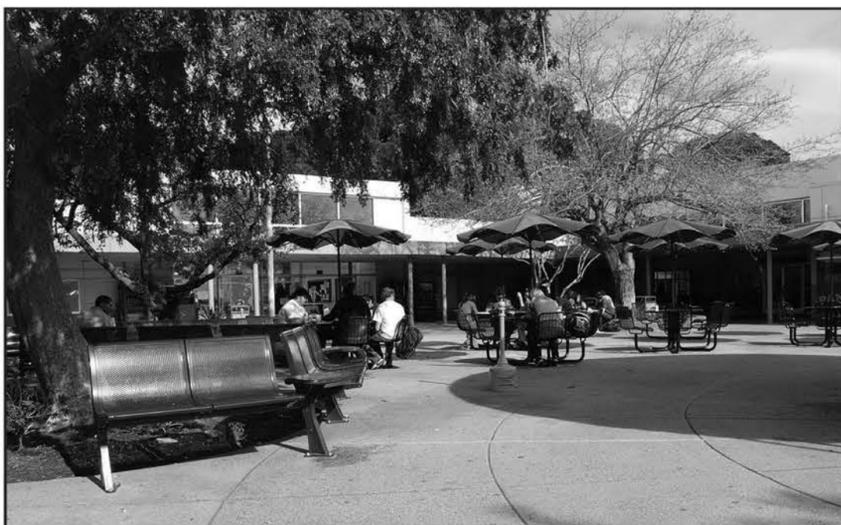




COURTESY OF THE BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE ARCHIVE



NATHAN WILSON / THE RIP

Above: The Campus Center as it stands in 2011, with renovated tables and planters.

Left: The Bakersfield College Campus Center in 1956.

BC celebrates 100-year anniversary in 2013

By Sandra G. Ward
Reporter

Students attending Bakersfield College within the next few years will become a witness to a historical event to occur on the BC campus. The year 2013 will mark the centennial anniversary of the first enrollment of students to Bakersfield College.

In 1913, BC opened its doors to a student body of 13 and was located on the grounds of Bakersfield High School campus. It wasn't until 1956, that the construction was completed and the campus was relocated to the Panorama Drive location.

It may be early to start thinking about a centennial celebration almost two years away, yet with it being such a significant

event, plenty of time allows for plenty of ideas to circulate on how to commemorate the 100-year anniversary.

There has already been some activity in the works on campus to get a jump-start on the event. A committee has been formed to create some type of honorary festivities program that the entire community can embrace. Though the committee is on hold at this time due to the medical leave of its chairman, activity is expected to resume in the very near future according to Amber Chiang, spokesperson for the committee. "We're always looking for ideas," said Chiang in regards to the festivities.

Students, faculty and any interested party are encouraged to present some of their own ideas

once the committee has been re-established and active once again. "Plans are still at the informative stage and should start to pick up during May, and by September the plans should be more open for discussion," said Chiang.

So far the committee had a few possibilities they were considering.

One issue they were looking at was the time frame of when the commencement part of the celebration will actually begin.

"Will it start at the end of the year 2012 or during the first semester of 2013 and will it last the entire school year? But planning is still in its early stages," added Chiang.

A subcommittee has emerged that is in the development of

publishing a book to include a chronology of the history of BC, from its first year to the present, in honor of the centennial.

The Bakersfield College Archives Association has been a dynamic source that the subcommittee has relied upon for the material being gathered to include in the book.

"Our archives here are very robust," said Chiang. "Not only does it have a lot of information but also has photos dating back from the college's first years."

"With that we think it's possible for us to put together a nice book," said Chiang. The first chapter of the book has been completed thus far.

"A lot has happened in 100 years at BC and we have the photos to prove it," Chiang said.



COURTESY OF THE BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE ARCHIVE

An aerial photo of the Bakersfield College campus with Memorial Stadium in the foreground in 1956.



RYAN GEORGE / THE RIP

Violinist Samuel Lang, 13, performs "Butterfly Love" as a part of the Chinese Student Gathering on March 3.

Chinese culture shared in BC's Fireside Room

By Kevin Foster
Reporter

The Fireside Room at Bakersfield College was standing room only and hosted the Chinese Student Gathering on March 3.

The all-around show was a two-hour teaching of Chinese culture and tradition.

The international student counselor, Shohren Rahman, put on the performances.

The highlight of the show was 13-year-old Samuel Lang, who played a 10-minute violin show of "Butterfly Love."

"Butterfly Love" is the Chinese version of Romeo and Juliet.

Lang's original performance was 26 minutes, but due to time restraints it had to be cut.

According to show master of ceremonies Li Kang Liu, a math professor on campus who introduced all the performers, Lang had put in "literally 100 hours of practice."

