going off of a high ledge that you didn't want to get off of. It can get kind of frustrating, especially if you are attempting a mission with a time frame.

It didn't take me a long to finish the main career objectives. I still have a couple of side missions to complete, but for the most part, I have gained the achievements for the game.

All in all, this game is a blast to play. There's plenty to do in career mode but also a great online multiplayer option. I would give it 9 out of 10 for game play, 8 out of 10 for graphics and a solid 10 out of 10 for ingenuity and creativity. I would definitely recommend this game to any style of gamer. When it comes down to it, this game is just plain fun. With a stellar story mode and an infinitely changing online experience, this game was well worth the \$60 I paid for it.

BC BRAINS

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

Dustin Wolaver, psychology: "In the math and science building."

Andrew Champagne, digital arts: "In the industrial building."

Javier Valencia, undeclared: "I don't know where it is."

Eric Morales, psychology: "Industrial building."

Reginald Gardner, criminal justice: "In the industrial building, where the nurses are at."

Clairissa Myers, English: "The library."

Compiled by Julie Johnson and Alejandro Montano / The Rip

FEATURES

ESL program creating bilingual students for over two decades

By MANUEL MORFIN
mmorfin@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Dan Jia came from Chengdu, China three years ago. She is a child development major and an English as a Second Language student at Bakersfield College.

"I think the hardest thing about coming to a new country is learning the language," Jia said.

"I appreciate the ESL program because it gave me a good chance to make a rapid progress on English study, and I really benefited from it so much," said Jia who won the ESL Department award last year, regardless of the short period of time she has been living in the United States.

The ESL Department was created at Bakersfield College in July of last year.

ESL classes have been taught at BC for more than 20 years. However, they used to be part of the Foreign Language Department and then the English Department until last year when they decided to create their own department to serve the needs of their students.

Jia was one of the many students who benefited from the creation of the ESL Department.

The ESL Department served over 600 students last semester. ESL students at BC represent a vast diversity.

The students come from countries such as Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Bolivia, Colombia, India, Yemen, Korea, Japan, China, Vietnam, Philippines, Venezuela, Brazil, Egypt and Chad among others.

"The mission of the department is to help our students develop critical thinking skills as well as become fluent speakers, listeners, readers, and writers of the English language, in order to succeed in and contribute to the academic, professional, and social settings of their choosing," said Jeannie Parent, department chair.

ESL students are challenged not only to learn a new language, but they also must adapt to new customs.

"ESL involves teaching language in context as well as teaching culture so that students better understand not only English but also American cultural norms," said Parent.

Certainly, this is not an easy task for the ESL Depart-

ment, which relies on the experience and high qualifications in Applied Linguistics or TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from the faculty members.

Parent has been teaching ESL for 30 years and still enjoys "meeting and getting to know students from around the world and helping them navigate their way through a new language and culture."

Parent mentioned that she keeps in touch with some former ESL students who have gone to universities. Some former students have even completed their master's degrees.

ESL students are encouraged not only to learn English but also to continue their education and develop their full potential.

"I've had many students who have started in our lowest English class that we have on campus, ENSL B55 and gone on to graduate from BC or transfer to a four-year college," said John Hart, who has been teaching ESL at BC for five years.

Experience is truly something that helps understanding the way students struggle to learn a new language and adapt to a new country.

"I can empathize with many of the frustrations that my students go through with learning a second language," said Hart.

Hart lived in Guatemala for two years serving in a mission for his church.

There he learned Spanish and then came back to the United States to earn his bachelor's degree in Spanish from California State University Bakersfield.

Also, ESL teachers must adjust to the different backgrounds of their students to make the learning experience easier and adequate.

According to Hart, ESL students bring a variety of talents and skills from their countries of origin.

"I've had doctors, lawyers, dentists and Ph.D.s in my classes. I realize that they are far more talented and skilled than I am in certain areas. I am there to help them with their academic English, and I try to treat them with the respect that they deserve as I teach them," Hart said.

Currently, the ESL department counts with five full time and eight adjunct faculty members. The ESL department office is located at Humanities 57.

"I appreciate the ESL program because it gave me a good chance to make a rapid progress on English study, and I really benefited from it so much..."

— Dan Jia, ESL student



Their eyes were watching Kimbrough

Bakersfield College history instructor Ishmael Kimbrough discusses the 1937 literary work "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston in the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library on Feb. 11.

Photo by David Karnowski / The Rip

WWE's Smackdown had fans ready to rumble

By MATT HUMBLE
mhumble@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff reporter

The Rabobank Arena got smacked down when World Wrestling Entertainment came to Bakersfield on Feb. 8.

The sold-out show featured all of the top superstars of the Smackdown brand of wrestling.

