

Women kick it at The Empty Space

By Alma N. Martinez
Reporter

For seven years now, The Empty Space has been raising funds for the Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault through the VDAY movement.

VDAY consisted of "A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer" edited by Eve Ensler and Molly Doyle, the award winning "The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler, and the VFAIR on March 14.

Executive board member Thomas G. Robinson, 44, who is marketing and gallery director for The Empty Space, feels that it "is important to get the word out to the community and make a difference. The more people that become a part of it the better it will be for the alliance," Robinson said. "The big picture is to raise funds for the alliance."

The VDAY Fair was made up of vendors, raffles, men auctioning and live music. A self-defense class was also offered during the fair. There were a variety of booths ranging from a WIC booth to handmade purses, scarves, pillows and blankets from Christin Parvell and Lacey Maples.

According to www.vday.org, VDAY is a global movement to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play "The Vagina Monologues."

VDAY is a non-profit corporation that distributes funds to grassroots, national and international organizations that work to stop violence against women and girls.

In 2001 VDAY was named one of Worth Magazine's 100 Best Charities and in 2006 one of Marie Claire Magazine's Top Ten Charities. The "V" in VDAY stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

The Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault is a local organization with the mission to stop domestic violence and sexual assault in Kern County. According to the Alliance's information flier, it was founded in 1979 as a volunteer-staffed 24-hour hotline for battered women.

"It is eye-opening and empowering to be around other people that care about this issue."

-Crystal Huddleston, Garces Memorial High School teacher

Jessica Hernandez, 28, rape prevention and education specialist at the AAFVSA, has been a part of this organization for about three years. With regards on where the money goes she said, "All of the money received goes back to our women and children."

"The alliance helps women and children who face domestic violence. We have an undisclosed location where survivors are placed for as long as 60 days and after that we help them find a home," she said. "We make sure they have the essentials needed and have a variety of services that they can benefit from."

Guinevere PH Dethlefsen, 30, VDAY organizer has been a part of VDAY from the day it started at The Empty Space and with a smile on her face added, "I love it. I love using theater to create social change and here is a chance to do it."

Cast member and Bakersfield College student Allison Martin, 22, liberal arts major has been a part of VDAY for four years.

"Each year is different, it gets a little repetitive because it's the same monologues year after year but what makes it different is the people who portray them. That is what brings a huge difference," said Martin.

Martin was part of the cast for "The Vagina Monologues" that were held on March 6, 12 and 13, and it was her first time being involved in "A Memory, Monologue, Rant, and A Prayer." She has contributed to the cause by being part of it as well as holding a booth at the fair. "I hope to help by selling photographs and buttons," she said.

"I think some people are scared to talk about this show and promote it because they may not be accepted by others, I mean it's a show about vaginas," added



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Self-defense instructor Celia Madison demonstrates how to escape the grasps of an attacker during a self-defense course.

Martin.

Hester Wagner, 28, was this year's VDAY director. She said that this was the first year she had anything to do with VDAY because she had never heard of it before. She became director because she was asked by the prior director to take over the show.

In the pamphlet issued at The Empty Space, Wagner wrote "This event was about community, about bonding with others over shared experiences, about the power of theater to heal, to inspire, to elicit change."

Numerous amounts of cast members all agreed that the feeling of supporting such a great cause is very rewarding. Some have been a part of this movement for two or more years while others just became a part of it this year.

"This becomes a sisterhood because you make new friends and that keeps you coming back," said Jodie Arvizu, 31, who has been a part of this for two years.

Crystal Huddleston, 30, English teacher at Garces Memorial High School, is new to this movement and said, "It is eye-opening and empowering to be around other people that care about this issue."

Over the past six years, The Empty Space has raised over \$16,000 for the Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault, and will continue to do so, according to Dethlefsen. Aside from the events hosted, The Empty Space also sells VDAY T-shirts year-round with the proceeds going to the Alliance.



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

A woman learns how to properly kick a potential attacker during a self-defense course held at The Empty Space on March 14.



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Instructor Celia Madison teaches women how to kick attackers during the VDAY Fair festivities at The Empty Space on March 14.

CSUB Mexican Folklorico group performs at BC

By Laura Liera
Reporter

Bakersfield College and Women's History Month and More (WHAM) hosted a performance by Grupo Mexica Tiahui, a Mexican Folklorico Troupe, on March 4 in Forum East.

The Mexica Tiahui Ballet Folklórico is a "non-profit organization at California State University, Bakersfield, whose goal is to preserve the history, art and culture of Mexico," said BC Chicano studies professor Rosa Garza.

Spanish professor Luis Guajardo said, "I like to support events like these, because it has to do with the Spanish culture, and it's important to realize we live in a society that is different and has many identities."

The event began with the first regional dance of Veracruz, Mexico. Three dancers wore white, elegant dresses with a lacing shawl over their shoulders along with a colorful flower in their hair.

Judith Gonzalez, 19, psychology major with a minor in Chicano studies, has been dancing for one year.

"I'm a part of something like this because it takes me back to my culture and it teaches who you are and how beautiful the Mexican culture is," said Gonzalez.

The dancers performed dances for three regions of Mexico: Veracruz, Guerrero and Sinaloa. Each region had different costumes and was distinct in look.

For the Guerrero costume, each dancer had a different color of dress with a braid in each of the girls' hair. They also had a red handkerchief that represents a way of calling men to dance with them and follow the woman.

The Sinaloa costume consisted of a large yellow skirt with flower embroidery and a white-laced shirt.

Eunice Miranda, 30, CSUB alumni and co-director of the group, has been dancing for 12 years.

"I joined this group by accident. I used to work for a student advising center at CSUB and the director of the group told me if I could take the dancing, music and radio to their practice room and it became a routine. After a while I would just stay there and after two months I started seeing them



JOFEL TOLOSA / THE RIP

Performers from the Cal State University, Bakersfield based Mexican Folklorico Troupe Grupo Mexica Tiahue perform traditional dances at Bakersfield College in the Forum East room March 4.

learning the music. The teacher wasn't there one day and the director of the group asked me why I wasn't dancing and he told me "Get in the front and start dancing," and I've been dancing ever since," said Miranda.

