

Statham fixes up the big-screen as 'The Mechanic'

By Breanna Gray
Reporter

The remake of the '72 film, "The Mechanic," stands alone as thrilling and action-packed, but when compared to the classic it falls short.

MOVIE REVIEW

★★★★☆

Jason Statham plays the lead role of Arthur Bishop, who is an emotionless hit man with good intentions.

Once corruption starts within

the agency he works for, Bishop finds an interest in an old friend's misguided son, Steve McKenna, played by Ben Foster.

As soon as McKenna starts learning the trade, Bishop's fine-tuned methods of assassination start to go astray.

The film is filled with clever and ruthless action scenes and insights into Bishop's mindset for killing, building a connection to the character.

Many scenes were changed or just cut out from the original in order to integrate new technology and current problems.

The most disappointing change to the film is the personalities of

the main characters.

Charles Bronson originally played Bishop, who was an older, more refined man with high-class tastes, instead of the cold, machine-like muscle man Statham portrays.

The remake depicts McKenna as a foolish man who cannot do anything right and sees the assignments as an outlet for his revenge and anger.

As long as you don't compare it to the original too much and appreciate it for its more modern take with more extravagant action and up to date characters, it's worth the trip to the movie theater.



Jason Statham, as the Mechanic, hangs from a building during a scene from the film.

Nike and Zigs inspire 'swag'

By Julian Moore and
Michael Morrow
Opinions Editor/Reporter

LeBron 8

Love him or hate him, LeBron James typically has one of the best selling shoes on the market. And this year is no different with the Nike LeBron 8.

There are currently two versions of the shoe out with five different color schemes.

The biggest snag on these sneakers is the \$160 price tag. But if you can fork over the money, it is definitely worth the purchase.

Whether it was walking or playing ball, the feel in the shoes is something I noticed immediately. The v1, with its weight, feels like cement at first but soon it's almost empowering. Definitely something low post players would love as much as a drop-step. There is little-to-no impact when coming down off the glass with the great cushion system. Just like James' Cavalier jerseys, these shoes are on fire.

The lighter shoes, on the other hand, are perfect for guards to keep the crossover quick and deadly. They're light and much less clunky, which makes running in these shoes feel effortless. As

much as I love the NBA-meets-Marty McFly look of these shoes, I am not sold on them being a mainstream ball shoe. I just can't bring myself to say this version leaves the competition in the dust like the v1 does.

The v1 comes in four colors, uses Nike's Flywire technology and has a heavy frame for a basketball shoe at 17.7 ounces. Much of the shoe's weight comes from the foam cushion on the inside, which is actually a memory foam design.

Whereas the sleek and slim v2 is a more stripped down version with a clear outer mesh for a more breathable feel. But the most important feature of the shoe is the lighter weight (16.6 ounces). Nike also puts their Flywire design at the forefront with the core left exposed.

Each shoe provides great ankle and arch support but the v1 is a far more complete basketball shoe and delivers on the "swag" for the hefty price.

ZigTech

The Reebok ZigTech and new ZigTech Slash is an all-around training shoe made for true comfort and is easily the most comfortable shoe I have ever worn.

The "energy drink for your feet" really does give you a boost of energy while doing whatever you need to get done in your kicks. Whether it's running to build endurance or stay in good



ANNIE STOCKMAN / THE RIP

LeBron v2 (left), Reebok ZigTech (center), LeBron v1 (right) all available at your local Foot Locker stores.

condition, walking around campus all day, or playing basketball, ZigTech by Reebok has got it right. And for a little over 100 dollars, you get maximum productivity out of the ZigTechs.

I spent a day visiting three four-year schools I was interested in and decided to take the ZigTech Slash out for the trip. I drove to L.A. from in town and walked the three campuses without even a thought of my feet being uncomfortable.

In fact, the ZigTechs performed so well, I felt I had the energy to just continue to walk around the city and enjoy the sites.

I also tested the ZigTech Slash out on the local courts around town. Usually, after about five-to-six games back-to-back, I start to ache pretty bad in the knees and legs. But with the Slash, I confidently put in a few more games with a boost of energy throughout.

