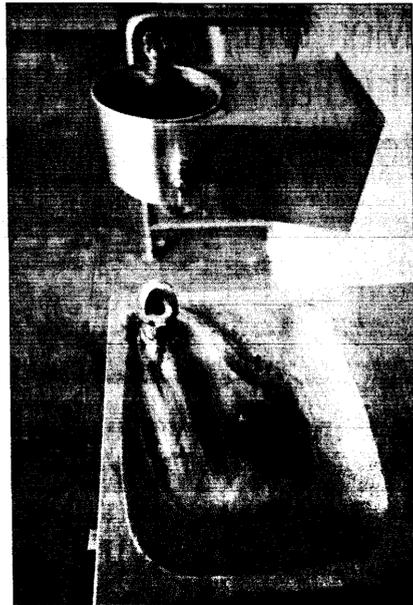
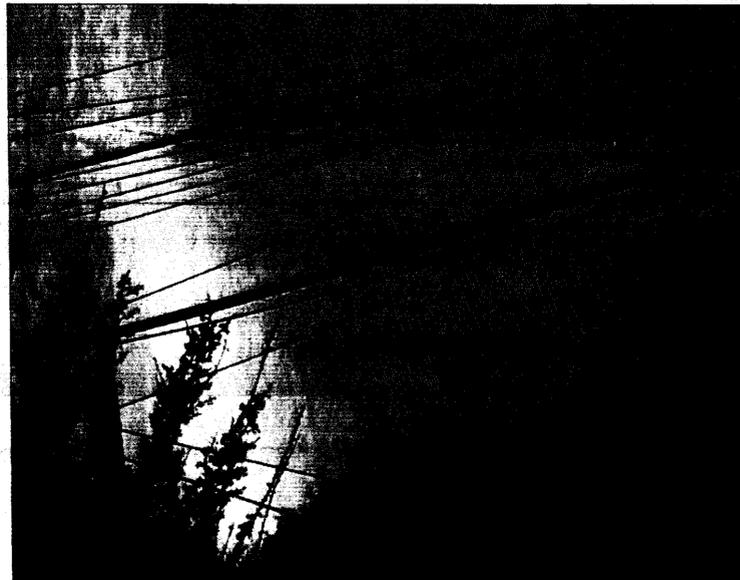


EYES OF THE RIP

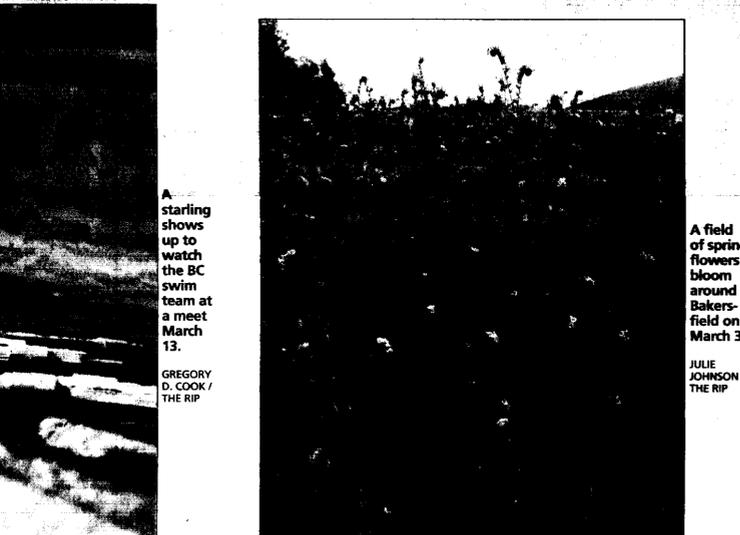


Above: Cigarette butts, green algae and grime fill the drains of drinking fountains in the Campus Center of Bakersfield College on March 9. Left: A 31-star American flag, typical of the type flown from 1851 to 1858, flies over the Ft. Tejon State Historical Park on Feb. 21.

Spring brings life



A rainbow appears after a rainstorm.



A field of spring flowers bloom around Bakersfield on March 3.

Startling shows up to watch the BC swim team at a meet March 13.



Mariachi Vargas at Fox
Along with Vargas, Mariachi Garibaldi and Imperial perform on March 13.
Features, Page 8



This is how it goes'
Bakersfield College production gets reviewed by The Rip.
Reviews, Page 7

THE RENEGADE RIP

Vol. 80 • No. 11 Bakersfield College March 18, 2009

Asbestos found during construction

By **MANUEL MORFIN**
mmorfin@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Center for the Humanities. The project will expand room B18 off to Panorama Drive.

During the last week of February, warning signs regarding asbestos were posted on the doors of room B18 in the business building.

Center, said Mike Stepanovich, executive director of the Bakersfield College Foundation.

Center, said Mike Stepanovich, executive director of the Bakersfield College Foundation.



A warning sign on the door of Business 18 on March 2.



Drivers, start your engines!

Doug Wagner races on the 51st annual March Meet. See page 9 for reporter's experience.



Labor leader and activist Dolores Huerta, 78, gives a speech at Robert F. Kennedy High School in Delano on March 5.

Activist speaks at Delano Campus

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

Mother of 11, 78-year-old activist Dolores Huerta continues to demand justice and social equality throughout the United States, and, on March 5, Huerta spoke in the Robert F. Kennedy High School Auditorium in front of children, students and professors.

BC baseball field ready by April 2 for game

L.A. Valley will face the Renegades on new Dean and Adah Gay Sports Complex.

By **VINCENT PEREZ**
vperez@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Sports editor

According to Bakersfield College athletic director Jan Staebbe, construction of BC's approximate \$1.7 million-fund Dean and Adah Gay Sports Complex will be completed and ready for baseball April 2, when the Renegades will play L.A. Valley at 2:30 p.m.



Bakersfield College's new baseball stadium is still under construction on March 9.

"[This is] what we've been waiting for," said BC baseball head coach Tim Painton. "I know right now at this point, we're a little weary and

conference games against L.A. Valley, 18-3 on March 14, Jeremy Gonzales went seven innings with two strikeouts and only gave up one run on three hits.

Steroid use a problem at professional level sports, not colleges

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

Steroids and performance enhancement drugs have become a problem in sports today. The usage of these illegal substances have ruined careers, tarnished legacies and brought to the surface many questions and doubts about the players and the games that they play.

Some believe that these athletes are under so much pressure to perform that they feel as if they need to constantly find a way to better their

high school and collegiate level. In professional sports such as Major League Baseball, players like Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, and most recently Alex Rodriguez, have been involved with steroids. These players were and still are favorites among their fans but have taken on an enormous amount of criticism due to their choice to use illegal substances.

"The college thing is more of a job. It's really tough to balance athletics with academics. That's the pressure."

Bakersfield College coaches share the same opinion as Holloway. BC football head coach Jeff Chudy has never encountered a problem with steroids, and most of that is due to the price of these drugs.

athletes trying to keep their job, according to Chudy. "It was probably more prevalent five or ten years ago," said Chudy. "Everyone is testing now. There's more knowledge out there now."

SPORTS

BC's Webber runs on family values

By VINCENT PEREZ
vinperez@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Sports editor

Bakersfield College freshman runner/javelin thrower Ashley Webber has a goal: It's to make it to the state track and field championships. "I at least want to try to make it to state," she said. "I'm just worried about mainly dropping my time, especially in the 200 (meters), my main event. I at least want to get to a 25-something."

Webber's best times are 26.29 in 200 and 12.78 (12.5 hand time) in the 100. "That's the fastest time I ever ran in 100 [at Santa Monica, earlier in the season, Feb. 27]," she said.

Webber competes in the women's 100 and 200 and in the 400 and 1600 relays. Webber also started to compete in the javelin throw this season and expressed interest in excelling in the event.

"Maybe the javelin, I just started that [this season], and I've been getting second place overall. So, I think I would be really good in that. I'm throwing at seventy-six for right now in my first year, so I can focus on that a little bit more," said Webber.

Webber, originally from Oxnard, moved to Bakersfield her junior year in high school and graduated from South High School. She has been running since her freshman year in high school and was inspired by family to begin competitive running despite health problems.