Every dancer learns the same region dances and right now, the group collectively knows nine region dances. Every year, the students attend a national conference that is hosted by the National Association of Folkloric Group and it's held in either Mexico or in the United States. Once there, the students learn new material and come back to teach it to their group.

Along with learning the regional dances, costumes and their pricing are an expensive outcome. The Sinaloa costume costs \$800 per person. Most costumes come from the regional town and when the dancers actually get to travel to the state, they try to bring one authentic dress and duplicate it in the United States for much cheaper pricing.

Miranda believes that attending events about different cultures is an important way to learn about other countries and their customs.

"Events like these give you back a little piece of your heritage. I haven't been to Mexico myself, but just dancing to these regions tells me that this is how proud my people are, and it gives you a sense of pride," said Miranda.



Banshee in the Fireside Room

Top: Banshee in the Kitchen members Brenda Hunter (left) and Jill Egland play at Women and Music at Bakersfield College on March 15.

Right: Mary Tulin of Banshee in the Kitchen plays for BC students and Banshee fans at Voices of Women on March 15.

ANNIE STOCKMAN / THE RIP



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Bakersfield Diamond Diva "Lady Spank Her" (42) shoulders into a member of the Prison City Derby Dames of Chino during the first match of the season at Skateland on March 13.

Divas roll into new season

By Anthony B. Ellrodt
Copy editor

The Bakersfield Diamond Divas opened their season with a crushing 130-36 win over the Prison City Derby Dames of Chino.

According to Skateland management, more than 700 people showed up to watch the two roller derby teams in action, which is the largest turnout ever experienced by the Diamond Divas. Twenty percent of the total proceeds were also donated to the Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County.

Several fans were there for their first time wanting to see what the buzz was about, and if the actual sport was anything like the Hollywood movie.

"I kept hearing about the Diamond Divas, and I knew they were a roller derby team," said Lance Johnson, Bakersfield resident. "All I knew about roller derby, though, was the movie 'Whip It,' so I had to come see it for myself."

Amy Sheffield, Fresno resident, was also there, for her first time, with her husband and two daughters.

"I've always had an interest in seeing a roller derby team in action, and this was my excuse to come into Bakersfield," she said. "Plus, my 9-year-old daughter has now told me she wants to be a derby girl."

There were two injuries late in the



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

A member of the Prison City Derby Dames of Chino skates by the Bakersfield Diamond Divas for a pre-game slap March 13.

match, one on each team.

Number 647f for the Prison City Derby Dames, Carrie Attina, also known as I.B. Drunky, was hit and went down with approximately 6 minutes remaining in the match. According to EMT's on the scene, she has a history of ACL injuries.

"At the beginning of last season, I tore my meniscus," said Attina. "When I went down this time, I wasn't moving for a while because I knew I was hurt. It feels like I tore my meniscus again."

Number 18 for the Diamond Divas,

Mary Huff, also known as Devious Darling, was severely overheated at the same time EMT's were attending to Attina.

"I knew I had some time because the other jammer was injured," said Huff. "So I just laid down, put a cool towel on my face and tried to take it easy. When I'm out there and I roll, I roll hard."

The next match for the Diamond Divas is away in San Diego April 10. For more information regarding match dates and locations, visit www.bakersfielddiamonddivas.com.

Noriega hosts Celtic night

By Katie Avery
Opinions editor

The Noriega Restaurant and Hotel was filled with the sound of bagpipes, March 12, as people came to experience the Kern River Celtic Association's seventh annual St. Patrick's Day celebration.

At \$28 a plate, the celebration included a family-style Basque dinner with corned beef and cabbage, and live entertainment from Celtic band Whiskey Galore.

According to Jack Turnbull, coordinator of the event, the KRCA wanted this to be a more traditional Irish celebration devoid of all the stereotypical drinking party elements. "We wanted a celebration that was sort of authentic Irish American, no gimmicks, no rock music, no green beer [and no] people dressed up like stupid little leprechauns."

When asked why he chose Whiskey Galore to be the band for this event he said, "they have a pub style, [it's] clap your hands, tap your toes folk music of the heritage. The idea was to have a cordial but high spirited evening without all the gimmicks."

According to Turnbull, the KRCA is a nonprofit club that puts on a few other events during the year but this is their biggest celebration. For this event, they only charge enough to cover their costs but any proceeds for events they do get go to needy causes around Bakersfield. "Whenever we do make money, we give it away. We seldom make money because we try to keep the ticket price down."

KRCA member Janice Brown, 61, spent most of the evening getting up from her meal and dancing to the music. "This is very fun for me, my feet just start to tap. I feel the music and I move."

Brown has been to every one of the KRCA's St. Patrick's Day celebrations and will continue to come back every year. "It's what people should do. Peo-

ple should just get out and enjoy themselves."

The KRCA originally started out from members of the Kern Scottish Society. "The five of us that started this Celtic association are former members of the Kern Scottish Society and we formed this group because we wanted to do some things a little differently, including having a real St. Patrick's Day celebration," said Turnbull.

According to Turnbull the best part of the celebration is the band. "If anything comes out of this, I'd just like to see them get gigs." In a speech he made at the beginning of the night he said, "if it wasn't for them, half of you wouldn't be here."

Former Bakersfield College student Stephanie Johnson, 23, said she really enjoyed coming to this event with her family. "I liked the different instruments they had and I liked the Irish songs." She also said the food was great, and she loved the cabbage soup.

Carl Guilford, 54, came because he was a good friend of one of the band members and he loves the music they play. "I always send their CDs to my friends and relatives on the East Coast."

Guilford, who was the chieftain of the KSS in 2000, said the Noriega Restaurant sets this event apart from others. "What I like about this, is that this is probably the closest thing to a real Irish pub there is in Bakersfield. It has that old European feel about it."

Mike Bowan, 37, drummer and vocalist for Whiskey Galore said, "We like playing at Noriega's because the KRCA are friends of ours, and it's very personable," he said. He added that people of all ages can enjoy it. "It's multi-generational."