ZigTechs come in many colors

at your local sneaker stores, but if those colors don't suit you, the Reebok website allows you to customize either shoe in various different colors.

ZigTech by Reebok prides themselves on the motto "more train with less pain" and has soft padded insoles and a soft padded lining that completely surrounds the heel which Reebok says slows down the rate of torque your heel receives with other shoes.

The zig-zag shaped sole of the shoe absorbs the impact of your heel to the ground and transfers the impact into the energy you receive.

And the light-foam sole keeps the shoe a lighter shoe to run with. The ZigTech reduces wear and tear on key leg muscles by 20 percent over time.

I've had my ZigTechs for a month and I'm not sure what good it has done for me, as far as preventing wear and tear, but as a shoe, it exceeds expectations.

Video game delivers with gore and thrills

By James Timothy
Reporter

You wake up, disoriented. There's a light shining in your eyes. Squinting to try to

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

★★★★☆

that become slowly clearer until you realize that someone is repeating your name. "Isaac, Isaac. We've got to get you out of this straitjacket. Isaac... can you hear me?" The voice pleads. "Isaac, you're in terrible danger."

The orderly in front of you stops shaking your shoulders momentarily to claw frantically at the restraints that bind your arms to your torso. Before you can think, the orderly throws his head back and lets out a bloodcurdling scream as some unidentifiable claw-like appendage tears through his chest, stopping only inches from your face. You're immediately covered in an obscene amount of blood as whatever is brutally massacring the man begins to take control of his body, stretching it into hideous proportions.

You thrust your head forward and hit the monstrosity as it undulates and writhes, and it falls to the floor where the screams blend with the noises of blood splattering the walls, the ceiling, you.

Stumbling forward, you look for something to reassure you, you're not next. Then ghostly

green shapes collect at the center of the screen, resolving themselves into one word: Run. So begins "Dead Space 2," Visceral Games' sequel to the popular "Dead Space." Despite the fact that most rats have a greater attention span than me, and that I am not a great fan of the genre and the current craze with First-person shooter games such as the Halo and Call Of Duty series, I nevertheless found myself drawn into this moody world thanks to the tight linear game play, intuitive controls, and almost hysterical amount of violence.

The game begins with you controlling Isaac Clarke, who has woken from a coma in the medical facility of a space station orbiting Saturn.

Adding to the already delightful scene of blood-spewing psychopathic invertebrates, Isaac has the additional pleasure of suffering from a deep psychosis and is spiraling into the depths of madness.

The thing that stands out the most about "Dead Space 2" is the fear you experience. The developers have done an outstanding job creating an atmosphere filled with dread. You constantly hear cries of terror from the next room over, and rounding a corner is done slowly, with a quickening pulse while you psychologically prepare yourself.

You're never prepared though, and the scares are frequent.

Play it in the dark, at night, when everything is quiet for the best effect, I promise I won't mock your girlish shrieks.

Espresso Cafe has warm hospitality and offers student/faculty discounts

By Crista Rodriguez
Reporter

The Espresso Café located on Mt Vernon Avenue, across the street, from the Renegade Memorial Stadium, is an incredible place to go and relax.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

★★★★★

Located where the Supreme Bean used to be. They have many selections when it comes to desserts and drinks such as: cakes, bagels, cookies, candy, tea, coffee (hot or cold), soda, juices and if you want something they don't offer, you can create your own.

They also have sandwiches and soups that are very delicious.

The prices are very affordable for the quality of their foods and drinks.

The look for the Espresso

Café is very sophisticated and fancy. Their idea when creating this café was to bring a San Francisco coffee shop to Bakersfield and not be so rushed.

Starbucks doesn't even come close to this café when it comes to the décor.

This place is very elegant and has everything you will need to relax and study for class or just to hangout with friends or co-workers. It is also a great place to have work meetings.

They offer the daily newspaper and free WI-FI for all its customers.

As a bonus, all Bakersfield College students and staff get 10 percent off their purchase. It's an all around great environment and has great customer service.