"I have been playing violin since first grade, so about seven years," said Lang.

The show started with a short film on China that was introduced by sophomore business

major Karen Zhang, who is from China and has lived in Bakersfield since 2009.

The film consisted of facts about the Chinese people and their customs.

According to Liu the two languages of China are Mandarin, which is spoken in the northern part of China, and Cantonese, which is spoken in the southern part of China.

Liu also said that if you know Mandarin you could travel anywhere in the country and be able to know the language.

Sophomore Charmaine, a nursing major, spoke about the difference between Hong Kong and the rest of China.

She compared Hong Kong to New York in the fact that both cities are full of business buildings.

Sophomore nursing major Vivian Choong explained the different types of Chinese languages and explained to the audience the four different types of characters in the written language.

The show ended with final thoughts from Rahman, as she wished people had taken away some good knowledge and hoped to visit China one day.

MESA program gives members free laptop for community service

By James Licea
Copy Editor

Bakersfield College's Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement program has been given a \$10 million grant that will be used to provide program members with free laptops in return for community service. The grant was provided by California Connects and according to program director Consuelo Gonzalez, is funded by President Barack Obama's National Wireless Initiative.

The initiative aims to increase the amount of high-speed wireless services in America in five years.

President Barack Obama stated in his State of the Union address that this will help benefit our economy by decreasing the current deficit by \$9.6 billion and will help ensure the United States role in the future economy by increasing digital literacy.

Gonzalez made clear that

they're not just giving away these laptops. The students involved need to be either math, science, or engineering majors and need to be a member of MESA.

Gonzalez explained that each member involved needs to fulfill a minimum of 12 hours of community service. "Our students who will receive a laptop are going to have to go out there in the community and serve at least seven people ... we're trying to reach the gap between people who don't have access or don't know how to use a computer or the Internet.

"In our county there are a lot of people who are low-income who don't have access to Internet or computers. And if they do, what they know on the computer is probably very low key, or something that's not going to better their lives, like YouTube or Facebook," Gonzalez explained.

MESA members contributions, Gonzalez said, will con-

sist of them teaching people how to do simple tasks online including: online banking, accessing medical files, registering for BC, taking classes online and using various computer programs.

Gonzalez explained that members of MESA are also low-income students; some of them the first generation in their family to pursue higher education.

Adolfo Rojo, BC student and member of MESA, spoke of his involvement in the program, said, "I broke my laptop last year and it's really hard to get a new one. Since I go to school full time, I work full time. Coming back and forth constantly, I just have enough money to get by. So this laptop is an amazing thing for us."

MESA members are given assessment tests that ensure their computer abilities. The purpose of this, Rojo explained, was to make sure they understand how to do certain tasks on a com-

puter that they will then teach members of the community.

Another part of the grant that has yet to be put into action, Gonzalez said, is a Microsoft certification. Students will be able to receive a certificate in programs like Excel, Word or PowerPoint. "We are going to open that to people from campus who are non-MESA students. First we're going to make sure we take care of this particular group, then we're going to disseminate it across campus to people who might not be science majors, but would like to get a certificate and are willing to help."

Another project in talks includes having MESA members help high school students prepare for the California High School Exit Exam. Gonzalez shared, "we also have another one that's called English USA and we're going to have students from ESL come Saturdays and take modules and hopefully learn English."

Assessment committee puts on 'Jazzed' to help students with learning objectives

By Brian N. Willhite
Reporter

Bakersfield College's accreditation process is scheduled to occur soon and students are invited to get involved.

The college will be hosting an awareness event all week in the Campus Center with hopes to encourage students to recognize and observe the student learning outcomes in their classes.

"What we're doing this year to increase awareness for students and staff and faculty is we're going to host an event called Jazzed about Assessments Week," said Bernadette Towns, co-chair of the assessment committee at BC.

The event will take place March 28 to April 1.

"During that week we will also be having the faculty workshops and those workshops will be covering things like classroom assessment techniques, rubrics, how to connect your assignments with your class's student learning outcomes," said Towns.

She also said that brown-bag lunches will be served with refreshments and desserts.

Among the activities, there will be a table set up for students to stop by and receive a free slice of pizza if they can show the syllabi from their classes.

Towns asserts that student participation is important be-

cause they should be aware of what teachers are supposed to be teaching them.

The student learning outcomes unify instruction so that all students taking particular courses will learn the same material across all classes.

"It's important for the students to know that this is part of their education and that it's going to improve their education so that they hold the teacher accountable for what they say they're going to teach them," she said.

Students can also participate in a third-party survey that asks them what they think of BC and if they use the services provided on the campus and if whether or not they like or dislike them.

The college-wide satisfaction survey will choose classes at random to poll.

They will be organized through the research office on campus.

