



# The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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Wednesday, February 3, 2010

## Food bank opens to students

By Brian N. Willhite  
Reporter

The Student Government Association at Bakersfield College has started a new program that hopes to eliminate hunger among the student body. The SGA will be offering a variety of canned goods and other food staples by providing a food bank to assist students in need.

The Renegade Pantry officially opened its doors Jan. 28 with multiple news media organizations on hand to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony and commencement speeches given by SGA senator and assistant to the dean Shawn Newsom and BC president Greg Chamberlain. Together they expressed their ideas and vision for the program and its success.

"If we can provide the opportunity for one student to stay in school, then it is all worth it," said Chamberlain as he spoke about the needs of the student body reaching their educational pursuits.

With budgets being cut from community college special-needs programs such as Cal Works and EOPS, SGA board members sought opportunities to better serve BC students in need. The decision to start a student-run food bank began over the winter break with hopes to provide relief to students who may be affected by budget cuts or other circumstances hindering their educational goals.

"It is our goal that no student will have to choose between books or groceries," said



DAVID KAROWSKI / THE RIP

Members of Bakersfield College's Student Government Association and BC president Greg Chamberlain open the new BC food pantry for students at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 28.

Newsom.

Any student enrolled at BC can be eligible for the program. First, students will need to fill out a services form in the student government office located in Campus Center 4. The form will ask for their name, student ID number and how many children the student has, if any. Once approved, the student will be presented with a menu of the foods available and asked to select up to 15 items, with an extra five items allowed per child. These orders will then be processed and available for the student on the following distribution day.

Distribution days will be twice a month beginning Jan. 28 through the end of June, with further dates to be announced. The Renegade Pantry is located in the walkway between the campus center and Business Services.

Some students have already begun to participate in the program. "It's a good way to

Please see FOOD BANK, Page 4



DAVID KAROWSKI / THE RIP

SGA president Kristi Newsom gives cultural anthropology major Seth Stuart a bag of food at the new pantry Jan. 28.

## Sterling Silver dinner shines light on BC



JOSEPH COTA / THE RIP

Guests attend the second annual Sterling Silver Dinner in the Bakersfield College cafeteria. The dinner featured a meal cooked by Playboy Mansion Chef William Bloxsom-Carter and BC culinary arts students Jan. 29.

By Lauren D. Strong  
Reporter

Once again, supporters of the Bakersfield College Foundation came out to enjoy an evening of wine, jazz music and food at the second annual Sterling Silver Dinner with Playboy Mansion Chef William Bloxsom-Carter on Jan. 29. The event was held in the BC cafeteria, which was transformed into a formal dining hall, and students worked one on one with Bloxsom-Carter.

"Chef Carter is an absolutely gifted teacher, nothing like Hell's Kitchen," Mike Stepanovich, head of the BC Foundation explained.

The event is held to support the Culinary Arts Program, Agriculture Program and the

Renegade Fund. All proceeds from the event will go to scholarships to help students succeed in such programs.

Stepanovich, and Bloxsom-Carter became acquainted while serving on the same panel as wine judges. Stepanovich proposed the idea to Bloxsom-Carter, and he agreed to be a part of the dinner.

Supporters also could participate in a silent and live auction. Items such as paintings, wine glasses donated by Olcott's, Mumm Napa wines, pictures and more were auctioned off to benefit students.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for our students," BC Chef Pat Coyle expressed.

Students served guests with appetizers and champagne while some culinary arts stu-

dents worked in the kitchen to prepare the meal.

"It's always great to work with a great chef," said Jill Lomax, BC culinary arts major.

The dinner was prepared by Bloxsom-Carter and BC culinary students. The dinner was accompanied by several wines chosen by Bloxsom-Carter to complement the food and delight guests' taste buds. The food was locally grown by the BC Agricultural Program and picked earlier that day.

"He may agree to come a third year," said Stepanovich.

Students benefit from this event not just financially, but it also helps culinary arts and agriculture students have an opportunity to come to and participate in an up-scale event.

"All I know is that she received a compensation and that's it," said Chiang, without elaborating or offering opinions about the timeliness of the compensation.

Other administrators were slightly more talkative.

"I feel the timing was awkward, and Sandra wouldn't disagree with that," said John Gerhold, BC music teacher and president of the academic senate.

"This is difficult to talk about when employees are getting laid off. She could have deferred the pay raise. There were lots of approaches she could have taken," he said. Gerhold mentioned that the costs for the entire district are currently \$100 million and 20 percent of that figure goes to administration costs.

"In terms of what is spent overall, district administrative costs are far too much," Gerhold said.

## Hot Stove hosts baseball legend Tommy Lasorda

By Vincent Perez  
News editor

Tommy Lasorda had kind words for the Bakersfield College 2010 baseball team Jan. 23 at the Kern County Fairgrounds during the 22nd annual Hot Stove Dinner hosted by George Culver.

"Possibly, in the year 2010, I may speak in front of a million people," he said. "And I'm going to tell a million people how brutal they are, how lazy they are [if they don't win]. So boys, I'm going to spread the word. It's either going to be good, mediocre or bad."

Lasorda is a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and is one of only four in Major League Baseball's history to manage the same team for at least 20 years.

Lasorda, former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, is well known by many baseball fans, and is now well known by the attendees of the Hot Stove Dinner and the players of the Bakersfield College baseball team.

Lasorda gave a powerful speech filled with many jokes and eye-opening mentions of his time as a pitcher, in which Lasorda said to the crowd that when he was a young boy, he dreamed of playing at Yankee Stadium and how he saw himself later warming up in the bullpen at Yankee Stadium years

later as a professional baseball player. Lasorda simply told the crowd to follow their dreams, possibly aiming his remarks toward the BC baseball team.

Lasorda was more serious at moments. So serious, in fact, he stopped in the middle of his speech to yell at the people in the back who were being loud.

However, Lasorda had words of wisdom for the BC baseball team. "Remember, play for the name on the front of your shirt, not on the back of your shirt," he said.

Lasorda spoke privately to the BC baseball team before his speech at the dinner.