"I've always wanted to run, but I had asthma," she said. "I was the last one to start running track in my family. My mom, dad, brother and sisters ran track, so it's kind of a family thing, and I like it."

Webber pointed out her strengths and weaknesses. "My strongest point would be just having speed. My weakest is the endurance because I get out of breath so fast."

BC head track and field coach Dave Frickel spoke highly about Webber and her efforts and wants Webber to do more events.

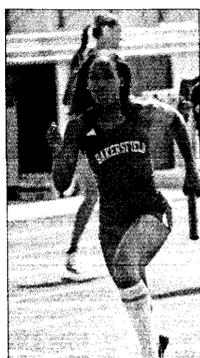
"Ashley works really hard," he said. "Anything you ask her to do, she'll do. She's a real team person as far as if you need her to do an extra event, she'll be willing to step up to try something. She's asked to try new events: the 400 hurdles, the 800, and we talked to her about long jumping. We're even toying with the idea of putting her in the heptathlon."

Frickel added, "She's very diminutive, really small but very powerfully built."

Frickel also mentioned her leadership skills. "She's a team leader," he said. "If you have somebody that you want to exemplify as a role model as far as hard work and training, and showing up and being there, that's a good example."

Frickel also said that when times are changed for practices that Webber notifies the rest of the team by calling her teammates.

Outside of school, Webber's activities are limited due to the amount of time Webber spends at practice and



Top: Ashley Webber runs in the women's 400 relay at the Bakersfield Invitational on March 14. Webber's team placed second in the race.

Left: Ashley Webber competes in the javelin at the Bakersfield Invitational.

Photos by GREGORY D. COOK / The Rip

"My brother ... changed his mind to come run another year with me so we can run together."

— Ashley Webber, BC track and field athlete

at school. "[There's] no time at all, just do that [track and field], school and rest."

Webber said that when not at school, she likes to hang out with friends but mostly likes doing sports.

Webber's major is psychology, but the subject was not her first choice.

"I actually wanted to be in the nursing program, but then I found out that it takes a lot of years, and I wanted to get out really, really fast," she said.

"I've always been the type of person who would like to help people and always helping people out, so I thought that would be a good thing to study right now, so I changed it this semester."

Webber is focused on the track and field season and takes care of herself. "Track meets are now on the weekend, so it's just really about track and staying focused on track right now. And sleeping when I can and resting my body," said Webber.

Webber suffered injuries recently. She pulled her left hamstring and had a swollen quad muscle and a calf muscle cramp, all on her left leg.



Bakersfield College pole vaulter Justin Faulkenberry attempts a height of 12-6 and makes the jump at a BC meet, March 7.

BC women win in home events

By ANDREW J. ANSOLABEHRE
ansolabehre@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Online editor

Cooper Thompson, freshman, was one of the shining stars for BC at the Bakersfield Invitational on March 14 at Memorial Stadium, throwing a massive 188 feet 3.5 inches in the men's javelin. "Cooper had a big throw today," said BC track and field coach Dave Frickel. "I think this puts him probably in the top three in southern California, and that's good. He's a rookie... He's only been throwing a month."

As a matter of fact, Thompson's latest throw made him second overall in southern California, throwing only 2-0.5 shorter than current leader Justin Shinar of Golden West.

The previous week, Thompson took first in javelin against Santa Barbara and Moorpark, throwing 182-6.

Frickel definitely had good feelings about the performances of both teams. "I think we had some good performances," said Frickel. "The kids ran well." With BC winning the women's meet against five competing schools and taking third in the men's against six schools, this year's team is holding their own with athletes in the top 10 for 11 events in the

SoCal conference.

The women's 4x400 meter relay team proved to be tough competition, taking second place behind the Canyons' team and taking the gold March 6. The 4x100 meter relay crossed the finish line at 50.5 seconds, placing first against Canyons and Antelope Valley. According to Frickel, these two teams were BC's biggest competition going into the Bakersfield Relays.

The women's 200-meter dash was taken by BC with Ashley Colbert winning the gold with Lindsey Webber coming in only milliseconds later to take second place.

March 6 was a good day for BC with both the men's and women's teams finishing second overall in a quadrangular meet against Santa Barbara, Santa Monica and Moorpark at Memorial Stadium.

BC's Shawnee Mackey and Carey Tuamalemalu took second and third respectively in both women's shot put and discus. Tuamalemalu went on to take second in women's hammer throw with a distance of 109-9.5.

Out of 20 competitor's, BC's Cesar Miralles finished the men's 1,500 meter by a 4:08.02, winning first place by five seconds.

Santa Barbara hosts March 21.



Construction workers continue to frame the structure for the Dean and Gaway Sports Complex March 9. The target date is currently April 2 for the remodeled BC ballpark.

BALLPARK: BC baseball team plunges into season

Continued from Page 1

Marcos Reyna went seven innings. BC's road woes continued as BC lost to West L.A. 6-2 on March 7 and 2-1 on March 5.

BC's March 3 loss to L.A. Pierce stopped the Renegades' six-game winning streak.

BC lost 7-6 as Martin threw six innings and allowed one run with six strikeouts. BC pitcher Ryan Huston pitched one inning, allowing six runs off five hits.

BC's Greg Sanders finished the game, as Sanders only gave up one hit in the last two innings of work,

but BC could not power past L.A. Pierce's offense, which ended up deciding the game in Woodland Hills. BC will play its second game at L.A. Valley March 17, and BC travels to Citrus March 19 and 21. The Renegades return to Sam Lynn Ball Park March 24 to play L.A. Mission.

Renegade softball team struggles in conference

By STACEY STAAB
sstaab@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The Bakersfield College softball team is on its longest losing streak of the season dropping nine of the last ten games with a record 7-16 and 2-6 in the Western State Conference.

The Renegades have played six home games at Dave Frye Field and 17 on the road games, so out of seven wins they have won two at home and five on the road.

On March 3, the Renegades played an away game against Cuesta and lost 9-3 with two runs in the first and one run in the sixth off of eight hits.

Hanna Grisham (2-4) got the loss after pitching 2 2/3 innings with one strikeout and allowed four hits and four runs.

Joni Lagerstrom (0-2) came into the game pitched 3 1/3 innings giving up six hits and five runs.

Brittney Morrison in three at-bats and Melissa Cope in four at-bats each had two hits, one run and one RBI and Courtney Hockett in four at-bats contributed with one hit and one run.

On March 7, the Renegades played a doubleheader at home against Cer-

ritos losing the first game 11-1 and winning the second game 4-1.

In game one BC had one run in the third off of three hits and two errors.

Liz Chabolla (2-4) came into the game pitched 3 innings gave up four hits and three runs after Lagerstrom pitched two innings giving up eight hits and eight runs.

The three hits are credited to Chabolla, Aly Rosales and Courtney Hockett with Hockett getting the run.

In game two, BC had four runs, three in the second and one in the sixth, off of seven hits and no errors.

Myranda Sawyer (3-5) pitched all seven innings striking out five and only allowed one run off of eight hits.

Amanda Roberts had two hits and one run in three at-bats while Rosales had one hit and one RBI in three at-bats.

Jessica Newton-Smith had one hit and one RBI while Cope, Hockett and Jamie Dumatrai had one hit.

In game one, BC had no runs and two errors after getting two hits from Roxy Leiva and Dumatrai.

Sawyer pitched 3 1/3 innings giving up seven hits and nine runs before Chabolla came in and pitched 2/3 innings allowing one hit.

In game two, BC had four hits and only one run in the third with three errors.

Brittany Johnson had one hit and one run in three at-bats. Lagerstrom had one hit and one RBI in two at-bats. Dumatrai had one hit in two at-bats.

Grisham pitched 4 2/3 innings and allowed twelve hits and nine runs.

On March 13, the Renegades played a game against Santa Barbara that was postponed earlier in the season and lost 3-0.

BC had five hits from Lagerstrom, Johnson, Dumatrai, Rosales and Brittany Hunt.

