

## Students share 'A Cup of Culture' together



Left: Bakersfield College nursing major Debra Ramos speaks to a crowd about her mixed Filipino and Spanish ancestry during "A Cup of Culture" on April 21.

Right: Students and audience members listen to stories and cultural backgrounds of Bakersfield College international students April 21.

PHOTOS BY DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

By Michael Wafford  
Reporter

Bakersfield College students from around the globe told their stories sharing "A Cup of Culture" with around 50 BC students on April 21 in the Student Services building.

"A Cup of Culture, Story Telling by International Students" had students dressed in everything from T-shirts and denim to flowing dresses and burqas from the BC international student program sharing their stories about

coming to the United States to gain an education and their experiences so far.

A common theme among the speakers was the vast amount of cultures and races present in the United States compared to their country of origin.

Students discussed the language barriers they encountered, the differences in food, the feelings of being surrounded by strangers and how their view of the United States has changed.

Nay May, from Burma, shared

his experiences with coming from a war-torn country to the United States, detailing his experiences in refugee camps. "I never even dreamed of thinking of going overseas," said May, who arrived in the United States two years ago.

Other presenters, such as Chi Dinh, 18, of Vietnam, had been interested in studying in another country since childhood. "I wanted to do it for myself and my country," said Dinh. This sentiment was echoed by several

of the storytellers.

Not all presenters came from lands as far away as Burma. Presenter Asma Ali, 19, born in Bakersfield of Yeminite descent, shared her experiences about being the first female in her family, to the best of her knowledge, to attend college along with the cultural and linguistic differences present in her home.

All foreign presenters believed that coming to the United States was a great experience regardless of whether they intended on

staying after finishing college.

"It was fun hearing other students speak," said business major Tangela Boler, 19.

Students in attendance said they gained a lot from the experience and understand the hardships international students face more than they did before. "You see other people here from those cultures, but you don't really take the time to talk to them," said Desi Ruiz, 20.

Victor Mota, 19, engineering major, inspired by the presenta-

tion, said, "Learning about their backgrounds and seeing how they have to struggle makes me thankful for what I have, makes me want to work hard."

"We organized it so students can learn from other cultures. They can become more familiar with differences and similarities among themselves. Students may speak different languages but they may be very similar in other aspects," said Shohreh Rahhman, international student counselor at BC.

## Career day helps job hunters at BC

By Ryan George  
Reporter

Bakersfield College's annual Career Day was held on April 28 inside the Campus Center Fireside Room and cafeteria with an estimated 30 businesses and schools in

attendance.

Eric Menor, a representative of Career Services Center, commented on what CSC does for follow-ups.

Speaking of the application process, "In this economy, 70 to 80 percent will follow through, especially if they need a job," Menor

said.

Darlene Sharp, general manager of one of the AMF bowling lanes here in Bakersfield, said, "Last year I would say that about 150 people minimum [applied]."

She said her response time may take her "a few weeks to go through

all of the applications." AMF is expecting at least another 250 applications after this event.

Yushai Chang, a manager of the Gosford Road location of Panda Express, also mentioned, "They [the applicants] will be notified [as early as] within the week."

## Full-time father, full-time student

By Michael Wafford  
Reporter

"It doesn't affect my social life because I really don't have one. He is my life," said Sewahne Garrett Sr., Bakersfield College student and father.

His face and arms are scarred, his hair neatly braided, his arms show crude tattoos he received in his teenage years. Choosing his words carefully and speaking with a southern drawl, Garrett, 31, is devoted to his son.

Born in Louisiana, Garrett is the father of two children: Sewahne Garrett II, 3, and Jayden Garrett, 2. Jayden currently lives with his mother in Louisiana. Garrett, who is currently in his second semester at BC pursuing an associate's degree and certificate in industrial technology, has been through a lot.

Moving to California in 1997 and gaining a GED after being expelled from his high school in Louisiana, Garrett moved back and forth between the two states, eventually getting incarcerated in 2004.

"I'm the type of person who doesn't let too much get to me. When you get to stressing, that gets your mind bogged and you can't think straight. You end up missing out on something good or messing up something you have that's going good," said Garrett.

Having been incarcerated from 2004 to 2006 for simple escape and a failed drug test, Garrett has made peace with his past. "Everything happens for a reason, and it was all a turning point for me in my life," said Garrett.

Garrett's first son was born in 2007, and he realized he had to dedicate his life to him "I've lived my life. It's time for me to do it for him," said Garrett. He went on to say he is almost never unhappy. "Every day I wake up and see my baby; he smiles at me and that kicks it off right there," said Garrett, who received full custody of his son with the assistance of the Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance's services after a legal dispute with his ex-wife and mother of Garrett Jr., according to Garrett.

A very hands-on person, Garrett said, "I like fixing stuff. I like working with my hands." He has received certification in carpentry, municipal maintenance and industrial maintenance. However, his industrial maintenance certification is from Louisiana and not recognized in California, according to Garrett. He also enjoys fixing cars and works as a custodian through the student work program at BC.

A full-time student, Garrett currently comes to school using his bicycle and the bus system. He's never had a driver's license and won't be able to until he pays off his traffic tickets. Garrett said his mother takes the child to daycare and picks him up on Tuesday and Thursday when he has night classes.

A middle child in a family of seven children, his family is supportive of him as is his son. "It's cool. My baby comes to the daycare here. I mean, by me going to school and him liking going to school ... and then he likes helping me do different stuff like drawing with my drawing kit. I like seeing him doing things. It makes me happy to see him showing initiative to do things himself," said Garrett.

Although he has two sons, "they've never met each other. I'm hoping I can talk [Jayden's mother] into letting [Jayden] come down here for the summer and stay with me," said Garrett. "Hopefully it works out."

"I don't have time for failures," said Garrett. "I'm tired of disappointments."

## Professors prepare final exams for their students

### Final Exam Schedule

Final examinations of 110 minutes are scheduled for all courses. Final examination days are included in the 175 instructional days required by law. Final examinations are to be held in the regularly scheduled classrooms on the dates and times listed below in order to comply with college policy.