"We get more people at this place that know the lyrics to every song and where to clap and when to join in," said Kevin Briley, 35, bagpipe player for the band. "This is a piece of Bakersfield history."



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Attendees of the St. Patrick's Day celebration eat dinner March 12.

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'Voices of Women' gets intimate with students

By Michael Wafford
Reporter

Bakersfield College professors treated the community to a night of poetry on March 11 in BC's Fireside Room.

Rosa Garza and Emeritus Nancy Edwards read poems for the event titled "Voices of Women." Garza, a BC alumni and Chicano studies professor, and Edwards, a retired BC creative writing professor, read a series, mostly about their experiences in life and as women.

According to Edwards, "Voices of Women," along with the other Women and the Arts events in March, were started to honor women in the arts.

The poems ranged in topic from sisters, to hospital visits, to Garza's godmother Chicha, to train-yard meetings, to being Chicana. The poems were well received by the crowd, which gave several sitting ovations. When asked how she felt about the readings, BC student Joselin Dorado, biology major, said "I write poetry myself so I really get inspired by them. I hope to one day have a presentation myself."

Several of the poems dealt with intimate details of life that some people would have trouble sharing with strangers. When asked how she felt about sharing intimate details of her life, Edwards said, "At first it's difficult, but you get used to it. You put ego aside and share the truth."

Garza said, "I don't mind sharing my life." When asked if she ever felt nervous, Garza said, "I'm always nervous, I'm nervous right now. I love what I do."

Edwards and Garza are both lifelong poets and have always enjoyed writing. The two are currently working on publishing a collection of their poems and asked the audience to tell them which ones they would like to see collected.

Edwards and Garza went into detail about their experiences with higher education. Garza, who took a break after earning her bachelor's degree, returned to college after having three children. When asked about her school experiences, Garza said, "I wasn't very good in high school, hated it. I loved college and the freedom to study what you want."

When asked what it was like to return to school after having a family, Garza said, "I was more mature as a student, I was an A student, before I was probably a C student."

Edwards has been published in various literary publications throughout the country, including "Derros, Forums, and Orpheus," Cal State Bakersfield's annual literary journal.

Edwards has also written song lyrics for 30 years. She currently writes for composer Dr. Howard Quilling, and groups around the country perform the lyrics she provides. When asked about how writing song lyrics differ from poetry, Edwards said, "You have to factor in the sounds of the words because it's going to be sung. That's not existent in poetry."

Edwards and Garza are alumni of San Jose State University and met while Garza was taking a creative writing course taught by Edwards.

Bakersfield Speedway begins a new season

By Mateo M. Melero
Reporter

March 7 marked the opening day of the season at Bakersfield Speedway.

Contestants in the Mini American, Hobby and International Motor Contest Association stocks, shredded exhaust pipes and tires as they battled for the winning title.

Fans cheered as the speed machines fitted with high compression engines roared around the one-third-mile clay track, spitting dirt and smoke into the stands.

"I'm an Oildalian, this is a dirt track, and there ain't nothin' else like it," said Chris Breedlove, a lifelong spectator of the races.

J.R. Garcia planned to compete in the American stock but was unable to race due to technical problems.

The former racer at Mesa

Marin expressed how he preferred asphalt to dirt but said, "I'm glad this place is open."

The races were opened with the four-cylinder modified economy cars of the Mini Stock division, followed by the 350 block engines of the American class, the IMCA modifieds and closed with the Cameros and Novas of the Hobby stock.

Axles were broken, sheet metal torn and radiators blown as racers roared around the track.

"I like the action of wrecking," said Ryan Megary, "but I wouldn't if it was me in the car."

The action intensified in later heats as more cars were let on the track, increasing the mayhem and causing drivers like Rick Sylvester of number 38, in the IMCA stock, to flip his car in the last heat.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Dale Frye Sr. (79) drives his American class race car during a competition held at Bakersfield Speedway on March 7. Driver Alex Tillema won the evenings race for the American class.

"We try not to think of people getting hurt," said Brenda Dutton, mother of

driver Gary Dutton. "We don't like to worry," said Jeff Berger, driver of

Hobby car 22, was disqualified for rough driving with David Childress of car 45.

"I'm a little disappointed with myself for losing my temper, but other than that I had a really good time," said Berger after shaking hands and making amends with Childress.

In the pits, racers filled the air with revving engines and clanking tools during pre-race checks, pulling out onto the track with eager vigor to run a hot lap before the main races.

"I like the excitement of being in the car and going fast," said Garcia.

Lloyd Wren Jr., driver of Hobby car 87, said, "I love the adrenaline about it," as he stood next to his reinforced steel-caged 1977 Camaro.

"I enjoy coming out here, having fun and the thrill of racing," said Aaron Bruce, Hobby driver 18.

When asked if they ever

get scared, Tracy and Kim Childress, drivers of American Stock cars 17 and 45, said, "No, it's fun."

Alongside the cars in the pits, stood drums of highly flammable methanol. "More horsepower from methanol is a myth," said Scott Pounds.

"Engines run cooler on methanol."

You can run a higher engine compression on methanol."

The night ended safely, with no one having to take a trip in the ambulance, and with fans going home satisfied.

Winners of the night included Mike Johnson driver of car 11X in the IMCA class, Jason Bannister of car 51 in the Hobby Class, car 29 driver Alex Tillema in the American Stock and Jordan Hagar with number 99J in Mini division.

First Friday event celebrates art of all kinds in downtown

By Brian N. Willhite
Reporter

Artists from Bakersfield came together for a night of painting, music and crafts to celebrate diversity in the arts and raise money for charities while doing so.

In an attempt to raise Bakersfield's bohemian index, the Bakersfield Emerging Contemporary Artists hosted the First Friday art show on March 5 in the streets of the downtown area centered on the intersection of 19th and Eye Street.

The event's primary attractions were antiquated doors taken from refurbished buildings downtown that were given to local artists to do whatever they desired with them. "They're all random. The doors came from refurbished buildings downtown, and I think Don Martin [owner of the Metro Gallery] got some from his building when they were doing the remodel for the building the Metro Gallery is in. Some came from the Padre Hotel and some of the artists used their own doors," said Faith Florez, who is a BECA board member and a participant in the event

with her own door on display.