Chabolla pitched six innings and gave up seven hits and three runs. The Renegades will be on the road with an away game against L.A. Valley on March 17 and a home game doubleheader against L.A. Mission on March 19.



BC's O'Shea Webber (center) and Tyrone Courtney compete in the men's 200 meter at the Bakersfield Invitational, March 14.

However, Webber is optimistic. "I'm just trying to break it out right now and stay off my leg until our practice today (March 11)."

Webber's paternal twin brother, freshman O'Shea is also on the team and also a sprinter. The brother and sister team duo strive to make it to the state championships. Webber finds inspiration in her brother, who altered his plan to enlist in the Navy, to compete with Webber at BC.

"My brother, he's really fast, and he's actually supposed to go to the Navy, but he changed his mind to come run another year with me so we can run together," said Webber.

Webber's brother competes in the 200, 400 and relays for the men's team.

For next year, Webber wants to continue in track and field but also wants to venture out to cheerleading. "I make sure that I'm thinking about doing cheer and track at the same time," said Webber. Webber added, "This year's really good for me in track."

Frickel sees a future for Webber and would like to keep her focused. "We want her to keep excelling as a student and as an athlete," he said. "We'd love to move her on to someplace after Bakersfield [College]."

NEWS

Legalization of marijuana may help boost economic state

By J. W. BURCH, IV
and SEGGAN MOORE
jwburch@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writers

In a closed-door meeting on March 12, Deputy District Attorney John Irby and medicinal marijuana advocates discussed the re-opening of medicinal marijuana dispensaries in Kern County.

After a Federal raid on Nature's Medicinal on Roberts Lane by the

DEA in July of 2007, all dispensaries in Kern County voluntarily closed their doors.

Among the advocates in attendance were Jim McGowan, owner of one of the closed dispensaries, Doug McAfee, president of Bakersfield NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) and Lawrence Litter, a former employee of Nature's Medicinal.

"I'm willing to take whatever they will give us," McGowan said in a dis-

cussion about what was wanted to be accomplished in the meeting.

The issue will be presented to the Kern County Board of Supervisors on March 24 at which time each of the advocates that were in attendance will make their arguments for why the dispensaries should be re-opened.

"When I opened my store, I thought that 90 percent of those coming in would be buying marijuana for physical pain," McGowan said. "But when I opened the store, at least half

of those who came in were suffering from mental issues. And marijuana works so well for mental issues, it works for depression, schizophrania, paranoia and even epileptic seizures."

The topic of taxing medicinal marijuana came up during the meeting. "I don't mind taxing it if taxes are going to schools or something like that," Jeff Clark, president of the upper Kern County chapter of NORML

McAfee believes that taxing medicinal marijuana will help California in the economic crisis.

"It can generate about \$1 billion a year, and we can save about half of that. It will significantly help the economy," McAfee said.

Assemblyman Tom Ammannio from San Francisco has introduced Assembly Bill 390 to the state legislature to legalize medicinal marijuana for adults 21 and over. If it is passed, patients will be taxed when they buy

the marijuana. This will make it easier for all adults to access the medicinal marijuana without written recommendation.

"It's a plan," McAfee said. "It helps people to relax."

According to Irby, the sheriff's department does not want to be as involved as much as they were previously. When asked for comment, Sheriff Donny Yungblood stated that "medical marijuana dispensaries are illegal even under state law."

Group rallies for overturn of gay marriage proposition

By KAMYELLE POWELL
kstripl@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The supporters of gay marriage spoke out as the state Supreme Court heard arguments of Proposition 8 as stated in a press release given from Bakersfield's Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Questioning Organization.

On March 5, the state Supreme Court decided to hear sides on the pending repeal of Proposition 8. The recalling for this proposition is for marriage equality for all including people of homosexual affiliation. Marriage equality has become a major civil rights issue to the gay community in Bakersfield.

"It's important to take a stand for equality and urge the Supreme Court to invalidate Proposition 8," said Juan Cerda, LGBTQ director of advocacy.

Many of the LGBTQ members of

Bakersfield rallied on the night of the proceedings. They gathered at different locations around Bakersfield including the corners of Coffee and Rosedale, Stockdale Highway and New Stine, Mt. Vernon and Mall View Road at 5 p.m. In Delano, they gathered at the south end of Cecil Avenue Park at 4 p.m.

"There are gay and lesbian people in Delano too, not just in big cities," said Antoinette Race, who attended the rally in Delano.

The group does a lot of work for the LGBTQ community.

"I feel they could also learn and share with us, plus participate in functions," said Jolynn Schoonover, a LGBTQ member.

Although the rallies weren't as successful as the ones right before voting day, they had a total of 30 people all together from each location.

"We know that our lives hang in the balance," said Whitney Weddell, chair of Bakersfield LGBTQ.



Bakersfield residents express their hopes that Proposition 8 will be overturned at a rally along Stockdale Avenue on March 5.

Dinosaurs extinction topic of lecture

By KELLY ARDIS
kardis@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Opinion editor

There are many different theories that try to explain the extinction of dinosaurs: meteorites, volcanic eruptions and even deadly bugs. On March 12, Bakersfield College geology, earth science and engineering professor Natalie Bursztyn gave a lecture about her theory, "Where did all the Dinosaurs Go?" took place at Cal State Bakersfield and was put on by the CSUB Geology Club. Bursztyn started the lecture by talking about her work in the Hell Creek Formation in Montana. Hell Creek Formation is also where Barnum Brown discovered the first Tyrannosaurus rex in 1902.

"Two years ago, I decided to follow my dream and become a paleontologist for a summer," said Bursztyn. While there, she and her group found some triceratops bones, including rib bones and a brain case. Bursztyn said she thought she'd prefer the field work over the lab work, since that is why she got into geology, but the "Bakersfield-like heat" made it less enjoyable. She explained that they made plaster jackets of the bones they found.

"It's how we get the dinosaurs out of the ground and into the lab," she said. "It was like arts and crafts." Bursztyn said the part she thought she would hate the most but ended up liking the most was putting the resin-made models of the bones together.

Bursztyn said she was skeptical of the meteorite explanation of extinction and has her own theory.

Before she got to her own theory and the other theories, she gave a brief history of dinosaurs and science. She told the audience about the first dinosaurs discovered, like the megalosaurus in 1824 and the iguanodon in 1825. She explained that dinosaurs did not always have to be used to today. At first, dinosaurs were thought to look like a creature Bursztyn dubbed "crocodile-dog-bear."

Bursztyn explained the common theories of extinction, like the meteorite theory, which was proposed in 1979, and the volcanic eruptions theory, which was proposed in the '80s as a counter to the meteorite theory. Then she told the audience about a few rejected explanations, like dinos-

osaurs grew so large and lethargic that they died of boredom, and egg-eating mammals ate a dinosaur egg, she said, and that dinosaur sex was so loud that sonic sex booms wiped them out. She confirmed that she did actually find this theory in a Japanese study.

Finally, Bursztyn told her own theory, that climate change was responsible for the extinction of dinosaurs. She explained that at the Hell Creek Formation there is a decrease in dinosaur diversity. The dinosaurs decreased from 19 genera at the base of the rocks to 7 genera at the top, to none at the upper three meters.

"That's not immediate; that's gradual," Bursztyn said. "Every geologist knows it takes more than half a second, more than a year, to do that."

She said that the dinosaurs were killed off over millions of years due to change in climate but joked that it was "not because they were all driving Hummers."

"The media always favors the coolest explanations for the coolest of all the species. They favor the catastrophism," Bursztyn said. "Something that takes place over a matter of time is boring to people."

Audience members ranged from young to old, and Geology Club students to students there for extra credit. "I'm here for extra credit but also because of curiosity," said BC geology major Kory Smith. "I thought it was great and put together well. She has tons of experience for being so young."

"I've never taken a geology class, and I understood everything she was saying," said Brittany Camirand, a physics major at CSUB. "She didn't talk over your head."

No burn days no more as of end of February

By SEGGAN MOORE
semoore@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The sixth Check Before You Burn season officially ended on Feb. 28. From November 2008 until the last week of February, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District issued 54 "no burn days" in Kern County. The district planned on 40.