"Those young men, I spoke to them today. I wanted them to know, I said, everybody who puts on a uniform wants to win. Some win and some don't. The ones that win know how to win. The ones that don't win, they'll never learn to win."

Lasorda added, "I told them what it was going to take for them to win. I want them to sit there and believe that they're going to finish number one. If they believe they're going to finish number one, they will practice like a number one team, and if they practice like a number one team, then they will perform like a number one team."

The crowd, with a standing ovation, applauded Lasorda's last words before he left the stage.

Please see LASORDA, Page 4



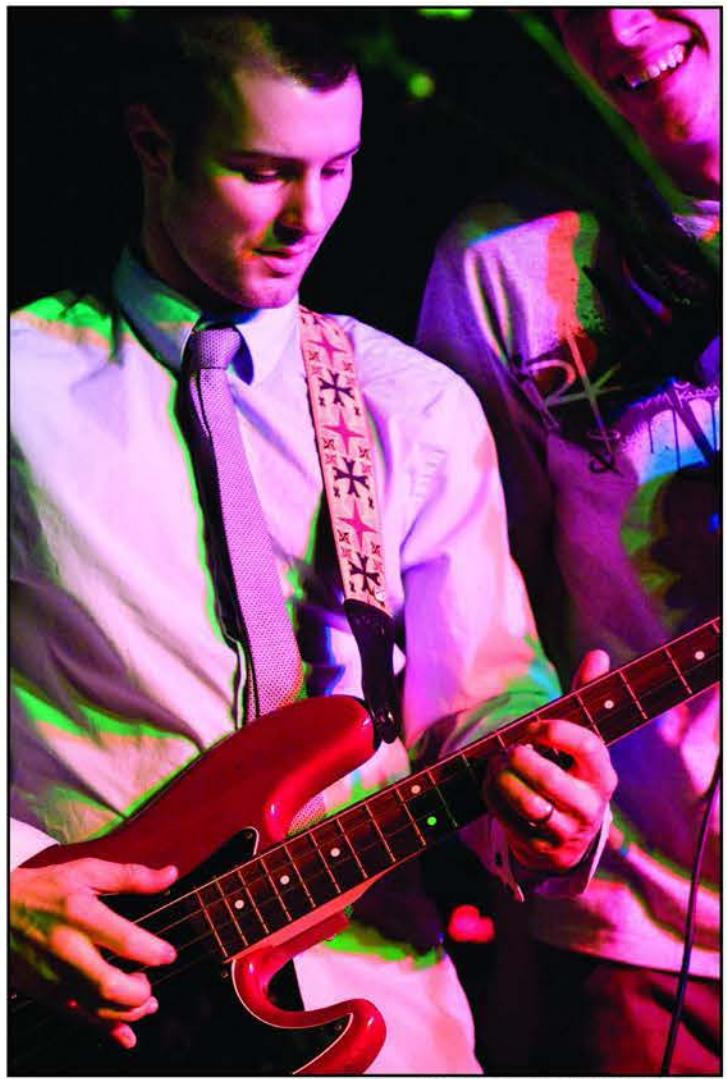
GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP  
Former Dodgers pitcher and manager Tommy Lasorda speaks to the Bakersfield College Renegades baseball team before the BC Hot Stove Dinner at the Kern County Fairgrounds on Jan. 23.

# FEATURES

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DAVID KAROWSKI / THE RIP

Above left: 100 Monkeys band member M. Lawrence Abrams, a.k.a. "Uncle Larry," performs at Chencho's in Bakersfield. Above center: Jackson Rathbone sings a song. Above right: Jerad Anderson and Ben Graupner perform a song. The members of 100 Monkeys switch instruments and singers in each of their songs on Jan. 26.



## Indie band 100 Monkeys drives Bakersfield bananas

By Kelly Ardis  
Editor in chief

Instead of being confined to one instrument like members of most bands, the members of 100 Monkeys each take turns playing different instruments. They showed off their multi-musical abilities in Bakersfield at Chencho's on Jan. 26.

Consisting of Ben Graupner, Jackson Rathbone, Ben Johnson, Jerad Anderson and M. Lawrence Abrams, whom they call "Uncle Larry," 100 Monkeys is based in Los Angeles and tours all over the country. The band first got together three years ago but has only been a full band for a year and a half, according to Rathbone. In addition to being musicians, many of the members of 100 Monkeys are also actors.

"Ben, and myself met in high school. Then I met Jerad in L.A., and I made a film with Uncle Larry," said Rathbone, who played Jasper in the "Twilight" films. "We just kept in touch and kept jamming. Eventually the jamming became more organized, and we became more official."

The band's name comes from the phenomenon where an individual's learned behavior is picked up by the rest of its group instantaneously.

"It's the idea of a collective consciousness, the way an idea spreads subconsciously in a group," said Johnson. "Music can do that. We jam with so many people. Anyone can get on stage and be a 100 Monkey."

That collective consciousness is present when 100 Monkeys performs an improvised song, their favorite songs to play at

their concerts.

"You never know what's going to happen," said Graupner. "Sometimes it's awesome, sometimes it's not."

At their concerts, the band asks the audience for a topic for them to improvise a song about. The topic at the Bakersfield show was "moustache." The band decided to play a song about a specific moustache: Johnson's. Rathbone made up the lyrics on the spot and sang about how "you always want what you can't have," like Johnson's moustache.

"It's really spontaneous," said Rathbone. "The crowd gets to hear songs that no one has ever heard before and no one will ever hear again, unless someone records it. It's like a blind date."

Recently, 100 Monkeys has been playing shows all over California, and in most cities, their opening bands are local, which they said gives them a chance to be "at the forefront of the indie scene" and meet lots of new bands. Graupner said his favorite part about touring is meeting new people.

"Playing these really intimate shows, we get to meet almost every person," said Graupner. "It feels like you have a million friends."

While some fans of the band buy their tickets well in advance of the concert, the band said sometimes people will come out on only a day's notice. They said their fans are always "ready to party."

"The shows have been so much fun. The audiences are amazing. People come out and always have a good time," Rathbone said. "If you love what you do, other people will love it too. It's the 100 Monkeys

effect."