"There are amazing artists here, and we were really, really fortunate with everything that came through on this project. There was a really quick turnaround and the quality is really impressive considering they only had a month to do this from the time of pick-up to the time they were dropped off," Florez said. The event also featured artists from different genres including photographers, seamsters and craftspeople, painters and a multitude of musicians that lined the sidewalks. The doors in the show were all available for purchase to the public through a silent auction, and depending on the door purchased, it would benefit one of three charities: the Jameson Center, the Alliance against Family Violence and the Homeless Center, according to Florez.

BECA's focus for the show was to promote art in the city as well as introduce new artists to the community by offering exposure and opportunity that they may not have otherwise had, according to Nyoka Jameson, who is the President of BECA.

"[Martin] approached me with

the idea to pick different artists to design the doors any way they wanted to, they could cut them apart or whatever, but everybody ended up painting or collaging and that kind of thing. So, [Martin] wanted to do a public art project for First Friday, and this is something that he wants to do annually. So next time I think we're going to do chairs or something else," said Jameson. There were 18 doors in the show, according to Jameson.

A couple of the artists who entered a door in the event commented on their art pieces and what inspired their designs. A door by Jeremy James featured a painted black and white design with a deteriorating wallpaper look and tentacles breaking through the center of it. "Basically, the door is representing the struggles of letting go with your past. The representation of the tentacles is that they're aggressively grasping you trying to hold on to you and not let you move forward, or to put things behind you," said James. Another artist who entered a door in the event was Christina Sweet. Her titled piece was inspired by the events



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Bakersfield College liberal studies alumni Kama Ruby sings along with trumpeter Steve Eisen during a First Friday performance at Metro Galleries on March 5.

focus and was one of the doors that sold during the evening. "It's called 'Seasons Change' and it is representing the unity tonight between the established arts groups and the up-and-coming artists," said Sweet. The door, which was based in an orange color, featured a leafless tree in black over a multi-paneled glass window on the upper center of the door.

Sweet's door sold in the silent auction for \$165. Local artist

and Bakersfield College art major Alexandra Ortiz was among the many painters at First Friday who displayed work. Not new to the Bakersfield art scene, Ortiz also has displayed her work in other galleries around town, as well as the annual BECA event Burn the Witch, which is an all-female arts showcase.

Former BC art major and local emerging artist Phillip White was also on hand at the event to

display his art of real life and fantasy images and promote his own painting style. "I have my own style called 'Strataism,' and what I do is I take cross-action and I go into layers with different tonal qualities laid on top of each other in a cross-action technique," said White. Small musical groups and solo acts also lined the streets providing entertainment for the passersby attending the show.

Bellmoore opens with 'Pruning Season' exhibit

By Martin Chang
Reporter

On March 13, The Bellmoore opened its doors. The Bellmoore is an art gallery downtown located at 2001 Chester Ave. Its opening exhibit is, "Pruning Season," which features seven different artists from Kern County. These artists include Greg Jones, Marisela Oropeza and Hope.

Formerly known as The Basement, The Bellmoore was opened and is run by Deon Bell and John Moore. According to Moore, he met Bell "on the street," they started to talk and "over a handshake," Moore opened a gallery next to The Basement.

After The Basement was closed, Moore and Bell decided to open a gallery together.

Bell describes the preparation for the opening of the Bellmoore as "somewhat difficult. The space wasn't put together, a lot of fixing up, taking out trash, recycling iron, dusting, a lot of dusting." Moore had this to say about the preparation, "If I had to sum it up in one word: it's patience."

Bell's goals for the Bellmoore are to "open up to local artists, musicians to give them

a place to show what they do. We want to get all types of performing artists, plays, bands, fashion shows, all different kinds of art. We want to be very accessible to artists. It's not easy for an artist who isn't known to have an exhibit. It doesn't matter how refined they are, if they aren't known or have some kind of backing, it's difficult for them to exhibit. So I wanted to open a place so artists like that can exhibit." Moore wants the Bellmoore to be a place where people are "comfortable." He wants the gallery to be a "positive place people can go to."

The Bellmoore has a different set-up from many of the other galleries in Bakersfield. It has lower lighting with bright light shining only on the artwork. Bell describes the art at "Pruning Season" as "contemporary paintings, a few sculptures."

He describes his gallery as a "great space, it's really cool. It has a lot more character than the Basement."

During the night, ambient and jazz music was played. Near the end of the night a free-form funk band, Mosaic Orgasm, played.

Throughout the gallery several chairs, sofas and benches

were there to give visitors a chance to relax and mingle.

Greg Jones, an artist at "Pruning Season," describes his art as "a whole series of painting about anticipation, that's the theme I keep building on."

It's the first time Jones is exhibiting his work in public "in a long time."

He said, "It's nice to see them together, I get a perspective on where the whole series is going to go. Right now, I have 25 to 30 in the series. It's nice to see a part of it. I've been hesitant to show them. It's always the next painting is where the art is. You put the other ones aside till you get to the next one. But this is a nice space and I like to show them here."

Hope, another artist at "Pruning Season," describes her paintings as "ordinary things" such as "a sink" and "the sky."

Bell has many plans for the Bellmoore.

He plans to hold a grand opening in April. He is also looking to expand.

He said, "I want to open a chain of galleries and studios like this. (A place) for artists to show their work and play their music."

Sanchez causes laughs at CSUB

By Martin Chang
Reporter

Comedian Johnny Sanchez, who starred in "Happy Feet" and was on Mad TV for two seasons, performed at CSUB in the Icardo Center on March 12.

Sanchez grew up in Tulare. He is "glad I grew up in Tulare. It was the right balance. There was a nice mix of everybody. You had African Americans, your Latinos, your Asians and of course a lot of Portuguese. If I were to start a family, I would prefer to come to this small town. It was nice to come back."