The accreditation process seeks to evaluate the college as a whole and determines whether or not the institution is adequately competent to do such things as offer degrees.

"There are standards that we have to meet in assessments and so far are doing really great... BC is almost where we need to be at the time our accreditation comes," Towns said.

The Jazzed About Assessments Week will take place March 28 to April 1.

Global students shine on campus

By Keith Kaczmarek
Reporter

International students are among the many unseen student populations at Bakersfield College. Since 1982, those students have been coming to BC to learn, with about half moving on to higher education in the United States.

With recent campus events such as this month's International Women's Day event and the "Cup of Culture" event hosted by Chinese students, they've been playing an active role in student life at BC.

The hurdles they face coming to BC are not insignificant. Currently numbering only 60 students from 29 different countries, they face a rigorous process to become students at BC. Each pays out-of-state fees of \$184 a unit plus a capital fee of \$34 per unit plus all other normal student fees, and they are not eligible for financial aid.

They can't even work on campus at any job funded even partially by federal money and only in extraordinary circumstances are allowed to work off campus.

The American Embassy won't even accept an application for a student visa unless they can prove that they have access to the funds required to pay for tuition and expenses. Considering the exchange rate in many countries, these costs can drive many parents of international students to take on double or even triple shifts at their work so that their children to come learn in the United States.

"Education is a lot more important in other countries," said Shohreh Rahman, the counselor for ESL Counseling/International Students for the past 23 years.

On top of that, they are required to have high school education, which in other countries is equivalent to a degree here and includes the mandatory subjects: chemistry, physics, and calculus.

They are also required to have English proficiency, attaining at least the third level in the TOEFL exam, which demonstrates fluency but not complete mastery. Rahman explained that any students come here to take advantage of our "excellent ESL programs" that focus on one-to-one teaching and tutoring. "We are seeing students with much better English skills in the last few years," said Rahman. "They are very prepared academically, but still some work on their language skills."

She noted that many professors here at BC are impressed by international students' drive, critical-thinking skills and academic fitness.

Sasuku Ito, a student from Japan, has been here three years and is now transferring to Cal State Northridge to study economics and is the winner of an International Women's Day scholarship.

"It's been my dream since I was in grade school to come to America to study," she said.

She chose BC because she had been hosted by a family in Bakersfield and wanted to be near her host family.

She added "It's a smaller city, so you are forced to go out and speak English because there aren't a lot of people from your country around like there are in bigger cities."

Rahman said that students come to her in the hopes of studying abroad, but that at this time there were few opportunities. She hopes that one day BC will send its own students to universities overseas.



Ann Wiederrecht speaks to students inside the Fireside Room on March 1. The 45-minute speech gave those in attendance a historical look back into the decision.

BRANDON BARRAZA / THE RIP

BC honors women's voting rights

By Sandra G. Ward
Reporter

This year marks the 100th anniversary that a bill was passed, granting women the right to vote in California. To commemorate this historical achievement, a lecture was held on March 1 in the Fireside Room at Bakersfield College, to jump-start Women's History Month declared on the BC campus this month.

There was a packed house in attendance to hear speakers, BC history professor Ann Wiederrecht, and Cliona Murphy, professor of modern western European history at Cal State Bakersfield.

Wiederrecht's lecture was titled "Women Win the Vote." She began with an introduction of the women in history who led the fight to insure women gain suffrage in California. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady

Stanton made great efforts to fight and persuade the political arena that became an agenda not achieved over night.

Wiederrecht continued her speech with a narrative four-phase timeline from the late 1800s to the passing of the women's suffrage bill of California in 1911. Her 45-minute presentation concluded as an informative historic look into one of the major political accomplishments to develop in California's history.

Murphy's presentation of "Contradictions and Conflicts," an account of the women's fight for the vote in Great Britain and Ireland, immediately followed Wiederrecht's lecture. Her speech and visual presentation gave a look into the women's suffrage movement of Great Britain and Ireland.

Murphy began her college educational background at the

National University of Ireland where she received her master's. She later gained her doctorate in history at the University of New York, Binghamton. She has several publications that include, "The Women's Suffrage Movement and Irish Society in the early Twentieth Century."

Some students commented on the 100-year anniversary of women winning the vote in California. "We deserve it, to be equal and deserve to receive equal educational opportunities as men," said Maria Canargo, a BC student.

She believes that the event should be given more public recognition.

Other students seem to agree with Canargo's statement.

"We need to voice our opinions," said Kathryn Keathing. "These days many women are heads of the households and we need to be heard."

Graffiti not welcome by those on campus

By Brandon J. Whited
Reporter

Students and staff at Bakersfield College are fed up with bathroom graffiti and want nothing to do with it while some find it entertaining.