Brent Arnold, a spectator, said, "I am so excited to see Smackdown. They rarely come here to Bakersfield."

Edge, The Big Show, Triple H, The Undertaker and many more superstars were on hand to bring all the excitement.

"I'm here to see the Undertaker, and I am so thrilled to see him before he retires," said Cassandra Renolds, a fan.

Every champion on the Smackdown brand defended their titles. The fans were loud and raucous when their favorite superstar appeared. Every champion retained their title, but all of the matches were fast paced, and no one knew who would win.

Two lucky fans were upgraded to the front row when they answered a wrestling question correctly. They both got to meet divas Bre and Nicky Bella, also known as the Bella Twins.

"My grandson was so excited when he got to meet the Bella twins. He has been a WWE fan for so long," said Nancy Gregory, grandmother of one of the winners.

"The performers who put on this show did a great job of entertaining the fans. I can't wait for them to return to Bakersfield," said Shawn Stetz, a WWE fan. The best matches of the night were WWE champion Edge versus Jeff Hardy for the WWE title. The other was the main event Triple H and The Undertaker versus Vladimir Kozlov and The Big Show in a tag-team match.

Many of the interviewed spectators and fans agreed that World Wrestling Entertainment brought all of the excitement and fast-paced action to Bakersfield fans.

Universal sign of peace finds its way into latest fashion trends long after its mid-century start

By NICHOLAS SPARLING
nsparling@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Walk across campus and take a close look at the students. You are bound to come across a backpack, T-shirt, jewelry or jacket depicting a peace sign. If you head out to the parking lot, you'll see peace sign stickers and decals.

It's starting to seem like this 50-year-old symbol is booming again, finding its way back into popular culture. The peace sign is not just for hippies anymore.

The symbol spread like wildfire in the culture of the baby boomers and has maintained throughout the decades as a symbol of peace.

The origin of the symbol can be found in the "Symbol Sourcebook" by Henry Dreyfus. "It was introduced by pacifist Lord Bertrand Russell dur-

ing Easter of 1958, when he marched at Aldermaston, England, campaigning for nuclear disarmament.

"The most acceptable interpretation of the design relates it to the international semaphore alphabet: N (for nuclear), D (for disarmament). These superimposed signals are surrounded by a circle indicating complete, worldwide or total. Thus, you have the sign for total nuclear disarmament."

So today, this distinctive mark is universally a symbol for peace.

One student equipped with the peace sign literally from her head to her toes is Katy Lewis who was wearing peace sign earrings as well as having the design in the artwork of her shoes.

"I tend to buy things that have the peace sign, things with bright colors or dealing with the hippie culture," she said.

"It is a sign of my pacifism," says Alfredo Lorenzo, who has two peace signs hanging from the rear view window in his car.

"I think it's a weak kind of rebellion. People are realizing that they were really pissed off at Bush. Little by little, I think the trend will slow down now that Obama is in office," he said.

SPORTS

BC baseball team's identity lost in storm

By VINCENT PEREZ
vinperez@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Sports editor

The Renegades' starting pitcher, Ryan Huston, had an impressive performance against Moorpark College with nine strikeouts, three walks and seven hits in 7 2/3 innings as Huston threw over one hundred pitches at Sam Lynn Ball Park Feb. 15 to win BC's 1st game at their temporary home site.

Bakersfield College (2-7-1) defeated Moorpark 11-9, to receive their second win of the season on the last of the four-day BC Light Brigade baseball tournament.

BC lost the other three games in the tournament with wet conditions and multiple errors for all teams in the tournament.

BC head coach Tim Panton handed the ball to Huston as starting pitcher on account of his first appearance at Sam Lynn in a relief role. "He earned it with that outing. We gave him that opportunity today, and he did a good job. He's a guy that's very dependable, somebody who's going to throw strikes."

Panton said about Huston's role in the future. "I don't know how we'll use him, we'll use him in a variety of roles, probably during the course of the season, but he's a guy that did throw strikes and gets outs, and that's the name of the game."

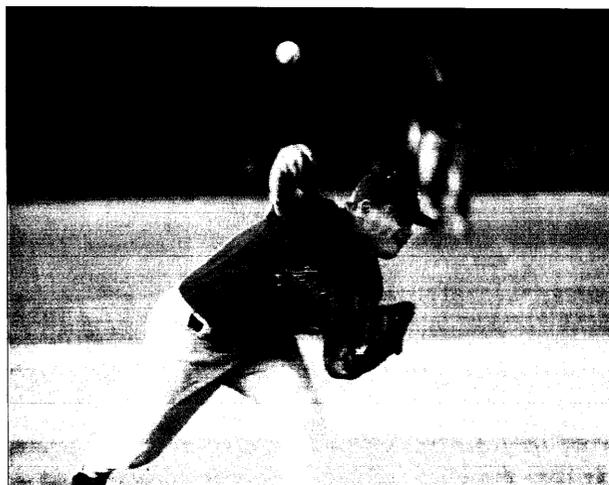
BC's Joey Walker went 2-for-5, with a two-run home run over the centerfield wall and was walked once. BC teammate Travis Morgan also had a solo home run in centerfield. Morgan went 2-for-6, with a single and a walk.