Rathbone said the band's set list is always changing, as are their hats, so one 100 Monkeys concert is not like another. One thing stays the same for any 100 Monkeys concert though.

"Fun, love and happiness," said Uncle Larry on what a fan can expect from a 100 Monkeys concert.

BC theater arts major Audrae Torres attended the concert at Chencho's. She said the reason she came to the show was to see Rathbone.

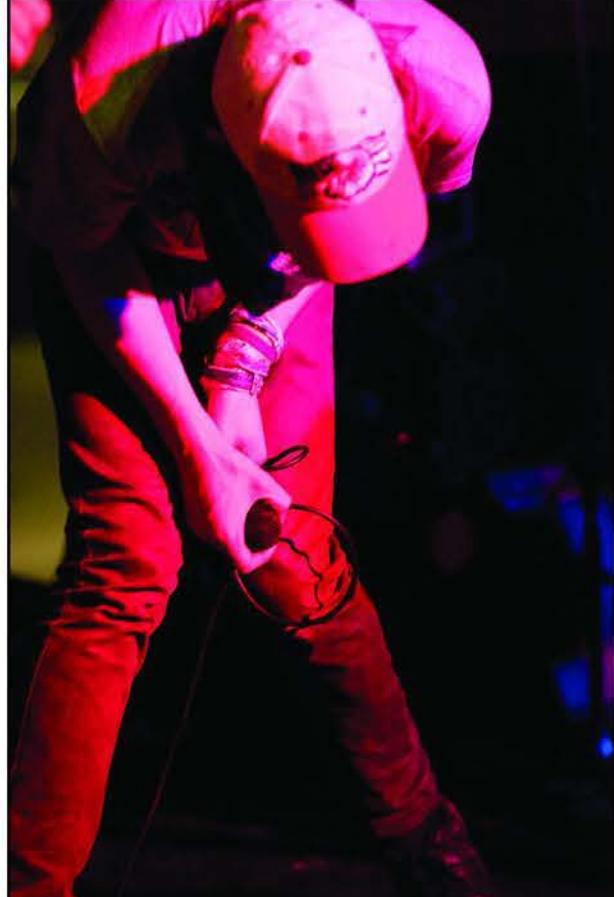
"Jackson Rathbone is here, and I wanted to hear his music live," she said. "I loved the concert, it was absolutely fabulous. They have such a different range of different sounds."

100 Monkeys has been touring across the U.S. since the day after Christmas, but Rathbone said the group is going to be very busy in February.

"We're taking a pseudo-break in February to record a score and make a music video, then tour again in March," said Rathbone. "So we're going to be really busy."

In April, the band is performing at the Spencer Bell Legacy concert in Dallas. Bell was a friend of the band who died in December 2006 from adrenal cancer. They honor his memory by regularly performing some of his songs, including "The Monkey Song" and "Twenty to One," which they played at Chencho's.

"A dear friend of ours passed away. He was a great musician and lyricist. He was a huge inspiration to all of us," said Rathbone of Bell. "That's the wonderful thing about music, that immortality."



Above: 100 Monkeys band member Ben Graupner performs to a crowd at Chencho's Bar and Grill in The Dome on Jan. 26.

Right: Graupner doubles over between singing verses in a song at Chencho's on Jan. 26.

PHOTOS BY DAVID KAROWSKI / THE RIP

By Katie Avery  
Opinion editor

Eek-A-Mouse, an internationally known reggae musician from Jamaica, gave a concert for a jam-packed audience at Fishlips Bar and Grill on Saturday, Jan. 30.

David Brinsfield, 43, a longtime fan of Eek-A-Mouse, said, "I'm just glad he's come to Bakersfield period." Brinsfield, who has been following Eek's music for 20 years, said he loves everything about his music and that "It's the most advanced reggae for its time."

Brinsfield also liked the kind of fans that this concert was attracting. "Every time I come it's different people. It's a new generation that he's able to pull in."

"A lot of people consider him underground, but I don't like to think him like that."

His kind of music is peaceful, you can be yourself," he said.

Another longtime fan, Johnny Balderas, 31, has been attending Eek's concerts for about 10 years. Balderas said he was really surprised when he first saw him in concert.

"When I first heard Eek, I thought he was a little guy, but he's like 6'4." He went on to say that it's his vocal styling that sets him apart from other reggae musicians.

Bakersfield College student Jason Frieze, undeclared, said he was looking forward to the concert. "It's the first time I've heard of him so I'm excited to see what he's like."

Many audience members were new to the reggae music scene, saying they heard about Eek-A-Mouse from a friend or they decided to go just because it was something to do on a Saturday night.

Marcus Molineaux, 23, a sound engineer for Eek, said his father has been playing bass guitar in the band for the past 17 years.

"I've only been working for him for a few years but I grew up around him and his music," Molineaux said he really likes Fishlips as a venue and enjoys being in Bakersfield. "We just got here, but there are really good people here and I've got no complaints."

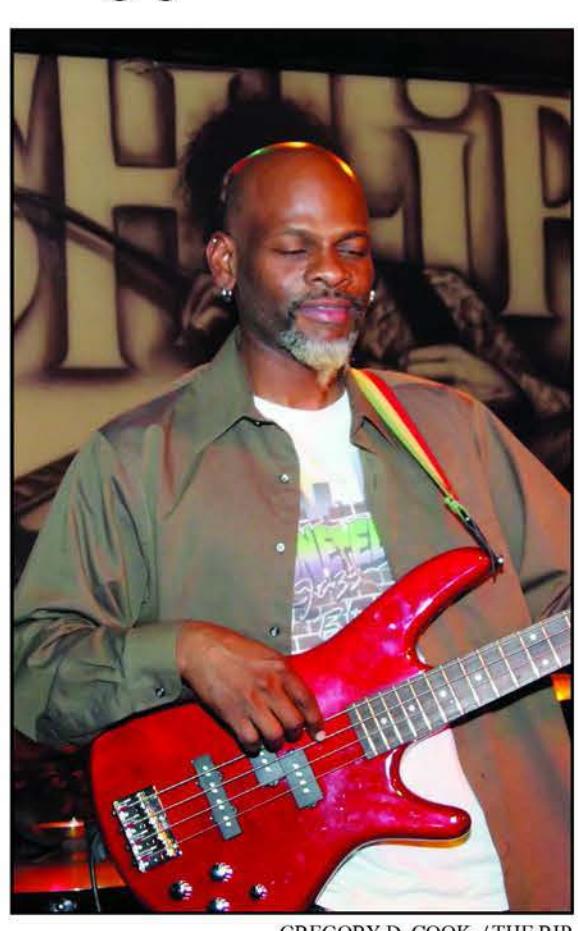
Ras Wesley Williams, 36, who was working the merchandise counter on behalf of Eek and the band, echoed Molineaux's sentiments and added, "It's definitely not easy, but I just hope there's a lot of people here tonight, I hope it's packed."

