

## News Briefs

### Winescapes at Bakersfield Museum of Art

The Bakersfield Museum of Art will be holding its third annual Winescapes event with an evening of wine tasting, gourmet food and an auction of 40 artistically transformed wine bottles on April 21. It will start at 6 p.m. Presale tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple, and \$50 per person at the door. Call 661-323-7219 for tickets.

### Comedians Cheech and Chong in Bakersfield

Comedians Richard "Cheech" Marin and Tommy Chong are coming to the Bakersfield Fox Theater on April 23 at 8 p.m. Chong and Marin define their era as "hilariously irreverent, satirical, counter-culture, no-holds-barred comedy routines." Tickets are \$45 and \$55 at the box office and online. For more information contact call 324-1369.

### Bakersfield College Garden Fest

Join in the fun and raise funds for the BC Child Development Center Program at the Garden Fest, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is an open house featuring the Environmental Arboretum for a day of gardening, pet care, cooking, outdoor leisure, and arts and crafts booth. Families and staff will sell tickets for \$1 from now until the drawing is held at the Garden Fest on Saturday, April 24 at 3 p.m.

### Relay for Life fundraiser at Rollerama West

Team Sturgeon will be skating to '70s disco music for the Relay for Life fundraiser at Rollerama West on April 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be raffles, skate contests and a '70s costume contest. Everyone is welcome, adults and children. Cost is \$10 per person. For more information or to buy tickets call Shawna Beaver at 331-9630.

### BC theater department presenting new play

The BC theater department presents "The House of Blue Leaves," a wacky, dark comedy about a struggling lounge singer in Queens, NY in 1965. Directed by Jennifer Sampson, the play starts at 8 p.m. on April 29 and 30, and May 1, 6, 7 and 8 in the indoor theater. Tickets are \$8.50 for general admission and \$5.50 for students and seniors.

### Cinco de Mayo at Fishlips

Bakotopia and Fishlips presents Mento Buru, Velorio, Kellulu and DJ Mikey for the Cinco de Mayo "Pachanga 2010" on Wednesday May 5 at 6 p.m. Entrance fee is \$10 and the event is for those 21 and over.

# Board assumes presidency

By Martin Chang  
Reporter

Jill Board will become the president of Cerro Coso Community College on July 1. "I will ensure that Cerro Coso continues to offer courses representative of our core mission, driven by input from each of the communities we serve," Board said. "I plan to lead an increased focus on enrollment management strategies that will enhance student success."

Sandra Serrano, chancellor of Kern Community College District, said, "Jill stood out among the candidates. She spoke with passion and knowledge about Cerro Coso's strengths and future. She has built strong relationships on campus. Jill has always been one to embrace a project or challenge and get it done. She will make an excellent president."

Board had previously served as vice president of student services at Cerro Coso. As vice president, she created several stu-

dent programs.

She has served in many more areas at Cerro Coso, including dean of student services and coordinator of special services. Previously she had taught in Ridgecrest. Board has a master's degree and bachelor's degree in counseling and music education respectively.

Stuart Witt, board of trustees president for KCCD, said, "We welcome Board, and expect her to energetically take on the many challenges facing the Cerro Coso area."



Jill Board

## TEA PARTY: Americans concerned with Obama's decisions

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Aaron Laycook, a law student, when asked about Barack Obama.

"I think he's dedicated to civil rights and the acknowledgement that we can be secure and ensure the protection of liberty is something that we desperately need and that providing health care to people is something we should all strive to do."

"I thought [George W. Bush] made decisions that I wouldn't have made if I was in his position. I think he took risk with American liberty, [with] military adventurism and I think that he sacrificed civil liberties in the pursuit of security, which as Benjamin Franklin said, 'Those that are willing to sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither' and I think he damaged our standing abroad in a time when we needed allies," said Laycook.

Oxc Lebrion, a native of El Salvador, and a criticizer of the Tea party, said, "The reason I am here today is because I knew that these people were going to come here.

These people are not good people, because these people are the same people that give problems to all other people. They are extremist, they are the right extremists and these people are united together with the Republican Party, the same people that used to oppose the freedom of the slaves."

"I'm opposed to these people because they always are against something that is about progress," said Lebrion.

Bill Potter, 72, a licensed land surveyor and a Tea Party conservative, said, "I read an article in the Bakersfield Californian in the editorial section by a guy who writes for the Miami Herald, and I just lost it. He was talking about how we're all racist and the fact that we didn't vote for Obama makes us racist and the fact that I would have voted for a black conservative didn't have anything to do with it. I told him he was the racist among other things."

"I don't care if [presidential candidates] are purple," said Potter. "Now I think Bush screwed up by not taking Condoleezza Rice

as vice president for his second term. Then she should have run against Obama and I would have voted against her in a heartbeat. Five years ago, I would have voted for Colin Powell but he just 'liberated' out on everything."

"There was a black gal that stopped me and said that we haven't given Obama a chance. He's had a year and he didn't work on anything but the health care plan that nobody wants. If he wanted to work on something then he could have worked on jobs."

Patrick Young, of Tehachapi, expressed his concerns for the current state of the country. "You've got to get to the foundation that built this country that is our U.S. Constitution. Every word of it, it is actual, you've got to go back to it."

"If we don't go back to the Constitution we are history," said Young, "The United States is the last country that is left and we are going away fast. We are the last free country on this planet."

