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BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

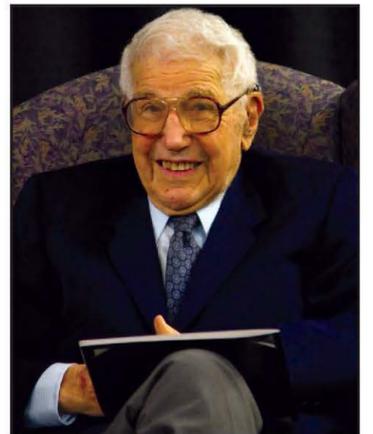
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BC gets close to \$14 million in donation

Dr. Levan's donation is largest to a community college in history



By Michael Wafford
Editor in chief

Dr. Norman Levan, 95, has donated \$13.665 million to Bakersfield College, the largest donation to a community college from a private individual ever. The majority of the doctor's donation will go toward scholarships, while the remainder will go toward funding the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities and the Senior Lifelong Learning program.

A celebration and news conference was held on March 24.

During the celebration, Dr. Levan said, "I'm glad to be here and have the privilege of supporting what is really the pearl of the valley, Bakersfield College."

\$10 million will go toward the Norman Levan Scholarship Endowment. The scholarship will award \$2,000 to 250 students, for a total of \$500,000, every year to help with the costs of education.

The 2011 donation also establishes an endowment of \$665,000 to go toward scholarships for those with an interest in studying Hispanic or Native American communities.

The BC Foundation currently gives away \$400,000 in scholarships annually. The additional \$500,000 will more than double the current amount given in scholarships by the foundation.

Mike Stepanovich, executive director of the BC Foundation, said, "it really is a game changer for people in Bakersfield, because in this community there is a large section that is disadvantaged. I think we have a lower college going rate than other areas in the state and I think a large part of that has to do with the fact that people are disadvantaged."

"Even a community college education for some people is out of reach. What this means for hundreds of people a year [is that] they will be able to work on their college degree. For literally hundreds of people, forever, they will be able to pursue a college education."

This is the second time in five years that Dr. Levan has made a



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Dr. Norman Levan enters a press conference for the announcement of his donation of nearly \$14 million dollars to Bakersfield College on March 24. The donation is the largest ever given to a community college by a private individual.

multi-million dollar donation to BC. In 2006 he gave BC \$5.7 million to go toward the creation of the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities.

This is also the second time that Dr. Levan has given the largest donation to a community college in history. At the time his 2006 \$5.7 million dollar donation was the largest in history. That number was eclipsed by a \$10 million donation to Santa Monica College by Eli and Edyth Broad in 2008, according to a press release from BC. The donation has returned Dr. Levan to the position of largest private donor to a community college.

Two of the four largest donations from an individual to a community college in the United

States have been from Dr. Levan to BC, according to Kern Community College District chancellor Sandra Serrano.

According to Amber Chiang, director of marketing and public relations at BC, the donation is the largest donation from an individual to a community college in California history.

"Historically, we know that a gift of this magnitude frequently encourages others to give as well – and so we certainly hope that it will have that impact," said Stepanovich.

While BC wished for the identity of the donor to remain anonymous until the ceremony, Dr. Levan's identity was leaked to the local media a day before BC wanted to reveal him. BC ad-

ministration does not know who leaked the information. "I wish I knew," said Chiang.

"It is extremely difficult to know what to give and where and I feel that I made the right choice, I hope that I have," said Dr. Levan, to a laughing crowd.

Dr. Levan was presented with a medallion by president Greg Chamberlain for the "largest donation by an individual in the history of the United States."

Mayor Harvey Hall thanked Dr. Levan with a certificate for his contributions to BC. "We constantly strive to better the quality of education at Bakersfield College, and certainly with this giving gift we'll be able to do that."

Dr. Levan also received thanks

from representatives of Assemblywomen Jean Fuller and Shannon Grove and congressman Kevin McCarthy.

According to a press release from BC, Dr. Levan is a widower and still practices medicine once a week on Monday.

Dr. Levan did not attend BC, instead, he became involved with the school when he became friends with John Collins, a former president of BC.

Dr. Levan said he acquired his wealth in the early 1960s while working as a professor at USC and operating a medical practice in LA while investing into the stock market.

He attributes his success in stocks to the growth of the market since then.