Dave Howlett, a sophomore majoring in criminal justice, said, "It makes me sick, and I detest almost anything that has to do with it, unless the art is worth appreciating."

Most of the graffiti seen around campus is nothing more than mixed up letters and numbers blurred together."

Unlike Howlett, when asked about graffiti, Luisa Hurtado said, "I really don't see much around campus," but according

to Karla Barajas, a freshmen, the bathrooms down at the Language Arts building are constantly vandalized with women trying to ruin others' reputations and solicitations for sexual favors.

"It makes me feel very uncomfortable."

Other students, such as Jonathan Walker, a sophomore majoring in history, find it entertaining.

"When I walk into a bathroom and see a swastika on the wall, I could take offense because I'm Jewish, but it's hard to get offended by ignorant people," said Walker.

"I think it's funny to see how people advertise their ignorance."

Many students feel that graffiti



ANNIE STOCKMAN / THE RIP

A women's bathroom stall covered in graffiti in the Humanities Building on March 22.

has no place on a campus setting.

Deante Rodriguez, a sophomore majoring in business management responds, "Pencils should be used in the classroom and not in a bathroom."

"It doesn't affect me, but it could start drama that doesn't need to be on campus," Rodriguez said.

BC maintenance painter Mitchell Barter said that bath-

room graffiti cleanup is an ongoing process.

Barter explained that "one week I can remove graffiti from the same bathroom three times in one day and the next week there's none at all, it just depends."

Barter also said some of the worst graffiti is up by the public transit station and is done by non-BC students.

When asked how grueling the job can be, Barter replied, "It de-

pends on if they use ink or felt. Ink comes off, but felt stays forever."

BC carpenter Jimmy "Smitty" Smith recalls a time when they had sting operations where they would freshly paint a bathroom and check after every student.

"It's disheartening to know that someone would willingly deface public property used to help people better themselves," he said.

BC professor promotes second printing of book

By Monica Bolger
Reporter



Natalie Bursztyn at the promotional event for the second printing for her book, "The Geology of Kern County."

Bakersfield College geology professor Natalie Bursztyn was at the Levan Center on March 1 promoting her second printing of "The Geology of Kern County."

Bursztyn is excited with the content of her book and is happy to be sharing it with the community.

"Things are finally expanding, after taking me two years to write," said Bursztyn.

The 84-page publication includes her own pictures and diagrams of Kern County that emphasize tectonic actions of various locations around Red Rock Canyon, the Kern River Valley and desolate routes that run through Highway 58, Boron and the Mojave Desert.

Bursztyn claims that her text demonstrates the validity of the Plate Tectonics Theory that paleomagnetism is used to tell the "rewind time" of the geological history of plates.

"These tectonic plates, seven major and seven minor, are all in contact of each other and move in a motion that causes force and stress, thus leading to the deformation of the earth's

crust," explained Bursztyn.

Tectonic plates are broken into small, brittle, eggshell-like pieces that makeup the outermost compositional layer of the earth's crust, also known as the Lithosphere.

"Looking at plate tectonics and most of the world's agricultural elements, we are able to determine from different crusts that everything we see as landscaped today was completely submerged underwater at one point," said Bursztyn.

Bursztyn's book also includes sketches of fossilization in her chapter about the paleontology of Kern County and the teeth that are found on Shark Tooth Hill.

"The most surprising thing to me that I found in the geology itself was the history of the Kern River," said Bursztyn.

"I spent a long time thinking about the Kern River, and I actually spent a day or two with Jason Saleeby, who's the geologist from Cal Tech, and we just patrolled around the area and picked up rocks, looked at rocks, talked about rocks and looked at maps, talked about maps, and try to generalize our ideas of the Kern River," Bursztyn's journey has not

only helped her broaden her studies but has also led to the findings of new artifacts and areas of agricultural terrain to use for her book.

"The photograph that wraps around the cover from side to side was taken looking west into Kern County and the neon sign that you see on the side of Highway 58 that says 'rocks', I thought was a great picture."

"You're also seeing the area north of Tehachapi and north of Mojave," said Bursztyn.

Bursztyn talks about the two geological settings of the solid, crystalline Sierra Nevada to the east and the loose sandy San Joaquin Valley to the west and includes the history of how Bakersfield developed its main waterways.

She accentuates her findings of obsidian rocks and Joshua trees that are commonly found throughout Kern County and live within the appropriate climate.

Bursztyn's goal of this project is to give readers the understanding and the history behind Kern County's geological system. The book will be available for checkout during the second week of March at the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library.

Transfers won't stop celebrations

By Mateo M. Melero
Reporter

Due to turnovers in members and leadership between the Fall and Spring Semesters, the Bakersfield College African American Student Union will be holding its Black History Month event March 26.