Brenda Turner, the public information representative for the southern region at the control district, explained reasons why Kern County was issued so many days.

"We issued 'no burn days' when the particulate matter would reach 30 [micrograms] or higher," Turner said. Particulate matter is a group of air pollutants composed of various geological materials such as nitrates, acid aerosols and other trace matter.

The government has conducted studies, and evidence shows that particulate matter is absorbed into the

bloodstream and lungs and is linked to illnesses such as bronchitis, emphysema and lung disease. Because of these health concerns, the "no burn" policy was stricter this season compared to previous years.

"The 'no burn days' are a part of the "Fast-Track" Plan for Cleaner Air by 2024.

This was set by the Federal Government during the summer of 2007 and set a deadline for districts with unhealthy air to clean up the air quality by 2024. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is hoping the valley will have cleaner air before then.

Although there are various health and environmental reasons for continuing the "check before you burn" policy, local firewood dealers are losing business.

"We're down in sales about 30 percent," said Jack Lancaster, co-owner of Niles Street Firewood.

The business turned to radio pro-

motions hoping to help boost their sales. Lancaster explained that their business runs from the first weekend in Oct. to the second weekend in March. He does not believe that the statistics on firewood smoke pollution are right.

"I don't believe in the figures," Lancaster said. "Firewood smoke doesn't cause pollution or cancer like other smokes. How they do it is wrong."

The air district has also affected agricultural burning and it has been regulated or prohibited and is down 70 percent since 2007.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will have their Governing Board meeting April 16. The public is invited to attend and voice any concerns or comments.

The meeting will be at 9 a.m. at the district office in Fresno, but a teleconference will be held in Bakersfield.

For more information, visit, www.valleyair.org or call the Bakersfield office at 392-5500.

STEROIDS: Professional and college athletes differ in use of drugs

Continued from Page 1

"Now they are testing at the Major League level. It's obviously cost-prohibitive for us to test it at our level of play."

Painton said that they do occasionally run across players on other teams where you know exactly what they're doing. In baseball, it's tougher to hide muscles that have been gained through scientific help. You don't have huge shoulder pads like

you do in football. Still, he doesn't feel it is a major problem at the community college level. "I think the problem is minor if there is one at the community college level," said Painton.

The coaches all share the same opinion that hard work is still the best way to achieve greatness.

Coach Painton is optimistic about the future of banning steroids through every level of play.

"They are cleaning up the game at the Major League level and hopefully that filters down."

These coaches also share the same opinion when it comes to pressure and how these particular student athletes handle that pressure.

"Players who really believe that they have what it takes don't do ste-

roids," said Holloway. While steroids seem to be a big stain on the world of sports, local student athletes are still doing it the old-fashioned way, the safe way, and, in many people's opinion, the right way, said Holloway, who has faith in those athletes.

CALENDAR

MARCH

18 • Rio publishes CSUB outreach representative booth @ 9 a.m.

19 • Softball vs. L.A. Mission @ 1

20 • Fresno Pacific University booth @ 11 a.m. • SGA Senate Meeting @ 10

21 • Kern County teachers' job fair @ 8:30 a.m. @ University Square

• Electronic e-waste recycling @ 8 a.m. @ St. Francis Church

• Softball BC classic @ 11 a.m.

22 • Softball BC classic @ 9 a.m.

24 • Women's tennis v. Santa Barbara @ 2:30

• Baseball vs. L.A. Mission @ 2:30

25 • CSUB outreach representative booth @ 9 a.m.

• New Student Orientation @ 2:30

• SGA executive board meeting @ 4:30

26 • Women's tennis match @ 2 vs. Cuesta

• Baseball vs. L.A. Mission @ 2:30

27 • SGA Senate Meeting @ 10 a.m.

• 35th annual Miss 2007 Bakersfield @ 7 p.m. @ 1241 G Street

28 • Walk for MS 2009 @ 7 a.m. @ Yokuts Park

• Kern County 24 hour relay challenge @ 9 a.m. @ BC

• Baseball vs. Glendale @ 1

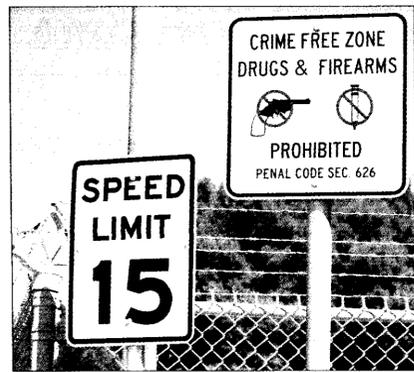
• Kern County astronomy day @ 2 @ Foothill High School

30 • BC cheer team clinic and tryouts begin @ 4

31 • Men's tennis vs. Ventura @ 2

APRIL</

CAMPUS



Posted sign shows the legality of having weapons on campus.

Seller offers tasers

By KAMYELLE POWELL
kstripl@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Tasers and Mace are two items that you might never think would be on the Bakersfield College campus, but they are.

Simon Diaz runs Pro-Tech Security Products, a company that sells citizen protection devices such as pepper spray, stun guns, tasers and Mace. He was on campus approaching students about the devices March 3.

"I was just showing the products to potential customers," Diaz said. "Girls are being approached by strange men."

"This is the first I've heard about this guy," said Carla Reyes, administrative secretary in Student Activities, who handles the vendor traffic on campus.

BC has a long laundry list of things you would have to do to become a vendor on campus. It includes a vendor contract, a vendor permit, insurance

pliable up to a \$1 million, proof of this insurance and a fee of \$50 per day that the vendor is on campus.

On March 3, a woman on campus was approached by a man who showed her a taser out of a Starbucks bag.

The man gave the woman a card advertising pepper spray, tasers, stun guns and other products for personal security.

The card listed the name Simon Diaz with a phone number and Web site.

"I just started the business over night," said Diaz, who was reached by The Rip after he had approached the woman on campus.

Diaz stated that he doesn't usually carry any of his products on campus. According to BC Public Safety, it's OK to carry Mace on campus but not to sell it. Tasers are not allowed on campus.

"We had no knowledge of him," said Sgt. Chris Counts of Public Safety.

Curb in parking lot recently painted red

By SEGGAN MOORE
smoore@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

For those Bakersfield College students who use the southwest parking lot more often than other parking lots, there are some facts that need to be brought to attention.

Recently, the curb that borders University Avenue and Haley Street was repainted red.

The curb goes from the paid lot and around the free parking. Although this is technically part of the parking lot, the lane with the red border is a "no parking zone."

Sgt. Chris Counts from BC's Dept. of Public Safety explained.

"There must be a 10- to 12-foot median of no parking for emergency equipment."

On a day when the parking lot is filled to the maximum capacity, that area must remain open in case fire trucks or ambulances need to be called.

Although this lane has been designated as a "no parking" area,

some students have continued parking their cars in the red zone.

If anyone has received a parking ticket from using the red area, it still must be taken care of. There are instructions on the ticket.

Anyone who has questions about the parking lots, rules or needs to pay a parking fee, contact Public Safety at 395-4554.



Vehicles park against a curb that was recently painted red in the southwest parking lot of Bakersfield College.

Posters sold at BC 'unique and different'

By MATT HUMBLE
mhumble@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Bakersfield College students lined up to purchase some of Richard Hughes' popular posters being sold outside BC's Campus Center on March 11.

Lots of posters were available, featuring famous bands, such as Bob Marley and The Beatles, and iconic leaders like Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Gandhi. Many students said that they could not wait to purchase one. Most of the posters on display had a price tag of \$12.

"I got all of these posters from two

different sources: one in New York and one here in California," said Hughes.

"Business is very good. I do a very good business, and a lot of people seem to love all of these posters."

Many students said that the posters that Hughes has are very unique and leave different impressions on every-

one who sees them.

"These posters are so cool. I don't know which one to get," said Ashley Martinez, a BC student.

Student Bobby Henman, undecided purchased a Bob Marley poster. "I wish I had more money to get all of these cool posters," said Donald Eftel, a local Bakersfield resident.