For classes meeting MW, MWE, MTWR, MTWRE, M, W, or F

IF YOUR CLASS BEGINS BETWEEN:	YOUR FINAL IS ON:
7 am and 7:40 a.m.	Mon., May 10 from 8-9:50 am
7:50 am and 9:10am	Wed., May 12 from 8-9:50 am
9:20 am and 10:20 a.m.	Mon., May 10 from 10-11:50 am
10:30 am and 11:30am	Wed., May 12 from 10-11:50 am
11:40 am and 12:10am	Mon., May 10 from noon-1:50 pm
12:50 pm and 1:50 pm	Wed., May 12 from noon-1:50 pm
2 pm and 3 pm	Mon., May 10 from 2-3:50 pm
3:10 pm and 3:50 pm	Wed., May 12 from 2-3:50 pm
4 pm and 4:50 pm	Mon., May 10 from 4-5:50 pm
5 pm and 6 pm	Mon., May 10 from 6-7:50 pm
Only on Mon. between 5:30 pm and 6:20 pm	Mon., May 10 from 6-7:50 pm
Only on Wed. between 5:30 pm and 6:20 pm	Wed., May 12 from 6-7:50 pm
6:35pm and 7:45 pm	Wed., May 12 from 6:30-8:20 pm

For classes meeting TR, T, or R:

IF YOUR CLASS BEGINS BETWEEN:	YOUR FINAL IS ON:
7 am and 7:40 am	Tues., May 11 from 8 to 9:50 am
7:50am and 9:10 am	Thurs., May 13 from 8-9:50 am
9:20 am and 10:20 am	Tues., May 11 from 10:00-11:50am
10:30 am and 11:30 am	Thurs., May 13 from 10-11:50am
11:40 am and 12:10 pm	Tues., May 11 from noon-1:50 pm
12:50 pm and 1:50 pm	Thurs., May 13 from noon-1:50 pm
2 pm and 3 pm	Tues., May 11 from 2-3:50 pm
3:10 pm and 4:50 pm	Thurs., May 13 from 2-3:50 pm
5 pm and 6:20 pm	Tues., May 11 from 6-7:50 pm
Only on Tues. between 5:30 pm and 6:20 pm	Tues., May 11 from 6-7:50 pm
Only on Thurs. between 5:30 pm and 6:20 pm	Thurs., May 13 from 6-7:50 pm
6:35 pm and 7:45 pm	Thurs., May 13 from 6:30-8:20 pm

\* Friday, May 14 from 8-9:50 or 10-11:50 will be reserved for one day per week classes that conflict with the above schedule.

\*\* Saturday classes will have finals on Saturday May 8.

Samantha Garrett  
Illustrator

As most Bakersfield College students may have noticed, finals are coming up. This means stress, last minute cram sessions, panic attacks, and, for the rare few, a feeling of ease and preparedness. However, that's just how it is for students.

How are finals for the professors and instructors of BC? After all, it's not like those exams just magic themselves into existence.

For some professors, such as Nancy Magnier who teaches art appreciation and art history, an exam can take two to two and a half hours to prepare. Once the students complete the exam, it must be graded. For some teachers, that means feeding a menagerie of Scantrons through the machine; for others, it means carefully reading multiple essays—it could even be, more commonly, a combination of the two.

While multiple choice exams might be a lot easier to grade, essay questions give the faculty an opportunity to get a real feel for what students have learned throughout the semester. "The essay is a reflection on all the writing a student has done over the course of the semester," said Kate Pluta in regards to her English B1a course.

"These essays are a pleasure to read; usually the student voices shine through. It is also a strategy on my part to have students work on the meta-cognitive level," said Pluta.

Final exams comprise a portion of the student's grade in the class and that graded weight, according to various BC faculty, can be anywhere from a mere 10 percent to a whopping 30 percent. For some classes, a final exam can make or break your semester, while in others it can mean bumping that high B to a low A.

What does BC faculty expect from their students this semester? For many, they expected a wide variety of scores, perhaps leaning toward better results than worse ones, while others, such as Magnier, expect her students to

do very well in general. Most expect the outcome to be similar to that of past semesters.

For some students, the final exam might be a short series of multiple-choice questions, while for others it can take up the entire amount of time given for the exam and truly test their knowledge. As the faculty at BC are very varied in their teaching methods, so, too, are their methods for testing their students.

In classes where the material studied is less text-based, such as theater, Kimberly Chin's Theater B1 class, which is Beginning Acting, is tested on the skills each student learned rather than memorized terms. "The students' final exam is a five-minute scene performance. Students find a scene partner within the class and select their five-minute scene from a published play, movie, TV series or an original script. I have directed each group in their scenes having anywhere from one to three 30 minute or longer rehearsals."

How should students prepare for a final exam? According to Vic Posey, professor of automotive technology, "they should prepare throughout the semester. Too many students think the final is going to be totally different than the other exams and tasks they take all semester long. The final is a culmination of all of the information they have already been tested on. They need to realize that at the beginning of the semester and not wait until a week before the final to start cramming." In Chin's class, "Students need to rehearse with their partners, and on their own, as much as possible. Memorizing their lines quickly is essential. Commit fully to their characters; take ownership. Be confident. Students should warm-up extensively using vocal warm-ups, physical warm-ups and creativity warm-ups."

Some professors offer study guides, while others—such as Daymond Johnson, professor of history,—suggest that professors use the class lectures throughout the section as a study guide.

Staff Editorial

## Still no strict smoking policy on BC campus

Despite decades of research, millions of deaths and continually surging cancer rates among tobacco smokers, Bakersfield College has yet to adopt a less-toxic campus smoking policy. This lack of action is hurting the lungs of BC students and should be rectified immediately.

Talking about the health hazards of cigarettes and other forms of the drug nicotine isn't anything new for school administrators, student leaders and local health care officials. Numerous attempts by several parties involved over the past few years have come to light among the student population but have never resulted in the actual implementation of a rigorous anti-smoking policy.

The most constructive action we have seen in the past few semesters is the administration's move toward the compliance of state health law. Requiring signs that state the safe distance from windows and doorways that must be maintained by anyone smoking is one example of how the school has taken on such a stink-infested problem.