AASU club member and Student Government Association activities liaison Tawntannisha Thompson said in concerns to the lack of events during February, "The problem we had is that the president we had in Fall transferred. And that's been I think ... the last three years."

"The year that I've been here," said Thompson, "there was nothing because we get right out of the Fall/December semester and then we come back in January, and we have all new members."

According to Thompson, the club is currently struggling, along with others, in acquiring new members and participants in the club. This thwarts the development of club-sanctioned events on and off campus.

"We are still struggling to get new members in," said Thompson. "And a lot of students still don't know that the club exists. We come to school in January, Black History Month is February, we don't have members until school starts on the 21st ... that doesn't give them time to plan anything."

Thompson also mentioned that club members either go on to transfer, don't return for the following semester, or are unable to hold office due to other responsibilities.

AASU Adviser and African American History Professor Ishmael Kimbrough said "Going into Christmas break you're not going to have the same level of cohesiveness, especially because you're supposed to elect new officers come next semester, so there is not this carry-over of leadership. So it's almost like re-establishing the club."

Scheduled for a showing at the Bakersfield High School Harvey Auditorium March 26, the club will be showing the film "Men Ain't Boys." This film is described in the synopsis on the film's website as: "At a time when African American men are often depicted poorly throughout mainstream media Tyler New Media breaks that trend with 'Men Ain't Boys,' and 'Men Ain't Boys' provides a blueprint for men, women and children to learn how real men live and how real men love."

AASU is also trying to secure a showing at the BC Indoor theater, as well as the Stars Dinner Theater downtown.

For those interested in attending an AASU meeting, or joining, the club currently meets Thursdays at 3 p.m. inside Campus Center 5.

Mother spreads message after tragic loss

By Michael Wafford
Editor in chief

After the death of her son in 1996, Cleotilde Gaxiola, 56, was overcome with emotion.

"I felt sad, and I wanted to find the answer. You know, 'why me, why my son?' And I got really sick, really ill, and I lost my memory and I was in the hospital," said Gaxiola. "I lost everything; my house, my husband, we got divorced. Married for 25 years and after that my husband left.

"If not for the combination of my faith in God, school and my family I would not be talking with you, because it's really hard." Her losses were triggered by the killing of her son, Eddie Hernandez, on March 27, 1996. Since then she has focused her life on speaking to others in hopes that they will avoid a life of violence and drugs the way he did.

"I've been going to junior highs, to elementary schools to colleges to all the places to talk with the students to tell them it's a better way to do things. Violence is not the answer to anything," said Gaxiola, a student at Bakersfield College. Gaxiola does this to honor her son who was focused on using education as a tool to avoid a life of criminal activity before his death.

At the age of 16, and on track to graduate from high school, he was killed in a random act of violence 15 years ago.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Cleotilde Gaxiola displays a photograph of her late son in front of a mural painted in his honor March 14.

"On March 27, this person came to the house and killed my son. I was at home. The whole family was there. I was playing with my daughter before we go to bed and he came to the house, because he was doing drugs and alcohol and he wanted to rob so he could buy drugs," said Gaxiola. "He thought nobody was home because it was after 11. He knocked on the door and we didn't open the door so he went to the back, knocked on the backdoor.

"My son opened the door and he killed my son," said Gaxiola. While her son's killer has been found, Gaxiola doesn't find comfort because of it. "He is incarcerated for 25 years to life, but I'm not going to have my son

back because he's in jail," said Gaxiola.

After the death of her son, Gaxiola's husband left her. "When everything was fine, he was there but when a tragedy was coming he left me," said Gaxiola. "I felt like when I needed him the most was when he left me."

After the separation she had to "do everything" for daughters, Lisa, 25, and Sandra Hernandez, 24, and because of them she was able to heal. "I didn't want to live anymore but I had to stay here to take care of my girls.

I had to keep dealing with life to take care of my girls. In the beginning they didn't want to live anymore either," said Gaxiola.

"It was so hard for me [to explain to them] for years and

years they had to go to school and forget about the past. It was not easy." Since then her daughters have started families of their own and Gaxiola has become a grandmother.

"I feel really happy because I'm going to have more family coming. They're not going to replace my son but they bring me a lot of happiness." Gaxiola currently attends BC to help achieve her goal of becoming an alcohol and drug counselor.

A BC student off and on since 1996, Gaxiola said she finds college helpful. "Being at BC [with] the students and the professors are helping me a lot with everything. Bakersfield College for me is like my family right now," said Gaxiola.

One of her instructors, English professor Elizabeth Rodacker, said, "It's amazing. She is actually one of my heroes because she's been through so much. So many challenges, so much suffering and she still is very positive.

"She will very often say life is good on her e-mails or calls to me. She is someone who will not give up." Her positive attitude extends not only to school. Gaxiola has remarried since her divorce. "I'm starting a new life right now," said Gaxiola.