## Student newspaper triumphs

Bakersfield College's student newspaper staff again collected general excellence awards and several individual awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges state conference April 8-10 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

The student newspaper, The Renegade Rip, was one of 13 community college newspapers in the state to achieve the general excellence standards determined by professional journalists who handle the judging. There are more than 60 community college newspapers in California.

The staff's Dissenter magazine, which debuted in the fall of 2009, also won general excellence against extremely tough competition. The staff also published the Dissenter for this semester, and it is currently being distributed to the campus community.

In individual competition, last semester's magazine editor, Johnnie Burch IV, won first place in the state for mail-in column writing. Burch also gained an honorable mention for magazine feature story (non-profile). Also in the mail-ins, David Karnowski placed second for magazine cover and earned a meritorious award for one of the top 10 online photo essays.

In mail-in critical review, Andrew J. Ansolabehere placed second and Kelly Ardis, the Rip's current editor in chief, was third in the state. Leia Minch, last semester's editor in chief, placed third in editorial writing. Ardis and Minch also received an honorable mention for front-page layout, and Minch and artist Minami M. Perales won an honorable mention for inside page layout. Perales also won honorable mentions for magazine illustration and informational graphic.

Gregory D. Cook, this semester's multimedia editor, won a meritorious award for online photo essay and an honorable mention for sports feature photo. Cook also was one of eight students statewide to be selected for a JACC scholarship, earning \$100 from the organization.

The mail-in contest entries are comprised of work done in the 2009 calendar year. Typically, each category will have close to 100 entries statewide, and judges pick first through fourth and up to six honorable mentions. In on-the-spot contests, which take place at the conference, Karnowski and Brian Willhite combined to earn an honorable mention in the Team Feature 2.0 category, which consists of finding a story in an area of Los Angeles and putting together a multimedia show complete with photos, voice overs and text in less than 24 hours.

The Rip's Samantha Garrett earned an honorable mention in the on-the-spot cartoon contest.

The on-the-spot contests involve covering events as they happen and completing stories, photographs, cartoons and page designs shortly after the event. Nearly 700 community college journalism students attended the event, which involved workshops, contests and other media-related activities.



## Ensemble jazzes up BC indoor theater

Bakersfield College music major Jordan Herbst plays from his music book during a performance by the BC jazz ensemble April 10 in the Edward Simonson Performing Arts Center at BC.

PHOTO BY JOSEPH COTA / THE RIP

## CLEANUP: Bakersfield community unites in cleaning the city

Continued from Page 1

her thoughts on the GAC and why her company is part of it.

"It's the awareness of the green movement, and really, the educational component that really needs to get out to Bakersfield," she said, and added, "It's really important to create this awareness to clean up the debris because it has to go somewhere and it usually ends up in our oceans."

Jordan also commended Bakersfield citizens for taking an eco-friendly attitude in their efforts to clean up Bakersfield.

"It basically speaks volumes that we have so many people that want to engage in [volunteer work] in Bakersfield."

Volunteers from the event came from large organizations like Albertsons and Coca-Cola, who donated food and beverages to the event, and smaller organizations like church groups and school clubs.

Jeff Holland, 16, a high school junior from Golden Valley High School, had been cleaning up garbage around Yokuts Park most of the morning and was "surprised at the amount of garbage in the park."

"I always thought this was a clean park," he said and added, "It feels kind of cool to clean up all the trash out here."

Stephanie Catuiza, 16, a sophomore at Ridgeview High School, was also helping to clean up the garbage around the park.

"I had a really good time today cleaning up. We saw some really weird things and we found a whole bunch of wire casing and we had to work together to put it on the side of the road so the garbage people can get it," said Catuiza who also brought along her 8-year-old brother, Ryan, to help.

Holland and Catuiza are both part of a student organization called People to People. The club, which will be going on

a European trip this summer, does volunteer work in the community as part of their club's requirements.

Another volunteer Kim Snider, who was volunteering with the Coca-Cola group, commented on her experiences with the other volunteers and what she feels this event does for the city.

"I think it's great for the community and to see everyone come together and help out. It builds morale and shows that Bakersfield really cares about its city," said Snider.

Bakersfield College student and city employee Susan Hernandez was also volunteering in the events information booth. She had been a volunteer before and was hopeful for the events cause to reach the people of Bakersfield.

"I think it's an outstanding opportunity for people to be educated and to participate in the community," said Hernandez.

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## Staff Editorial Tea party activists tax patience

A new face for the age-old tradition of opposing government taxation has formed in a group calling themselves the Tea Party. Taxed Enough Already has been active for a few years now, and while participation at protests on the local level seem to be dwindling, the topic of anti-tax politics is heavily discussed in the national and local media.

The protest of taxation is nothing new. The movement of people that snub noses at the government's efforts to regulate and collect the national income has been around since man began to civilize. These feelings of repulsion toward taxes run deep in our American culture, as it was one of the core elements to the founding of our republic.

But the reality is that this tax-free utopia simply cannot exist.

The roads we drive on, the schools our children attend and the military that protects us are all funded by the collection of our taxes.

Despite this basic truth that a government requires taxes to operate, the Tea Party claims that unjust taxation and increases are destroying our nation, and some members are even calling for the impeachment of the president. Unfortunately, these falsehoods simply do not present the truth about our current tax policy.

Jointly filed married couples face almost no difference in the 2010 income tax rates as compared to 2009.

In fact, ceilings for the tax brackets have risen in every category for jointly filed married couples ranging from \$50 to \$750 of more income allowed before breaching the next bracket. What this translates into is a very small difference from the 2009 tax rates to the 2010 rates.