FEATURES



Rip staff writer tells drag race experience in annual meet event

By STACEY STAAB
sstaab@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

My heart was pounding. My palms were sweating. I was so excited and wound up about the March Meet at the Auto Club Famoso Raceway.

I feel it was racing at its best because I was a part of this historic event that happens each year. I was in the Hot Rod class, racing my 1969 Plymouth Barracuda Formula S car, which runs about 12.83 seconds at about 103 mph.

The race is an event that my husband, Wolfgang, and I go to and race our cars. My husband has raced at several March Meet events, and this was my second time racing at the March Meet.

We went to the track two days before the races started because we wanted to get a good pit area spot and also get our cars and ourselves ready for the three-day event.

The 51st annual March Meet was on March 6-8 with 14 classes: Nostalgia Top Fuel, Nostalgia Funny Car, A/Fuel Eliminator, AA/Gas Charged Eliminator, Jr. Fuel A and B Eliminator, Nostalgia Eliminator I, II and III, Gas Eliminator A, B, C and D, and Hot Rod.

On March 4, we got into the pit area at the track and parked our RV. We unloaded our cars from the trailers and cleaned them off because it had rained earlier in the day. I could not wait to race. I could not sleep because I was extremely keyed up. I had my car ready, and I was psyched for the big nostalgia race.

The pit area at the track is about a mile and a half long and about two miles wide with a quarter-mile drag strip in the midst of it.

There were many people already set up in the pit area. The one way to get a good spot is to go to the track early.

On March 5, I got up and started my car so I could warm it up and drive it to the tech line.

Tech is where the officials check out your vehicle to make sure it is in the right shape to race. Tech took place in the staging lanes, which are 12 lanes where racers can line up to run down the track when their class is summoned to race. After I got my car checked out, I parked it and relaxed for the rest of the day.

On March 6, I got up, got my car warmed up and waited to be summoned to the staging lanes. The first run of the day took place at 8 a.m., and the weather was cold. I

believe I got a great burnout when I got in the water box; my front brakes were held on my car, and the rear tires were spinning and burning sticky and warm up the tires to get them slicker. The better the burnout, the better traction the car will have.

I moved up to the starting line and staged, which showed the starter that I was ready. I was determined to get a great reaction time, which is how fast I react to the lights.

My reaction time was .045 tenths of a second, and my run was 12.92 seconds at 102 mph. I was so pleased that I got an impressive run. Later in the day, my reaction time was .012 tenths of a second, and my run was 12.86 seconds at 103 mph.

On March 7, I did the same things I had done the previous day.

My husband was good, my reaction time was .086 tenths of a second, and my run was 12.96 seconds at 101 mph. The rest of the day, I watched the other classes race.

The runs that I did on March 6 and 7 were time runs, which are runs that are done for qualifying, and on March 8, the elimination runs started. With elimination rounds, I get very nervous, and my heart



Photos by Gregory D. Cook / The Rip

Above: 'Doc' Bates warms up his tires for an upcoming race at Famoso raceway. This is the 51st annual March Meet. Left: Rip staff writer Stacey Staab does a burnout in her '69 Barracuda in the fourth round on March 14.

The first three rounds I got wins. It went from a 152-car field to a 15-car field in the fourth round because there were winners, losers and racers with broken-down cars. In the fourth round, I won with a .061 reaction time and ran 12.83 on a 12.84 dial-in. In the fifth round, I won with a .139 reaction time and ran 12.94 on a 12.90 dial-in.

In the sixth round, I won with a .104 reaction time and ran 13.05 on a 12.85 dial-in. In the final round, I lost with a 1.65 dial-in time, the winner getting a better reaction time.

With each round, I got more and more nervous, but when I got to the final round, I was so excited that I had made it, and I knew I was "in the money." I had a fantastic time at the races, and I can't wait to race again.

Sorority at Cold Stone

By DARA GHOLSTON
dgholston@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The Cal State Bakersfield sorority Phi Sigma Sigma hosted their 21st annual Rock-A-Thon event on March 7.

The event took place in the Northwest Promenade in Rosedale outside of Cold Stone Creamery and Sequoia Sandwich Co. With the support of local firefighters, the sorority was able to hang their sign up high, which made it hard for those who were in the area to miss.

"I think it's exciting because it's a way for our friends and family to be involved," said the new philanthropy chair of Phi Sigma Sigma, Krista Malloy.

Complete with raffles and a raffle, the Rock-A-Thon's primary goal is to raise money for the National Kidney Foundation. For six hours, participants rocked away in rocking chairs. During the event, an hourly drawing was done for all those who paid \$2 per ticket.

Among the prizes were gifts and gift cards that were donated by businesses such as P.F. Chang's, Sephora, Body Exchange, Regal Cinemas, Trader Joe's and many others. And the rocking chairs were donated for the event from Babies R Us, along with a few others brought by some of the sorority members.

So, why the National Kidney Foundation, and why rocking chairs?

"All the sorority chapters across the nation do it," said Malloy. Since 1969, a statement of Phi-Sig has always been "to inspire the personal development of each sister and to provide advancement of womanhood." It is not appropriate to put together a fundraiser for kidney disease at a time that it started, 1969, just happened to be the number one cause of death for women.

As for the rocking chairs, patients with kidney disease are told to rock in rocking chairs to bring blood circulation to the kidneys, said Malloy. In addition to this being an important cause for the organization, it's also personal for the Bakersfield chapter.

"We do this every year in honor of one of our very own sisters, Jenine Weiraether, who died years ago," said key adviser and 10-year volunteer of Phi-Sig, Joanne Barrick.

Weiraether was philanthropy chair of the sorority in 1994. She was in the process of planning the Rock-A-Thon that year when on the way home from a chapter meeting, she was struck and killed by another car.

Although she is no longer with the sorority physically, they still make sure her memory lives on.

"Her parents come out every year and donate money to our fundraiser because they know how important it was to their daughter," added Barrick.

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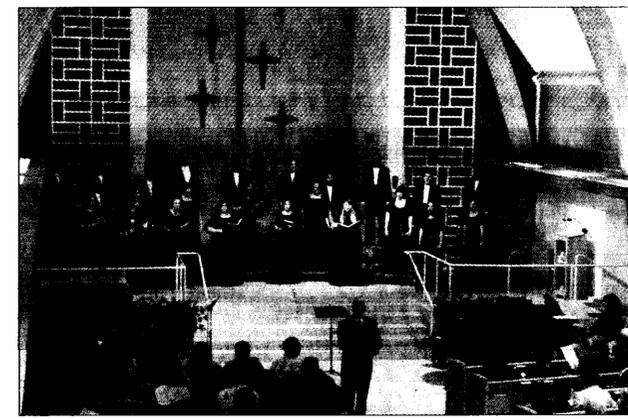


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'Tribute to Ireland' shares Irish music with crowd



BC music professor Ron Kean introduces the BC choir to the audience at the Musical Tribute to Ireland at the First Congregational Church of Bakersfield on March 13.

By MATT HUMBLE
mhumble@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

The First Congregational Church of Bakersfield celebrated Saint Patrick's Day with its musical tribute to Ireland and Scotland on March 13. The choir members sang Scottish and Irish folk songs to honor Ireland and Scotland's rich musical history.

BC music professor Ronald Kean conducted the Bakersfield College choral and chamber singers. It was a lot of work to produce this, but it really depends on how dedicated you are. I practice every day to make sure I don't screw up," said Meredith Weybright, a choir member.

sure his choir members hit the right pitch to better intensify the song. Besides the choir performing, there were three special guest artists. One was an Irish folk band called Banshee in the Kitchen.

The trio of women performed Scottish and Irish ballads on their guitar, flute and violin and got the crowd clapping. "This is the coolest part of the job. It's not so fun traveling all the time and lugging bags with our instruments inside," said Brenda Turner, a member of Banshee in the Kitchen.

The trio has been performing for almost nine years. Kean said that this year's celebration really shows all the hard work and talent of the choir, and with Banshee in the Kitchen, the musical tribute to Ireland and Scotland was truly grand.