"I'm converting all my negative things into positive things. If I can touch one life of any student, if I can make them change the way they're thinking then my son's life was not in vain."



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Cleotilde Gaxiola touches a portrait of her late son Eddie Hernandez in a mural on Goodman Street on March 14. The mural is a memorial to Hernandez and represents the unfulfilled dreams and goals he had.



KAYLA BROADHAG / THE RIP

Jose Lemus (left) and Matt Macias are part of the sculpture class at Bakersfield College where they constructed their cardboard transformers for a class project March 3.

BC: Students in disguise

By Brian N. Willhite
Reporter

As a crowd of Bakersfield College students gathered to watch an exhibition by their peers in the art department, they noticed two large boxes that drew their attention and anticipation as they patiently waited to see what would happen next.

On the walkway outside of the ceramics classroom, one plain box designed to look like a camera was placed adjacent to another taller box that looked like a refrigerator, both were still while the audience settled for the show.

Once everyone had arrived and was ready for action, the two boxes sprang to life, transforming out of their disguises and revealing the armored combatants underneath who then began to wage war with one another.

As cardboard swords and arm blasters clashed into shields and coffee cups, the crowd watching reacted with excitement and applause before heading back to their classrooms after the dueling dynamos ended their performance.

The students of sculpture Emily Maddigan's sculpture class had crafted life-sized, transforming robotic costumes using bare minimum essentials to bring their covert comrades to life.

The functional and combat-ready attire for both teams was a

small-group project that encouraged creative craftsmanship as well as some healthy, but friendly, competition.

"The project itself was to create a transformer using only cardboard and some hot glue and packing tape... we can't really bring in lights and electronics. So using the basics, how advanced can you make it," said Matt Macias, art major and one half of the box camera team.

Macias and co-creator Jose Lemus described their group's project and why they chose their particular design.

"Ours was an older box camera and we focused mainly on the inside of what he looked like as a robot at the transformation. The basic inspiration was functionality.

We both do photography, too, so we were familiar with the camera itself and we chose the box camera specifically because it was more functional with a large open space on the inside to work with," said Macias.

The other team's co-creator Ericka Gonzalez admits that at first her team had no idea the direction they wanted to take their transformer in but knew they didn't want to take it too serious so they went for a comical version of their project.

"When we first started out we had something completely different in mind, we changed something on it everyday. We

originally had it to where it was going to be this weird refrigerator monster-thing that was going to have a lobster claw and weird-looking feet, we just really didn't want to go with a boxed robot/Optimus Prime-thing."

The villainous refrigerator robot sported an array of detailed additions like the main door having shelves and Starbucks coffee cups neatly organized and ready for serving. There was also a surprise in the freezer that displayed the robots evil plans for all to see.

"The freezer was like a computer brain and had a computer screen on the back that said 'KILL!'" Gonzalez explained.

Surrounding the brain were cardboard clips designed to look like icicles, Gonzalez felt that it was a nice touch and added to the comedic value of the character.

Macias also commented on how the other team did a lot to dress up the outside of their robot and that "it really looked like a refrigerator."

The two teams had still not seen the finished work of their counterparts' project and were eager to see how they put the pieces together.

"I was pleasantly surprised when they came out and the door opened up and there were all the Starbucks coffee cups and things like that," Macias said.

In the development of their projects, they were sure that they



KAYLA BROADHAG / THE RIP

Cameron Hutton, a student in the Bakersfield College sculpture class demonstrates the transformation process of the cardboard refrigerator transformer March 3.

didn't want to make something that was reminiscent of a concept from the Transformers line of creations and instead strived to be more original in their designs.

"Everybody's seen a car transform, a plane transform and even a soda machine transform in the movies, but not really a refrigerator. Nobody's really had a fridge-bot 2.0 or anything like that," Macias said.

Gonzalez, Lemus and Macias would all like to continue pursuing art to inspire themselves and as a profession.

They each have goals that they would like to reach and are thankful about the opportunities they've had at BC.

Originally pursuing a degree in art therapy, Gonzalez changed her major after real-

izing that it wasn't the creative outlet she was looking for and since then has decided to focus in on sculptures and fine arts as her field of expertise. The lifelong artist would like to return to college-level classrooms one day and give back to students as a teacher.

Macias, who never wanted a nine-to-five job, credits his family for his love of all things art and feels that if he could continue to make art for the rest of his life that would be OK with him. He also enjoys making "free art" for the masses and appreciates public displays like graffiti.

Lemus would like to get his degree in art from BC and then go to an art school in Paris before eventually returning to Bakersfield to help mentor underprivileged youth on the east side and

help them express their creative talent.