In his youth, he would take many trips to Bakersfield and brag to his friends about "the bars, the night clubs and strip clubs" he went to. Sanchez said, "It was a really big deal. There just wasn't as much to do over there. We just felt the girls in Bakersfield and Fresno were a beat above the girls in Tulare. I guess because we knew all of them. You go to school, you used to cruise Mooney Boulevard in Visalia. You get to know everybody. It was just something fresh and new to come to Bakersfield. Honestly, it was really a big city."

Like many comedians, Sanchez's entrance into comedy happened by chance.

"About 18 years ago, a friend of mine moved to L.A. to become a musician and he needed a roommate. He goes 'why don't you try stand up like you always wanted to.' So I did. I was working at the Louis Rich Turkey Plant in Tulare. I put in my two weeks notice and

was gone. I started doing open mic nights around town. Somewhere around year four or five, I got picked up as a regular by The Comedy Store on Sunset (Boulevard)."

Sanchez had many positive things to say about The Comedy Store.

"It's the best place in the country. That's where all the honing came in, every night, six to seven nights a week. The Original Room, which is where you have to play, is the toughest room in the country. It's like the gym. It's a good sweat work out. I got my name up on the wall with greats, Eddie Murphy and all that stuff. It's an honor that I started at that club."

"Then little by little," Sanchez explains, "the television things came, Latino Laugh Fest on Showtime, Premium Blend on Comedy Central."

"Then around 2000, I got my half hour special. Then I did a lot of touring. I toured with Louis Anderson and Paul Rodriguez. I had done so many characters that by the time I auditioned for Mad TV, it was instantaneous."

Sanchez was on Mad TV for seasons 13 and 14.

Sanchez enjoyed his performance at the Icardo Center. "It was a lot better than I thought it would be. This is my first time doing a gymnasium. The crowd was there. I normally don't do that long. I did an hour and 15 minutes here. I usually go about 45 minutes. It's one of those things, nobody's rowdy, nobody's heckling, I liked the slow laughs. The silent

moments are really nice. It means everyone's focused and following your little trail. I said to myself that this is a crowd that will stick with me. This was a lot of fun."

CSUB student David Hall came out to the show. "I saw posters around campus. I don't come out often; having something at Cal State like a comedy show is really cool. I thought it would be fun to bring a friend and laugh."

Jeanette Madrid another student at CSUB came to the show to "laugh and have fun."

Sanchez considers himself a "cross-over comedian. For Latino comics, it's not only about tortillas and burritos. I do it a little bit, but then I move on," said Sanchez.

Sanchez also said that other Latino comics go overboard with jokes specifically for the Latino culture.

"Even guys that are friends of mine, I go really? An hour on your tia, tio and tacos. But some of them feel like they have to, that they're obligated to do that. I don't think that's necessary."

Sanchez added, "I don't only do Latino shows. I do Des Moines, Iowa, Minneapolis and Kentucky. There are certain Latino comics that can't do that. Because they have material only geared toward Latinos."

Sanchez feels that comics need material that appeals to everyone. Otherwise, "what are these people in cowboy hats going to relate to?"

Sanchez said, "I feel like I've gone all the way across the board."

News Briefs

St. Patrick's Day at Finish Line Sports Bar & Grill

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17, Finish Line Sports Bar & Grill, located at 2400 Camino Del Rio Court, will be serving Irish food, green beer and happy hour specials starting at 4 p.m. For more information contact 327-0681.

BC STEM program hosts Discovery Channel speaker

The Bakersfield College STEM program will be hosting Discovery Channel speaker Deanne Bell from "Smash Lab" on March 23 at noon in the Fireside Room. The basis of the TV program is to take everyday technology and testing it in "extraordinary ways." The STEM program has already sponsored a visit from a UC Merced representative and storm chaser Reed Timmer this semester.

BC cheer team holding tryouts for 2010-11

The Bakersfield College cheer team 2010-11 tryouts will be held on March 22-26 from Monday-Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Huddle and Friday at 5 p.m. in the Dance Room. Cheer or dance experience is helpful, but not required. Current BC students with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 are welcome, along with high school students with a cumulative GPA of 2.2. Bring a copy of your transcripts to the clinic. Information packets are available in LA 205A or online at the BC website.

Spring fling events at BC for week of March 22

The BC spring fling events will start on March 22 and last until March 25.

On Monday, the SGA info table will be in the free speech area from 10-2 p.m. Churros and drinks will be given out in the campus center at 11 a.m. Election debates will be held in the free speech area.

On Tuesday, there will be a pie-eating contest at 10:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. in the campus center. There will be five rounds at each session and the cakewalk will be at 10:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. in the free speech area.

On Wednesday there will be a dunk tank, bubble station and photo booth going from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the free speech area. Corn on the cob and slushies will be given out at the campus center, along with a sack race, tug-of-war, and water balloon toss in the free speech area. Each game will be held twice at 10:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., with more rounds in between if enough people want to play.

On Thursday, there will be a softball game in the free speech area at 1 p.m. with five innings. Hot dogs, Cracker Jacks and drinks will be given at the campus center at noon.

Critical Academic Skills Workshops schedule

Critical Academic Skills (CAS) Workshops at Bakersfield College will be offering Academic Culture: What "Successful" Students Understand with Cynthia Quintanilla on March 22 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in SS 151.

CAS will be offering Fixing Fragments with Kerrie Buis on March 23 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in SS 151.

Repairing Run-ons with Kerrie Buis will be on March 24 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in SS 151.

CAS will be offering The "P" word: Avoiding Plagiarism & Using Sources Effectively with Jennifer Smith on March 25 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. in SS 151.

Essentials in Word Processing Advanced Skills with Joyce Kirst will be on March 25 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in LA 148.

Correction

In the March 3 issue of The Renegade Rip, the song "Crystal Ship" by The Doors was misspelled in the Ray Manzarek and Roy Rogers concert review on page 10.

Geological lecture talks tectonics

Samantha Garrett
Reporter

On March 6, Tim Elam gave a presentation titled "Life on the Edge" at the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History. Elam calls himself a "semi-retired geologist," and has had 28 years of experience working in the oil industry.