Student and faculty opinions on donation

By Chrystal Fortt
Reporter

Students and Bakersfield College employees are happy to hear that this institution is receiving nearly \$14 million, mainly for scholarships.

If they had the chance, a lot of students would apply the money to scholarships, if they were donating that kind of money.

"I think student scholarships would be the best thing, hopefully have it open to everyone and give as much money that they can give to the students as possible. That would be great because fees are going up," said Matthew Owen, biology major.

Some people would use some of the money for scholarships and additional things other than scholarships. "I would definitely put some [money] toward scholarships and also put some toward fixing up the campus. I think the campus is kind of run down and old," said Eric Carrillo, graphic center employee.

For some, scholarships weren't the top thing on their list. Many people would like to see the campus be renovated.

"I would try to, with that amount of money, renovate [the campus], kind of bring things up to date with BC," said Jake Brown, psychology major.

Along with the renovations, people would like more teachers being hired on campus. Several sections of classes have been canceled over the past two years because of budget cuts.

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Campus bookstore may be outsourced

By Brian N. Willhite
Reporter

The Bakersfield College bookstore may soon be under new management, according to sources. The Kern Community College District has sent out requests for proposals to companies interested in running the bookstore.

According to Academic Senate President Cornelio Rodriguez, two bids have been submitted to the Kern Community College District, though he is unaware of the identities of the companies. Amber Chiang, director of marketing and public relations, confirmed that bids have been received. However, she is also unaware of who the organizations

are that submitted them and said that the process involved with reviewing and selecting candidates by the Board of Trustees is "extremely formalized."

"When you put out an RFP (request for proposal) as we have to do because we're a public entity, any number of institutions who can demonstrate competency can bid and that can be two, three or 100," she said.

Chiang then said that once the committee reviews the bids they will be assessing each organization to verify their competency and ability to handle BC's bookstore needs.

The identities of the companies submitting the bids will

Please see **Bookstore**, Page 4



MEGAN LUECKE / THE RIP

The campus bookstore offers many different items including balloons for special occasions March 28.

Bill sets standards for transfer requirements

By Brian N. Willhite
Reporter

A recently released bill by the California Senate seeks to promote transfer of California community college students to California state universities by guaranteeing admission to local campuses for all students who complete 60 transfer units and a minimum 2.0 GPA.

SB 1440 is designed to standardize transfer requirements for the state's most popular transfer majors with the intended result being that students will spend less time at community colleges by not taking unnecessary courses that won't transfer to their school of choice.

Bakersfield College transfer

counselor Sue Granger-Dickson described the bill and what it means for students looking to transfer.

"What this bill did, is it required the California community colleges and the CSU system to create what's called Associate Degrees for Transfer. The bill was not specific on how it was going to happen but they did say that community colleges would develop degrees of no more than 60 units and that would guarantee admission to the CSU – the local CSU," said Granger-Dickson.

She is still unclear what qualifies as a local CSU for BC students and is curious if

Please see **Transfers**, Page 4

Bus tour highlights historical neon signs

By Mateo M. Melero
Reporter

In a neon night ride that spanned from Old Kern to Eye Street to the Kern County Museum, instructor and curator Diane Hardisty, along with local historians and neon sign makers, took a sight-seeing tour of vintage signs still present above some of Bakersfield's oldest local businesses on March 15.

The first stop of the night was the Center Neon, a local sign company located on East 21st street in old Kern. Inside, the workshop sparked and buzzed like a Frankensteinian laboratory. High-frequency electrical current bombardiers danced electric light between Tesla coils as David McNamee, who owns and operates the shop alongside his sister Nancy Carter, demonstrated and explained elements required to construct a neon sign.

"The two main gases that are used today are pure neon and argon with a small amount of mercury vapor," said McNamee.

All along the workstation laid glass tubes of varying color, and McNamee explained that the color emitted from a sign, depends on the glass's coating and what type of gas is in the tube.

"With tubes in different phosphors and combinations of the gases you can get different colors."

When producing the curvature and lettering of the signs, McNamee exhibited the different types of concentrated roaring flame devices used in the process as well as the voltage required to purify and contain the noble gases.

"The tube is connected to the manifold. All the air is vacu-

umed out of it," said McNamee as he explained the process for chemically purifying a neon tube and the purpose of the buzzing electrical bombardiers.