If anything, some families will actually move down a category and be taxed less. Most people will not see much if any difference in their returns.

The claims of many attending protests staged around the country are often not even tax related but rather attacks on the Obama administration and his "regime." Perpetuated by self-proclaimed right-wing radio talk show hosts, the amount of misinformation spread among the public is overwhelming.

While our founding fathers had grievances with England taxing the populace of the colonies without representation, we do not find ourselves in that position today.

Free and open elections result in politicians of our own choosing entering office.

The simple fact is, if you don't like the taxes you pay, voting someone else into power is the quickest and most civil way of changing policy.

# Video game violence: fun or foul?

By Samantha Garrett  
Reporter

Maybe the people who made those first tentative steps toward electronic games didn't realize that it would be what it is today—that it might become not only one of the most successful industries, but one of the most violent ones as well. That is, however, exactly what it has become.

## PRO

With all that violence and gore, it's no surprise that it would piss off mothers collectively and in general. What parents in their right mind would want their children exposed to something so prolifically violent, gory, disturbing, and traumatizing?

Well, probably none, which is why they have that whole game rating service, which will let a parent know that a game is rated anywhere from EC for Early Childhood to AO for Adults Only, which could mean content anywhere from picking out which block isn't yellow to—well, you can probably figure out the other one.

However, most games fall into the range of relatively mild to quite violent, which would be games meant for teens or mature audiences. Those games contain the whole shoot-everyone-in-sight aspect with the occasional hooker-killing flair. Weird and sometimes disturbing, they're otherwise unsurprising. After all, if teenage boys can't get that kind of violence in video games, they'll find it somewhere else. Before shooting simulations there were BB guns. Point is, we really should accept these games; they're never going to go away.

If they aren't for you, don't play them—that simple.

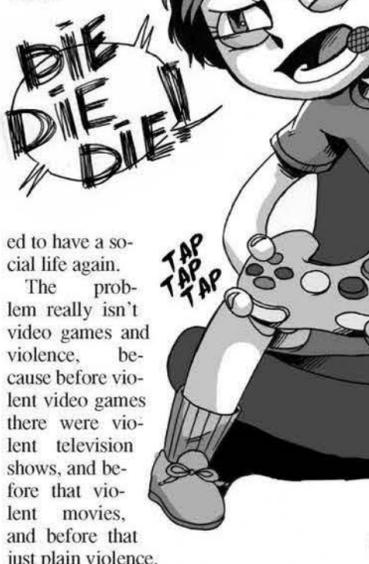
For those who don't want to expose their children to those kinds of games—well, it's just that easy. They can't even buy them unless they meet the age requirement, so, unless the parent is going out and buying those games for their children in the first place, the kids have no real access to them. It doesn't matter how appalling something is—if the kid isn't seeing or experiencing it, it probably doesn't matter.

In any case, we all understand that children should never be exposed to anything violent, offensive, confusing, politically incorrect, or

fun. So, naturally, they shouldn't be exposed to video games that are intended for audiences older than elementary school students.

That's where it gets funny, though. Every once in a while something will show up on the evening news.

The connection is always vague—perhaps some kid somewhere got into a fight with a classmate and was suspended, and then the parents of that child decided that the reason why—because they would never raise their child to be violent—was because of some video game they bought him. Not only that, but they weren't even going to buy the kid the game, but he kept bugging them to get it—and he never shuts up unless he's sitting in front of the hypnotizing glow of the television—so they had to, really, if they want-



ed to have a social life again. The problem really isn't video games and violence, because before violent video games there were violent television shows, and before that violent movies, and before that just plain violence. The problem is with the parents, because it's their responsibility to check the things they give their children and to instill in them proper values so that, even if the kids do get the enriching opportunity to play Grand Theft Auto, they will at least understand that they can't go out and steal a police officer's car.

By Gregory D. Cook  
Multimedia editor

Violence is human nature.

Biblical accounts suggest that by the second generation of man's tenure on planet Earth, he had already figured out, without the need of an instruction manual, how to use a rock to bash in the head of his brother as an effective, albeit primitive, form of stress relief. As history tells its continuing tale of violence into the present, it seems the only time we "turn the other cheek" these days is to put it on the other side of the rifle stock.

We have refined the science of violence to a near-perfect art form over the years, and have created a culture of brutality in which we even turn to violence for recreation, bombarding ourselves with violent movies, television programs and video games.

In video games especially, the violence takes on an even more ominous pallor. The interactive nature of video games gives their players a degree of control over the simulated situation.

Violence in video games is in no way a new concept. The very first video game, the Cathode Ray Amusement Device, patented way back in

1948, was, of all things, a missile simulator. Players steered their missiles across a screen, trying to destroy targets. While this technology was light-years more advanced than a rock to the head, it was just a pale forerunner of the realism presented by today's modern video platforms.

## CON

Today, the violence depicted in video games, such as the Grand Theft Auto series, rivals the special effects found in many movies. Players happily shoot, stab, burn, bludgeon and run over their simulated victims, who react in a realistic manner, oftentimes screaming and begging for their lives—all in the name of recreation.

Why, when we need do little more than look out of our front windows to find real violence, do we feel the need to simulate it for fun? Is our civilization heading toward a more peaceful existence, or will we fail to overcome our base instincts and violent nature?