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FEATURES

Mariachi Festival held at Majestic Fox Theater

By **MANUEL MORFIN**
mmorfin@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Known as "the world's greatest mariachi" and founded in 1897 in a small town called Tecalitlan, the Mariachi Vargas is an icon that represents Mexican music around the world.

Mariachi Vargas along with Mariachi Garibaldi and Mariachi Imperial de Mexico played the Mariachi Festival at the Majestic Fox Theater on March 13.

The music of these groups took the audience through a journey of mariachi folklore.

Mariachi Garibaldi, a Bakersfield-based Mariachi that was founded more than twelve years ago by Jaime Cuellar, opened the show. Its members work in different Mariachis, and they practice and get together to play in major events.

"We want to demonstrate that we have talent in the Valley," said Cuellar who was impressed with the response of the people during and after the show.

Performing for their friends and relatives was really important for them. "We really improved compared to our performance last year," said Cuellar. "And we really want to improve for next year."

After Mariachi Garibaldi, Mariachi Imperial de Mexico performed in the Fox with their music arrangements.

Playing traditional songs and funny compositions, their rhythm put some people to dance who had to be asked to sit down by security.

Ana Rubio, an undecided major at Bakersfield College, attended the festival.

"I like Mariachi, but I had never been to a show before," said Rubio.

"Mariachi Imperial is what I enjoyed the most."

And the audience exploded in laughs when "Elvis Presley" appeared on stage to sing some Mariachi songs and left an excited audience ready for the main performers.

"This night we are celebrating because we feel like home in Bakersfield," said Jose Martinez, musical director of Mariachi Vargas, greeting the audience.

With their unique style that illustrates the best of Mariachi technique, the Mariachi Vargas demonstrated their musical maturity that comes from more than one hundred years of existence.

Playing a potpourri from their latest production as well as classic songs, all their members had a chance to prove why Mariachi Vargas is the best Mariachi in the world.

The Mexican vihuela (a small guitar) and harp solos impressed even the most demanding people present at the theater who never got tired of applauding.

And "El Pastor," (the shepherd), could not be left out, which is a song that includes a falsetto with very long notes. It put the audience on their feet.

At the end, the three Mariachis occupied the stage performing together a few songs and transmitting the message of the most Mexican music.

"We continue working for our musical genre, representing Mexico," said Arturo Vargas, guitarist.

The Mariachi Vargas has performed in countries such as Spain, Brazil, Czech Republic and Japan, among others. "Thanks to God, Mariachi music is widely accepted. In countries with very different languages, the people respond splendidly," said Vargas.



Above: Mariachi Imperial de Mexico played traditional Mariachi songs that made audience members get up and dance. Left: Founded in 1897, Mariachi Vargas is known as "the world's greatest Mariachi." On March 14, they performed at the Fox Theater with two other Mariachi bands.

GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP



Bakersfield-based Mariachi Garibaldi opened the Mariachi Festival at the Fox Theater. They were founded more than 12 years ago and play in major events.

GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP



Walk for thought

Participants walk in the California Brain Injury Association's Walk For Thought held at Yokuts Park March 14. The three-mile walk helps raise brain injury awareness.

Photo by Taylor M. Gombos / The Rip

LQ's performing arts center hosts first culture on the runway show

By **AMBER TROUPE**
atroupe@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

LQ's Performing Arts Center hosted its first "Culture on the Runway," fashion, dance and dinner event Feb. 11 in downtown Bakersfield.

The event consisted of dance routines performed by LQ's dance students.

The night began with owner, LaQuette Milner, on the runway thanking everyone for attending, and introducing the sponsors of the fashion show and the performers by the dance students.

For the opening, Milner read a poem by the name of "Who I Should Be," before introducing all the sponsors and opening the first performances by the dance students.

The dance troupe's opening act consisted of the whole troupe dancing to Keyshia Cole's "Make Me over" and Lil' Wayne, before clearing the runway for the fashion show. Jezebel's women's and men's boutique was the first clothing store

to exhibit items during the event hosted by Milner. Jezebel's displayed two outfits for both men and women before Milner stepped back on the runway to reintroduce the dance troupe.

The second dance routine was performed by the elite girls in the group to at least four of Beyonce's songs, which included "Irreplaceable." The routine lasted at least 10 minutes long, and the students exited the stage for the local artist-attending event.

Local artist Cre performed two songs off his new album "Episodes" during the event. The dance students assisted Cre during her last performance with the routine she designed for her song.

After the performance by Cre, Milner stepped onto the platform to give away free oil changes for the raffle she was holding.

There were a total of three raffle drawings for the whole event in support of saving LQ's performing arts center. Leluxe Clothing was a sponsor for

the event as well as a part of the fashion show including Fabian's Corner. Milner also had a T-shirt give away for the guest by guessing song lyrics.

The students continued to perform dance routines throughout the event until dinner was served at about 8 p.m. with a 30-minute break in between the next performance and fashion show.

During the dinner break, councilwoman Jackie Sullivan came in to pick up a plate, and she gave a small speech before leaving.

"I remember when LaQuette first came to a council meeting we were holding, and she wanted our support for the center," Sullivan said. "After she introduced herself and her organization, I knew I was going to donate a check every month to support this group."

The event finished with another group performance by the students and Milner introduced each student dancer by name and gave thanks to all sponsors, donors and the attending public.

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CAMPUS

Event explores women's past

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

As part of Women's History Month, the Bakersfield Demimonde 1870 to 1920 event was held in the Fireside Room on March 9. The guest speaker for the event was Rebecca S. Orfila, assistant director of the Center for Archaeological Research at Cal State Bakersfield.

The Bakersfield Demimonde was about the history of prostitutes, women, boardinghouses and saloons in Bakersfield.

Many of these boardinghouses and saloons were located in what is now called downtown. There was prostitution on various streets such as L Street, K Street, 21st Street and 20th Street.

Some of the more prominent saloon and dance hall owners were Clement Borsi and Luisa Toschi Dellaringa. This man and woman team owned a variety of saloons that served liquor with the side order of a lady of the evening, better known as a prostitute.

Some men supervised the women of fallen virtue, but there were also

some women called "madams," who supervised the painted ladies. Some of the more prominent madams were Mildred Raymond, Camille D. May Brown and Kitte Castro.

However, many attendees admitted that, as Orfila continued to describe the demimonde to the audience, it became more and more interesting. Megan Gutierrez, an audience member, said, "I never realized how amazing this topic was. I actually liked hearing about the prostitutes of Bakersfield's past."

Jason Groves, a psychology major, said, "I thought that the demimonde was going to be a very boring topic, but after finding out what 'demimonde' means, I have had a change of heart."

Many attendees said that The Women's History Month and More Committee definitely chose a topic that was new to a lot of residents in Bakersfield. Other events scheduled at BC for Women's History Month are "Comrades, Cowgirls and Curanderas" in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m. March 19; "Working Women in America" in SE 56 at 7:15 p.m. March 24; and "Salt of the Earth" at 6 p.m. April 2 at BC.



BC conducts disaster readiness drill



Fire trucks assist in practice drills near Student Services March 16.

DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

BC to expand ASL

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

There is no definite timeline yet, but Bakersfield College may soon be offering classes to students who want to be certified as interpreters for the deaf, according to BC American Sign Language instructor Tom Moran.

Currently ASL classes are offered at BC, but there is no actual interpreter-training program that can lead to certification.

Moran said he is working with Michelle Begendik, deaf services coordinator for BC's Disabled Student Programs and Services, on writing up a curriculum, which would include an ethics course and a grammar of sign language course as well as a course on how to deal with deaf people who do not know ASL. Students would also be expected to take English 1 and public speaking courses. The curriculum might eventually feature as many as eight courses. Both Moran and Begendik say that they are examining what other colleges are offering in terms of an interpreter preparatory program. Years ago, according to Begendik, only one basic course in interpreter training was offered at BC. For many years now, according to Moran, the department has been interested in offering an actual program. Ultimately, interpreters must receive certification by exam

through the Registry for Interpretation for the Deaf or R.I.D., a national agency, according to both Moran and Begendik. However, training at BC would still not be enough for a prospective interpreter to gain employment, said Pam Davis, BC ASL instructor and department chair. According to Davis, it is best for the potential interpreter to get a B.A. as well as national certification and not just local or regional certification.