With newfound neon knowledge, the bus bounded for Narducci's café on East 21st Street where McNamee and Carter enlightened the passengers on the construction of the sign and its history. One block east of Narducci's, the bus took a small detour to pay interest to Lazo's Pool Hall sign where McNamee talked about the signage laws and city ordinances.

"The city, when they passed the ordinances, made them mount it flat on the wall so they had to take the neon off one of the sides and mount it flat, but they were able to get an exception and mount it back the way it was," said McNamee. "They don't allow any signs to stick out over the sidewalk anymore."

"Whenever they make an ordinance to change the signs and they want to restrict them, they have to leave the existing ones there, so they are grandfathered in. You can maintain them but you cannot change them," said McNamee.

Further in the night as the tour reached Eye Street, it was noted that Guthrie's Alley Cat played in the preservation of Bakersfield's historic neon signs.

During a debate at city level over whether certain signs with historic significance should be immune to the new ordinances, the Alley Cat was the example given that helped secure the vintage signs from removal.

Like Lazo's, the Alley Cat sign is animated, which is illegal due to current city ordinances, but because of its historical relevance the sign is preserved.



JOSEPH COTA / THE RIP

Classic neon signs can be spotted around Bakersfield, and are the subject of a display at the Kern County Museum.

Carter, in regards to animated neon and city restrictions said, "signs are [no longer] allowed to be animated. We did the Green Frog [sign] on Oswell Street. We wanted him to be able to tip his hat, like he does on Bernard Street. All we were allowed to do was flash, so he could flash the 'howdy folks,' but he couldn't tip his hat outside the store. That's why he tips his hat inside the store."

The bus made a stop at Cay Health Foods prior to heading down to Eye Street, then moved on to pay notice to the Padre Hotel, Guthrie's Alley Cat, and made a final stop at the Fox Theater before moving on to the neon exhibit the Kern County Museum.

Located on in the back of Pioneer Village, the exhibit consisted of the Jim Baker Electrifier Sign, Tops Fine Food Market, Saba's men's Wear, Shafter Rex-all Drugs, the Entrance sign to the Bakersfield Inn Annex, and the Far East Cafe sign.

Next to the newly acquired Sil-

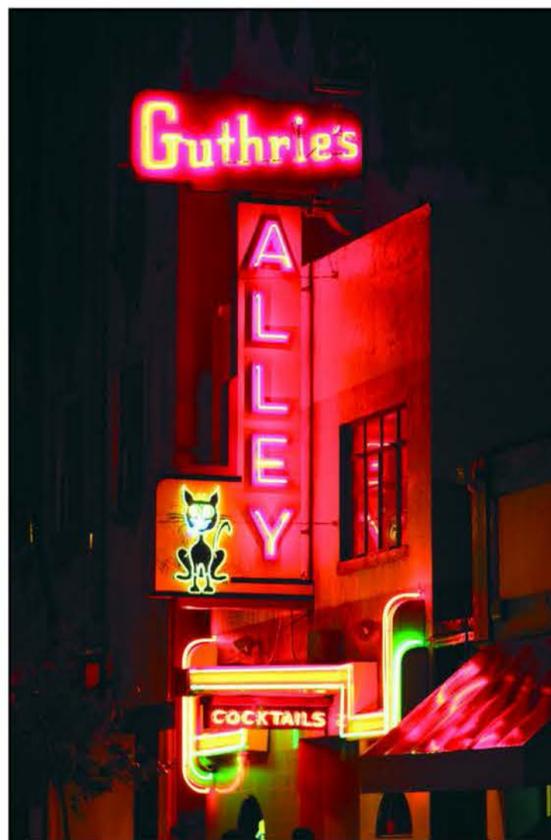
verfox Bar sign, which still works except for a couple of tubes that were broken on transport, Lori Wear of the Kern County Museum explained the situation when it comes to collecting and restoring the signs.

"Sometimes we get signs that look like this, other times it's more like the O.B. Newsome where it's been sitting on top of a roof for 30 years," said Wear. "So you just never know what kind of condition they are going to be in."

In an effort to raise money to restore the signs, donations were collected and are requested from the Kern County Museum.

With the advent of light-emitting diodes and cheaper forms of lighting, according to Carter, neon has taken a more specialized and artistic role when it comes to lighting.