Starting in the Spring of 2010, anti-smoking posters have been placed in the restrooms of the Campus Center in an effort headed by the BC Student Government Association.

Unfortunately, no additional enforcement is playing out on our campus. Everyday students can be witness to the blatant violation of these impact-lacking state and institutional policies.

This ongoing social health issue has a checkered past including involvement with outside organizations attempting to help the school.

In the Fall of 2005, the SGA was working in connection with the Kern County Health Department to create designated smoking areas on campus. This model is very popular and implemented widely among campuses in the California Community College system.

In an article published in Feb. 19, 2009 issue of The Renegade Rip, KCPHD official Nsele Nsuangani is quoted as saying, "This has been an ongoing struggle because the SGA changes every school year, and the previous SGA could not come to a consensus and pass the proposal."

According to current SGA president Kristi Newsom, the district has yet to take any action on the recommendations and survey results of a poll taken during the Spring 2009 elections.

"They're going to try again," Newsom said about the intentions of the incoming SGA officers.

Newsom reaffirmed that any policy would need to be approved by the Kern Community College District.

Newsom is quoted in an article of the September 9, 2009 issue of The Renegade Rip as saying, "There will be signs. We'll take out the ashtrays. But our recommendations on enforcement must go through the district first."

As the 2009-2010 school year comes to a close, another year has passed with no action on creating a healthier learning environment on campus. Cigarette butt canisters are still found throughout the campus and Campus Center.

We advocate that our school officials do the right thing. The implementation of designated smoking areas will reduce litter and decrease adverse health effects associated with second-hand smoke.

Stop tossing blame around like a hot potato and take action.

# Texting: convenient or annoying?

By Kelly Ardis  
Editor in chief

As evidenced by my unlimited texting phone plan, which I've had since my parents received my first phone bill, I'm a big fan of text messaging. I text to let a friend know I'm running late, I text to ask a quick question, I text to make plans and I text random funny things I see or hear at home, school or around town.

My mom jokes that she's going to have to set up an intervention for my texting addiction, but I have my reasons for being a "textaholic."

Texting allows us to communicate with people instantly, even when they might not be able to take a phone call. What if there is some kind of emergency while you're in class? You can't tell the importance of a call just by looking at the phone, but you can with a text. With a call, you'd have to excuse yourself to take the call to see if Granny is sick or just has a question about how to use the microwave. A text tells you what's up without the hassle.

Calling a friend is fine if both parties have tons of time to chat and nothing important to do. I can answer a text and keep on working on homework, but some people don't know when to shut up, so answering a call can take more time than I'd like to devote if I've got bigger things to worry about. Likewise, I don't want to bug my friends if they're busy. If I want to tell my friend about the crazy lady I just saw at Wal-Mart, I don't want to call just to say, "Holy mullet! Got to love Wal-Mart!" Not to mention, I can't send a picture of that sweet mullet through a phone call, but I can with a text.

Some people believe texting is impersonal, but I disagree. Texting can be as personal or impersonal as a phone call, depending on the individual. One of my best friends lives in Los Angeles and sometimes we can't talk on the phone, but we still manage to have important conversations and maintain a great friendship, often through texting.

For some avid texters, the most important function of texting is that it is the perfect escape from a boring or awkward situation. When that lecture just refuses to end, texting is there to help ease the misery. At that party where almost everyone is a stranger but for whatever reason leaving is out of the question, texting an absent friend can make the situation at least seem a little less awkward.

## PRO

By Gregory D. Cook  
Multimedia editor

In December of 1992, the simple phrase "Merry Christmas," was sent to the phone of Richard Jarvis by Neil Papworth, becoming the first text message, and marking, as well, the first time a person was interrupted while having a good time at a party by someone else who couldn't be bothered to deliver their inane thoughts in person. The race to remove the "personal" out of the term "personal communications" had begun.

According to a study conducted by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, Americans sent an average of 4.1 billion text messages a day in 2009. That is a very big number, and it can also be seen as a very big warning sign as to the direction our society is heading when it comes to relating with each other.

when used as the name implies, to send a message, is a valuable tool. It is when whole conversations are conducted via texting that the negative effects begin to become evident.

There was a time, not so long ago, when talking to someone meant actually talking to him or her. We would formulate our thoughts into complete words and deliver them to their intended recipient with our own voices. Inflection, tone and other subtle nuances in the way we speak combined with the words themselves to form a very complex and personal way of communicating that the starkness of text on a screen just cannot convey.

Carrying on a conversation via text messaging removes the common courtesy of actually paying attention to what is being conveyed. The phone makes a little sound, or vibrates, letting a person know it is their turn to respond, if they care to, or they can choose to ignore what has been "said" until it is convenient. While this would be considered rude and anti-social in a face-to-face meeting, it is seen as a benefit by serial texters, and only encourages our society to become more and more insensitive and less intuitive in our dealings with each other.

A texting conversation also isolates its participants, which is the exact opposite of the purpose of interaction. By removing the physical aspects of the conversation the parties involved are unable to truly take part in a healthy conversation. Texting something like "I HATE U, WE R THRU," is a poor substitution for actually screaming it at the face of the intended victim even if the message comes in all capital letters.

Putting aside the social implications of how texting can affect society, a physical downside is now emerging. "Texting thumb" is a form of repetitive stress injury connecting pain in the thumbs with excessive texting. Though, suffering thumb pain and then blaming texting is the same as blaming the hammer you just spent the day hitting yourself in the head with for your headache. It's more of a self-control issue.

If a person has a thought that is worthy of sharing with others, that thought should be given the respect it is due, and it should be born into the world on the voice of its creator, with all of the subtle qualities of an individual's voice that make it worthy of consideration.

## CON



SAMANTHA GARRETT / THE RIP

## Adding own facts in lecture leaves questions for history

Samantha Garrett  
Reporter

As a history major, I take a lot of history classes, and I read a lot of history books. The first lesson I learned is that "fact" is a very difficult thing to define in that field.