"It wouldn't be prudent to hire someone without national certification," said Davis. "It protects clients for the interpreter to have national certification." According to Begendik, CSU Fresno and Northridge offer B.A.s in ASL/interpreter training. According to Moran, the certification process is a long and difficult one, and the criteria for certification is constantly undergoing change. To stay certified by R.I.D., the interpreter must continuously stay educated by attending 20 hours of lectures or seminars per year, and R.I.D. must have proof that the interpreter has received a total of 80 units of educational credit for every four years.

Begendik said that there is a growing demand for "trilingual" interpreters who are fluent in Spanish, English and A.S.L.

"There is a national emergency," said Moran. "The situation is getting worse all the time. We don't have enough interpreters anywhere."

Some BC professors find rewards teaching at other campuses

By **SEGGAN MOORE**
semoore@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Rip staff writer

Most students see their professors for the length of an hour or more during class and after dismissal, every one goes on his or her way. At that time, a few teachers on campus leave to teach at other institutions.

Steven Holmes teaches political

science at Bakersfield College. He leaves BC each afternoon to teach political science 101 at Cal State Bakersfield.

Since 2000, Holmes has taught both at BC and CSUB. What he enjoys about teaching at different schools is the level of learning.

Holmes got into teaching at CSUB because professors were retiring and the need for someone to step in was

necessary. Being qualified with experience, the university asked Holmes to teach the class.

"The students at the CSU system have a tendency to be a little more motivated and are at a slightly higher learning curve," Holmes said.

Before coming to BC in 1994, Holmes taught political science courses in Northern California at Butte College and at Chico State.

For 16 years, BC professor Robert Lewy has taught Geology 10 at BC as well as chemistry and physics courses at East Bakersfield High School. Coming out of early retirement at Atlantic Richfield, an oil and gas exploration company, he began his teaching career at BC as a part-time employee. The opportunity came along for Lewy to take a full-time teaching job at East High, and

he has been doing so ever since. "It gives me a chance to have fun in an area I enjoy," Lewy said.

Holmes enjoys seeing and interacting with previous BC students at CSUB who are striving to get their degree in political science.

"There's a longer contact and a sense of mentoring. The ability to have a chance to communicate with the younger generation and help

them be doing so ever since. "It gives me a chance to have fun in an area I enjoy," Lewy said.

Holmes has a word of advice for students hoping to transfer to a four-year institution. "Find good time management skills and have a greater desire to be next level educationally because the competitive level is. Seize the opportunity, and be prepared for those opportunities to be successful."

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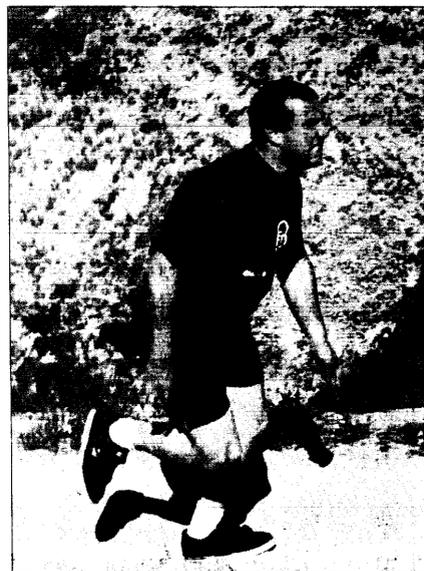
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BATTLE

Of the Sexes

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



Female editor declared victor in both Panorama Bluffs races

By LEIA MINCH
lminch@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Feature editor

Ladies, we won again. This issue's Battle of the Sexes was a running challenge out on the bluffs to the north of Panorama. But, this was a special challenge, an editor's battle of the sexes. I have never won a race or broken any sort of record, but for some odd reason, I have always enjoyed running. I get what someone once told me is called "runner's high." It's the best feeling in the world to me. Running takes away the distractions of life, and when I'm running, all I feel

I have is the gravel in front of me. My senior year of high school, I was on the track team, but besides that and jogging occasionally, I had no real race experience. My competitor, Taylor, however, was a football player and had no experience running at all. I had confidence in myself, but you never can get too cocky. People can surprise you. So, the week before our race, I began training myself and ran every night to prepare myself for a victory. I was doing fairly well until the Sunday before our Tuesday race when some sort of super virus caught me, and I spent the day puking my stomach out. I had no idea how this sick-

ness would hinder my ability to run, and while the race was at the back of my mind, I reminded myself that I am a very determined person. I knew I had to win. Monday came, and I decided to take the day off to give my body a rest so I would be ready for my race the next day. The day of the race, I woke up excited to win. Finally, the time came. Our adviser showed us the first course we were to run. I definitely felt confident despite the fact that Taylor was trash talking. I had run far more in training and knew this 600-yard race wouldn't be a challenge. We warmed up and stretched. Then, it was time

to race. As soon as our adviser's hand went down, Taylor took off. I was stunned. I had no idea that he had the capability to run that fast. I didn't try to keep up with him because I didn't want to give it my all in the beginning, and after about 200 yards, he slowed way down, and I was able to pass him. I'm not sure how long it took me to finish, but I do know that I beat him by 1 minute 30 seconds. This race boosted my ego, and I was more than confident for our next race. We let him catch his breath and then began to walk down what I am now going to call "Profanity Hill." We walked down the hill, and when

we got to the bottom, we were told to run back up. It only looked like it was about 400 yards, and I questioned why we weren't doing more. I regret this comment. Once we started, I instantly began to feel my legs burning. I could see that Taylor was behind me and I was no longer as worried about him passing me as I was actually making it up the hill. The hill was at about an 80-degree angle and getting up was no easy accomplishment. While I tried to jog at least most of the hill, there was one part where I had to walk. After regaining my strength, though, and telling myself that I could do it, I began to jog again.

No pre-training I did at home could have prepared me for that hill. It was downright awful, and I really underestimated it. Although I doubled my winning time, and he was 3 minutes behind me, I feel the hill won that race. I never thought that it would be over, and, when it finally was, I wanted to die. My legs were burning for the next 10 minutes at least, and my limbs felt like they were all going to fall off my body. I am proud of myself for winning, but I have to congratulate my fellow editor. He took on a task no other male in our class would, and he finished the races with his head held high.



Male challenged in race

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

Imagine being a guy who is not used to running and taking on someone who is used to running. On March 10, that is exactly what I did as I took on fellow Rip editor Leia Minch in a running challenge. The challenge took place on the Panorama bluffs, which are right across the street from Bakersfield College. The night before the challenge I felt very nervous. It was almost like my first semester on The Rip, when I would get nervous because I knew that the particular story or stories that I had to write were due the next day. I spent most of the night before working out my arms and even my legs by doing a new exercise called "channel-changer curls." I even ran everywhere around my house. I ran to watch TV, I ran to dinner and I even ran to my room to go to bed. On the day of the challenge, I felt nervous, and as the run got closer, I felt even more nervous, and I was thinking this to myself: I will be running and it won't be to dinner, how strange. Then the time for the challenge to commence was upon us. I spent the entire car ride to the bluffs (which was only five minutes at the most) in silence trying to get mentally prepared, but the results were only seen in my head. The challenge was split up into two parts. The first part was a 600-yard run on top of the bluffs. The other challenge was an uphill run from the bottom to the top of the bluffs. Before I get into my thoughts about the running portion, let me first tell you that I was running to raise money so that our journalism adviser can get a hair transplant. The worst kept secret in this competition was that I was the underdog, and I sure as heck ran like it. I actually enjoyed the underdog role because if you are considered the underdog, then no one expects