"Light-emitting diodes do a lot of different things and they are capable of a lot of different things. I think in applications like interiors, small spaces, where you don't need the bright-



JOSEPH COTA / THE RIP

Guthrie's Alley Cat is an example of local historical neon signs preserved in the downtown Bakersfield area.

ness ... there are a lot of places where it can replace the neon," said Carter.

"People try to shove it as a comparison and it needs to have its own identity because it has wonderful applications."

But despite its versatility as lighting source, Carter said, "They need to try to not make it a neon replacement because it re-

ally doesn't replace neon because neon is brighter. The light is all around the neon, so you have not just the directional light of the LEDs, you have the full light of the neon. So it creates a different type of light."

"I think it needs to be one of those gypsies, mystery, do in a window in front of people, things," said Carter.

Professor finds comfort within books and bikes

By Zak S. Cowan
Sports Editor

Jason Stratton, a history professor at Bakersfield College, has an interest far from the realm of historical documentation—Stratton has a love for riding motorcycles.

He owns two bikes, a 2005 Kawasaki ZRX 1200, which he rides to campus regularly, and an '83 Honda Saber that is currently out of commission, but which he plans to get back on the road in the near future.

Stratton recognizes the risks of riding motorcycles but is not intimidated by them.

"Danger is not my middle name, but it is something that does not scare me into avoiding it," he said.

"It's something that I approach rationally, and I recognize the worst thing that could happen would not be death, but to be a financial burden to my family.

"I have been hit once. I came into an intensive-care ward. I still don't remember that accident."

Stratton was hit in 2002 when someone turned left into an intersection.

"I have no memory of it. I lost three hours of memory that day," he said.

"I broke my two front teeth and sprained my left wrist to the point where I couldn't really close my hand for two months effectively.

"But I was in class teaching the next day, because I only lost three hours of memory—I didn't lose my memory from college."

There are many reasons Stratton chooses to ride motorcycles instead of a car or SUV.

"It makes me feel connected to the world around me in ways that I think our modern societies are disconnected from," Stratton said. "I don't have an



RYAN GEORGE / THE RIP

Jason Stratton is a history professor at BC.

air conditioner, I can't make it warm or cold to suit my taste on a whim. I feel the cross winds, I can smell things as I'm going through the area because I'm not insulated in a nice little sterile cubicle, passing through the universe around me.

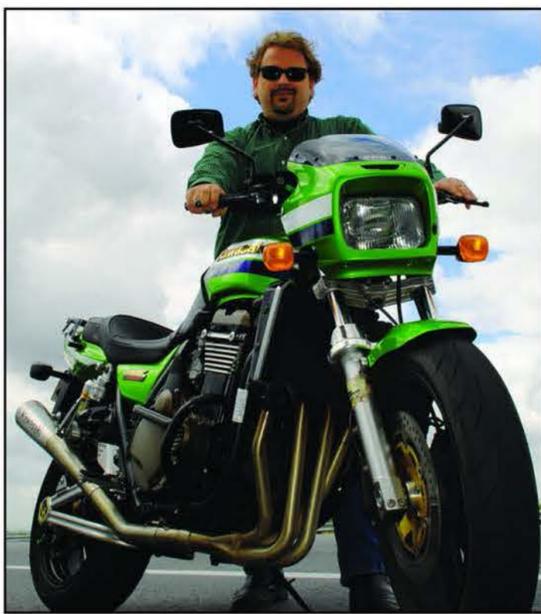
"I'm connected to the universe," Stratton said that he likes the thrill of the acceleration but that it isn't the best alternative that riding motorcycles provides, stating, "I have acceleration in my Kawasaki similar to a Corvette, or actually a little faster, from 0-60, and my gas mileage is about 38-44 miles to the gallon.

"So, better than a Honda Civic in terms of gas mileage, with better than a Corvette in terms of acceleration," he said.

There is one major emotional incident that influenced Stratton to ride motorcycles for the foreseeable future.

"My brother taught me to ride, so I feel a connection with him when I ride," Stratton said. "He passed away a long time ago. I made a promise at his memorial service that I would ride one day just so that he's constantly present in my life.

"He died when someone ran a red light and hit him with his pickup. We will die, that's a



RYAN GEORGE / THE RIP

Stratton shows off his Kawasaki ZRX 1200, the motorcycle he rides as he restores his '83 Honda Saber.

guarantee," Stratton said. "I'd rather have a high quality life than be afraid to enjoy a life as long as you do it responsibly. The biggest threat isn't me on the bike, it's people in cars who have no clue.