Video games have typically been the province of the young and impressionable. The violence depicted in games with game play that closely mirrors the real world cannot help but desensitize the players to some extent. It is not fair to say that little Timmy will grow up to be a "yay" dealer, roaming the streets with an assault rifle, carjacking people at will because he played a few hours of San Andreas. But it also cannot be denied that the violence in such games can erode our sensitivities a little bit each generation until what was once unheard-of, becomes accepted.

An argument has suggested that violent video games can serve as an outlet for aggression with simulated violence actually lessening a person's desire to be violent in the real world.

Of this line of thought, I would ask one question: When you see a picture of a plate of delicious food in an advertisement, does it make you more or less hungry for the real thing?

# Campus Center love: From predator to prey

By Mateo M. Melero  
Reporter

Through big black sunglasses and chain-smoking camel filters, I stare at *les petites filles* who strut around the Bakersfield College Campus Center, reviewing my master plan before the pounce and desperately hoping this hunt blooms fruits for my labor. It's been three months since I have had a woman, and I am starting to get the shakes.

My whole routine is in shambles due to failed attempts at courtships of hot tail. I have grown impatient, resulting in too many failures in a short amount of time, causing a break in confidence and severe frustration. I desperately pray for a miracle to heal my wounds, but in painful review I realize that my foundering is not due to my technique, but to the disregard of the *modus operandi* I have strived so long to perfect.

Initially, when I pick my target I start with basic observation. When you gaze upon *le femme*, do it as if it is an act of lovemaking. As she chats, let your eyes become a slave to her body. Glide them gently along every curve and allow yourself to be caught, do not shy away from the odyssey that is her body.

Processing every detail of *le beauté* is of the utmost importance; the color of her hair, the fitting of her clothes, the amount

of accessories she is adorning, the pace in which the time stopper walks—all these elements provide information on where to inquire, where to flatter and when not to talk about yourself.

The prime element of the courtship must always be her.

When the conversation comes to names, make sure you recount hers with an air of pleasure. Let it dance along the length of your palate, say it as if it is a song. When your touch embraces hers, let it linger, slide the hand along the length of hers, grinning as if it's an ecstasy all in its own.

Most importantly, you must always radiate confidence and patience.

The way in which I approach a potential love interest is all very hard-learned information to me. I had no guru to educate me in the discipline of love hunting. The long list of failed attempts collected in my youth serves as a textbook to my perverted desires, and I now stand in desperate review of my code.

It was a recent encounter with one lovely lady that precipitated my personal review. Long legged, slender framed, love radiating, time stopping, psychedelic wave riding, neon love child—the Cosmo-Mama strolled past me one evening on campus.

Wielding a Nikon Camera in calf long leather boots, she stopped along the way to frame up a piece of modern architec-

ture. She stood silhouetted along the horizon, stuck in that infamous pose that emphasizes the fun parts of a woman, taking long slow drags of menthol cigarettes. It was only natural to my senses that I stop and introduce myself.

I asked about her camera, being that I am a bit of a photographer myself. I then went on to blabber about knowledge of the device. I now know that this was an error, but at the time it was a necessary improvement enacted by the excitement of new game on campus.

Though, as sloppy as this greeting was, it did not hinder my future run-ins with mademoiselle Cosmo-Mama. As time passed, our rendezvous became more exciting as we began to warm up to each other. I desperately craved the Cosmo-Mama, wanting to gawk boldly at her as she chatted about her everyday doings.

One day we both skipped class and went on a psychedelic rocket-ride around Panorama Drive. We listened to '60s Surf Rock as we cruised in a BMW along the drive, chatting casually, relaxed in the moment. I cracked jokes, and relied on humble charm as I tried to erase the idea of strangers from our mind. Parting with her was difficult, but the world rarely stops and when it starts again you will find yourself lusting for a lucid reminiscence of the moment.

As far as phone calls go, I do not fol-

low any specific syntax for the first contact. I called her the coming Friday, but it was not returned. I texted her on a Monday and it was not returned. The absence in communication did not bother me but what did, is that I find myself craving desperately for contact.

Eventually she called and I called back and an intriguing game of phone tag ensued. Dates and times would be set up and I would be hopeful, smiling even as the plans fell through. Phone texted pictures became a viewing pastime to me, not quite understanding the game being played, but desperately wanting to play it.

It occurred to me on a Sunday that I was not the predator in this hunt—I was the prey. Delicate and deadly like a Venus flytrap, I became intoxicated with pheromones of this Cosmo-Mama; dancing my best as a jester, obedient like a monkey with a cigar.

As men, we can invent elaborate methods for attracting and courting a female, but in reality they always hold the upper hand. You can spill eloquent words that would impress even the likes of Pablo Neruda, and you can flirt with other women in front of your target to prove your level of desirability, but in the end, as a man, you are still the puppet. They are the queens of this world and we are merely the amusement, and that's what makes the game worth playing.

## 'GADE FEEDBACK What is your favorite song?

Editor's note: 'Gade Feedback is a feature that asks students their opinion on various topics.

Compiled by:  
Gregory D. Cook  
and David Karnowski / The Rip



Andy Lopez, physical education: "Leave Me Alone" by Tech N9NE"



Jaylyn Arnold, biology: "Kryptonite," by 3 Doors Down."



Bryan Wilkerson, animal science: "People Are Crazy," by Billy Currington."



Eric Wright, undeclared: "Hammerhead," by Offspring."



Yuby Leal, liberal studies: "Cielito Lindo," by Pedro Infante."