"There's a whole bunch of talented kids out there on the streets who need guidance to express their art and not through drugs or alcohol but they need a place where they can go and be guided," Lemus said.

Both Lemus and Macias also agree that doing art is not about the money or fame but if those things did come along, they would probably more than OK with that.

An art exhibit is being planned at the end of April in the BC gallery for students of the art department in which Macias and Lemus will have displays of their work. They may even reenact their big-bot-battle for the show's opening, according to Macias.

Staff Editorial

Return elections to campus

Bakersfield College recently held elections for the Student Government Association. These elections were available only through the Internet. Electronic elections are a weaker route to go and on-campus polling should return for the next SGA elections.

Voter turnout was down from last year with voters in the 900s this year compared to last year's turnout of around 1,300 voters, according to Joyce Coleman, the BC dean of students.

This lower turnout may be due to a less proactive campaign run by SGA this year compared to previous SGA elections held at BC.

While signs were posted throughout campus to inform students, the lack of physical polling areas on the campus meant the less technologically-savvy students or those who missed the fliers would be unable to vote in this year's elections.

In previous years, the booths and polling areas set up inside the campus center let more of the student body know elections were occurring and let them vote at the polls.

The lack of a polling area this election was a result of the SGA's desire to save money, according to Vice President Brian Rathfelder.

While BC does offer Wi-Fi to every student on campus, many students do not own a device capable of taking advantage of this service and would need to find a wired Internet connection to vote on.

While computers are available to every student at BC, public computers such as the ones in the library are often hard to come by, as the computer commons are full of people doing school-work or entertaining themselves between classes.

If SGA elections are to reflect the opinions of the student body, then whatever route results in the most students voting should be used.

While setting up polling areas and other attention-grabbing feats may cost SGA more money than an online-only election they are worth the cost, as the results clearly show that on-campus voting with physical booths is the way to go in order for future elections to better reflect the opinions of BC's student body.



CHRYSAL FORTT / THE RIP

Location and history key to keeping city at forefront

By Amber T. Troupe
Reporter

Being born and raised as a city girl my whole life, Bakersfield was a cultural, regional and climatic shock for me. But I have now been a resident for the last five years and my overall thoughts of the city have been vastly changed due to the ever-changing growth and expansion of this subtle but bustling city.

Bakersfield's shining attribute is location, location, location. There are few cities in the United States that have its anchorage advantage. The city is located 94 miles north of Los Angeles, entertainment capital of the world, and 252 miles south of the San Francisco Bay Area.

This fact alone could very well be the reason for Bakersfield's population boom of 78,791 people in the years from 2000 to 2010. The population increase almost has a ripple effect on the evolution of Bakersfield because this voluminous expansion of human mass has made the city of Bakersfield to be ranked number nine of the largest growing cities in the United States.

I have personally come to revel in the unmatched amount of warm, golden sunrays that kiss upon this region of California, being from St. Louis, Missouri where every winter there you are guaranteed one blizzard. This small, but iconic characteristic of Bakersfield just may well be the rationalization I use to keep me from seeing California in my rearview mirror.

I must not be the only non-Californian that sees the beautiful weather as a motive to stick around a while longer, because this city was ranked in spot number nine for having the best weather in the country. That's not bad for a place that is in a valley, with dirt roads not quite a thing

of the past. Although statistics show Bakersfield as having some of the worst schools in the country due to the poverty level, it actually has the largest high school district in California because of the large baby boomer generation here, as Bakersfield is one of the best places to retire.

Bakersfield and its surrounding areas have also made a considerable contribution to the country music culture, as the place that Buck Owens and Merle Haggard called home.

They were the forerunners in the creation of a style of country music known as the Bakersfield sound. These two innovative artists truly helped put Bakersfield on the mainstream's map of acknowledged cities for country music artists and fame.

I personally had no idea what Bakersfield was, let alone what it 'sounded' like, until I was introduced to a well-known rock group also credited with creating their own genre, nu-metal. The band Korn (and yes, I'm a fan) is another milestone accomplishment for the city in the field of music popularity, enabling it to reach an even bigger demographic.

However, Californians themselves come to the city because of its historical content in film. Bakersfield is an unfrequented film location, with movies that I would have never guessed to be filmed or set here. This list includes classics such as "North by Northwest" and "Psycho." Cornerstones of the sci-fi genre like "Star Trek" and "Jurassic Park," emphasize the desert and long dirt roads that comprise Bakersfield.

Things like this may seem small to anyone not born and raised in this city, but to residents these very things are the fabric and heart of Bakersfield, California.

Facts speak loud and clear about living in Bakersfield

By Keith Kaczmarek
Reporter

Bakersfield has a lot going for it, but at the end of the day this town needs to seriously rethink its priorities. There are several issues that need to be addressed before this area becomes a good place to live, or it can even be recommended for human habitation.