The concert began at 9 p.m. with local band Dub Seeds playing for a standing-room-only crowd while people ate dinner and ordered drinks. Then Eek-A-Mouse's backup musicians played a few songs to warm up



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Reggae artist Eek-A-Mouse, a.k.a. Ripton Hylton, makes his way to the stage through a press of fans during a performance at Fishlips in downtown Bakersfield on Jan. 30.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Bass player Stokeley Molineaux lays down a reggae riff for fans during an Eek-A-Mouse concert at Fishlips, in downtown Bakersfield on Jan. 30.

the crowd and check the equipment before Eek-A-Mouse finally came on at 11:30 p.m.

Eek started his first song singing in the crowd, and slowly he danced his way toward the stage, mingling with the fans as he went. Once there he invited people, mostly women, to

dance onstage with him.

His songs, including the popular "Ganja Smuggling," which features the vocal styling he is famous for, had the crowd swaying and singing along. He continued to play music to the still-crowded Fishlips until the early hours of the morning.

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JOE BERGMAN / THE RIP

Guns goalie Bob St. Louis defends during the annual Guns 'N Hoses charity hockey game held at the Rabobank Arena on Jan. 30. The police won the event 5-4 in overtime.

## Guns 'N Hoses hits ice for first time

**Guns 'N Hoses** | Bakersfield cops and firefighters take fights to the Rabobank Arena ice to raise money for burn victims.

By Mateo M. Melero  
Reporter

Among a crowd of 350 people, Kern County law enforcement officials and firefighters competed in a hockey match at Rabobank Arena on Jan. 30.

The event, called Guns 'N Hoses, not only gave law enforcement and firefighting officials the chance to play together, but it was also for a good cause. This was the first year that the event has been a hockey game. In the past, the event has always been a boxing match.

The event was directed by Captain Brian Smith of the California Highway Patrol, John Nelson of Kern County Fire and Mike Campbell of the CHP.

This year tickets were \$15 and all proceeds went to benefit the Chevron Fund, an organization that helps children recover from burn wounds.

According to Nicole Roberts, account manager with the Bakersfield Condors, the game raised \$2,300.

Spectators of the event included friends, family and coworkers of the athletes, as well as some people who were just interested in seeing cops and firefighters fight on the ice.

Injuries were suffered on both sides, but spirits were high despite the pain involved.

A cut suffered from a high-sticking foul on California Highway Patrol Captain Brian Smith's upper right cheek was dressed in a butterfly Band-Aid, and was bleeding slightly.

"They say I might need stitches, but I don't think I'm going to get any," said Smith, moments after his team won the game in a last minute shootout.

Ted Williams of Taft Community Correctional Facility said, "Bragging Rights," as he sits on the bench recuperating from exhaustion.

When asked how it felt to be in the penalty box, Garret Drolen said, "It feels pretty good,"

stopping to say, "My face hurts," then joining in to laugh with his friend.

"It's fun to come out here and see friends you haven't seen in a while, and raise money for the unfortunate," said Williams who played on the Guns' side.

Rosemary Borlina, mother of number 3 Kip Borlina, said "That it's nice to see them do this for a good cause."

Rio Munoz, a lifelong friend of number 65 Matt Hernandez, said "It's good to see his friend on the ice being awesome."

Bob Hayes of the sheriff's department said, "I'm not much of a hockey fan, but I came out to support my friends and coworkers."

Throughout the game, both sides evenly held the score and as a way to interact with their fans, the Guns'N Hoses players tossed Bakersfield Condor trading cards into the crowd between periods.

The third period ended in a 4-4 tie and went into a 3-on-3 shootout with Guns' player Chris Bagby scoring to win the game.

## Local workshop helps writers

By Alma N. Martinez  
Reporter

Eight weeks ago, at Russo's Books at the Marketplace, the Random Writers Workshop had their first meeting. The workshops are hosted by author Nick Belardes on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to roughly 9 p.m.

Belardes was born in San Jose but later moved to Bakersfield. He has worked as a creative writer for the animation industry, TV and various magazines.

He has published two books so far. The idea for this workshop came to him from attending one himself.

He saw what a difference it made in his life and therefore decided to reach writers in Bakersfield who might need help.

"It was a dream of mine for more than a year. Thanks to Russo's Books and with promotional help from Bakotopia.com, I feel confident that serious writers and lovers of book-related discussions will keep coming out to contribute to the discussions," said Belardes.

He felt it was time to give back to the community since he had more credibility after publishing his second book, "Random Obsessions." Belardes added, "as a writer I learn as much as the attendees. These are smart people, and smart people learn from each other."

The background of those attending the workshops varies greatly, and that is not a problem according to Miles Johnson because "no matter what type of writing you are working on or what the reason why you attend is, Nick is very inclusive," said Johnson, 41, an attendee of the workshops and freelance columnist and artist.

Rod Reed, who said he is over 30, is an attendee and self-employed, recommends these workshops to anyone who wants to put what they have in their



Local author Nick Belardes talks to attendees on the Random Writers Workshop at Russo's Books on Jan. 27.

head into writing.

At these workshops one can expect to find tips on how to structure stories and novels, how to get published, ideas from other authors and even like-minded people.

The workshops average around 15 attendees, according to Belardes.