The further back you go, the more information is based on educated guesses and sparse archeological evidence, and the closer to present day you get, the more likely things are going to be deeply entrenched in politics. Despite that, there is the middle road — the moderate view of history that can prevent a scholar from going too right or too left, because to do either would be to pollute the history one is studying.

Teaching a different version of history to serve political devices is changing history — that's editing it to become something else. Maybe only a few people will see it incorrectly at first — but the idea can spread. Just like those awful emails about how our president is a Muslim; sure, an educated, reasonable person wouldn't believe that, but

enough uneducated or unreasonable people do believe that.

What's the danger in understanding history differently? What's the danger in knowing a new version to things? Discussion of varying viewpoints, after all, is how ideas are developed and strengthened.

Discussion is fine. Discussion is productive. But plenty of teachers don't provide discussion; they provide "facts." This was how the world was, for all we knew — and why should we think differently? Why should we doubt the validity of a lecture? We shouldn't have to be suspicious of our professors' political agendas.

And that's just what it is — and that's just why this is important. It's all about a political spin. Take the Roman Empire; it is established in the historical field that it collapsed due to the weakening of its societal values, German invasion and integration into the populace, plague and political deterioration.

What lesson can we learn from that? Well, for one thing, democracy is a good idea; we should probably have a strong

healthcare system because it would likely suck if we all died of a plague, or swine flu; and it would probably be best if we didn't have a bunch of corrupt people running the place.

There's another idea that the Roman Empire collapsed because of the rise of Islam in the Middle East, which pitted the Byzantine Empire against the Persian Empire and eventually led to the collapse of Rome.

What lessons can we learn from that? Well, if one were to compare the United States to the Roman Empire (as people often do), then the lesson would be to distrust Islam, because Muslims will be the end of us.

It's a much uglier lesson — a much more dangerous lesson, because it isn't a lesson at all.

It's a political spin on history meant to affect our modern mentality rather than our understanding of the ancient world and how it might affect us. It's — to use strong words — fear mongering, and it's very dangerous, especially when it isn't even based on historical fact. It's even more dangerous when people be-

lieve it — and people do.

Teachers are right there next to doctors in the whole "we should be able to trust them" department. Our teachers are meant to give students information that is true, and they shouldn't put their own politics into their lesson plans. When we're taking notes in the classroom, we shouldn't have to ask ourselves, "Is this true?" And we shouldn't have to doubt the information that is being given to us. That's a part of our education, and we should be able to trust it.

Hearing different viewpoints on history is an enriching and interesting opportunity. I try to hear every perspective; but there is a serious disparity between a perspective and a political spin. Teachers have a responsibility as our instructors to give us the right information and to label theories in dispute as just that. I wouldn't mind if a professor went on all day about the most outrageous conspiracy theories out there, so long as that professor established it as a conspiracy theory — not historical fact, however fluid and transitional this "fact" can be.

## 'GADE FEEDBACK Who do you text the most and why?

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

Compiled by:  
Mateo M. Melero  
and Joseph Cota / The Rip



Danille Morin, radiology: "My best friend, I text him every day."



Carmen Olivas, psychology: "My friend Becky, I text her every day and I text her because she texts me."



Chris Ballard, anthropology and geology: "My senators to make sure things are running smoothly in the Renegade Pantry."



Alice Pyun, undecided: "My friend in Washington, D.C. every couple of hours."



Patricia Rodriguez, music: "My best friend because we can talk about anything."



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

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## The Renegade Rip

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

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

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## New sandwich at KFC disappoints reviewer



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

The author samples the new Double Down on April 21.

By Martin Chang  
Reporter

Ah yes, the Double Down, the “sandwich” with no bread.

The KFC Web site describes the Double Down as “two juicy, boneless chicken filets, two pieces of bacon, two melted slices of cheese and the colonel’s sauce.”

People that have seen this new item at KFC can’t help but talk. Some find it reprehensible, while others find it funny. I am in the latter camp.

I have always felt that such a fast food item would be inevitable, but it still seems crazy, though, that such an item actually exists.

It looks like a prop you would see on “Saturday Night Live,” or a similar comedy show, making fun of the excess of the fast food industry.

It is obvious that KFC knows how unreal the item is. It is also obvious that they want people talking about this unreal quality the Double Down has. Every ad-

vertisement shows the “sandwich” dripping with sauce, cheese and bacon, making the “sandwich” look more unreal than it is.

Their site exclaims, “The new KFC Double Down sandwich is real!” Their television advertisement brags, “So much chicken we didn’t have room for a bun.”

It seems they wanted to hype this sandwich as something crazy, something big, maybe even something gross, just as long as people are talking. Maybe that was KFC’s goal.

I asked a cashier how popular the “sandwich” was, and she told me “very popular, we sell like over 100 a day.”

You may be wondering why I’m using the word sandwich in quotes. To be honest, I’m actually a big fan of sandwiches. They are one of my favorite foods. But the Double Down is not a sandwich.

A sandwich must have bread or something similar. It is no longer a sandwich if it does not have some type of starchy thing, such as bread or a bun, to give the more meaty ingredients balance.

The Double Down by itself costs about \$4.50. That is way too expensive for what it is. It does not have so much chicken that there is “no room for a bun.”

The two pieces of chicken are the same size as all the chicken filets I have had. If anything, they were a bit smaller. There was room for a bun. The cheese and sauce was not dripping appetizingly down the sides of it.

By the time I was halfway done with it, there was much too little cheese and sauce.

Upon first looking at the Double Down, I was surprised at how ordinary it looked. Based on the advertisements, I was expecting something gigantic, something hard to hold. It really just looked like a bunch of ingredients thrown together in a box.

Upon first bite, that is also what it tasted like, just a bunch of ingredients thrown together. It tasted like two pieces of chicken with some sauce and bacon. It tasted OK, but these different foods did not mix particularly well.

About halfway through the Double Down, I was once again surprised that despite my first bad impression, I was actually enjoying eating the thing. The bacon was starting to taste good with the chicken and the sauce.

The mix of ingredients was actually starting to work, maybe. I began to think this might not be that bad. I could see buying this

again. But that feeling was short lived, because it hit me like a ton of bricks; I began to ask myself: “What am I eating?”