The bottom of the BC line-up gave Moorpark trouble as most of it contributed to the Renegades' 11 hits in the game.

Panton was pleased with the offense but not satisfied with the pitching after Huston. "I felt offensively we put some things together today. We had five innings. We had multiple innings on the board, and, for us, that's a major step offensively. So we were happy with that."

"We didn't do a very good job out of the bullpen [with other pitchers], but we walk away with a win. We'd rather win ugly than play well and lose."

Panton is not sure what his team's strongest point is yet. Panton said, "I think our team identity is still being developed." Panton stressed that the team has fresh men



BC pitcher Ryan Huston delivers a second inning pitch against Moorpark College, Feb. 15. The Renegades won the game 11-9, bringing their record to 2-7-1.

who performed well over the weekend and hopes that they continue to do so.

The game came down to the wire as BC's Greg Sanders struck out Moorpark's Harrison Kain with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth to win the game for BC.

BC lost to San Diego Mesa 4-3 on Feb. 14. BC Mesa broke the tie in the bottom of the eighth inning to win the game at Sam Lynn.

The Renegades committed five errors and BC's Jarrod Martin hit a double to tie the game in the sixth inning, but that was the last BC score of the night.

The muddy and soaked field at Sam Lynn caused an hour rain delay, and BC managed only to get within one run in the fifth inning of the Renegades Feb. 13 loss to San Diego Mesa 10-10.

BC's woes continued against Fresno City College. BC lost 5-2 at Fresno, and the Renegades only runs came from Imaad Nuridin and Greg Fowler.

BC pitcher Marcos Reyna pitched eight innings with 11 strikeouts but that was not enough as Fresno City came back in the eighth inning down 3-1 to beat the Renegades.

The Renegades' Feb. 17 game against Cuesta has been cancelled due to rain and conflicting schedules.

BC is scheduled to play at L.A. Mission Feb. 19 and Feb. 21 to begin league play.

BC softball comes back

By STACEY STAAB
sstaab@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

After losing the first three games of the season, the Bakersfield College softball team has bounced back with some wins.

On Feb. 3, the Renegades softball team beat Taft College 13-4 and 10-2.

Myranda Sawyer came into game 1 and pitched the whole game allowing six hits and four runs.

In game 2, Hanna Grisham pitched the whole game, only allowing one hit and two runs.

BC head coach Sandi Taylor referred to the games as being full of offense.

Roxy Leiva and Jamie Dumatrait in game 1 had three hits respectively. In game 2, Brittney Morrison had three hits.

"The entire team contributed to this double header sweep. Everyone did her job. Today was a good day," Taylor said.

The Green and Gold Tournament games on Feb. 6 in Irvine were rained out.

On Feb. 10, the Renegades played their first home game against LA Pierce and won 7-1.

Liz Chabolla pitched the whole game with seven strikeouts and only allowed two hits and one run.

"My defense had my back, and I know they will always have that, and I just need to pitch my pitches and have faith in my defense," Chabolla said.

The game was jam-packed with eight hits, two stolen bases, and, of course, seven runs.

Taylor said, "Liz Chabolla, our pitcher, did a fantastic job because early in the game she had key strikeouts with runners in scoring position. Twice she did that, a sophomore leading us on the mound in this cold weather. She did great."

On Feb. 12, the Renegades lost 9-4 against Oxnard.

Amanda Roberts had three at-bats with one hit, one run and two RBIs.

Joni Lagerstrom pitched five innings with three strikeouts and allowed four hits and three runs after Sawyer pitched one inning and allowed one hit and six runs.

"We had a terrible first inning at Oxnard. If you take away the first inning, the score was 3-3," Taylor said.

On Feb. 14, the Renegades played the COY Tournament in Visalia losing the first 2 games 6-2 and 4-2 and winning the second 2 games 6-3 and 4-1. The victory over Victor Valley was Taylor's 500th win of her coaching career in softball.

Grisham pitched five innings and Sawyer pitched one inning while Dumatrait had two at-bats and got two hits and one run in game 1 against the Sequoias.