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacemaker Award

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## The Renegade Rip

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

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

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

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## Mac & Cheeza impresses with new variety

By Kelly Ardis  
Editor in chief

Macaroni and cheese can be a staple in any student's diet. Usually, there's not much to it; mac + cheese = cheap and yummy goodness. But what if there was something more to this magical equation?

Enter Mac & Cheeza, a place that promises both "eats and sweets." With only two locations, one locally at 1818 L St. and another in Los Angeles, Mac & Cheeza is putting a new spin on an old favorite. Offering regular or rice noodles, three-cheese topping or soy cheese topping, and plenty of add-ons, this place is all about options.

Baby Mac, Momma Mac, Daddy Mac and Mac Daddy are the sizes to choose from, then guests pick their choice of noodles and topping. Picking the additions is where Mac & Cheeza gets fun;

collard greens, peas, tomatoes, jalapenos, ground beef, bacon, chicken and tuna are just some of the choices.

With more options than this vegetarian is used to, finding a place to start was hard. Eventually, I decided on the Baby Mac with soy cheese and rice noodles, and added mushrooms and black olives. The melted cheese that topped the macaroni was similar to that of a pizza: chewy, stringy and just the right amount of greasy.

Although it was topped with the three-cheese topping, the mac inside was mixed with soy cheese. While the soy cheese offered a different flavor from the three-cheese on the top, it wasn't a funky different. Still, the soy was not as good as I had hoped, so next time I'll stick with macaroni's longtime BFF, real cheese. The macaroni was somewhat bland, but the add-ons made up for it. The mushrooms and olives meshed well, and the addition of the two different flavors to the much-loved mac and cheese made it more exciting,

and, oddly, almost more sophisticated, like mac and cheese for grown-ups.

My friends enjoyed their dishes as well. One commented that his mushroom and hotlinks with real cheese topping was tasty, and that the hotlinks were "robust in flavor while not overpowering their spice."

The other said her pepperoni pizza mac, the special of the day, had a good flavor. The pepperoni and cheese went together well, unsurprisingly, but it was a pretty simple dish. If someone wants pizza, they should just get pizza and it'll taste better than trying to pair it with mac and cheese, she advised.

At first, the Baby Mac looked like it might leave me hungry, but it filled me up with just a little room for a shared dessert.

Mac & Cheeza offers red velvet cake and banana pudding, but we went for the peach cobbler. It was sweet, but not too sweet and was a great way to end the meal.

Prices at Mac & Cheeza are pretty reasonable. A Baby Mac is enough food for one person



JOFEL TOLOSA / THE RIP

Mac & Cheeza offers every broke college kid's dream: mac and cheese any way you want.

and costs about \$5. The alternative options, like soy cheese and rice noodles, did not cost extra like they might elsewhere. Our

cobbler was \$6, which isn't bad for a dessert that satisfied three people.

Mac & Cheeza is a kid's

dreamland. Mixing and matching all kinds of toppings with the already beloved favorite lets each visit be different than the last.

## Square Enix wins with FF13

By Martin Chang  
Reporter

Square Enix has accomplished something significant with Final Fantasy XIII. They have made a game that is fun and accessible in a way that is unique to role-playing video games. They have also created a story of a quality that I have not seen in video games.

I have found the combat in many role-playing games to be slow, uninteresting and confusing. Final Fantasy XIII has solved this problem in ingenious ways. In this game, the combat feels very natural. In battle, you have one playable character and two to three non-playable characters.

Your goal is to create the biggest attack combination with your party. You assign different roles to your characters that affect the types of attacks they do. You directly control the attacks of your playable character, while your non-playable characters attack automatically according to their roles.

In other games, such battle systems are either overwhelming or feel like you aren't controlling the action. Final Fantasy XIII uses the Paradigm System to solve this. This system allows you to switch the roles quickly and rack up your combinations in a way that feels very satisfying. I feel

that it strikes the perfect balance between simplicity and variety of action.

For the first time in a role-playing game, I did not get frustrated when I got to an enemy that I could not beat. I had fun figuring out the proper roles and combinations I needed to do. A big reason for this is when you fail a battle, it lets you attempt the battle again. Another thing that helps is the many tutorials that teach you the battle system. These tutorials prevent the game from feeling overwhelming.

The storytelling is very effective in Final Fantasy XIII.

The first thing you'll notice playing the game is the beautiful visuals. Square Enix took the care and attention to make the graphics really pop

are very familiar with. It's a story set in the future with mythical powers. There are the spunky women and brooding men, and then there is a big government figure that you must take down. Yet this well-worn story is told in a way that gives it an emotional impact that is innovative for the medium of video games. All of the dialogue is voiced very well. It makes the story more enthralling to hear the story as opposed to just reading the text.

I found the interaction of the characters to be very interesting. You follow certain characters at different times. The way the character's emotions play off each other was great. I also liked how the story shows the same event from different points of view. I found the relationships between characters to be dramatically effective, something rare for a video game. This is possible because the story is focused on the characters and is fairly straightforward.

The game uses flashbacks and time jumbling well. It gives the story interest by revealing different parts of the story. That also helps to give the story its emotional impact.

The storytelling was not perfect. The story was often confusing, as they revealed certain elements of the story without explanation. I felt they were going for a feeling of mystery, but it didn't work for me. Some of the writing is pretty cheesy, but quality vocal acting makes it not so bad.

Aside from a few story problems, I found Final Fantasy XIII to be a high quality, innovated experience. I especially enjoyed the battle system. I could not recommend the game more.