My hands were greasy, the amount of salt was beginning to get to me, and it was then I realized that the thing in my hand, the thing I was actually eating, was actually disgusting.

I sat there just thinking about it, and it’s crazy that I finished it.

But finished it I did. It was a struggle. By the time it was three-fourths finished, I really, really did not want to finish the rest but I did. About 20 minutes later my stomach was not feeling great. I could feel myself getting a little sick.

So next time you’re on the go, and you need to pick up something to eat quickly, make the right decision, pick up something healthy like a juice with a salad.

I understand being curious about products like the Double Down. I was curious too. Consider it a favor; I found out what the truth is. It is not as good as it looks in the ad, and the novelty of the item wears off quickly.

Get something that won’t make you feel bad after you have finished it. You’ll be glad you did.

## Freddy Krueger fails in thrills and chills scenes

By Ryan George  
Reporter

Honestly, wanting to scream from Freddy Krueger violently killing teens wasn’t what I did. Yes, I may have jumped out of my seat a few times, even plugged my ears and wanted to look away, but mainly I was hypnotized by the computer graphics and costume design, especially the very graphic mask that actor Jackie Earle Haley had to wear for this performance of Freddy Krueger. But the multiple pop-out-from-around-the-corner scares got old as the movie progressed.

Nancy, Krueger’s “number one girl,” played by Rooney Mara, is left to solve the mystery of her friends’ deaths, all after sharing the same dream of the same man with the burned face, wearing the iconic red and green sweater. In my eyes, however, several scenes showing Krueger make the sweater appear red and black.

Everyone knows the old saying “save the best for last.” Well, Krueger did not do that at all. The first kill was more along

the lines of amusing than anything. Dean, portrayed by Kellan Lutz (“The Twilight Saga: Eclipse”), ended up slitting his own throat, or so it seemed to his friend that witnessed the kill, in a diner at the very beginning of the film.

Director Samuel Bayer, originally a music video director, including Green Day’s “Boulevard of Broken Dreams,” definitely put some effort into his first feature film and took this remake and made it better than others.

Even though the movie itself was outstanding, the thrills and chills could have been a lot less of the pop-out-from-around-the-corner variety, and more of what was done in the scene where Krueger chases one character into a closet, then disappears into thin air, reappearing behind her.

I was almost excited to hear the song that is also tied into Krueger’s character, “One, two, Krueger is coming for you. Three, four, better lock the door. Five, six, grab your crucifix. Seven, eight, better stay awake. Nine, ten, never sleep again,” as sung by children, brought the best chills in the entire film.

“A Nightmare on Elm Street” is a must see, but remember, don’t fall asleep.

## Ira Levin’s ‘Deathtrap’ performed

By Katie Avery  
Opinions editor

Twists, terror and titillating tension dominated the members of the Bakersfield Community Theater on April 30 in their rendition of “Deathtrap.”

Written by Ira Levin in 1978, “Deathtrap” is the longest running thriller on Broadway, and it translated well to the Bakersfield Community Theatre.

It is essentially a play about a playwright, and the events that transpire on the stage become good material for the playwright’s new play.

The play begins with the introduction of burnout playwright Sidney Bruhl, portrayed by David Lollar. He has come upon hard times with writers block and is unable to generate ideas for a new script. When an old student of his, Clifford, comes by for advice about a thrilling script he has written, plot twists, thrills and hilarity inevitably follow.

Once you think you have a handle on the story, it changes direction, making it difficult to follow at times. The many twists and turns in the plot keep the audience on their toes and wanting more.

The cast dealt well with the themes of homosexuality present in the production. They did not cross appropriate boundaries, which may make an audience uncomfortable, but they still got the message across enough so the audience knew what was happening. It was subtle, which did not distract from the overall plot.

The acting was pretty good for a small local theater. The connection the cast mem-

bers had with one another was convincing. You could tell by the way they spoke, moved and interacted that they knew their roles well and worked well with each other. The actors had a way of drawing you into the story.

The best performance was given by Chelsea Brewer, who played psychic neighbor Helga ten Dorp, who suspects something is going on with the Bruhl family and reveals little bits of the plot to come with her wild predictions. She had an accent that was strange but not unintelligible, and she played the part a little crazy but not overwhelmingly so.

It was a five character, one-set, two-act play, and in that sense, it was very simplistic. There was no huge diversity in characters, and it all takes place in the same room: Sidney’s study.

The lighting was basically the same the entire time except when they shut them off as part of the action. The costumes fit well with the type of play and the time period it was written for, and it was apparent that the homosexual character wore a slightly more flamboyant costume than the others at some points.

The sound system was buzzing most



ANNIE STOCKMAN / THE RIP

Jeffery D. Wilson (left) and David Lollar (right) in Deathtrap at the Bakersfield Community Theater on May 1.

noticeably during the first act of the play, whenever sound effects were used, it was constantly in the background. Toward the end, though, my ear filtered out this buzzing and I was able to easily ignore it.

The worst thing about this play was not even the cast’s, director’s or stage manager’s fault. It was the dismal audience. The theater seats possibly over 100 people and there were 12 total people there for the performance that night, including myself and an actor’s daughter.

Nobody clapped between scenes, and when intermission began, an usher had to tell everyone what was happening. For a weekend show, this is a tragedy; and since the cast reacts to the feedback of its audience, it’s safe to guess the performance would have been better with a bigger and more responsive audience.

## New comedy band Trainwreck stays on track with ‘The Wreckoning’

By Michael Wafford  
Reporter

The comedy rock band Trainwreck’s debut studio album “The Wreckoning” provides an uneven ride filled with laughs, guitar solos and flutes.

Comprised of Tenacious D members, Trainwreck was started in 1997 as a side project with each member taking on a new persona for Trainwreck. Kyle Gass becomes acoustic guitarist Klip Calhoun, Jason Reed becomes singer Darryl Lee Donald, John Konesky becomes lead guitarist J.B. Shredman, John

Spiker becomes bassist Boy Johnny and Nate Rothacker becomes Dallas St. Bernard on drums. Each persona is a take on a classic rock archetype: the superstar, the hippie, the lover, the rural genius and the wild man. Sadly, the album doesn’t showcase this or their very visual style of humor.

The album opens with “TV Theme.” An acoustic guitar is strummed, an electric guitar shrieks, a train whistle blows, and the singing starts. It’s a great opening track. The lyrics are simple and sung in a way that’s easily imitated for those who want to sing along. The riffs are simple but have enough variation to prevent them from becoming boring, the synth and acoustic guitar adds a nice feeling of

playfulness to the track. There’s also a nice guitar solo.

Next up is “Tim Blankenship,” a country rock ballad about a fast car, fast women and what you do with fast women when you have a fast car; it’s funny. Twangy guitars are front and center. There’s also a nice guitar solo.

The spoken word track “Wisdom” performed by Darryl Lee serves as an introduction to the next track “R.B.M.” The track tells the story of Rock Boulder Mountain, opening with a few seconds of sweet flute blowing before the distorted bluesy riffs begin. It works; the flute provides a nice contrast to the distortion and the lyrics are so cliché they can’t help but cause a smile. There’s also a nice flute solo.

Next up is “Bothered and Hot” inspired by 1980s metal. The quick steady tempo and upbeat nature of the track make it extremely catchy but the instruments drown the vocals out at times. “Milk The Cobra,” which brings back the flute, follows this but the rest of the track is nothing special and follows the formula laid out by the previous tracks.

Next up is “Brodeo” a chuckle worthy ballad about the love between bros. The instrumentation has a more poppy tone and the vocals are sung with a tone similar to that found in the voice of a beer spokesman. Then comes “El Mustachio,” with a jazzy bass line and crooned vocals that add more variety to the album, but the track does manage to go the hard rock route at points.

Then comes the section of the album where the train slows. The next songs “Runnin’,” “Love,” and “Real Deal” all deal with love in some way and are pretty similar outside of the lyrics with “Runnin’” being a more obvious type of humor and “Love” relying on the listener being familiar with rock clichés to find the humor. Both have average structure and playing. There’s nothing wrong with the songs but nothing about them stands out. “Real Deal” is the standout of the trio slightly ignoring the song structure of previous songs and adding sea shanty elements for a few seconds.

Then comes the power ballad “The Drummer.” This is where the album feels like it should end. The next three songs

“B.L.T.,” “JB Shredman” and “T.W. Theme” aren’t bad by any means but feel unnecessary. They’re either too similar to previous tracks or feel like they belong on a different album.

“The Wreckoning” is funny but not hilarious. The jokes work better when you can see the members. While it isn’t a great album by any means, it’s certainly enjoyable on the first few rotations. Repetitive song structure and song themes hold back the album, but if you don’t mind those problems, “The Wreckoning” might be worth the price of fare.

Trainwreck will be in Bakersfield at Fishlips on May 30. Those who attend can expect to find the members in character and in costume.

### BC BRAINS “What is the corpus callosum?”

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



Aaron Sy, undeclared: “Something like Big Business.”



Christian Munoz, English: “Blistered Body.”



Elizabeth Xydus, pre-nursing: “Part of or something to do with a deceased body.”

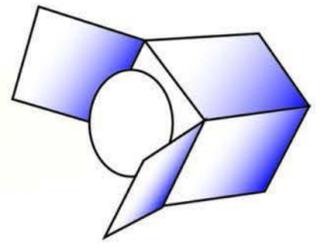
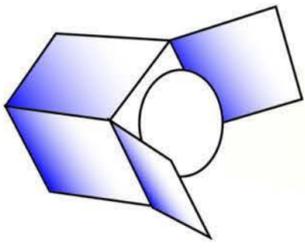


Julian Navarrette, psychology: “Something with a dead body.”



Katy Michelle, psychology: “Part of the brain that connects the two hemispheres.”

Compiled by: Mateo M. Melero and Joseph Cota / The Rip



## Dream Team Academy sets sights on Hollywood

By Brian N. Willhite  
Reporter

Working toward making their Hollywood dreams a reality, the Dream Team Talent Academy is progressively moving into the world of feature filmmaking with the help of online media outlets like YouTube.

Writer, producer and director Shade Gumapac, 29, a Bakersfield College theater major, leads the Dream Team cast in reaching their goals of becoming Bakersfield success stories in Hollywood.

Gumapac will also be graduating this semester with a theater arts degree. Additionally, he is a film student at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, where he is studying to be a director.

Dream Team has been in production since 2008. "I started Dream Team just to get people to get started in film, and have experience in film, because each and every one of these people are passionate toward heading [to Hollywood] in the future," said Gumapac.

Gumapac gathered with members of his "Star Circle" to discuss their hopes and dreams and what they are doing to achieve their goals.

"There's a core, which I call the 'Star Circle;' they're the people that are more featured and that are more passionate about acting and they're willing to do whatever. So whatever I have come up or whatever I want to produce, they're always there and want to do it.

"These are the people that I'm mainly training to have that kind of experience," said Gumapac about his fellow actors.

Gumapac is passionate about helping others, and enjoys working with local talent in his films.

"I just want the world to know, and especially this campus, that there are students coming from this group that maybe someday in the future will be going from BC to Hollywood, and that is the goal."

BC theater major Riki Suzuki, 21, recalls his first encounter with Gumapac and his first encounter with a Dream Team production.

"I remember I saw them in front of the Fine Arts building and I saw Shade with some actors and I thought, 'Hey, they're shooting some kind of film or student film or something.' And I said, 'I wish I was part of it,'" said Suzuki.

Gumapac and Suzuki met shortly after that and discussed how they felt about acting and film and also about the possibilities of working together. The two realized that they had a lot in common and decided to start making movies together.

Suzuki has been filming with the Dream Team crew since December 2009 and feels that the rela-

tionship has been a blessing for him.

"Above all, everything's been fun, and I wouldn't miss it for the world," Suzuki said.

Dream Team primarily films love stories or soap-opera-type romances. Gumapac's vision for his future includes making these types of movies in Hollywood and beyond. He also feels that comedy is not one of his strong suits; however, he would like to explore horror-type features sometime in the future.