Elam encouraged his audience to ask questions throughout his presentation, which many viewing did. There were also a few who answered some of the questions.

Before he got into his presentation, he gave a brief summary of the science of earthquakes and tectonics in general. He told the audience, for instance, about the three main types of plate motion. In transform boundaries the adjacent plates grind past each other; in divergent boundaries the plates pull away from each other; and in convergent boundaries the plates collide, resulting in a subduction zone, where one plate is forced below the other. The San Andreas Fault is the first of the three, more specifically a "right-lateral strike-slip (or transform) fault," according to Elam.

He also mentioned the more recent earthquakes. The earthquake in Haiti, he said, was so devastating because it was a relatively shallow earthquake, meaning it happened very close to the earth's surface, while the Chilean earthquake was significantly less so because it was much deeper in the earth's crust and the epicenter of the quake was not nearly so close to a highly populous area.

After that, Elam began to discuss the fault most Californians have heard of plenty of times before: the San Andreas Fault.

The fault has been active anywhere from 15 million to 20 million years, depending on which geologist you ask, and it currently results in plate movement of about 2 inches a year. That means that the North American plate, which is the plate that most of America sits on, is sliding past the Pacific plate "as quick as a fingernail grows."

"This means, whether they like it or not, L.A. and San Francisco will be neighbors in about 10 million years," said Elam.

The plates move because of the convection current (a cycle of heated mantle rising, then cooling, falling, heating, and then rising again) within the earth's mantle, which is the semi-solid material between the earth's crust and core. This "heat engine" is what drives the plates to move the way they do.

Elam showed the audience an animation depicting the long history of the fault, which has not always been (and will not always be) the physical expression of the Pacific Ocean/North American continent boundary. Over the course of 40 million years, the Pacific plate, the North American plate, and the now gone



MATEO M. MELERO / THE RIP

Sherry Shapiro takes notes on the fault lecture at Buena Vista Natural History Museum on March 6.

Farallon plate, converged until the Farallon plate was entirely subducted under the North American plate. What took millions of years to occur seemed a dramatically fast transformation of the west coastline.

A woman in the audience asked what it would look like if one were to create a similar animation of 40 million years into the future. Elam suggested that one would see the Farallon plate continue moving deeper into Washington and Oregon, and he explained that this subduction beneath the states is why there are volcanoes such as Mt. Saint Helens.

Elam explained why the San Andreas fault should be a subject of interest. In its more recent history, it has caused earthquakes such as the 1906 San Fran-

"This means, whether they like it or not, L.A. and San Francisco will be neighbors in about 10 million years."

-Tim Elam, geologist

cisco earthquake (which resulted in the infamous and devastating fires) and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Additionally, California is "overdue" for another large earthquake; geologists make this claim because earthquakes of certain sizes in certain areas happen relatively periodically.

For the duration of the presentation, Elam showed images that were evidence of the fault and its activity, as well as

other animations showing the movement caused by the plates causing the fault.

He also talked about the San Andreas Fault Observatory at-Depth, or SAFOD, which tries to associate certain geological activity as a "precursor" to a coming earthquake.

Elam gives similar presentations each month at the Buena Vista Museum, which are free to attend after paying the entrance fee to the museum.

WALL: Memorial offers hope and peace for local vets

Continued from Page 1

ago from L.A., and it was the first time that someone came up to me and thanked me for my service," said Potter as he recalled a woman who first recognized him as hero.

Both Potter and Montroy recall being told to take off their uniforms and change into their civilian clothes before getting off their planes when they landed for fear of what the public may do to them.

A friend of Montroy and Potter, Vietnam veteran Ken Pitts, commented on the conditions he experienced when he returned home from the war and his feelings about the Wall.

"It needs to be done, something like this needs to hit every town in America," said Pitts about the Wall.

"When we all got discharged from the service, there was no hand-clapping in the airports, and people were ashamed and afraid to wear their uniform home. We got spit at more than we got congratulated for coming home in one piece, and we're the lucky ones. There's 58,200

names on that wall that didn't make it," Pitts said.

In a letter read during the opening service, a woman asked for forgiveness from Vietnam veterans for protesting against them during the years of the war. In the letter, she explained how her actions were fueled by political propaganda that led her to believe that the soldiers were responsible for untold acts of violence.

She concluded with her apologizing for her ignorance and praising those who served their country with pride, acknowledging their sacrifices. The letter was written by a woman named Julie Weaver from Texas.

As the letter was read out loud, many soldiers were emotional and silent in gratitude.

The event's Master of Ceremonies, Vernon Valenzuela, who is also a Vietnam veteran, was very moved by the words spoken from the letter testifying to the validity of the situation in those times. He also discussed his experiences when he returned home and how it af-

fecting him.

"People seem to have lost the fact that [the public] seemed to take their frustrations and anger about the government out on us as individuals. And that was real hurtful," said Valenzuela as he relayed the importance of the Wall for the country as well as the veterans.

"By itself, the war takes its toll and there's a lot we have to deal with and counseling, but this was a special hurt. It was the biggest thing I'd ever done in my life and I was only 17. I got wounded and I came home and I couldn't be proud of it, there was nobody around to say good job and all that stuff.

"People would call us baby killers and I got turned down for jobs because I told them I was a vet. They were scared that I was drug using and violent and all the stereotypical stuff. And so most of us have functioned real well in life, but we still carry that pain in our hearts," said Valenzuela.

"You expect a lot of things from war but you don't expect your family and citizens to turn their backs on you."

Valenzuela graduated from Bakersfield College a few years after returning from Vietnam. He is also a former BC student body president.

The memorial also featured other displays including a tent that was dedicated to the memory of the POW's and a mobile museum with glass paneling that held artifacts and mementos from the war.

The museum also portrayed the bonds that were formed between the men and women that fought in the war by displaying letters and keepsakes that the soldiers made for one another.

Statistical data from the Vietnam War Combat Chronology asserts that the average age of Vietnam War soldiers was 19.

The four-day event included a candlelight vigil on March 5, a motorcycle parade in remembrance of the Vietnam POW's March 6 and concluded with the Wall being escorted out of town March 7.