Let's look at the facts. In a 2010 survey later quoted in Forbes magazine, Bakersfield ranked as one of the worst places in the US to live in terms of air pollution. We ranked first in short-term particulate pollution, second in long-term particulate pollution, and second in ozone pollution in the United States.

The same article also quoted a preliminary 2009 Crime Report from the FBI stating that Bakersfield had one of the highest rates of violent crime in the US. A look at local statistics shows that 26-39% of those crimes are related to the drug methamphetamine.

Men's Health magazine also lists Bakersfield in the top ten for drunkest cities in the US, and has the highest number of liver disease deaths per capita in the nation, and 40th in DUI arrests and 36th in binge drinking.

Up to a quarter of our wells are tainted by the banned toxic chemical TCP and the City of Bakersfield and the California Water Service have filed a lawsuit against Dow Chemical and Shell Oil in the hopes of getting the funds to clean it up.

Heck, even our housing market is terrible. The Bakersfield Californian reported that, according to the latest monthly report, Bakersfield has the fifth worst residential housing market

in the US. The Californian had yet another article quoting state statistics that Kern County has the highest expulsion rate of students in California.

According to the California Department of Public Health, we also have the highest rate of teen pregnancy in California.

In 2008, Women's Health Magazine rated thirty different factors ranging from air quality to visits to the gym and found that Bakersfield was the worst city in the US to be a woman.

Put these statistics together, and we can see a picture emerge: Bakersfield is a dirty, dangerous, depressed, dumb and drugged-out city when compared to every other place in our fine nation.

In a very literal sense, going anywhere else in the US is an improvement in your lifestyle and health and if you plan to build a life or raise a family, this area is going to be one of the worse places in our nation.

Considering that California is one of the most beautiful states in the US, the fact that much of Kern County is an industrialized hellscape littered by oil wells and devoid of vegetation is another factor working against it.

Combined with the terrible Central Valley heat in the summer, a person could not be faulted if, in their heat delirium, they suddenly believed that they had fallen into a post-apocalyptic movie.

I'm not even going to talk about Valley Fever, a native fungus that we have here that makes the very soil dangerous to human life and turns every windy day into a chance to acquire a life-long illness that if untreated leads to a grisly death. That's just too easy.

Public should hold celebrities accountable for their outlandish actions

By Brian N. Willhite
Reporter

I overheard an advertisement on the TV the other day for a show about celebrities titled "Who Do You Think You Are?" and without investigating further I got excited to watch it. As it turned out, the show was not what I had initially expected and is merely a show that traces the roots of celebrities and uncovers interesting things about their

heritage – as if celebrities are the only ones that have an interesting heritage.

My assumption was that the show was going to ask celebrities the question that many of us would want to ask them, "Who do you think you are?" Seriously?

I was overjoyed with the possibility that a TV show would actually sit an over-deserving celebrity down and ask them why they think they are above every-

one else and should get away with their outlandish antics. Wild celebrities have a history of drawing attention to themselves and being praised for what an average person would get institutionalized for. The antics are enough and everyone needs to ignore these people, or at least point out how they need medical attention.

Furthermore, I would still like to see a TV show drill these celebrities in an intervention-style

format and address their issues with them in a serious manner. This is the same thing that would happen with you or I if we were in the same boat, assuming we're not locked up because of our childish rampages.

The show could be titled "What Gives You the Right?" and could even take live questions from the TV audience. And to top it all off, the show could end with them being handcuffed and dragged away.

Sadly, this will never happen, which brings me to my final point: standards set for celebrities are easily a lot more lenient than for the general public.

Just remember that if you were to stand up in class or at your job and just rant about the most random, drug-infused tirades, you will be apprehended and counseled and probably kicked out of your job or class, ruining your chances to build any credibility and respect.

But, if you're a dope-dropping celebrity, you just might get away with anything you want and be rewarded with offers accumulating to millions of dollars of revenue all for your ignorance and general lack of dignity.

So, stop paying attention to these people because all that's happening is that you're rewarding them and encouraging them to continue, unless they're on TV getting the right questions asked to them.

'GADE FEEDBACK "What at BC needs to be repaired or updated?"

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

Compiled by:
The Rip Staff



Carrie Boyd, accounting: "Escalators at the Math and Science building."



Erin Cowlings, computer science: "In the classrooms, the desks especially."



Joey Dunford, psychology and history: "The Campus Center, the leak in the roof that's been there forever."



Marshall Dale Goldend III, art: "The art building, they are the lowest [for repairs] on the totem pole."



Matt Mizell, theater arts: "The SAM building."



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacemaker Award



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The Renegade Rip

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Letters should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by a signature and the letter writer's identity must be verified.

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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