Chabolla pitched five innings with two strikeouts and Lagerstrom pitched one inning while Amanda Flores got one hit and one run in three at bats, and Roberts got two hits and two RBIs in three at bats in the game against Porterville.

"On Sunday, both did an amazing job to lead us to victory in both games," said Taylor.

Grisham pitched in game 1 against Victor Valley and Chabolla pitched in game 2 against West Hills.



Renegade Holly Moseley-Raymon competes in the pole vault event, Feb. 12 at Memorial Stadium.

Track and field begins at Bakersfield College

By SEGGAN MOORE
senmoore@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College track and field teams placed third overall in their first home conference meet on Feb. 12.

BC coach Dave Frickel explained the team's expectations. "We were hoping for a little bit more. West (Los Angeles) were the conference champions for women last year. The men had an 18-point difference from second and third place."

The men were defeated by Cuesta College in first and West L.A. finished first in women.

This is their largest meet with 30 to 35 colleges competing. Frickel also says that BC can expect "a constant improvement on marks. That's what we try to do all year." BC travels to Cerritos College Feb. 21.

Holly Moseley-Raymon, who placed seventh in state last season, measured out in pole vault at nine feet.

The BC men were led by Cesar Mieres who placed second in the 800 meters dash at 1:58.87 and ran the 1,500 meter in 4:08.07. Bran-

Renegade tennis ups and downs

By JIMMY D. LAURENT
jimmydlaurent@aol.com
Rip staff writer

Both Bakersfield College tennis teams recorded wins on Feb. 10, overcoming a couple obstacles along the way. The men defeated Reedley 8-1 while the women beat Riverside 7-2.

Even though BC's standouts were unsuccessful in beating their respective opponents, the rest of the team was there to back them up. Tommy Carter of Reedley defeated BC's Neal Wetterholm 6-4, 6-4, while Riverside's Caroline Houston beat BC's Shabrena Dickerson 6-1, 6-1.

Those were the only singles matches that the Renegades lost that day.

"Our motto is 'never ever give up,'" said women's head coach Gene Lundquist.

The men lost a hard-fought match against L.A. Pierce 5-4 on February 12. One player who seemed to overcome the biggest challenge was the BC men's No. 4 player Ben Nieto.

Nieto, sophomore, was tangled up in a 3 1/2 hour match with L.A.'s Matias Castro. Nieto started experiencing a good amount of pain in his legs in the middle of the second set.

"It was pretty intense," Nieto said. "I hit the deck, and I couldn't move." Both of his legs were cramping, and it made it difficult for him to play in the style in which he is accustomed to.

"My main weapon is that I'm able to run everything down. I couldn't plant that good," Nieto described his pain by saying that his legs felt like "linguini."

After taking salt and mustard packets to help with the cramping, Nieto went on to beat Castro 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

When asked about the outcome Nieto responded, "It was the best/worst match I've ever played."

BC men's coach Regina Csibi-Krueger was very impressed by the resiliency and effort of her team. She sees a bright future for her players.

"Once they gain more experience and confidence, by the end of the second part of the season, they will understand what it takes to play at this level."

Another player who had an impressive win was the Renegade's No. 2 player Kevin Lott. Lott, freshman, won his match by defeating Eric Garner of Reedley 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

"It takes me a while to close out some matches," Lott said.

He is learning with every match that he plays that college tennis is "way more advanced than high school tennis," said Lott.

The women suffered their first loss of the season to Reedley. The BC women fell short, losing 5-4.

Although they lost, BC women's coach Gene Lundquist was impressed with the way his women played.

"I was so proud of every one of our wom-



BC's Neal Wetterholm plays in a match against L.A. Pierce Feb. 12. BC lost to Pierce 5-4.

en on the team. It could've gone either way. "Reedley is absolutely one of the toughest colleges in the state," said Lundquist.

Lundquist was impressed by the match between Reedley and BC.

"It was without a doubt the most exciting match that I've been involved in since I've been a coach."

Sophomore Katie O'Leary is the No. 2 player for the women.

She won her match against Reedley by defeating Nadia Khamis 6-0, 6-4.

O'Leary is thrilled with the team chemistry this year. "We get along really well," said O'Leary.

When asked if she felt any pressure to win her match against Reedley seeing how her No. 1, Shabrena Dickerson lost, she replied, "I could tell Shabrena was down. I was just trying to play my game the best that I could."

She reiterated how her coach is always telling the team to never give up.

"If one of us has a bad day, we know that our teammates will probably win."

The men's Modesto Tournament was rained out Feb. 5-6 is rescheduled for Feb. 28 and March 1.

The women are looking forward to a very tough opponent at Sierra College as Sierra won the state championship two years ago.

The Renegades will face Sierra College Feb. 21 at BC.

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