The last time the memorial and the Wall were in Bakersfield was in 2002.

Continued from Page 1

withstand the shocks. Guajardo said that most of the houses in his town that were damaged were constructed of adobe.

"Most houses fall because they are old, some of them built from previous centuries, which causes old adobe construction to fall. But the new construction laws are making sure that the buildings are strong enough to withstand an earthquake," he said.

The town of Peralillo will be "getting lots of help from the

central government and local institutions. It's a province that is known for winery and there is a lot of exportation that happens, so many of the private companies have been donating money to help reconstruct the town," said Guajardo.

Chile, however, is a country with past experience with earthquakes. The largest earthquake in the world, with a magnitude of 9.5, happened in May 1960 in southern Chile. There were more than 3,000 people injured, 1,625 killed, 2 million

homeless and \$550 million in damage. "Chile is well known because of its earthquakes, and it's the worst country to live because of earthquakes, according to records I have read," said Guajardo.

Because Chile has been through 13 earthquakes in total in previous years, more people are aware of the action to take when it happens. "My family would go to the back patio when earthquakes would happen. But it's a feeling that I was very much afraid of, because

everything happens so quickly, so fast, that you have a feeling of impotence of not being able to do anything. I believe you become really religious at that moment, praying to God, because you don't know when it's going to end, and you're hoping it ends soon, but all the noise, everything moving around you, the dust rising from the buildings, it's all a frightening experience," said Guajardo.

Locally, Guajardo is trying to get something together with the community to raise money and

funds to send to Chile. "With all the money and resources Chile receives, although it's going to be a challenge to reconstruct everything and start from scratch, they have goodwill and will make it," he said.

If you would like to help in the reconstruction of Chile, visit:

www.andesfoundation.com, The American Red Cross, www.ayudaforchile.com, and other online Chilean resources for more information on ways to help.

Student elections coming soon to campus

Elections | SGA elections are coming to BC March 22-25

By **Brian N. Willhite**
Reporter

Bakersfield College will be conducting the student body elections during Spring Fling week March 22-25.

The elections will take place in the Fireside Room March 24-25, and will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Elections will also take place on the Delano campus, the Weill Institute downtown and Stockdale High School from 5-6 p.m.

The registration dates for candidates to enter into the elections were March 1-17. The process included gathering

50 signatures from registered students as well as writing a 100-word statement about their intentions.

In addition, students are required to have a GPA minimum of 2.0 and attend a mandatory workshop, according to Athena Laru, SGA general counsel.

There are seven paid positions that anyone can run for; there are also non-paid senator positions.

Paid positions are \$8 an hour and are not to exceed 19 hours a week. Paid positions are also required to complete a minimum of 12 hours per week, except for the president, who is required to complete a minimum of 15 hours per week.

The positions available for office in

the election include the offices of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, general counsel, activities liaison, legislative liaison and senators.

Laru would like to encourage anyone interested to get involved in the student government system.

"Even if you don't want to run for one of the paid positions, still put your name on the ballot for senators. We just think the more people get involved, the more likely they are to actually want to serve the SGA."

BC will also be utilizing the poll officials with the Kern County Elections Office again to run the election sites. Laru is hoping that their involvement will avoid any suspicion of tampering

with the election results.

"Poll officials will come and actually run the sites for us. They will be doing the ballots and making sure they're secure and tamper free," said Laru.

"What better way than to have off site officials who run the polls for presidential elections to come in and run the polls for us?"

The election will also include debates from the candidates on March 22, in the free speech area. Laru commented on the debates and noted that they are more intended to be a formal introduction of the candidates to the student body.

"I heard a lot of people noticed that we're doing debates, so they're kind of skeptical about that, which they're not

really debates, it's just more of an open forum to use the platform for the students to get to know you and put a name to a face and that way you can speak directly to them as to why they should vote for you. This is your student body so I thought 'what a great way to be able to address your student body.'"

According to Laru, the voting process will be similar to previous elections. The election may also include a drawing but the details are unconfirmed at this time.

"When you go to the polling sites, there will be a list with all the students' names on it. You'll need to bring your student ID card, they'll verify your picture to your ID number, then you'll sign and then you can go vote."



Gulls flock to BC campus

Above: A pair of herring gulls scavenge for food from trash in a parking lot on the Bakersfield College campus March 3. The gulls ride air currents inland.

Right: A gull shares a perch with a pigeon atop one of the parking lot lights on the Bakersfield College campus March 3.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

BC to host high school debate competition

By **David Karnowski**
Magazine Editor

Bakersfield College will be host to more than 1,200 high school students during the California High School Speech Association's first Bakersfield-based state tournament during the week-end of April 16-18.

The speech and debate competition is expected to bring high school students and their accompanying coaches, judges and parents from across California to the campus in the organization's first use of a Kern County location for a state competition in its 50-year history.

"The BC Communication Department is sponsoring the state championship on the BC campus. As hosts, we will make sure that the 1,200 student competitors and 800 coaches, teachers, parents and friends who will be attending have an educational, safe and enjoyable experience," said BC professor Michael Korcok.

An effort by school administration has been made in many ways to ready the campus for an event of this size.

"The BC administration has been working with CHSSA in numerous ways to make this a successful event. From facilities use to food service to the bookstore to custodial and security, the administration and staff of BC have been great to make this event happen," said Korcok.

The tournament will be using all of BC's classrooms and auditoriums for the three-day event.

According to Andrew Scherrer, Bakersfield High School's head debate coach and CHSSA's judging committee chair, "BC has been awesome and accommodating to us."

The reach of BC's community involvement with the tournament goes beyond offering the use of classroom's and facilities.

Culinary arts program instructor Pat Coyle said his program will be providing food services for the judges that are participating.

In addition, instructors will be enticing the students of BC to play a role in helping the tournament.

"A number of communication classes

will offer their students extra credit to judge preliminary rounds of the tournament. Nearly 200 student/faculty judges will be needed every round," said Korcok. "We are offering a workshop to our students to get them better prepared to judge public speaking, drama and debate events of this caliber."