COURTESY OF SQUARE ENIX

Lightning (left), and her friend Snow, fight together in FF13

and shine. These fantastic graphics are served by clever uses of camera work.

They used all the tricks that give cinema its visual impact. The pans and wide shots that you are used to seeing in film are used here, and it makes a real difference. The story is greatly helped by this quality visual presentation.

The story is one Final Fantasy fans

## Lions Gate comedy kicks ass

By Michael Wafford  
Reporter

"Kick-Ass" doesn't really do anything new, but it does what it does extremely well: creating a well-paced, humorous and intense movie.

The film opens with Dave Lizewski (Aaron Johnson) narrating the story. He's a fairly average teenager who enjoys comic books, has a crush on a girl who doesn't notice him and isn't particularly good at anything.

He eventually questions why no one has tried to be a super hero in the real world and changes that on his own by purchasing a wet suit on the Internet and becoming the masked crime fighter Kick-Ass.

While playing superhero, Lizewski eventually encounters the somewhat goofy Red Mist (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) and the hyper violent father/daughter vigilante duo of Hit-Girl (Chloe Mortez) and Big Daddy (Nicolas Cage), who all provide their own spin on the idea of super heroics in the real world.

Directed by Matthew Vaughn ("Layer Cake," "Star Dust") the core story of "Kick-Ass," super heroes in real life, has been explored before in films such as "Watchmen," but the subject is tackled differently in this film with more focus on humor.

Everyone involved in the film seems to know how ridiculous the idea of dressing up in a bad costume and fighting crime is, and they all have fun with it. Cage delivers his lines with the staccato patter of Adam West's Batman while delivering fierce vigilante justice.

Mortez, as Hit-Girl, spouts expletive-filled jokes while chopping up rooms filled with goons while looking like a kid playing dress up. She steals every scene she's in. Johnson, as the lead, has no problem delivering self-deprecating jokes while in the midst of a conflict, but he often feels less noticeable than his co-stars.

Mintz-Plasse's Red Mist will remind

viewers of "Superbad," which isn't a bad thing. Along with humor, "Kick-Ass" also manages to pack in a good amount of tension.

The feel of the acting is matched by the pacing and camera work. The film opens with a dark joke about a mental patient that draws inspiration from the classic Superman films and, after that point, the jokes rarely stop.

Everyone, from the stars to supporting actors, has a great sense of comedic timing, and Vaughn doesn't waste it and keeps the film from slowing down.

The scenes are all well shot and often integrate things like cell phone video footage or streaming Internet videos into scene transactions, which help make "Kick-Ass" seem grounded in reality.

The action scenes are fantastic. From the uncoordinated but passionate fighting style of Kick-Ass to the brutal and deadly actions of Big Daddy, every fight in this movie is fun to watch and shows something about the personalities of the characters involved and always have a feeling of danger to them.

While most of the movie is great, there are some problems with the lack of emphasis on the talented supporting cast and some rushed plot elements. These problems, however, are overcome by the strengths of "Kick-Ass" mentioned above.

Based on a comic book written by Mark Millar, the movie makes some changes to the source material and they all work out.

The characters become more likable, the order of some events are changed and the violence is turned down just enough to make "Kick-Ass" seem more whimsical and less focused on shock-value.

Although "Kick-Ass" is a good movie, some people may have problems with the amount of profanity and violence in the movie, especially with lots of it delivered by a pre-pubescent girl. "Kick-Ass" is not a children's or family movie by any means and is more akin to "Kill Bill" than "Spider-Man."

Overall, "Kick-Ass" is an action-filled black comedy about super heroes. There's nothing more to it and there really doesn't need to be.

## Indiana vocal group puts a new spin on old favorites in 'With A Twist'

By Katie Avery  
Opinions editor

Take 10 glee-club boys, blend in a beat, add a twist of harmony, and serve up new a cappella album "With A Twist," released by Indiana group Straight No Chaser April 13.

SNC hit off this album by combining Jason Mraz's hit "I'm Yours" with "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"

making for a great medley of music. It flowed easily between both pieces as if they were written for each other.

Track seven was another great blend of two songs that ordinarily wouldn't go together. They used "You and Me and The Bottle Makes Three," by swing stars Big Bad Voodoo Daddies, and "Single Ladies" by Beyonce.

These two sounded surprisingly awesome together, but "Single Ladies" could have gotten a little more play. Even so, the way these songs were presented was

unexpected and it will make you want to get up and dance.

The album showcased their various talents. They had certain songs that astounded with their use of vocal beats and others that focused on their harmony.

Their finale piece was a remake of "One Voice" and featured Barry Manilow as a guest performer. The way they layered their voices in this song gave the effect of a whole choir singing different parts at once. It was slow and slightly melancholy, which counteracted the more up-

beat dance songs.

"Can't Take My Eyes Off of You," was done better even than the original by Frankie Valli. Soloist Jerome Collins rocket-launched into the chorus, making this version the one people will want to sing at the top of their lungs when they think nobody is listening.

It's hard to believe that SNC did not use any instruments in some of their songs. In track four, titled "Fix You," the beat consisted of various stomps and vocals, but studio effects such as echoes

were placed on them which made them seem like a real drum kit was used. It was incredible how certain sounds, especially in the background, sounded exactly like instruments.

In their remake of "You're My Best Friend," by Queen, each of the 10 members had a solo during a different part of the song, showing off the talent of all the members as well as showing some variation from the one or two lead vocalists. They also were able to re-create the classic rock feel of the music without

guitars or drums.