Being a first time customer I had no idea what to choose from on the menu, they told me they could make me what I would like as long as they had the ingredients, they were very friendly and

sweet. I ended up enjoying a delicious ice blended drink made with white chocolate and whipped cream.

It is a very welcoming place. Espresso Café is a locally owned business, not corporate, they see each other as a great big family.

This café is very healthy and the bakers make everything in the morning so that all their products are fresh. Almost all of what they offer, as far as pastries, is made with whole-wheat flour. All of their products are local and made here in California.

They try to stay green at all times and are very big with recycling and helping out the community, plus all of their foods are organic.

Espresso Café has been open for two months; their hours are Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. till 5 p.m. and Friday through Saturday 7 a.m. until 2 p.m., and are closed on Sunday.



BRANDON BARRAZA / THE RIP

The Espresso Cafe is located across the street from Bakersfield College at 3601 Mount Vernon Ave. and is in the former location of the Supreme Bean.

BC BRAINS "What is an upright desk or stand with a slanted top used to hold a text at the proper height for a lecturer called?"

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



Brent Elmore,
Biology:
"A lectern."



Devin Gibson,
Psychology:
"A podium."



Kevin Sagadl,
Criminal Justice:
"A podium."



Nathan Jones,
Criminal Justice:
"A podium."



Shannon Holland,
Nursing:
"A teacher's stand."

Compiled by:
Rip Staff

BC student uses dance moves for inspiration

By Breanna Gray
Reporter

College students can relate to the importance of having an expressive outlet for regaining focus and letting go of stress. Maui native and Bakersfield College freshman Lena Savooun, who goes by DJ, is 21 years old and dance has been his form of escape for the past 16 years.

Savooun channeled the negative energy in his life and taught himself how to dance at a young age by watching Michael Jackson's music videos. When he was five years old, he found that dancing helped him cope while his mother suffered from alcoholism.

But it wasn't long before turmoil struck even harder. "I quit dancing for like a year because I was going through a hard time after my dad had passed away," he said, "then when I was seven I started dancing again. I took it serious and also just messed around."

Only two years after his father's death, social services took Savooun and his siblings away from his alcoholic mother. They brought him to California where he was separated from his siblings.

He was placed in the foster program and was bounced from family to family. "It was pretty rough. I stayed with about six foster families," he said. "They just couldn't ever really be there for me like regular parents. They just got their money, and that's how I saw it."

The transition was difficult. Savooun had to learn English and how to adjust to a life that never seemed to be stable. But dance was always there for him. He said that he would dance, "just to forget about stress and forget about everything."

The most difficult obstacle for him to deal with was the sense of never belonging. "I'm scared to get closer to people then lose them. I try to make a family, but I know what's going to happen. I've been through it too much," he said.



PHOTOS BY GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Bakersfield College student Lena "DJ" Savooun practices his dance moves at The Gate recreation center Jan. 27. Savooun credits dancing as giving him the inspiration to overcome much of the hardships of his life.

He enrolled in BC this semester to become a paramedic and is currently taking general education classes after finding support from his friend David Balderas. Savooun was having difficulties with housing when he reconnected with his old friend. He now lives with Balderas, who he considers the only one to be true family.

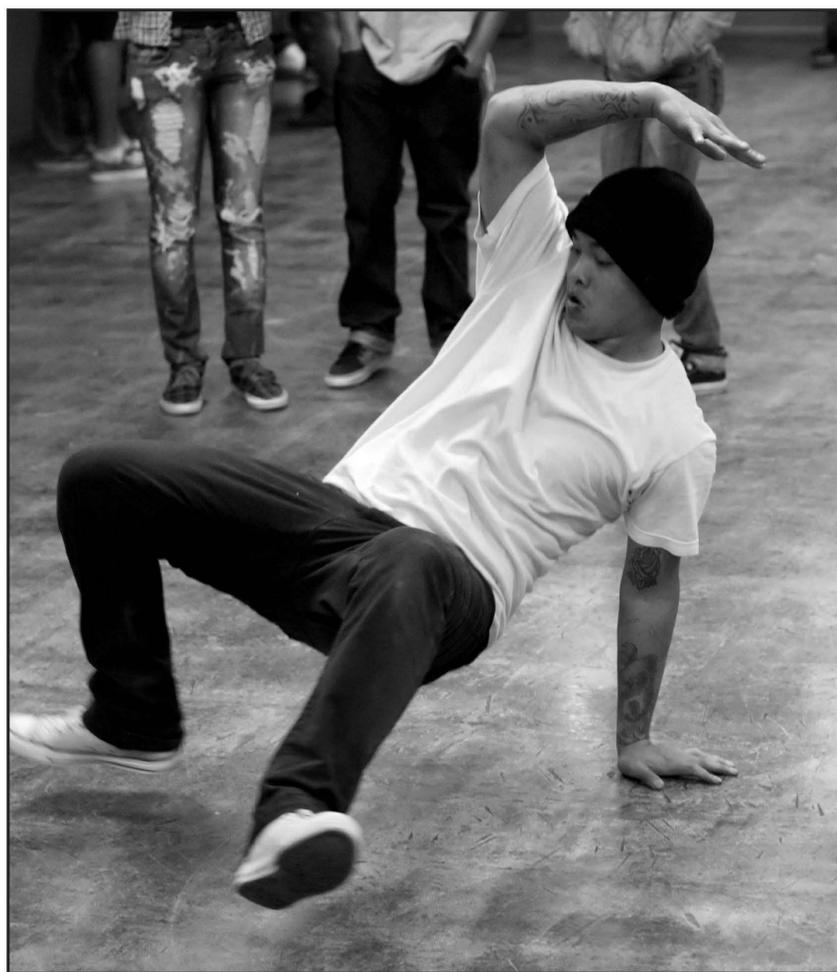
He dances whenever he gets the chance. He doesn't care if it's alone, with his crew, at school, or anywhere he feels the inspiration.

Every week he dances at The Shindig with Stage One Crew where he goes by the name B-boy Maui. The Shindig is a part of a church organization that al-

lows young people to hangout and show off their skills in a safe environment. It is also where he gives lessons in break dancing and practices with his crew.

His dream in life is to make something out of his dancing. He said that if he could compete in a dance contest with his crew and take home first place, he would consider that the greatest success.

He believes that he is able to overcome everything in his past by staying positive about what may come in the future. He said, "I don't mope around and dwell on things. I just move on with my life because I know that there are more things out there to see and to learn."



Parks seeks to entertain crowds with hypnosis show

By Sandra G. Ward
Reporter

Brian Parks, a self-proclaimed student of gelotology, the study of laughter, has brought his new comedic hypnosis show to town. He will be performing at the Replay Lounge & Grill in February, in addition to a one-night performance at The Center for Improv Advancement at the Ice House.

Parks believes laughter is the best medicine and focuses on making sure people laugh during his shows. "When people's minds are just adrift, that's when you get some of your funniest stuff," said Parks.

Parks has been a longtime veteran of stage, stand-up comedy and improvisation since 1973. He has even done some serious acting on stage and hosted a radio talk show in the '90s for KNZR. "I have been around stage and theater for as long as I can remember," said Parks.

Parks learned the technique of hypnosis and earned a certificate as a hypnotherapist from the Psycho Neurology Foundation in 1985.

While practicing as a massage therapist, Parks began using hypnosis to enhance the therapeutics of massage treatments. "People have told me that the effects of the massage treatment lasted much longer with the combined hypnosis to the treatment," Parks said.

After spending much time performing and becoming accustomed to interacting with the public, Parks took a night job for about six or seven years that prevented him from that interaction. "I enjoy working with people and



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Comic hypnotist Brian Parks demonstrates the infectious power of laughter at the Replay Lounge on Jan. 26.

doing hypnosis. And I like being in front of a crowd and making people laugh," said Parks. "That is what I do."

Eventually, Parks decided to get back into doing something that he enjoyed, being among crowds of people and making them laugh. Parks took workshop classes in Las Vegas on mastering the use of hypnosis in performing to large crowds.

Now, he is attempting to bring those skills, along with audience participation, together to perform

for audiences in Bakersfield.

Shows are scheduled for Feb. 2, 9 and 18 at the Replay Lounge on Buck Owens Boulevard at 8 p.m.

On the 18th, special guest George "The Giant" McArthur will be performing with him. On Feb. 4, Parks will be performing at The Center for Improv Advancement at the Ice House on Chester Avenue.

Ticket prices start at \$12 at the door. Discounts are available online at www.brianparks.com.

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BC baseball team ready for opener

By Julian Moore
Opinion Editor

The Bakersfield College baseball team has been holding night practices in various weather conditions the last few days in preparation for its opening tournament at home.

BC will be hosting a tournament to open the season on Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. against Irvine Valley.

In the meantime, the Renegades are preparing for the fog and damp weather but are hoping not to get it.

"We haven't yet exposed our players to playing in the foggy, damp, wet, cold weather, and with the potential of that happening Thursday night when we open up, is why we're starting now," said head coach Tim Painton.

The Renegades are hoping that last season's pitching will carry over. The entire pitching staff looks to be the strength for the Renegades as seven of its ten pitchers are returning sophomores this season.

"We return an awful lot on the mound, and it's been very good throughout the fall for us," said Painton.

"I think going into this, we return more pitching than we do position players and certainly that should be the strength of our ball club."

BC's pitching staff was 14-8 in conference last year and Painton will look to sophomore Bryan Maxwell to head the rotation.

"Maxwell obviously had an outstanding freshman year for us a year ago," he said. "He's definitely a guy who is going to start on the mound for us."

Maxwell pitched in 101 innings while the next closest player to him had 76.

"We also have Marcos Reyna, who was with us two years ago. He sat out last year with an injury, so we're certainly looking to

him. He was a 14th round draft pick two years ago," he said.

Painton will also be depending on Travis Gifford and Joe Neilson in the rotation. Gifford, a sophomore out of North High, threw out of the bullpen last year and will be asked to do more this season. While Neilson will be going back to the rotation where he was 5-0 as a starter.

"He pitched well for us, pitched on the postseason for us and had some experience, and is a kid that just doesn't beat himself. So right now it looks like he'll probably be in the starting rotation for us."

Rounding out the bullpen will be sophomore Chris Rodriguez, who will be the Renegades' closer this season.

Rodriguez, a Sanger High graduate, was a back-up third baseman last season who is rather new to pitching.

"What we saw out of Chris was tremendous arm strength and he was behind a little bit offensively last year. We sat down at the end of last season and I was going to approach him with the idea of pitching, but he approached me with it. He's fairly new at pitching but he's somebody who will run the baseball up there at 91, 92 miles an hour. So we're looking at him to be our closer, and I think he will do a very good job in that role," Painton said.

Along with the returning players in the bullpen, the Renegades bring back infielder David Pennington. Last season, Pennington began the season bouncing around the left side of the infield until he was moved to second in an attempt to get more offense out of the position. This season Pennington could be sharing time at shortstop and the outfield.

"Our depth in the infield is very good, we do not have the same amount of depth in the outfield. Because of Pennington's versatility and athleticism he's

able to move and do some other things," he said.

"We have to see how things play out, but today he's our shortstop."

This move is a direct result from the players who transferred at the end of last year.

"We lost three very good ones, obviously with [Iraad] Nuriddin, [Andrew] Letourneau, and [Sam] Westendorf. We lost three extremely fast outfielders; three guys that provided an awful lot of offense," he said.

"We're just a new look out there with inexperience, and we don't run as well as we did a year ago."

Pennington does run well, that's really the one tool he can take out there that we may lack a bit. But we'll just have to see, right now he's our shortstop."

BC will also have a new catcher behind the plate as Dylan Nasiatka transferred out to Hofstra University. But Painton doesn't feel that there will be a "feeling-out" period between the pitchers and catchers.

"I don't think that chemistry is going to be a problem. We have Nathan Ketelhut behind the plate, who was with us last year. Brock Allen was a redshirt for us last year, so he's been around our pitching staff. Brian Haney is another returning catcher, who just broke his ankle so he's out.

But I don't think we lose a whole lot from a pitcher-catcher standpoint. We lose a lot offensively with Dylan Nasiatka leaving, but I think the defensive aspect of the catching position is in good hands," he said.

Another task the Renegades have is to fill the heart of the order after the departures of Nasiatka and Art Charles.

"If we open up tonight, which we don't, freshman Elijah Trail would be somewhere in the lineup. He really, really played well from about the middle of the fall



ANNIE STOCKMAN / THE RIP

Renegades shortstop David Pennington bunts during practice at Gerry Collis Field on Jan. 31. Pennington could be rotating all over the field as the season moves forward.

on. Another would be redshirt freshman, Mike Spingola, who had gone out of town and came back.

"Jacob Nielson will be somewhere in the middle of that lineup. They're all guys who just give you consistent at-bats."

Painton also spoke on the different dynamic the offense looks

to be. "I don't know that we're going to be the same type of offensive team, we don't have the speed that we had last year. But I think we do other things better than last year," he said.

Every new season is exciting; we're excited to get it going," he said. "We've got a lot of new

faces. We lost pretty much every position player that started every day for us a year ago. But that's the challenge with any new season.

"I think everybody is excited to get going and get on the field and see somebody in a different uniform. We're tired of inter-squading and seeing each other."

Men's basketball continues letdown

By Michael Morrow
Reporter

During the break, the Bakersfield College men's basketball team has posted a record of 4-9 and 1-6 in the Western State Conference South Division. Overall the Renegades are 7-15 and are looking at their first losing season under head coach Rich Hughes.

Hughes and the Renegades have had four-straight 20-win seasons to go with five-consecutive appearances in the regional playoffs. But the playoffs won't happen for the Renegades this season. If they win out, they will be tied for third in conference.

In the past five seasons under Hughes, BC has gone 119-44 for a 73 percent winning percentage. With this season included, the percentage drops to 68.

On Jan. 29, the Renegades fell victim to rival Citrus College by 17 points, 91-74. And the losses don't get any better. BC has lost by 25 at Santa Monica, 12 at College of the Canyons, and by 10 to both West L.A. at home and at Citrus.

Hughes attributes the Renegades troubles to both lack of size up front and the defensive play of the team.

"Our problem from the beginning of the year has been defense and rebounding. We don't rebound well and we don't defend when we need to defend. That's been our Achilles' heel all year," Hughes said. "We're not going to overpower teams with our size, so we're going to have to really work hard and really be good at



BRANDON BARRAZA / THE RIP

Head Coach Rich Hughes talks to his team during their game against Citrus College on Jan. 29. BC lost the game 91-74 and now has a record of 7-15.

our rotations on defense, and be really good at outworking people for rebounds and we just haven't done that consistently."

Hughes spoke on some of the other problems the team is having.

"For us right now, it's all about energy. In the last couple of games, we've played 15-20 minutes of high-energy basketball and we don't quite get that. We need 40 minutes of playing hard and energetic basketball. The things that we teach them in practice they have to translate it to the game and that's not always happening.

"When it happens in the game we're having success, but when they don't put it together we struggle. Those couple of minutes of a game when we have a lapse, that's the difference in the game, especially when you're not as big as some of the other teams," said Hughes. "At Santa Monica we had a little two-minute lapse where they were so good that we made mistakes and next thing you know we're down ten.

"And we're not talented

enough firepower-wise offensively to overcome those mistakes on defense.

"We've had teams in the past where we'd have lapses on defense, but we had such good offensive players that we could still find a way to get it done.

"This year's team has to play a pretty dang good 40 minutes to beat teams that may have a little more talent than we do," he said.

Hughes continued with the offensive ineptitude of the team.

"This is the lowest scoring

team I've had here, by far. The team knows that there will be nights where we're going to be good offensively and others where we struggle, so we can't count on that.

"We have to hang our hat on the defensive end and rebounding. We're getting better, but we're still not there yet."

BC has five games left in the regular season and up next for the Renegades are games at West L.A. on Feb. 2 and home against Canyons on Feb. 5.



BRANDON BARRAZA / THE RIP

Marshall Lange takes the ball around a Citrus College player during a game Jan. 29.

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