of the gate and surging to what I thought was a commanding lead. I learned the hard way that pushing yourself to start a race doesn't necessarily work; in fact, it tires you out faster, which was something that I didn't realize due to my lack of experience in running. So there I was in the lead, but then I began to get tired, and, before I knew it, Leia surged past me and into the lead for good. Despite my effort to catch her, I still lost. During the first race, I kept thinking to myself if I can just finish the race, then that would be considered at least a minor victory for a big guy like me. Well, I finished the race and sprinted my way to the finish, but, of course, I lost so there was some disappointment, but at least I survived round one. Although I lost the first race, I was determined to get my revenge, so I tried my hardest to delay the second challenge by one hour, but that didn't work, so I only had 10 minutes to rest before the next race began. The second race began a little differently with me applying what I had learned about running in the previous race, but it ended with the same result as the first one: I lost. Although much like the first race, I pushed myself and sprinted across the finish line. So, there you have it: I lost the two challenges to a girl, but now I have something to pass on to my fellow male students on The Renegade Rip, and it's this: Guys, although I may have lost the challenges, at least I had the stones (for lack of a better term) to take on the challenge. Me, a pretty big guy took on a five-foot girl and lost, but, hell, at least I tried it and was at least semi-competitive. I can safely assume that some of you wouldn't have the guts to do this, but don't worry, maybe you will learn from me and step up next time. Overall, I feel good about my performance, but I wish I would have done a little better, but I find satisfaction that I tried my best, and I didn't die in the process. I have no regrets. Lastly, I want to congratulate Leia on her victory and say that I am happy for her, but give me two more months to train, and I will challenge her to a rematch.



Photo editor Taylor Gombos in red, and Features editor Leia Minch in green, before, during and after

their races on the Panorama Bluffs on Tuesday, March 10.

Photos by Patti J. Loomis / The Rip

SPORTS

Men win third at tourney

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

The Bakersfield College men's golf team shot a 771 to place third at the Second Annual North-South Cup in Paso Robles March 11-12. Five teams from the South and five teams from the North participated in the tournament, which was 36 holes. Ventura College won the cup by shooting a 376 on the first day and shooting 374 on the second day for a total of 750. For the Renegades, Kirk Harper shot a 149 to tie for fifth with Albert Coral from Santa Barbara who also shot a 149, while teammates Blake Brown and Jacob Booth both shot a 155. Also for BC, sophomore Nick Vallejo shot a 76 on the first day but had to withdraw due to a shoulder injury. According to BC golf head coach Larry Cook, Vallejo is the No. 1 player.

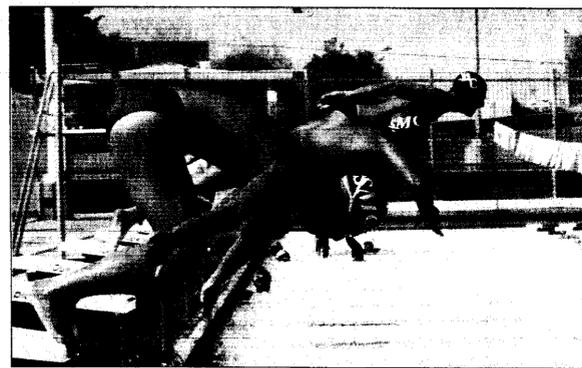
"We got off to a shaky start. We were a little off our mark in the first round. We came back and shored it up a little bit," Cook said. Cook said he feels like his team is doing well enough to make a playoff run.

"We've got the tools we need to move onto the playoffs. They've (the players) all got to work together from here on in," said Cook.

Cook said that the Renegades should get better for the rest of the tournaments this season.

"We've logged about forty rounds of golf since the middle of January. Daylight savings time just hit. That's when the Renegades golf team starts clicking. We expect our best from here on in," Cook said.

Not counting their tournament on March 16, the Renegades next tournament will be the Western State Conference tournament at Tierra Rejada March 23.



Macc Rigdon (BC) and his Santa Monica College competitors come off the blocks at the start of the men's 1,000-yard freestyle on March 13. Rigdon won the race.

Duran, Ponec win but BC swim teams fall at home

Duran wins two events for women, Ponec wins one for men but both teams still come up short.

By VINCENT PEREZ
vinpere@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Sports editor

Following Bakersfield College swim team's March 13 loss against Santa Monica College at the William A. Wheeler Aquatic Center, BC swim head coach Charlie Pike had optimistic words about the men's and women's teams.

"I'm happy with everything," he said. "They swam really well. They really stepped it up."

Pike added that even though BC men were disqualified in the men's 400-yard medley relay, due to a stroke infraction, he was satisfied

with the meet. BC men lost 98-93 to Santa Monica overall. BC women lost 112-82. Pike noted that BC's Allison Duran and Chris Ponec each swam their best times in their events. Duran won in the women's 200-yard individual medley (2:14.40), 100-yard backstroke (59.64) and helped win the 200-yard medley relay (1:59.92), with BC teammates Haley Wren, Katherine James and Rianna Thompson.

Pike said he's optimistic that Duran has a good chance to win at the state championships.

"She's going to have a shot at winning state," said Pike and mentioned that her times met the state's time's winners of last season.

Ponec won in the men's 400-yard IM (4:26.31) along with BC

teammate Dan Diaz in second (4:54.84). Ponec also competed in the 500-yard freestyle and finished in first (5:01.72), and teammate Matt McDonnell finished in second (5:20.64).

Pike keeps a positive attitude toward the rest of the BC swimming season. "We need to just keep going through keep pulling through."

One of BC's obstacles this season is the impressive competition from their Western State Conference rivals. Ouesta College, one of their WSC competitors, held a two-day invitational March 6-7. BC's Duran finished first in the 100 backstroke (1:00.5) and earned a second-place finish in the 200-yard IM and a third place in 100-yard freestyle.

BC travels to Citrus for a tri-meet March 20 against Citrus and L.A. Valley.

BC tennis teams achieve success

Women beat Santa Monica and Glendale. Men avoid sweep with win against L.A. Pierce.

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

It was a good week for Bakersfield College tennis. The men defeated LA Pierce 6-3 on March 10 while the women won both of their contests by defeating Santa Monica 6-3 on March 10 and Glendale 8-1 on March 12. The men had a bye on March 12.

The men lost to L.A. Pierce 5-4 a few weeks ago at home. "That match just got away from us," said head coach Regina Csibi-Krueger. "We should have won that one." But the Renegades weren't going to allow for a season sweep.

They were split at three games a piece after singles play, but BC dominated all 3 doubles matches and won over L.A. Pierce by a final of 6-3. Neal Wetterholm and Kevin Lott won their match 8-5. Filiberto Nieves and Bryce Naranjo followed with an 8-4 victory. Matt Booth and Javier Rios finished L.A. off by winning their match 8-4.

The women found themselves in the same exact situation against Santa Monica. Fortunately, they had the same results as the men did.

Even with Shabrena and Sarena Dickerson losing their singles matches, BC stayed off defeat by owning Santa Monica is all three doubles matches. The two sisters beat the very same players that defeated them in both singles matches.

Wetterholm, the men's No. 1, lost his singles match as well but picked it up and with the help of his teammate, Lott, came out on top.

Tennis is often looked at as nothing more than an individual sport with individual achievements. But both Renegade squads showed how important teamwork is, even in a



BC's Kevin Lott returns a serve on March 5.

sport like tennis. "We really spend a lot of time on doubles in practice," said BC women's head coach Gene Lundquist. "No matter how you do in singles, doubles is a team sport. If you are able to master the tactics and strategy of team play in doubles you can defeat superior singles players."

Both the men and the women displayed great teamwork March 10. While the men had a bye on March 12, the women squared off against Glendale.

Shabrena Dickerson was tied up in a 2 hour and 20 minute match with Glendale's Melia Hacoipin. Dickerson pulled out an impressive win, beating her opponent 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (3).

The women went on to dominate all three doubles matches again, to get the win over Glendale, defeating them handily 8-1.

This marks the start of the second half of dual match play. Both teams will now face former opponents for a second time.

The men have already started off on a good note by getting revenge on L.A. Pierce.

The men's next match will be March 24 at Santa Barbara.

The women's next match will be against Santa Barbara March 24 at BC.

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