Their remake of "Joy To The World," originally by Three Dog Night, was one of the very few disappointing songs in the album. Though it was a twist on the old song, it didn't have nearly the fun or pizzazz the other has. Still, 10 out of twelve is pretty good for an a cappella cover group.

"With A Twist" is a great way to experience fantastic songs in a new way while enjoying some incredible vocal talent. This is an album you'll want to take straight, with no chaser.

### BC BRAINS What is a Muscat?

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

Compiled by:  
Gregory D. Cook and  
David Karnowski / The Rip



Sean Brown, biology: "A small rodent."



Kristin Kinzel, nursing: "A type of gun."



Uri Tuazon, animal science: "A fruit, like a grape."



Brent Charles, radiology: "Isn't that a mammal?"



Michael Creel, computer science: "A feline?"

## Guitar instructor inspires students at BC

By Alma N. Martinez  
Reporter

For 38 years of his life, music professor Karl Haas, 63, has been teaching guitar classes at both Bakersfield College and at Front Porch Music.

At BC, there are three guitar classes taught by Haas, including two beginning classes, one intermediate class and one advanced class. Since 1990, he has been teaching private guitar lessons at Front Porch Music.

Haas has worked in a guitar factory and said that it's one of the reasons why he likes big classes. "After getting 200 guitarists ready in a short period of time, teaching a class of 130 people how to play guitar is easy," he added with a laugh.

Haas was born in Long Beach but moved to Bakersfield at the age of seven. It wasn't until the age of 13, however, that he became intrigued by the guitar and

decided to pursue it. "I started off with a Mickey Mouse plastic guitar until I wore it out and eventually got a real one," he said.

He credits his inspiration to the fact that during the year 1960, guitar became a big thing. "The Ventures song 'Walk, Don't Run' and Dwayne Eddy's song 'Rebel Rouser' really inspired me," Haas said.

"When I started I wanted to become a recording artist, as many people do, but when I got offered the job to teach, I needed a job and they needed a teacher," added Haas.

"I like teaching almost more than playing because I like to hear the students play," Haas said.

When signing up for a class, one always wants to know what to expect from that certain class. Regarding that, Haas said, "I want people to expect to learn how to read music because

reading the music is the biggest part."

"The biggest thing that stands out in my mind is that students don't know what they want and they expect teachers to tell them what they want," said Haas, speaking on how he feels students react to his classes. "Some students want to learn how to play heavy metal or rock and roll but soon find that they enjoy the songs we play in class more."

When describing how he considers his class different from others he shared a story about one of his students.

"Guitar class is ... well, I'll tell you that there was a guy who once got a speeding ticket on his way to school and I asked why. He said that he didn't want to be late and I said he could've been a few minutes late. He responded and said 'but this is my favorite class,'" said Haas with a smile on his face as he reminisced on this incident. "True story," he added.



JOSEPH COTA / THE RIP

Bakersfield College guitar instructor Karl Haas teaches his class at Bakersfield College on April 15. Haas teaches three different guitar classes at Bakersfield College, and also teaches private lessons at Front Porch Music and has been since 1990.

## BC theater department staff reads Greek tragedy

ANTIGONE | Levan Center hosts reading of Sophocles' tragedy

Samantha Garrett  
Reporter

The Bakersfield College theater department faculty performed a dramatic reading of Greek tragedian Sophocles' "Antigone" for a small audience collected in the Levan Center on April 13 at 7 p.m.

The center's director, Jack Hernandez, organized the event after the very same man whose donations are responsible for the recent renovations of the building, Dr. Norman Levan, suggested it to him.

The reading, according to Hernandez, is the first of what will hopefully be at least a yearly tradition at the Levan Center.

The play was chosen for its moral and political importance today, dealing with issues such as martial law, religious doctrine over state law and gender roles.

Before the reading began, Hernandez asked the audience to pay special attention to the philosophical feelings of the main characters, Antigone and Creon, which each would express "through their humanity."

Hernandez asked Randy Messick, Kimberly Chin, Jennifer Sampson, and Bob Kempf, all theater faculty, to perform the reading.



MATEO M. MELERO / THE RIP

Kim Chin, Jennifer Sampson, Randy Messick and Bob Kempf dramatize "Antigone" to the audience at the Bakersfield College Levan Center on April 13.

Each read from his or her own copy of the play.

After the reading, which took about one hour, Hernandez spoke about the implications of the play in today's world.

"Antigone" is a Greek tragedy; these plays meet the requirement of having a male character meet a tragic end due to his own short-

comings.

In this play, the man at fault is Creon, whose own pride caused him to betray the gods and meet a tragic end.

"The Greeks felt that people needed to know their place," Hernandez said.

Creon did not know his and was therefore a victim of his own

devices.

At the same time, it is also a story of a young woman standing up to the conventions of society — ancient Thebes, like Greece as a whole, was a highly male dominated society — and rejecting the superiority of state law over her own morality.

"He's driven by pride," said

Hernandez, "and she's driven by rashness."

Thus was the thrust of the discussion following the play. Some members of the audience discussed their sympathies for either Creon or Antigone.

Others compared the play to current issues.

One man in the audience sug-

gested that they record their next reading and give it to schools in the area to use in the classroom, which the group agreed to.

One woman noted that, despite being thousands of years old, the play was still relevant to society.

She added that she felt that "Antigone" has a lesson that students should learn.