Scherrer said that ensuring enough available judges is key to the smooth running of a tournament of this size.

"We just need judges," said Scherrer. Tournament organizers will be raffling off gift baskets worth upward of \$100 to judges as an enticement to stay throughout the events.

The effect of hosting the CHSSA event at BC is significant, according to Korcok. "This tournament is a boon to our campus and to the local business community. Not only do we get to show off to 1,200 of the hardest-working and successful high students from across California, we have a chance to showcase BC to their teachers and parents."

Mayor of Bakersfield Harvey Hall is even going to the lengths of declaring the event "Speech and Debate Weekend" for the City of Bakersfield.

The hosting of the state competition brings to light some of the plight BC's own debate program has faced recently.

"The BC debate team's budget and coaching positions were eliminated this past fall, casualties of the budget cuts that eliminated classes across campus. The debate team has since become a student club supported by the SGA," said Korcok.

Because of the financial interruptions, the club will not be participating in any competitions during the current school year but they plan to change that in 2010-2011.

"While we understand that the current economic situation requires everyone to tighten their belts, it is a shame that one of the most storied debate teams, the most successful community college debate team in the United States over the past 80 years, had its budget and coaching positions eliminated," said Korcok.

"Student government funding and faculty volunteer coaching will, hopefully, be able to fill in until the economy recovers."

BC campus facilities available for rent

By **Michael Wafford**
Reporter

The facilities of Bakersfield College, along with Cerro Coso College and Porterville College, are all available to rent.

Fees for rental vary depending on the venue, service and type of event.

Student-related groups belong to group one and pay the lowest amount. Non-profit events belong to group two and depending on the group or event, BC will be willing to work with them on fees, according to Lamont Schiers, executive director of maintenance and operations.

For-profit renters belong to group three and must pay all fees associated with renting a facility or equipment.

Renters must also pay for maintenance, lighting, supervision, any heat or air conditioning and any other required services such as lifeguards or equipment technicians.

While most groups must go through maintenance and operations to rent BC facilities, booth vendors must go through the Student Government Association if they want to sell on campus.

Schiers said rental fees are constructed in a way to simply cover the costs of running the event and that "rental fees are very reasonable."

According to Schiers the most popular places to be rented are classrooms, the Fireside Room and vendor booths.

Vendors and business representatives not associated with BC must pay per day to operate on Kern Community

College District campuses.

Video and audio recording equipment are also available for rent with additional services such as production, editing, and duplication of tapes. The use of these services requires a member of BC staff to operate the equipment.

"Our intention is to try and keep the campus as busy as possible," said Schiers. "Students have first rights at BC." He went on to explain that meant that rentals are planned around the needs and schedules of students.

More notable recent and upcoming BC rentals include the CCS Junior Olympics that were held on Feb. 12-15, and the upcoming rental for the fifth stage of the Amgen Tour of California on May 20.

Sisters start formal dress drive for needy

By **Denise M. Gonzalez**
Reporter

Underprivileged high school girls are now being recognized during their time in need by two sisters who have taken the initiative to start the Give Love, Get Joy Foundation.

The Give Love, Get Joy Foundation was founded by Alyson Joy and Ashley Love Tackitt in hopes of making high school girls' prom experiences memorable. The foundation has been collecting new and gently used formal dresses for proms and giving them to young ladies who cannot afford one. The prom dress drive will assist them with prom dresses, alterations and hair and makeup prior to the events.

The sisters have been involved in feeding the homeless, providing toiletries for their local men's shelter and collecting backpacks, school supplies and presents for local needy children. Extensive dedication to helping others in need is what the two sisters live by.

Alyson, 13, helps her mother at the Noriega House in Bakersfield during special public events.

"It was during a wedding when I came up with the idea of having people donate their used formal dresses," said Alyson. "Bridesmaids were leaving the event with their attire, and I thought they're probably not going to use those gowns again, so why not ask people to

donate used dresses for girls in need during prom?"

"My sister Ashley, who is 8, also has a lot of fun and is very excited about helping other girls," said Alyson.

Bakersfield College student Kara Dritt is an employee at the Noriega House and is also volunteering her extra time with the prom dress drive.

"We have contacted all of the Kern High Schools in the district and asked them to participate with our dress drive," said Dritt. "The schools will have a list of girls who sign up for help and from there we will ask for all of the girls to come in for fittings and to choose one dress at the Noriega House."

The Noriega House will get back lists of underprivileged girls who have participated in the dress drive. Volunteers and employees will help with the preparation that helps the high school girls choose a dress, alterations and hair and makeup in order to complete their special event.

Olivia Johnson, 14, has volunteered to do alterations on the dresses for free. Local businesses and women's clothing shops have also been interested in donating money and their own store dresses.

Bella in the Marketplace has donated up to 30 formal dresses to help with the foundation.

"It is a great experience to be able to know we are helping out unfortunate

young girls," said Alyson. "My sister and I have a lot of fun and we're so excited."

Noriega House owner and mother of the girls, Magan Tackitt, is pleased to have her girls achieve as much recognition and support as they have been receiving.

"It makes me very proud to see Alyson and Ashley grow," said Magan. "I am pleased to see the girls communicate with others while performing interviews and meeting the donors of the dresses."

The Noriega House will be inviting the high school girls on April 1 and will be distributing the dresses. They expect this to be a memorable event. The foundation plans to continue the collection of prom and formal dresses for years to come.

For further support, the Give Love, Get Joy Foundation will also be having a Bridal Bunco to benefit the prom dress drive. The Bridal Bunco will be held at the Noriega House on March 23, and the money raised will be used to buy shoes for the underprivileged high school girls.

"It is really unique and an exciting opportunity for girls who cannot afford dresses for prom," said Dritt. "It is a true luxury, and I hope college students who are done with their old formal dresses will volunteer to donate them to girls in need."



Above: Jose Sanchez, a Bakersfield College communication major, posts a notice in the Campus Center for an upcoming blood drive to be held April 20.

DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP



Left: Bakersfield College students spend some time between classes playing volleyball and getting some exercise in the Free Speech Area of the campus Feb. 11.

GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP