

Career Day shows job opportunities

By Kevin Foster
Reporter

There were 54 businesses on display on April 6 in the Campus Center at Bakersfield College.

"We have around 54 businesses, that's a little low but with the economy the way it is, I can't be too shocked about it," said Work Ability III Coordinator Denise Crawford.

Work Ability is located on campus and is specifically for disabled students who are involved with the Department of Rehabilitation.

Crawford talked about the economy playing a part in the kind of business.

"We have Big 5 Sporting Goods and that's the only retail store. The lack of Target and stores like that tell me that the economy isn't turned around yet," said Crawford.

The businesses ranged from fast food companies, such as Pizza Hut and Panda Express, to universities such as Fresno Pacific and National University.

Most of the booths had applications on hand or a website to go to and were

accepting resumes on the spot.

National University spokesman Steven Herrera talked about the differences between National and the University of Phoenix.

"People sometimes confuse us with University of Phoenix but the main differences are that we are non-profit, we are about 40%-50% cheaper and that National is the second largest private school in California behind Stanford," Herrera said.

There were a few different radio and television companies in the Fireside room.

KUZZ had a booth with a sign from the music director on how to get into radio.

The sign talked about getting started in broadcasting schools and that people should ask about an internship at their local radio stations.

My45 had a booth looking for a part-time Master Control Board Operator.

"A Master Control Board Operator is someone who makes sure the programs get on at a certain time. For example if Family Guy is scheduled for six then



NATHAN WILSON / THE RIP

Robert Charles and Beverly McKenzie talk to students about the opportunities and benefits of working for the Kern County Mental Health Department during Career Day on April 6.

your job is to make sure it starts exactly at six," Manager Joe Abicunas said.

American General Media was also offering seven different jobs including on-air positions as well as a Board Operator. AGM is the company that

owns seven different radio stations here in town including: 1180 KERN, 1230 KGEO, 1410 KERI, 94.1 KISV, 93.1 KKXX, 101.5 KGFM and 96.9 KEBT.

As students were coming into the Campus Center for career day, there was

a Sheriff's Deputy car on display with Deputy Logan August on hand to talk about the Sheriff's Department.

"We have a six-month training academy that is \$2,500 to start up to become a deputy," August said.

Women get involved in the fight for total social equality

By Monica Bolger
Reporter

Seven female spokespeople appeared in the Fireside Room on March 30 for a panel discussion of "Women Taking Action."

Women spoke on behalf of their involvement with politics, government and volunteerism, and the goals they have for Kern County's future.

Norma Rojas-Mora, special projects and Supportive Services program manager for the Kern County Housing Authority and president of Latina Leaders of Kern County, was the first speaker to address what she looks for in Bakersfield's future.

"I'd like to see gender discrimination come to an end in our work environment. I've had to face times where I was the only woman working with all men, and they looked down at me for being a woman. It'd be nice if we could put a stop to this for our future and make people aware of what is fair and what isn't," said Mora.



BRANDON BARRAZA / THE RIP

From left: Olivia Garcia, Barbara Patrick, Camila Chavez, Norma Rojas-Mora, Sue Benham, Julie Jordan Scott, Dee Slade and Kalisha Hudgins pose after the "Women in Action" panel discussion in the Fireside Room on March 30.

Mora is also an active fighter for immigration rights and social freedoms.

Like Mora, Camila Chavez is a social rights activist and is executive director of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, whose mission is to inspire and motivate people to organize sustainable communities and to attain social justice, according to their website.

"As a child I grew up picketing and protesting for labor rights of the farm workers and today as director of the Dolores Huerta Foundation my goal is to see everyone have an opportunity to have clean running water and septic systems running through their houses," said Chavez.

Former Kern County Supervisor Barbara Patrick is another active contributor to the community and avid supporter of education. "Education is everything. No matter what you do and no matter how hard it may be to finish school, make sure you make it worth it in the end by getting your degree," said Patrick.

Executive Director of Adobe Krow

Archives and leader of the African American Network of Kern, Dee Slade, offered advice to BC students. "You must educate yourself about your community and do some service work. It may help you focus and increase your knowledge."

Faith in Action of Kern County leader Kalisha Hudgins agreed that service work is a good way to get involved more in the community. "Community service work is a good way to get you more involved and open to the community, whether it's a church function or cleaning up trash, donating, or being involved with local charities," said Hudgins.

Each speaker encouraged the audience to challenge their learning abilities and participate in volunteer work.

"When opportunity knocks, you have to open the door - education is critical," said Patrick.

Wednesday's event concluded the last days of Women's History Month and was sponsored by Friends of Women's History Month.

Parking a big issue for many students

By Cristal Rodriguez
Reporter

With five weeks left this spring semester parking seems to keep frustrating students.

"I see no point in buying a parking pass. I can never find a good spot. It was a waste of money," said Rachel Pena, student.

There are many parking spots that have been updated throughout the years such as the Panorama parking that now has 745 stalls available for students with permits.

Parking is located all around Bakersfield College and its surrounding areas.

Many students park by Kern Schools bank, others by the park, the apartments, and the Fastrip located on the corner of Mt. Vernon.

"I always park at the same spot everyday. I never bother looking because I'm not going to find anything close so I park at the empty lot by Fastrip," said Diana Torres, student.

Parking passes at BC cost \$35 and this allows students to park basically anywhere on campus except the staff parking stalls for the entire semester and there are also passes for a dollar that can be purchased for just one day.

Although students spend \$35, some believe there aren't any "good" parking spots left.

"I wish I never bought a stupid pass. I want my money back because I can never find any close parking or sometimes I need to park across the street," said Richard Cruz, BC student.

On the other hand there are students who have not purchased a permit and are not planning on it.

"I don't see the point. There are about 18,000 students on campus so why should I buy a pass. I rather just park down the street," said Irma Cervantes.

BC offers free parking for students who do not want to buy day passes or semester permits. The free parking is located behind the baseball field at Haley and University, and there are 1,104 students' stalls.

These are the farthest on-campus parking spots available but they are free. "I like the free parking, I never have to worry about getting tickets. Yes, they are pretty far and I have to walk a lot but I see it as good exercise," said student Brittany Davis.

There are also students who don't follow the rules and get punished with a \$35 fine because they decide to park where permits are needed or in the staff stalls.

"I'm a rebel. I never follow rules. I have gotten three tickets this semester totaling \$105 because I parked in staff stalls. But I mean those are always the closest," said Brian Brown, student.

For the most part BC is trying to do what it can to help with the parking situation.

"We are trying to do our best with the whole parking situation and figure out ways to improve parking," said BC senator Richard Villanueva

In total, there are 3,591 parking spots available and 121 are for disabled students, according to a campus map.

Hollywood magic and forensic science collide in BC's Fireside Room

By Amber T. Troupe
Reporter

Science, forensic research and Hollywood all came together at Bakersfield College in the Fireside Room on March 29, with two of "CSI: Las Vegas'" research team members giving a presentation on the correlation between real and artificial crime scene investigation represented in the TV series.

Students as well as faculty and local news coverage filled the room. There were no open seats available and late arrivals had to stand in the back against the wall or on the floor.

Lesley Castillo, human services and criminal justice major at BC, explained why she attended this "I came to the CSI presentation because I watch the show on TV. It is actually one of my favorite shows, and it was a part of an assignment for Mr. Zoller's class," Castillo stated.

The scientific pair set up the overhead projector to give a visual effect to the gruesome but factual roles of their jobs.

Jon Wellner and David Berman are real researchers who play the roles of fake researchers

on the show.

Wellner plays toxicology specialist Henry Andrews and Berman plays assistant coroner David Phillips.

Besides the acting, each researcher has major roles in the creation and portrayal of each graphic murder scenario in every episode.

Both researchers explained that they work out of their homes because it gets them the fastest and best solution to the questions asked by the production team and the storywriters.

They have to find scientific, but possible answers that the show can use and make appear as real as possible to viewers.

The team distinctively discussed the process it takes to make a science-based show real and ready for airing. They cleared up any myths about how such an informational yet entertaining show is really created.

"There are at least 10 full-time writers and 10 full-time researchers behind the making of this forensic focused program. The group then comes up with plot points they've outlined, while the writer's generate the research questions we have to answer,"



MEGAN LUECKE / THE RIP

Jon Wellner signs an autograph for Gillian Anteau, a Biology major at BC, after a discussion in the Fireside Room on March 29.

Wellner said.

The actors continue speaking about how they have to make the real science fit into the short time span the show allows as well as make the plot the writers created come alive and logically makes sense.

They explained the amount of time and energy each person involved in the production of each episode has to contribute.

"There are four mythologists who rotate," Wellner said. "We are only allowed seven prep days in which location scouting is in-

cluded and meeting with special effects coordinators. The total time is nine days and 44 minutes actually being filmed.

"We work four to 10 hours and sometimes 14 to 16 hour days. There are three editors in rotation and they edit the scenes the day before.

"There is just one day left for all editing to be done before the show airs Thursday nights. CBS, Paramount and Bruckheimer productions have to edit for objectivity, nudity and violence. Like if there is too much sex or

violence in the episode."

As the presentation continued, the speakers gave a few examples of the types of questions they have to find answers to, such as the temperature an eyeball melts, which is at 168 degrees Fahrenheit.

Both Berman and Wellner give another example from a previous season.

"I can remember during season two there was an episode where we had to find out how a Zamboni gets rid of the ice that it collects and cleans, which is in three-by-five-by-five foot piles. We have to estimate the time it takes to look through the ice piles for evidence," Berman stated.

After their presentation, both guests opened the floor to questions about what they covered as well as for personal questions about their roles.

They did, however, clearly state that one of the main reasons they came to Bakersfield was because they have a longtime relationship with ballistic specialist Greg Laskowski of the Bakersfield Police Department.

"He has been a longtime friend and reference if we needed to ask a specialist questions. He has

been with the BPD for over 30 years. We were brought the idea by our agent, who gives a list of possible places to attend, and we wanted to speak personally when we heard that it would be in Bakersfield," Wellner stated.

The pair of actors arrived to BC after attending the Kern County Science Fair at Rabobank Arena.

That event and the presentation at BC was coordinated by program manager Rageshwar Goldberg of BC's Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics program.

The purpose of the STEM program is to show students numerous job opportunities in these fields. The STEM program's goals are similar to that of the researchers on why they do these types of events.

The other reason for the duo's appearance on BC's campus is because Goldberg organized their event through a collaborative grant between Cal State Bakersfield and BC.

"We want students to know how important science and math is to this profession and for them to know how important it is to pay attention in school," Wellner said.

Staff Editorial

Large debt threatens US position

The United States national debt is well over \$14 trillion, and with Japan being a major holder of our debt and the disaster that unfolded recently, there is a lot of concern about the effects it will have on America.

According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as of January 2011, the amount of debt held by foreign countries is \$4.4 trillion. China owns \$1.1 trillion of Treasury securities, Japan is second with nearly \$886 billion, and Britain is a distant third with \$278 billion. If Japan were to repatriate their assets, what would be the result?

There would no doubt be a huge problem — we have no money and our economy still has yet to fully recover from the economic crisis of 2008.

How would we pay this debt back — more borrowing from China? Please.

This has to be the biggest problem to come out of this whole thing in regard to America.

Now, we should definitely provide as much aid as possible. There should be no argument to the contrary, as Japan has been one of our best allies in the past, but we should first look at our economic situation and whether or not we could afford to pay back Japan if we need to. The fact is, we couldn't.

How will this affect the future of our country if we were forced by other world powers to honor our debt? If we were to honor our debt, which we should, it would surely lead to a domino effect of countries repatriating their U.S. Treasury assets. Japan isn't even the biggest holder of American assets.

What if something major was to happen to China and they were to call in their debt?

This would have a profound effect on our future. There is no way we as American people can believe that our country will stay on top of the world's political landscape with a debt as high as ours, and with the largest foreign holder of that debt such an influential world leader like China.

From ancient Rome to the British Empire, the world empires have held the top spot for roughly the same amount of time. America is approaching that time and its downfall, unless we deal with this problem head-on.

It is naive to think that events around the world, like the Japanese tsunami, will not have any consequences on our country with all of the money we owe the other world powers.

The world economy is a house of cards just waiting to collapse; all it takes is one country to go for all the rest to follow. The only possible result would be the fall of the American Empire and the rise of China to the top spot.

Our empire, and you must consider us an empire when you acknowledge the fact that we have military bases in more than 130 countries, is coming to a close — and the catastrophe in Japan might of just helped speed it up.

Put some privacy back in your life

By Brian N. Willhite
Reporter

In this day when everything is connected through the Internet, it has become incredibly easy to access just about anything or anyone you want to. With social networking applications like Facebook and Twitter you can even push a button to "check-in" at whatever liquor store or fast food restaurant you are at, as if that's really important for anyone to know anyway.

But what's more disturbing is that just about every Web site you visit there is an option to share content on your own personal pages. Though I think this

is a great marketing tool for the site to promote the company, it's just another way to track everything you're doing on the Web. The sites you visit and the content in your posts or blogs is tracked and used in a variety of ways. This practice, which I believe is OK because the Internet is an open market environment, is still siphoning the individuality out of everyone on the Web.

With the way technology is going, no one will be able to make a first impression anymore because everything we say and do will be associated with us like some sort of resume illuminating our life. Just think of a virtual barcode that brings up

a Google search of everything you've ever done on the Web every time your name is brought up.

It used to be that the way you are around your friends and family—in your private life—was intentionally separated from the way you conducted yourself in the public realm, your job, for example. With current and future advances in social networking, your privacy may become a dream instead of reality.

Now, even though most people still attempt to conduct themselves differently in public than in private, they are no longer able to be distinguished because of their personal profiles

letting it all hang out. So you may ask, "what's wrong with knowing who someone really is?" And, "aren't we better off being surrounded by the truth?" The answer is "no."

In the professional world, you shouldn't be known for that wild night where you passed out on the table in the bar because you won that drinking contest or because you and your friends pulled off that amazing stunt that just so happened to also damage a lot of public property. Instead, you should be known for your accomplishments and your ability to be accountable and productive.

Everyone has those moments,

but we don't need to know about them. Keep it within your circle of drunken friends.

I certainly don't want to know what my boss or my professor's pastimes are — unless they are friends of mine — because now the credibility I gave them is dwindling regardless if it affects their job. A working relationship should be kept as such and not interrupted with outside shenanigans.

Furthermore, personal identity is very valuable and one of the only things you can shape to your liking. Don't let others make decisions about you based on frivolous postings and private debauchery made public.

Build awareness, not human walls

By Tyler McGinty
Reporter

If you're one of the dedicated people who are going to be holding hands on April 17 as part of Hands Across California, I'm amazed. I applaud you for supporting something you believe in. I also don't understand you.

To be fair, I've never understood the whole idea behind these types of events. If the issue is important, it shouldn't matter how many people will join hands, how many miles you can run, or whatever else anyone is willing to do to raise money for a cause. It's all a gimmick. If someone really cares enough about something, they should just donate money.

It just seems like a cheap publicity stunt to raise awareness for a serious issue. Community colleges are an important resource and they are short of money. I just don't see why it takes a bunch of people holding hands to make people see it. To me, something this arbitrary just cheapens the issue. The message this sends to me is if you just hold hands, we can fix the issue. Which it won't.

What we need is something to be done about it. Education funding should be a higher priority, and I'm offended that it takes some wannabe-

hippies and C-list celebrities holding hands and looking like they're practicing for the biggest game of Red Rover to bring this issue to light.

How about instead we have a rally in Sacramento? How about we write letters to our state legislature? How about we actually do something instead of just joining hands? I think we could accomplish more with half as many people actively trying to make a change, instead of all of them making a line to show solidarity.

Apparently, Hands Across California can't even show that much solidarity. Some schools have dropped out, and the proposed route didn't even go all the way across California. It went about three-fourths of the state, had a little branch off, and was supposed to loop around.

But the loop won't be completed because some schools dropped out. The schools that don't participate still get the money, however.

Which makes even less sense to me. If participation isn't required, then it doesn't matter if they have a million people holding hands or just one.

These schools instead have their own little events like barbecues, or they'll hold hands with each other.

If you aren't going to fully participate, you shouldn't do it. It's ridicu-



COURTESY OF HANDSACROSSAMERICA.ORG

lous for these schools to raise money under the Hands Across California banner without actually trying to join in on this line.

I just don't get it. If the line actually stretched across California, I'd be a little more understanding.

But it won't. All it does is take people

who care about the issue away from trying to do something productive. Instead, they'll be holding hands and probably singing protest songs.

But if MC Hammer sings "Kumbaya" while he stands in line, I take back everything bad I said.

Self-publishing gives hope to struggling artists

By Keith Kaczmarek
Reporter

In a down economy with no end (or jobs) in sight, we as students should not expect to find jobs after school ends. This grim news stated, we should be looking to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps and here is one option: self-publishing.

Back in the day, writers of various sorts had to find a publisher for their work. The potential of your work didn't matter. All that mattered was whether you could find someone to believe that what you wanted to publish was commercially viable.

It didn't matter what it was

that you did. You might be a photographer, graphic artist, magazine writer, poet, novelist, historian, philosopher, game designer ... whatever. The publishers were the gatekeepers and the only way to hop that gate was to start your own publishing company or pay a vanity press to print your work and hope you could somehow get books into bookstores or sell them to the distributors that stock stores.

The good news is that today we live in the Golden Age of the Internet and personal computing. The Kindle, PDFs, and other various avenues have opened up and how. Lulu.com will walk you through the pro-

cess of publishing your work all the way to the point of facilitating the design of a professional-looking cover and real ISBN number.

The market for eBooks of various kinds is not only emerging, but like the Internet itself it takes advantage of the global markets and the niche markets. I mean, you might think you are the only person who enjoys romance novels with zombie love interests, but I can assure you that there are enough people scattered across the world who share your interests.

The possibilities for getting your stuff out there are actually too numerous to list in this opinion.

But before you assume that this is just the hopeful nonsense of an idealist raised on a steady diet of Internet mythology, this opinion can cite at least one success story: Amanda Hocking. The AP has been running stories the past week about this writer who, at the ripe age of 26, is already a millionaire from selling her supernatural romance novels on outlets like Amazon's Kindle Store and Barnes & Nobles NOOKbooks at prices ranging from little under a dollar to just under three dollars (she keeps 70%). In under a year, she has already sold enough books to impress the dead wood publishers and secure a four-book deal from a

publisher who had rejected her work years before.

Would you believe that she only started putting her books up in May?

The jobs of tomorrow don't seem to be materializing, and for the creative types who always seem to be habitually unemployed in a bad economy, we must embrace the fact that our elders don't actually know how to keep the economy working properly or keep people employed. Luckily, we now live in a world that seems designed to break down the old barriers.

I mean, if Facebook can spark a revolution in the Middle East, what can't the Internet do for you?

'GADE FEEDBACK "What is 'Hands Across America' and the purpose of the organization?"

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

Compiled by:
The Rip Staff



Felicia Otun, nursing: "Helping others with financial aid, at least in California."



Trisha Hust, psychology: "Fundraising."



Cory Groves, animal science: "I've never heard of it."



Faiza Mussa, nursing: "To support charities, such as cancer."



Alice Pyun, communication: "They held hands down the highway at one point."



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'Rolling Papers' offers a great way to relax



COURTESY OF TAYLORGANG.NET

By Martin Chang
Reporter

With the songs on "Rolling Papers," Wiz Khalifa has laid down tracks with a dreamy, flowing groove created by smooth, soaring keyboard parts and well-composed beats. A groove that sometimes is excellent and inspiring.

ALBUM REVIEW



This groove defines the album and gives the music vision. It lends itself to a consistent sound that is easy to listen to and creates a relaxing mood. I can see listeners putting on this album whenever they need to unwind.

It's the use of keyboards that makes "Rolling Papers" stand out. Each track is constructed so you really feel the flow of each

melodic phrase played by the keys. These phrases soar in a way that create the dreamy vibe that Khalifa was going for. It's the bright tone, the simplicity, and the natural flow that gives these parts this feeling.

These leads are helped by the rhythm sections of the songs. The dreamy chords and sounds prop up the songs. Oftentimes these types of effects get in the way of hip-hop songs, but they only help here. Developing a layered effect that really constructs the world that Khalifa wants to create. He was also careful to not let the drums and bass interfere with the mood he was making.

The music has stayed in my mind. When I was not listening to the album, I found these phrases playing in my head, feeling the songs even when I wasn't listening to the songs, the music flows in and out of my mind and it really stuck with me.

The music here provides, for me, an escape. I know when I'm listening to his music, I'm not going to be stressed out or tense. Those keyboard parts really make me feel like nothing can harm me. I can just put on this album, close my eyes and groove to the music.

Although I feel that the music is strong, there are moments that are stronger than others. Tracks such as "When I'm Gone" and "Black and Yellow" subjects are average Hip-Hop fare. Something that is less interesting. The truly great moments come from when Khalifa goes a little further than the average raps about diamonds and women. These weaker moments are still great because of the music, yet I wish the whole album were as excellent as the standout tracks on the album.

The tracks that go a bit deeper also are the tracks where the mu-

sic seems to be the most intense and well-written. When Khalifa is speaking about more than fantasy you can tell his heart is in it and he really excels.

On "Roll Up," Khalifa talks of a relationship, it's one of the simplest songs on the album, yet one of its most effective. The song just sounds like joy, and you can feel the love he had for the relationship.

On "Fly Solo," he talks of spreading your wings after a failed relationship, of being out on your own. It captures the bittersweet feeling of being alone and free.

On "Star of the Show" and "Cameras," he talks of having a dream and achieving them.

It's tracks such as these that are the best on the album. You can tell he has a passion for what he is saying and he made sure every detail of these songs created the emotions that he went through.

Motivation missing from flick

By Keith Kaczmarek
Reporter

"Your Highness" is an iconic stoner movie. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but there are enough flaws in that genre that if someone makes an iconic example of that genre you are probably not going to watch this movie again when it comes to video.

Starring Danny McBride and James Franco as princely brothers Thaddeus and Fabious, they play out the classic stoner story with the twist that it happens to be a Lord of the Rings-style fantasy story. One is the fun-loving, unmotivated, and fat stoner prince and the other is a caricature of the noble fantasy hero, and their adventure involves a stock evil wizard with a particularly perverse plan for world domination (I won't spoil it for you).

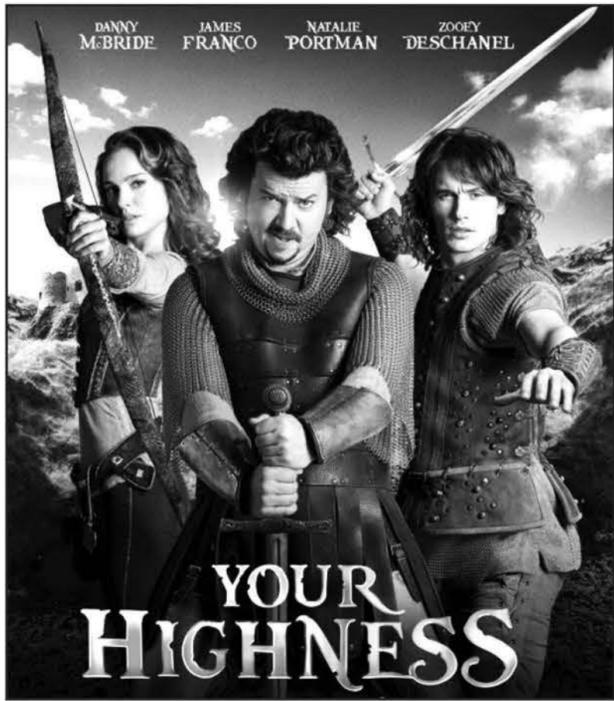
MOVIE REVIEW



The humor is sophomoric, but that's its strong point and for that I give it high marks. There are some comedic boundaries that they cross that I don't think will ever be crossed again without people inevitably comparing them to "Your Highness."

I also approve of the mostly senseless nudity that harkens back to the sex comedies of the 1980s when filmmakers were aware that you could sell a weak plot by getting some people naked and they weren't ashamed to just do that.

The female casting also seemed inspired with the lovely Natalie Portman



COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

From left: Natalie Portman, Danny McBride and James Franco

and the doll-like Zoëy Deschanel. They didn't get the best lines or the most interesting characters, but it was a pleasure to watch both in a sword and sorcery picture.

My biggest criticism is that not only just this feels like a stoner movie with pointless drug references and scenes of drug use and general anti-establishment themes, but this movie feels like it was made by stoners.

They tend to repeat the same jokes over and over, the plot is simple to the point of absurdity, the non-stoners are all portrayed as humorless and without a clue, and the bar is set so low on the stoner hero that as a viewer you wonder if he has any redeeming qualities at all.

The film misses the essential theme of the stoner picture: the stoner hero gets some motivation (like Seth Rogan's character in "Knocked Up") or he averts some personal disaster while having a great time and

making the audience love him with his irreverent ways (Cheech and Chong in "Up in Smoke"). In "Your Highness," I'm left with the opinion that even while the world was saved, Thaddeus is just going to get killed in the next adventure if his brother isn't around to do the real fighting, and I'm actually OK with that. I never really liked Thaddeus, and if he meets some ignoble end like being stabbed by a stable boy for being a jerk, I'd be fine with that.

Perhaps I'm over-thinking this movie and the other critics are correct when they assume that this movie would be more fun if the audience were stoned.

Personally, I enjoyed this movie for the 90 minutes I was in the theater and it did get some authentic laughs, but I was having trouble staying awake, and I'm not sure that being stoned would have helped with that issue.

Nothing beats hard work for a good wash

By Zak S. Cowan
Sports Editor

Getting a new vehicle, especially when it's a major upgrade, can be so fulfilling to one's soul.

Now finding the right place to keep that vehicle looking its best can be detrimental to one's soul.

This was the conundrum

CRUZ THRU REVIEW



I was in after finally finding my first car, a '98 Chevy Astro van, to a 2000 GMC Sierra truck.

My new baby badly needed a wash, especially after I took it for a weekend retreat to the Bay Area, during which it was hit by rain during the drive there and by heat and bugs during the drive back.

As I set out to get the best cleanse for my new truck, my first option was one of the many Cruz Thru Express Car Washes around town.

The Cruz Thru was cheap and quick, costing only \$5 and only taking about five minutes to go through the machine, but the self-vacuuuming was definitely a bother. Although it was good having your own eyes

watching to make sure every spec of dirt gets sucked up, I would have rather had paid a couple extra bucks for someone else to do it for me as I stood idly to the side.

After the wash there was still residue on places like the side-view mirrors and the rear bumper, and the front bumper still had bugs stuck to it from the trip up north.

Being unsatisfied with the cleanliness of my truck from the Cruz Thru, I decided to go a more expensive destination: The Rainforest Car Wash and Detail.

RAINFOREST REVIEW



Located at 7301 White Lane, Rainforest is a 100 percent hand car wash. I decided to go all out and get their best wash, along with an inside detail that included shampooing of the carpet. This all came out to \$64.99.

After nearly an hour of waiting, my truck was finally done. The inside looked fantastic and every inch of the dashboard looked brand new. I was, however, unmoved by the result of the outside wash.

The rims still had brake grim on them, there were

soap spots on the top of the cab, and worst yet the bugs were still stuck on the front bumper.

I thought that with all that money that I spent, I would have gotten a full-on rub down of my entire truck, but the worker told me that rims were not included.

The inside looked great; however, there was an odd odor that persisted for about three days after that I can only suspect came from the shampooing.

Unpleased yet again with results, the journey to get my truck looking the best it could persisted. That's when Eric entered the picture.

Eric, my girlfriend's 16-year-old younger brother, thought \$10 was a deal for him to detail the entire truck.

After he was finished, not a spot of grime or dirt was left, and finally all the bugs were off the front bumper.

This is the method I am going to use for the near and distant future, and if Eric isn't up for it, I'm sure I can find another poor teenager to take on the job.

POOR TEENAGER



3D is nowhere to be found at 3D Arcade

By James Timothy
Reporter

It's been some years since arcades were a place where people frequented and kids hung out. In the '80s they were a gathering spot for youth to get away from their parents and drop a few bucks in quarters to try to beat the high score in "Pac Man."

ARCADE REVIEW



But a long time has passed since that was the norm and for today's arcade to try to make

any sort of profit, they naturally would need to offer something a little different.

Which is why I was intrigued when an editor asked me to go do a piece on the 3D Arcade at the Valley Plaza Mall. 3D Arcade? Well, that sounds interesting. I had some initial speculation on the way a 3D Arcade would operate, such as whether the patron would be handed a pair of glasses on the way in, or if no glasses were required.

I walked in through a small clique of suspicious teenagers, and inside. I scanned the room and on first glance there wasn't much that popped out to me.

However, a closer look

proved that there were some differences between this arcade and your run of the mills. The proprietor sought to draw in clientele with newer games like "Dance Dance Revolution" and various musical games like "Percussion Freaks 7th Mix."

There were a few always-popular games like "Tekken 5" and "Marvel Vs. Capcom 2" that stood out thanks to homemade cabinets and 200-inch projection screens.

I strode over to the latter game, having had some experience back in the day on it, and before long, a young guy wearing skinny pants and a hoodie came up and asked if he could play

me. I agreed, and he proceeded to beat me in such a fashion that I felt like a newborn child trying to play with the grown-ups. I backed down in shame to survey the rest of the place.

There were about 30 games in all, but older titles such as "House of the Dead" and "Soulcalibur 3" were ignored largely for the big-screen games and the DDR Machine, on which a teenage boy surged frantically for his friends nodding approval.

I was impressed, but just watching the display of adrenaline almost made me want to lie down. I left before these kids made me feel any older, with mixed feelings about the place in general.



KAYLA BROADHAG / THE RIP

Patrons practice DDR moves at 3D Arcade on April 11.

It would appear that the owner is trying to draw in customers with a name like 3D Arcade to capitalize on the current 3D craze, and if that is in fact the truth it seems sort of desperate. However, there

are a few interesting gimmicks such as the big screens, and at the very least it's enough to interest a few kids in ditching school and spending their lunch money there.

BC BRAINS "What does the word 'zerk' mean?"

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



Frank Andrade, computer science: "Either being polite or being a jerk."



Maria Cotilla, child development/special ed.: "A clown."



Vanessa Madina, undeclared: "To freak out."



Shirley Reeder, child development/special ed.: "A goofball."



Robert Lambert, welding: "A ball joint found in cars."

Compiled by:
The Rip Staff

Central Valley writer shares his life stories

By Brian N. Willhite
Reporter

Manuel Munoz, author of the recently released novel "What You See in the Dark," spoke to audiences at Bakersfield College about his life experiences with the Central Valley, the ideas that led to the creation of his novel and how he got interested in creative writing. The presentation took place in the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities on April 6.

The dark, noir-esque novel set in Bakersfield's past was influenced by his love of the Central Valley and like his other two books "The Faith Healer of Olive Avenue" and "Zigzagger" — both short story collections — the novel embraces Latino heritage and the culture of the time.

The novel is set in 1959 Bakersfield and it concerns a shoe store clerk named Teresa, who is Mexican, falling in love with the town's most eligible bachelor, Dan, who is white. The two also experience some racial disapproval from the people in the story. While the story takes place, the movie "Psycho" is being filmed throughout the story.

The novel's backdrop is fictionally set during the production of the film. Munoz said that he was inspired to learn more information about the film after noticing a highway sign during a scene in the film that read the city of Gorman was near.

"So when I saw that I thought 'oh my god,' the Bates Motel, even though the film is not telling you that, the Bates Motel has to be in the Central Valley and the Central Valley is what I have

always written about," Munoz said.

He said that during his research for the book, he found out that there was a secondary unit that filmed footage of Highway 99 that was used for rear projection shots.

As the only one in his family to graduate from college, Munoz expressed how making the transition from life in the Central Valley to college on the east coast was a big change for him, but ultimately helped him with what he wanted to do and where he wanted to be.

"I went off to Harvard on a full ride. It was a very scary experience to be away from my family and also at such a great distance. It was clear across the country and I wasn't going to have the money to come back whenever I wanted to," Munoz said.

Upon the advice of professors, Munoz pursued his interest in writing and soon began to feel that creative writing may be something he could do professionally.

"When I was [at Harvard] I started taking creative writing classes and sort of discovered and was encouraged that with that little bit of talent that I had going for me that I actually might be really good at this," he said.

He was further encouraged by his professors to pursue writing professionally and to get his Master's in Fine Arts so he applied to Cornell University and was accepted.

He then met his mentor Helena Maria Viramontes, a professor of English and author of several Chicano culture titles, whom he credits as being a strong influ-

ence in his life personally and professionally.

During this time, Munoz was at a point in his life where he had not been publicly open about his sexuality and Viramontes showed him that his honesty would translate to his writing and make him a better writer.

"She (Viramontes) turned out to be a person who is very influential in my life. I don't want to say that Helena encouraged me to 'come out,' but she was instrumental in getting me to realize that my work wasn't going to go anywhere if I didn't allow myself to be honest about the people I was writing about.

"In other words, by not coming out, and not addressing in fiction things I was feeling in terms of personal conflicts with myself and my family and where I grew up, the stories were not going to be honest. They weren't going to be painful; they weren't going to be revelatory. So, out I came," Munoz said.

Munoz is now committed to writing stories that center on the culture of the Central Valley because of the love he has for where he came from and the want to share those stories with others.

"There's so many geographies in this big nation of ours that there are places that tend to get forgotten and I think the Central Valley is one of those," Munoz said.

Currently, Munoz teaches creative writing at the University of Arizona. His two previous titles have garnered him many accolades, including the Whiting Writers' Award in 2008 and the PEN/O. Henry Award in 2009.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Author Manuel Munoz signs copies of his book, "What You See in the Dark," after giving a talk in the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities on April 6.



MARTIN CHANG / THE RIP

James Russell (left) and Danielle Morin play the alto and baritone saxophones respectively at a Bakersfield College jazz concert in the Indoor Theater on April 1.

Jazz players groove out

By Martin Chang
Reporter

Bakersfield College's Jazz Ensemble played a selection of pieces, including one by BC student James Russell on April 1 in The Outdoor Theater.

Russell, who plays alto saxophone, also had several solos that night.

He has been at BC for five years and has studied music for two-to-three years. He wrote the song "Ain't No Sleepin'" the only song by a BC student played at the concert.

The song was written in a moment of simple inspiration. "I just sat down at the piano one day and figured out a riff, and it morphed into what was played today," said Russell. He describes his piece as "just jazzy, nothing more than that."

He enjoyed having his piece played live. "It was a blast having it played. It was fun. I never had that experience, to have something that you put so much time and effort to be played for

the public. I'm a composition major so I just wanted to put on a concert."

He described preparing for the concert as "a lot of hard work getting all those notes in, just practice, practice, practice."

According to Russell, the difference between jazz and other styles is the improvisation. "You're given a key then you blow your [chords] or whatever comes to mind. Jazz is cool like that. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. Jazz is a more free art form than classical music, or something like that."

Russell enjoys this nature of jazz music. "It really lets you say what is inside. You can tell when someone's up there just to play and when someone has something to say. You can tell."

Joey Hubbard, a BC student who played vibraphone and marimba that night, has been playing mallets since his freshman year of high school.

He has joined jazz band at BC for the first time, and this is his first time playing a jazz

concert.

He said about this experience, "It was a little nerve-racking. It's a new thing for me, improvising on the fly. It's very challenging for me. I like notes showing you what to do. It's a learning process for me. But it's fun. I really enjoy it."

"There's a lot of talent in the group. I'm just trying to follow what they do, and it helps me out with the improvising."

Hubbard said playing the concert was "very exciting." He called the concert "a little stressful but fun. I'm happy with how it turned out."

Hubbard enjoys the challenge of playing the marimba and vibraphone. "There's always more to do with it," he said. "You're always perfecting it. It's always fun to play. You can mess around with it every day."

For Hubbard, his favorite moments of the concert were the "Latin groove" songs.

He said it was "more fun for me, its very up-tempo and intricate."

Local Libyan shares his thoughts

By Keith Kaczmarek
Reporter

For Ben Youssef Mohamed, a student from Libya studying engineering at BC and living with his uncle in Bakersfield, the conflict in Libya is not just a distant war in an unknown country.

His father, mother, and three sisters are still there, and he is afraid to even ask them about events in the area for fear of their phones being tapped by Libyan intelligence agencies, and then his family made the victims of retaliation.

"It's terrible what Gaddafi is doing," he said. "I am afraid to even talk to my father. I am afraid that someone will tell someone [else]."

"It was normal for me because I was born there. When I came here, I felt the difference. Back then, I knew I couldn't talk, but it was OK. How could I even breathe then?"

For him, the events in northern Africa are related. "I think we always need democracy. Our country had no democracy, but Egypt had a little," he said when asked about the influence the recent events in Egypt and Tunisia might have had on Libya. He continued, "After what we saw in Egypt and Tunisia, we thought 'let's do it.'"

"The U.S., they helped us and made the UN help us. That is a little too late, but a little late is better than none at all, right?"

His main concern is the loss of life the war might bring. "I really want a democracy, and to stop the number of people being killed. We want a better Libya. We don't want [the government officials] killed. We want justice and a trial."

He's not a fan of Gaddafi. "The one good thing he did with his life is that he made us all hate him."

Losing the war might be his greatest fear. "He's going to kill us all. Maybe not in the beginning, he won't do much. After a few months, after everyone turns around, he's going to do a massacre."

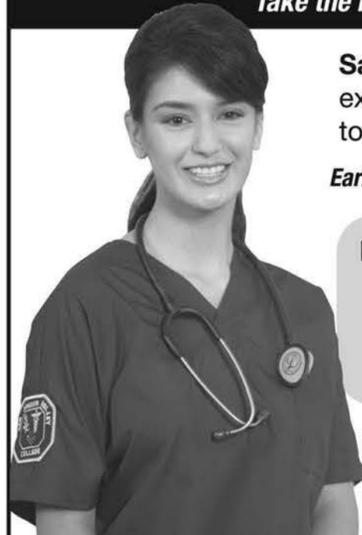
He is also concerned about poverty in Libya. "In Libya, if you want to be wealthy, you have to do bad business. If you want to buy a home or a car, you have to be a criminal."

He is also concerned about American's confusion about Muslims. "There is a lot of thought that the revolution might make us go Al Qaeda, but there are differences between Muslims and them," he said, shaking his head at the possibility.

He still has hope for his country. "I think of returning to Libya and seeing the new Libya," he said.

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