Belardes believes that all of the writers who attend the workshops seem to be randomly scattered throughout the city, hence the name of the workshop.

He describes the workshops as "kind of a support group." He also believes that in order to grow as a writer you really need to connect with other writers.

Attendee Beth Pandol, 51, marketing director at Bakersfield's Museum of Art, said she feels that these workshops are a good way to keep yourself motivated while you get the opportunity to learn from others, such as Belardes and the guests.

Belardes doesn't only share his own experience with these aspiring authors but he also brings other authors who are working in the industry to give more credibility and inspiration to attendees.

Guests have included professional writers such as Greg Olear, Hazel Dixon-Cooper, Gina Frangello, Jonathan Evison, and

novelist/Hollywood screenwriter Duke Haney.

Belardes advised, "being tapped in and networked helps a lot," which is one of the reasons why he invites other authors.

According to those attending the workshops, some attend because they are working on a project or trying to sharpen their writing skills.

Others are simply trying to learn something new from authors who are working in the industry.

Others attend in order to get over the fear of writing or because they see this workshop as a "creative outlet," said attendee, Josh Reed, 27, IT manager.

Considering that Bakersfield is a city that is not really known for its literature, Belardes feels that it is "in dire need of creative workshops of any kind."

His ultimate goal is to offer "everything I know to help the upcoming authors in Bakersfield," he said.

"People in Bakersfield need to be reminded that individuals dreaming about a career in writing isn't unfashionable, but cool, and can really happen," said Belardes.

"After all, creative writing is the basis for so much entertainment on TV, film, novels, nonfiction and more," he added.

## Culture lecture informs

By Kelly Ardis  
Editor in chief

"Styling Blackness: White Uses of African American English in Hollywood Film" is an R-rated lecture, speaker Mary Bucholtz warned.

"The language used in it may be offensive," she told the attendees.

But when the crowd replied with a laugh and no one darted for the door, Bucholtz, a professor of linguistics at the University of California, Santa Barbara, began her lecture.

The latest in the lectures in Language & Linguistics series put on at Cal State Bakersfield by Sigma Tau Delta, the International Honors Society, "Styling Blackness" took place on Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. in the CSUB December Reading Room in the Walter Stier Library.

In it, Bucholtz spoke about films featuring white characters speaking in "African American Vernacular English, or AAVE," as Bucholtz called it. These characters she referred to as "wiggers."

"The word 'wigger' is really problematic, but it is widely known," she said. "These films show white youth entering into alignment with black culture. In most films, the wigger is almost always male. Gender is key to how the wigger figure is understood."

Although she said gender plays a role in understanding these types of characters, in this lecture she focused primarily on films featuring white male characters. In these films, the "wigger" characters practice one of two ideologies:

"fronting" or "keeping it real," according to Bucholtz.

"With fronting, the character is seen as inauthentic and compensating for gender failure," she said. "With keeping it real, the white male character gets in touch with his true self."

In both of these ideologies, the characters change the way they speak and adopt AAVE. Some of the characteristics of white Hollywood AAVE, Bucholtz said, include the deletion of the letter 'r' after vowels, pronunciation of "the" as "da," pronunciation of "-ing" as "-in," and the use of double or multiple negatives.

She stated several times throughout the lecture that



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

UC Santa Barbara professor Mary Bucholtz speaks in the Walter Stier Library at CSUB on Jan. 21.

“White Hollywood AAVE oversimplifies the complex structure of AAVE and perpetuates racial and gender stereotypes.”

-Mary Bucholtz, linguistics professor and speaker

white Hollywood AAVE is not the same as AAVE.

"Actors often draw from other actors' AAVE portrayals. They're simplistic and stereotypical," she said. "The strategy of the producers is for the actors to sound black, but not too black."

Bucholtz said that the most common term in white Hollywood AAVE is "yo." Another common term in white Hollywood AAVE has proved more difficult.

"'Nigga' is the most problematic term," Bucholtz said. "The lack of 'i' in theory makes it less problematic, but there's a lot of debate on that."

She explained how although the word is taboo, it is often used to prove "how real" a character is, that he can use it even in the presence of African Americans.

Bucholtz showed clips from movies to showcase both of

the ideologies. For examples of "fronting," she showed clips of "Can't Hardly Wait," "Waiting," "Drive-Thru," "Havoc" and "Malibu's Most Wanted." The "wigger" characters in these films are seen as "objects of ridicule or comic relief," she said.

"Nobody wants to embrace this term wigger. They know it's negative," Bucholtz said of the "wigger" characters. "They are willfully blind not only to their

own race but to others' too."

The examples she showed of "keeping it real" included clips from "Bringing Down the House" and "Bulworth." In these films, Bucholtz said, the white character is an older man "gaining cultural cool" and finding himself by submerging himself into black culture.

"White Hollywood AAVE oversimplifies the complex structure of AAVE and perpetuates racial and gender stereotypes," said Bucholtz. "In these films, the black males are seen as cool, tough and authentic, and the baby boomers self-actualize by 'keeping it real.'

After her lecture, Bucholtz opened the floor to questions and comments. She was asked about the fashion of the "wigger" characters and said their clothes are reminiscent of "early 90s to mid-2000s" and are "really exaggerated."

"These films mark a historic moment," Bucholtz said. "I think now Hollywood has moved onto the bromance films."

Bucholtz also touched on "real life wigger figures."

"Vanilla Ice is the epitome of inauthenticity. He lied about his background and was kind of a teeny bopper rapper," she said. "But Eminem is the iconic figure of a white male being accepted into a black culture."

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## News Briefs

Kern County Assessor warns against tax adjuster

The Kern County Assessor released a statement informing residents that a property tax adjuster located in Granada Hills is sending letters to Kern County residences advertising that, for a \$189 fee, they will apply to the County Assessor on behalf of the property owner for a tax reduction.

"Please do not pay the fee. Contact my office if you feel your assessed value is too high," said James W. Fitch, assessor-recorder for Kern County. Fitch is available for comments or interviews by contacting the Kern County Assessor-Recorder's Department at (661) 868-3311.