"My goal in the future is to be making love stories. No comedies, I don't do well with comedy, I think. So writing, producing and directing love stories are what I'm getting into right now, so that's what we're doing," said Gumapac.

One of Dream Team's actors who takes on more of the romantic leads, business major Brian Aguirre, 21, loves the crowds that gather to watch as they film in public.

"I love [acting]. It's fun, it's exciting and I get a rush doing it," said Aguirre who admits that, though he has always been interested in acting, he was a bit timid about performing until he met Gumapac, who helped him overcome his shyness.

Laurence Chien, 22, who will be graduating with a biology degree this semester, is another of Dream Team's romantic male leads.

Chien, who has been passionate about acting from a young age, was also in the recent BC production "Twilight: Los Angeles 1992" in which he played five different roles.

"I've been passionate about acting since around sixth grade, and I've always wanted to be an actor and star in some kind of film. I always thought it was cool and not just because of the fame and the money, but because of the love of the game and all that," said Chien.

"[Shade] taught me a lot about acting, a lot about Hollywood and how everything works," Chien said before he proceeded to thank Gumapac for helping him with his acting, as did the others before they embraced in a group hug surrounding Gumapac.

As one of the first Dream Team cast members, Jessie Maldonado, 18, has a continuous role in one of Dream Teams features titled "Flames." Like the other Dream Team members, Maldonado has been an aspiring actress for most of her life.

Additionally, she thanks Gumapac for his efforts to keep the group motivated in reaching their goals.

"I've always had a passion for acting and singing, and I've always wanted to model and dance," said Maldonado who added, "If I could make it in one of those, it would be like reaching one of my all time goals in life."

"Shade found all of us, and he sees potential in



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Dream Team members (from left). Laurence Chien, Shade Gumapac, Riki Suzuki, Brian Aguirre and Jessie Maldonado pose at Bakersfield College on April 14.

all of us to get us up there and get us to Hollywood," Maldonado said.

The group is also planning a road trip to Hollywood to film and experience in the ambiance of the L.A. film scene and culture.

For now, though, Dream Team is airing their productions via YouTube to gain exposure and also to garner critiques from fans and critics alike.

"So us doing a little something for YouTube to start off gives us that chance to actually learn or experience how we look in film, how people are going to accept us in film -- you know, people who will be watching," said Gumapac.

He added, "A lot of people have been watching us online, giving us good feedback and negative as well, which is good because it's what we need in order to grow."

Dream Team films their features at different locations throughout Bakersfield like public parks

and the BC campus.

"As far as filming on campus, it's always been amazing and a lot of people here have been so supportive. Our teachers have known about us and have given us praise and encouragement," said Gumapac.

There are over 30 people currently with Dream Team, and Gumapac's Star Circle has about 12 members, though it is growing.

Gumapac also offers an invitation for other like-minded, aspiring actors to check out their films and contact them if they are interested in working together.

"Whoever out there that is passionate about acting and wants to do something like this, feel free to get a hold of me or any one of us, 'cause I wanna take a look at what you got," said Gumapac.

Dream Team's films can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/thedreamteamtalent](http://www.youtube.com/thedreamteamtalent).

## Local rising country star performs

By Martin Chang  
Reporter

The career of Lauren Ashley, a country singer and songwriter from Bakersfield, began after she saw a Grammy-award winning 20-year old country singer perform.

"When I was 12, I went to a Taylor Swift concert, and I saw that she played the guitar, and I was like, 'Mom and Dad, I want to be a singer.'"

In Swift, Ashley saw a woman who was "overcoming obstacles" through her music. Ashley connected with the experience she and Swift shared in junior high school. Ashley said of this shared experience, "When she was in junior high, she had some girls that didn't want to be her friend anymore. I went through that experience, very much so. I connected to her on that level. In the sense that she persevered through music, maybe music can help me."

Another influence on Ashley is Johnny Cash. Ashley said of the first time she heard him, "When I was 6 years old, we went to a car wash, and they gave us a Johnny Cash CD. My mom played it in her car. I remember asking her, 'Oh, can you play Johnny Cash?'"

At 13, Ashley started playing the guitar seriously; the learning process was a bit tough for her, but she found it rewarding. She said, "I taught myself how to play the guitar, so it was hard for a while. It's an amazing experience, when you learn how to play. You finally connect with it, and you're like, wow this sounds awesome."

Around the time she started playing guitar, Ashley began songwriting.

"I enjoy the aspect of music that releases emotion that not necessarily words can describe but I think music and lyrics can describe some of the emotions I feel," she said. "Being a moody teenager, it's really nice to have that outlet. I wish that a lot of the same teenagers had that same outlet."

Ashley found songwriting a cathartic process. "When I was in junior high, I went through a lot of heartbreak with friends. I was often times alone. So, I had all these built up emotions. When I started writing they overflowed." Ashley also takes other experiences into her songwriting. "I take daily experiences and things that matter to me and I write songs."

Ashley has performed at many venues in Bakersfield. Her first performance was at American Sound Recording Studios, a local venue for performing and recording music. Ashley said of this experience, "It was just a youth night for kids to come and play their songs. I just said, 'I'm Lauren Ashley, I'm 13, and here's my songs,' and I remember I was shaking so bad."



ANNIE STOCKMAN / THE RIP

Lauren Ashley performs at the Prime Cut on Brimhall Rd. on April 21.

Once onstage Ashley feels that everybody out there is her friend. "For once, I got all these friends. I always tell my story. I always feel 100 percent comfortable with being onstage."

Ashley has recorded several songs for an upcoming self-titled album. It was produced by Monty Byrom and Paul Serpa. Ashley said of recording the album, "It was crazy. I remember the first night we met him (Monty Byrom), me and my dad went home and were like, 'This is so surreal. I get to produce an album with Monty Byrom who's played with Buck Owens and all of these crazy-amazing people.' Just going into the studio everyday, staying until 11 or 12 at night, was just the best experience. When you're in the studio you just never want to leave because it's so much fun, it's such a good vibe."

Ashley describes her dad, Chris Persel, as "my solid rock."

"He's the one at the end of the day I know that's always going to be there, always going to be supporting me. He's always there carrying my guitar when I'm too tired after a performance. He's always there getting me anything that I need if I have a sore throat. I really depend on him a lot in my career."

Persel is "obviously proud" of his daughter. He said of watching Ashley grow as a musician, "It's been great. Actually, I was almost shocked in some respects 'cause I didn't know all that emotion was in there. We (Persel and Byrom) would sit and listen to her sing as she was performing for the record. We would be amazed at the lyrics because of the way she is able to express it in a very poetic way. We were kind of shocked, amazed."

When asked if she wanted to make a living in music, Ashley said, "Yes, I would like to be performing every night, or touring, or doing something. Just getting out there and showing people my music and what I have to offer."



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## Scorecard

### Baseball

April 20 West LA 7, BC 5  
 April 22 Canyons 7, BC 4  
 April 24 BC 7, LA Valley 6  
 April 27 BC 7, Citrus 3  
 April 29 BC 18, LA Mission 8

### Softball

April 15 BC 8, LA Mission 6  
 April 20 BC 13, Canyons 12  
 Canyons 13, BC 1

### Men's golf

May 10 Southern California Regional 7 a.m.  
 at Murrieta

### Men and women's track and field

May 8 Southern California Prelims 9 a.m.  
 at Saddleback College  
 May 15 Southern California Finals 9 a.m.  
 at Saddleback College

### Men's tennis

May 6-8 State Championships  
 at Newport Beach

### Women's tennis

May 6-8 State Championships  
 at Newport Beach

The Bakersfield College football program has released its 10-game schedule for the 2010-11 season. One of the biggest standouts on the schedule will come Oct. 2 when BC will host the defending state champion Mount San Antonio College Mounties.

Sept. 4: at L.A. Pierce  
 Sept. 11: at Saddleback  
 Sept. 18: Antelope Valley  
 Sept. 25: at Citrus College  
 Oct. 2: Mt. SAC  
 Oct. 9: Bye  
 Oct. 16: at Allan Hancock  
 Oct. 23: Ventura  
 Oct. 30: El Camino  
 Nov. 6: at Cerritos  
 Nov. 13: Canyons

# Kern athletes star in Arena Bowl

By Vincent Perez  
 News editor

The deciding factors were defense and the arm of a small southern-section high school quarterback in the ninth annual high school all-star Arena Bowl at Rabobank Arena on April 30. The west all-stars defeated the east all-stars 50-25.

"Mike Morgan [quarterback, Frazier Mountain] distributed the ball well offensively and Will Harvey [middle linebacker, Frontier] controlled the game defensively," said west all-star head coach, Rich Cornford about west-all stars Morgan and Harvey. Morgan was selected as the MVP of the game with four thrown touchdowns with 123 yards. Morgan also ran for three touchdowns.

In Cornford's third year (2005, 2006) coaching the west all-star team, he said, "This is the best all around team that I've coached from top to bottom."

He added, "We felt pretty confident coming in that we had a pretty dam good club, and it showed."

Cornford said about the west all-star team, "We have a lot of players going to Bakersfield College. Will Harvey is going there." Cornford added that Ian Driskill [running back/outside linebacker, Frontier], Ted Agu [defensive end, Frontier] and Rane Cravens [defensive end, Liberty] are also headed to play for the BC football program next season.

Cornford made efforts to have west-all star players attend BC.



ANNIE STOCKMAN / THE RIP

East team all-star Peter Welsh (left) attempts to block West all-star Myron Moore as East all-star Matt Sumlin (right) runs with the ball at the Arena Bowl held at Rabobank Arena on April 30.

"I'm trying to talk to these other guys into going over there too, so we'll get to see these kids play again."

MVP Morgan talked about what the award meant to him compared to the game.

"It's more than that. Coming from a small school, you're already the underdog coming into the game."

He added, "When you get into the game and you realize that you're playing with everybody else [in the county], it feels great."

Morgan said that he would attend Kenyon College, a Division III college in Ohio.

Centennial running back/

linebacker Myron Moore, who was a west all-star, said about the win, "It was a good win because all the guys on the east side always talk about themselves. They never talk about the west guys. So, it was a good win for us to prove to them that we're better than them."

He added, "It's one last time to let it all out. It was the best of the best. Every good person from each team let it out against each other."

Moore said that he has choices for football after he graduates. "There are some options - Bakersfield College, of course, and Taylor College

in Kansas." Moore admitted that he would "most likely [go to] BC."

"I was actually there today (April 30) talking with the coaches," added Moore on the day of the Arena Bowl.

Moore said that BC's football program was comforting to him because it reminded him of Centennial's program.

Bakersfield College football coach Jeff Chudy responded in an e-mail about the annual high school football event, "The Arena Bowl has become a spring-time get your engines warmed-up for the upcoming [BC] football season ... The game itself is about en-

tertainment and having fun." Chudy added that he has been in contact with local players.

"We have talked with just about every guy on the roster," he said in the e-mail but did not acknowledge any players in particular.

South High running back Lee West was the offensive MVP with six catches and three touchdowns for 111 yards, Ridgeview cornerback Tyler Dogins earned the defensive player of the game and from the east all-stars, and Bakersfield High School outside linebacker Emilio Cantu received the U.S. Army Line-

man of the Game award.

## RIP NATION What is your favorite sporting event?

Editor's note: Rip Nation is a feature that highlights the opinions of Bakersfield College's athletes and coaches.

Compiled by:  
 Julian Moore



Anthony Ramirez, baseball: "The MLB All-Star game. You get to see all your favorite players play in one game, and it actually means something."



Felisa Torres, track and field: "It would have to be baseball games, especially when they're back-to-back."



Ryan Taylor, track and field: "It has to be the NBA All-Star game. You have to like the East versus West. It has everybody."



Lora Rogers, track and field: "I really like the Colge Football Championship Series... like the bowl series."



E.J. Kirby, basketball: "Basketball ... well, like the NBA playoffs."

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