## Veterans form club on campus to inform young

By Laura Liera  
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Veterans Club is on its way to officially becoming a club on campus.

The objective of the BC Veterans Club is to serve as a support system for BC Veterans and families.

It will be an organization that will inform students on any questions they may have when applying to BC after returning from military life. "The BC Veterans club will be an impartial club, having no political or religious affiliation.

An additional goal of this club will also be to take responsibility for the cleaning and appearance of the Veterans Plaza on the BC campus, said Robert J. Shoaf, president of the Veterans Club.

Shoaf, a business administration major, is a former Marine who served 12 years of active service and did three tours in Iraq that totaled 30 months.

On April 9, he was elected to serve as the interim president for the BC Veterans club. Another election will be held prior to the Fall 2010 semester to establish the executive officers for

the 2010-2011 school year.

Aldric Horton, 24, psychology major and Veterans Club representative, was in the Army for five years. "I joined the club because I felt it was something long overdue at BC and thought it presented a good opportunity to network with other veterans," said Horton.

Currently the club meets on Fridays at 9 a.m. in front of the library.

Although there weren't a lot of people at the last meeting, Shoaf hopes to get the word out and have more members in the club. "I want to promote, recruit and give facial recognition to BC Veterans," said Shoaf.

"Membership in the Veterans Club will be open to all students with a valid Gades card, registered at BC, in good standing with the Admissions and Records office and fulfilling the membership requirements of the organization," said Shoaf.

Some specific roles that the Veterans Club will include: informing veterans and their families on the most up-to-date legislation that will affect them, provide campus counseling by contacting local mental health, social, or education counselors and have them come to BC,

and educate veterans, families, supporters, and educators on the problems many veterans face during the transition from service member to student, especially on the affects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), according to Shoaf.

Accomplishing goals with the help of others is a key union the club wants to share with its members.

"Each student at BC has a goal they want to accomplish, and some people find it easier to accomplish their goals when they are surrounded by other people with a similar background. Veterans are unique in that they have experiences that are uncommon to most of their student peers," said Shoaf.

"By coming together, veterans are able to give insight or provide mentorship to others. In the end, the gap between veterans and non-veterans will begin to be bridged as we all learn from each other and find ways to apply our experiences to best fit our lives and the lives around us," said Shoaf.

For more information on the BC Veterans Club, contact bcveteran@gmail.com.

## Professor talks about Africa

By Katherine J. White  
Contributing Reporter

She went to a country where the restaurants used menus made from banana peels.

Isabel Stierle, Bakersfield College biology professor, was the first speaker in the newly built Norman Levan Center for the Humanities, and her April 9 lecture concerned her trip to the many-dimensional Africa during her recent sabbatical.

This lecture marked the 10th Norman Levan faculty colloquium.

Stierle, B.A., B.S. and M.A. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an animal conservation enthusiast, also mentioned during the course of her lecture that many Africans refer to Africa's oil resource as the "devil's excrement," because it does not benefit Africans.

Oil only benefits outside countries such as China who are interested in petroleum.

Wearing a royal blue dress spotted with African headdresses, Stierle stood in front of fabric panels of elephants, zebras and gazelles as well as a table covered with sunset-colored bowls depicting women churning and books she bought in Yaounde City, the capital of Cameroon.

Stierle, who took two semesters of French at BC in preparation for her trip to French-speaking Africa, spoke of the highs and lows of visiting what she saw as a richly diverse and somewhat

troubled continent. Stierle said that one of the reasons why she wanted to go to Africa was to study either the Bonobo chimps or elephant migration in East Cameroon.

Stierle also mentioned during her lecture that leaded gas is widely used in Africa resulting in poor air quality, and children there are exposed to lead.

This exposure to lead has caused significant neurological problems for African children. Malaria, Stierle noted, is endemic to 106 African countries, including Zambia and the Congo.

Melitus diabetes continues to be a problem in African countries, she said.

Literacy among some of the major peoples including the Bamileke people is not complete and rests at about 64 percent.

According to Stierle, in Africa, between Muslims and non-Muslims, there is usually no dissension.

However, at some point during her trip, Stierle found out that some Fulani Africans in Nigeria murdered a number of Christians.

Cameroon, according to Stierle, is a "melting pot," and people of various religious affiliations and ethnicities live in peace.

According to Stierle, there is a drive throughout Africa to acquire one all-encompassing national identity and to integrate all African nations.

On a lighter note, Stierle said that she saw blue- and yellow-

headed Cercopithecine monkeys at an African park for endangered species and a jingoistic gorilla who demonstrated his dominance by pounding his chest and emitting a scream that echoed throughout the park.

While in Limbe, a coastal city founded by a Baptist pastor, Stierle said that she was told by a local cab driver that the best part of a fish to eat is the head.

Limbe, where Stierle and the members of her touring group ate a lunch, is one area where many languages are spoken including Pidgin English and French. Limbe's beaches, according to Stierle, look dark because of volcanic activity.

Stierle mentioned that among Fulani African families, the more bowls one owns, the greater one's status is within the family.

Traffic in many African cities, said Stierle, is frenzied and chaotic.

However, unlike many cities in many countries, fender benders in African cities are completely disregarded.

After ending the lecture with a Fulani "Useko," which means "Thank you," many lecture attendees expressed an interest in Africa.

Attendees also wanted to learn more about Africa including Susan Pinza, BC academic development professor and BC math professor Janet Tarjan.

"I love to hear about different cultures and peoples," said Tarjan.