Upcoming events at the Bakersfield Fox Theater

The Bakersfield Fox Theater welcomes Martin Lawrence, a black comedian of the mid-1990's, on Feb. 5. Lawrence began his career doing stand-up on the Washington DC circuit before moving briefly to NYC where, among his venues, he wowed the crowds at Washington Square Park. Since then, Lawrence has really made an impact in the comedic spectrum. Prices to the event are: \$65 and \$55 and doors open at 7 p.m.

The Mariachi Festival in concert at the Bakersfield Fox Theater on Friday, Feb. 12 include Mariachi Vargas de Telcalitan, Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano and Mariachi Estrellas de Guadalajara de Ruben Ramos. Prices to the event: \$83.50, \$73.50, \$53.50, \$43.50 and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Valentine's Day parties

The Rabobank Theatre and Convention Center present an early Valentine dance party on Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. with music by Super Love Jam with GQ, Zapp and more.

The Bakersfield Salseros and the Double Tree Hotel present the Valentine Party "Salsa en la Sangre" on Feb. 13. Anyone 21 and over is welcomed to attend and should dress to impress. There will be salsa all night long to dance to, such as Salsa Dura, Salsa Romantico, Bachata and Cha cha with DJ Lorenzo. The cost is \$10 to enter, and the Double Tree Hotel is located at 1330 El Camino Real, Bakersfield. For more information, contact TJ at 304-7703.

Fat Tuesday at Fishlips

Fat Tuesday's Mighty Mardi Gras will have all-you-can-eat authentic Cajun cuisine until it's gone. There will be live music by Soulajar, Joel Jacob and Mento Buru. The party starts at 7 p.m. and costs only \$7 on Feb. 16 at Fishlips, located at 1517 18th St.



JOFEL TOLOSA / THE RIP

Volunteers from the Bakersfield Play-Date-Pals sell baked goods outside of Wings Pizza 'N' Things on Jan. 24. Proceeds from the bake sale will be donated to help victims of the Haiti earthquake.

## Moms raise dough for Haiti

By Laura Liera  
Reporter

Bakersfield residents and foundations are helping raise money for the Haiti earthquake that left many people seeking shelter under tents and a country in ruins.

Ana Lopez, organizer for the Bakersfield Play-Date-Pals, held a bake sale outside of Wings Pizza 'N' Things on Sunday, Jan. 24, to raise money for Haiti. "We have 40 moms or so in this club and we like to get together to help our community but we also like to help those in need when disasters like Haiti occur," said Lopez.

Lopez and other mothers baked chocolate chip cookies, brownies, cheesecakes and rice krispies among other pastries. "Helping out a place in need by simply selling bake goods is a great way to corroborate in these times, because we never know when it can happen to us," said Melissa Cotelo, member of the club.

The money collected from the bake sale is going to the Red Cross and Lopez hoped to do another bake sale in the near

future. "We want to see how this bake sale goes today, and if it all turns out great, then we will definitely look into having another one because the point is to help as much as we can," said Lopez.

The American Red Cross of Bakersfield is providing its help toward the Haiti disaster as well. Gaby Tamayo, health and safety director, said the Red Cross received a phone call from the Washington D.C. National Voluntary Work organization when the disaster occurred. "We, the Red Cross, survive on donations but when things like this occur, the community really helps out," said Tamayo.

Bakersfield residents were taking water, food, diapers and medication to the Red Cross, but they had to turn it down. "The cost of shipping items overseas is expensive, and because we survive through donations, that money was going to have to come out of our own pocket and it's too expensive," said Tamayo.

However, they were able to raise \$53,000 during a donation drive downtown on Saturday, Feb. 23. "We were only expecting to raise maybe \$30,000,



JOFEL TOLOSA / THE RIP

Christina Cortez, left, and Victoria Ho, right, wave signs along District Boulevard to lure in support.

but we definitely exceeded that," said Tamayo. The money collected will be sent to Haiti and will help buy supplies around nearby countries.

Having kids walk into the Red Cross with their piggybanks and any extra change they had in their pocket, was something that Lopez appreciated. "I thank all of the Kern County schools, restaurants and residents who all have big hearts because without their donations, we never could have raised so much money."

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## FOOD BANK: SGA provides goods

Continued from Page 1

help control priorities with school costs and home expenses and it's good to see that the student body is concerned," said sociology major Darrell Hopkins, 38.

"It's another good way to help students besides giving them money," said Seth Stuart, 24, a cultural anthropology and religious studies major.

Another student, Tamara Tomashow, described how the program was encouraging and that it fills a need that the students have. "This is the best project I've seen from student government in the two years I've been here. It helps you feel that the college cares about the students' work-life balance," said Tomashow.

The Renegade Pantry is operated by the student body, and as of now is also funded with the student budget. Currently, the SGA has budgeted approximately \$2,000 a month to cover food expenses in the pantry. According to Dean of Students Joyce Coleman, the initial investment of getting the project active and running was \$12,000. However, Coleman feels that the Renegade Pantry is a good way to reinvest the students' money because of the opportunity it provides them. By comparison, more money was spent on homecoming expenses than the food bank, accord-

ing to Coleman.

Donations of nonperishable food items are appreciated and encouraged by the SGA. In addition, faculty and staff members at BC will also receive reusable canvas bags in the hope that they will be a reminder to donate to the pantry on a regular basis.

The SGA will also be setting up distribution days for the Delano campus to better serve the students there.

Coleman also described future goals that will include offering a wider variety of food products once freezers and refrigerators are added to the pantry. There are also plans to offer hygiene products as well.

Another goal is to cut the cost to the students' budget by supplementing it with outside donations. "It is our hope that [the Renegade Pantry] will become self-sufficient with other charities and organizations helping to cover the costs," said Chris Ballard, SGA vice president.

The program will undergo a review process after 30 days, at which time the SGA will assess the program and decide what changes need to be made. It is the hope of the SGA that the Renegade Pantry will continue to be student-run and serve the needs of the student body for many years to come, as well as inspire other schools to do the same.



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP  
Bakersfield College president Greg Chamberlain speaks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the BC Renegade Pantry on Jan. 28.

## LASORDA: BC hosts Hot Stove

Continued from Page 1

"So when you say your prayers tonight, if you have any compassion in your heart, you say a prayer for Tommy and the Dodgers."

Lasorda was given the key to the city by Mayor Harvey Hall after his speech.

Lasorda, who is still highly involved with the Dodgers' organization as special advisor to the chairman, is not concerned with the Dodgers' future.

"The owner [Frank McCourt] of the team, he thinks the team will be OK. We've got a great bunch of players. I think we're going to win."

Lasorda added, "You might say, 'You say that all the time.' Well, I believe it all the time. I believe this team's going to win."

BC pitcher Wesley Quattlebaum was in attendance and appreciates the Hot Stove speakers. Quattlebaum spoke about last year's dinner.

"Last year was fun. Every time I come to this, I look forward to hear everybody speak just because I take it to heart and I love baseball and I know these guys do, too."



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP  
Baseball legend Tommy Lasorda autographs 6-year-old Jacob Hudson's (right) Dodgers hat on Jan. 23.

Quattlebaum talked about preparing the freshmen for the annual dinner.

"We try to tell them that the people who speak here and are honored here, they've been through the same thing we have. It's something to look forward to, and it's something to look up to. Make sure and respect these guys because maybe one day you get to speak at something like this."

Quattlebaum added about the upcoming baseball season.

"The older guys on this team have helped the younger guys a lot – with school, with baseball, with everything. Everybody seems to be helping each other out, which is a great thing to see on this baseball team."

## Supervisors discuss plan for 2010

**PLAN** | State of the County Address outlines options for new construction, hydrogen plant and high-speed rail.

By Anthony B. Ellrodt  
Copy editor

The Kern County Supervisors presented the 12th annual State of the County Address to a near capacity crowd of community leaders on Jan. 20.

Ray Watson, chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, was optimistic about the upcoming 2010 fiscal year.

"In many respects, we don't know what the future holds for our nation and our state. But we do know that much of the heritage of Kern County rose out of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl," he said. "At our core, we are survivors, hard workers, innovators, entrepreneurs, competitors and compassionate."

Watson went through the cuts Kern County has had to suffer in the past fiscal year, but was quick to also point out that government and citizens alike will prevail despite difficult economic times and tough state budget issues.

"Regardless of state budget outcomes, I can assure you that your county government will continue to press forward with initiatives to improve efficiency and complete projects for which funding has been identified," said Watson. "We are continuing to explore ways to reorganize departments and functions, not just to reduce costs, but also to improve results."

Watson included many accomplishments Kern County has endured in 2009 such as a 70 percent reduction in gang activity, breaking ground of a new library in Frazier Park and reported that Kern Medical Center finished the year better than expected.

"I am pleased to report that after having lost \$66 million over the past nine years, KMC closed the 2009 fiscal year more than \$9 million in the black," said Watson. "Also, the nurse training programs that our board agreed to support at Cal State Bakersfield and Bakersfield College accomplished exactly what we had hoped they would."

Watson finished the presentation with a look ahead to 2010 with plans to build new fire stations in Pine Mountain Club and Northwest Bakersfield, construction of a new hydrogen generating plant and is still hopeful for a high-speed rail through Bakersfield.

"Our board is committed to making the best of the resources available to us," he commented. "We will not just survive. Our goal is superior performance and achievement."

# Adjustment tough for freshmen students

By Rigo Villalobos  
Reporter

Every year, Bakersfield College opens its doors to a new group of students who want to continue their education after receiving their high school diploma or it's equivalent.

Being a college freshman for the first time can be tough. Many students start their first college semester right after their high school graduation, while others decide to begin during the Winter semester, like Flor A. Rodriguez did, a BC freshman majoring in

liberal arts.

"I was going to start school last semester, but I really needed some time off after so many years in high school," she said. "I am not really a 'school girl,' so I have to take little steps while coming back to school because coming from a high school to a college is a big change."

On the other hand, students like Jose Perez, a science major freshman, who started college right after graduating from Golden Valley High School said that "even though college is really different from high school,

it's simply better. Here in college we choose the schedule that best works for us, and the classes as well. At first I was a little nervous, but with time I got used to it."

During the first weeks of college, it is possible that many incoming freshmen could have different impulses and encounter a different variety of experiences.

It is during this time that they usually compare and examine the differences between college and their previous school, which most of the time it's high school.

"On the first week of school, I honestly experienced something new, which I hated so much. It took me more than 20 minutes just to find a parking spot every single day, which is why I was always late to class," said Rodriguez.

"Now I know that I have to come to school a lot earlier than when I was in high school because it is a serious disaster when it comes to parking," Rodriguez continued. "I seriously recommend every student who goes to college to go as early as they can so they can find a good

parking spot."

Along with Rodriguez's recommendation to students, there are many things new college freshmen should keep in mind when they are attending college for the first time.

According to Nancy Guidry, BC reference librarian, participating in school events and activities is very important for students, especially for those who are just beginning their first year.

"Students who participate in campus activities from the beginning are a lot more likely to suc-

ceed and have a better chance of higher education," said Guidry. "Being involved in our campus activities is a great thing because it's a good way for new students to learn a lot more about what's convenient for their careers."

"I would really suggest everyone to visit their library often because I've noticed that many students spend hours and hours at home trying to do research, when in reality it would be easier for them to come here because we are all here to help students succeed and save time and frustration."

## Domestic non-resident students see fee increase

By Anthony B. Ellrodt  
Copy editor

Students are aware of the increase in tuition and fees at Bakersfield College, but what they may not be aware of is the increase in fees for non-resident students.

Non-resident students are broken into two categories at BC, domestic non-resident students and international non-resident students. Domestic non-resident students are charged \$201 per unit plus the \$26 per unit fee as part of their non-resident tuition and fees. International non-resident students have had to pay \$201 per unit, the \$26 per unit fee plus a \$33 per unit capital outlay fee. The capital outlay fee covers equipment and materials bought by the district in connection with the student's education.

The district Board of Trustees however, has just approved a measure that will increase fees for domestic non-resident students, but drop them for international students.

The new structure will drop the \$201 to \$184 per unit, a decrease of \$17. International students will still pay the \$26 plus \$33 per unit fees. The major change is that domestic non-resident students will now be charged the \$33 per unit capital outlay fee in addition to the

\$26 per unit charge they already pay.

Joan Wegner, director of Financial Aid at BC, made it clear, however, that financial aid is still available for non-resident students to help offset the new fees.

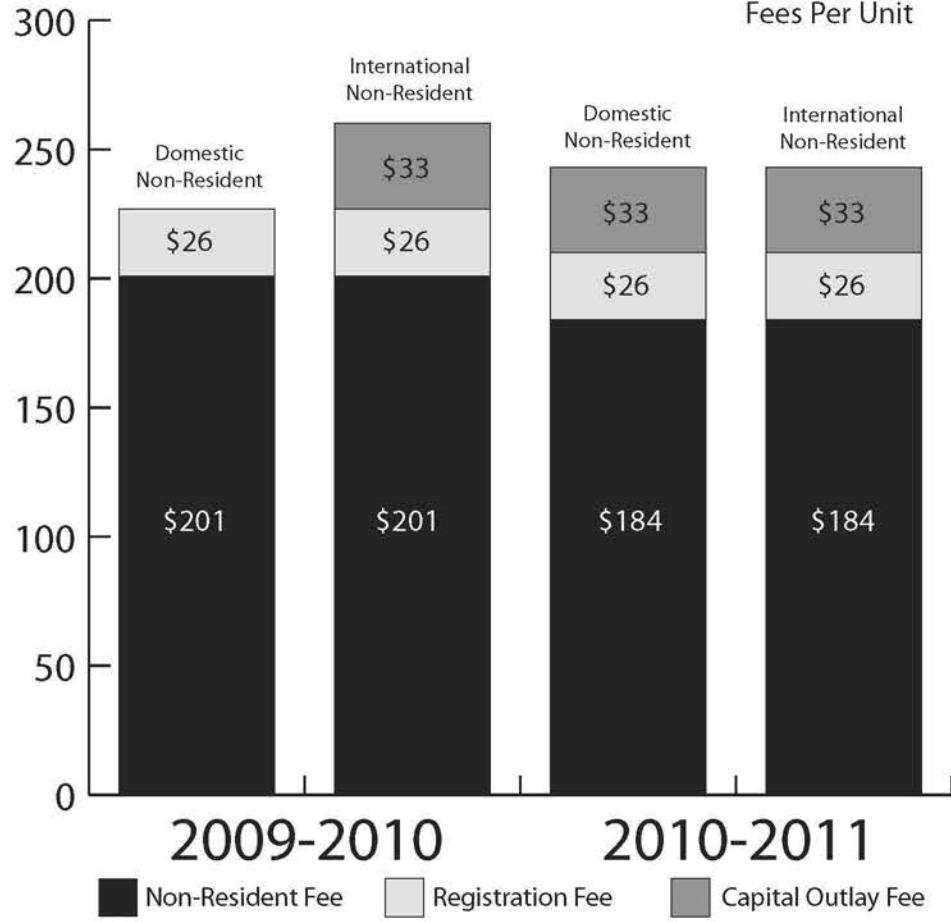
"The only students who do not receive Title IV aid, are international students that are here in the U.S. attending school on student visas," said Wegner. "All others receive both Pell Grant and student loan funding, even international students here on permanent visas."

A BC student majoring in engineering, who wished to remain anonymous, voiced concern over the new fees.

"I'm an out-of-state student from Arizona and I'm not sure what to say to this new fee," she said. "It seems strange to me that they would drop fees for international students, but raise them for people like me. It doesn't make sense."

Non-resident students won't be required to pay the new fees until the 2010-2011 school year, but some students are already concerned they may not be able to pay because of current economic conditions.

"I already work two jobs, go to school and raise a daughter," said one student. "How am I supposed to go from paying \$210 per credit to essentially \$243 per credit?"



ANNE STOCKMAN / THE RIP  
Construction worker Jesus Garcia rewrites forms for laying pavement at the Bakersfield College Norman Levan Center for the Humanities building Jan. 28.

## Levan Center to open in early March

By Michael Wafford  
Reporter

Construction on the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities is expected to be finished by mid-February with an opening ceremony scheduled for March 4 and a Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce mixer on Feb. 24.

The Levan Center will be host to several seminars,

the faculty Colloquia and a series of events centered on the Humanities, according to Levan Center director Jack Hernandez.

Bakersfield College will also be collaborating with St. John's College, who will be sending a professor to lecture at the Levan Center once per semester with the first scheduled for March 17, according to Mike Stepanovich, executive of the Bakersfield College Foundation.

## Finlinson Center to take over DSPS disability testing

By Samantha Garrett  
Reporter

Due to budget cuts this year, Disabled Student Programs & Services will no longer be administering testing for DSPS students, which will be effective this spring semester.

According to a DSPS document, "DSPS & Counselors will continue to authorize appropriate accommodations to DSPS & students attending Delano and BC main campuses."

The change means that students interested in DSPS services will now be approved by their college assessment test results. All of the services provided by the program will continue, and DSPS students are assured of all the accommodations necessary for their needs.

DSPS students will now take their tests in the Assessment Center, located in the Finlinson Conference Center, or at the Delano Campus in Room 1001 DSPS Office.

Students will still follow the same process to receive testing accommodations and can find the form online under the student services

tab on the BC website, or in the assessment centers.

According to DSPS, they are "providing training to the Assessment Center staff on the use of equipment and use of assistive technology" as well as "providing sensitivity training when helping students with disabilities."

Students will receive the same accommodations from the trained Assessment Center staff that they received from the DSPS center.

Additionally, students will still be able to test Monday through Friday at the following times: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

At the Delano Campus, students can take their tests on Monday 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. or Thursday noon to 4 p.m.

Faculty and adjuncts concerned about submitting tests through DSPS Alternate Media for production in alternate format or for braille will still be able to submit them and "continue to submit tests in an alternate format, such as braille, in regards to student testing."

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