"They're more of a threat to me than I am in terms of my health and safety."

Stratton's passion in history shows in his classroom.

"When you're doing what you love, you're constantly up, and therefore, it doesn't feel old and stale to you," he said. "You're always energized to find new ways to understand it, and new ways to explain it to people to try to see the students in the class nodding their heads and smiling.

"The money's nice, but I teach for that connection with you, that nonverbal interaction, or the verbal. When I ask questions and people are able to answer them, I can lead them to making their own conclusions."

Stratton credits his teaching method to his education, and keeping up with current news and that he tries "to see interconnections between different areas that some people don't see as a natural one."

Stratton also cites honor courses at the University of La Verne where students could take two subjects, such as architecture and history, and how the two would be connected.

"Because of that educational

background, because of me being me for whatever reason, when I see things my mind frequently makes connections to other sources, other cultures, other ideas, where I see a similarity and how cultures are approaching an issue. That's where I make those type of connections."

During the third grade, Stratton went to three different schools while his family moved from place to place. He credits this to how he first got drawn in to the "faith of history," as he calls it.

"I remember toward the end of [the third grade] I got tired of making friends and losing them, but we always had the books with us," he said. "So I figured I wasn't going to worry about getting close to people. I will make friends, but I'm not going to make my entire life my friends. I will be friends with books as much, because the books always traveled with us.

"By the end of the third grade I remember telling my mom I wanted to be a stunt man one week, another week it was a jet pilot, and the third week it was a history professor, and those have been my goals ever since."

Stratton's wife also works at BC. Their first date was a ride on one of his bikes into the snowing mountains, and as he said, "she still wanted to see me the next day."

BC choir channels its tragedies into its art

By Martin Chang
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Chorale and Chamber Singers performed the "Requiem" by Gabriel Faure at St. John's Lutheran Church to an appreciative audience. The director and the students were inspired by tragedies, personal and in the world.

Ronald Kean, director of the BC chorale department, sees the purpose of the seven movement "Requiem" as a way of viewing the afterlife and "the need to reconcile what we think may happen when a person passes on."

In order to properly honor the dead, Kean believes that you must sing pieces such as the "Requiem," "right."

"If you have an impure heart, or if the music is not done with integrity then you lose communication with you ancestors. It's important that we try to approach music with dignity and integrity so that we can transfer that integrity to our deceased," Kean said.

He believes that the BC choir sang the piece with that respect. He describes their performance as having "such integrity and such passion." He is "very proud" of what was accomplished by the choir.

Kean said the audience reaction has been "fantastic." He said, "I've gotten e-mails and comments from people all over town, about how moved they were. Most of the people were saying they were weeping during the performance." At the end of the performance of "Requiem," many in the audience stood up

and clapped in appreciation.

The BC choir students were inspired by both personal tragedy and recent world tragedies when singing the "Requiem."

BC choir student Matthew Davis thought of his recently-passed grandmother while performing the "Requiem."

"I felt like I could connect to the 'Requiem' more because I dedicated it to her. So I felt this was a good way to release all the pent-up feelings I had about mourning for my grandma.

"I really didn't have a chance to mourn because I had to go back to school right away after the funeral. So it was really a nice, productive outlet for me," he said.

Fernando Munoz, the baritone soloist, found inspiration singing his solos in the recent events in Japan. "I thought I was going to be nervous, but I wasn't too nervous," he said. "Kean was giving me a pep talk, saying the best thing to think about when you're singing this is what just happened to Japan. I just started thinking about that. It was almost heartbreaking. I just had to sing my best. I had to give it my all for the people who have struggled as much as they did. So I gave it my all for the people that needed it."

For Kean, both inspired him. "It was a tribute to my mother who passed on late last November," he said. "As a young teenager, we lived in France right outside of Paris for a year and a half, so a French piece would be entirely appropriate to honor her with."

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British women's society celebrates culture

By Chrystal Fortt
Reporter

Daughters of the British Empire is a national society of women who are of British descent. They meet together under the commonality of British heritage and the philanthropic motto "Not ourselves, but the cause." Josephine Langstaff, started DBE in 1909. The American organization grew quickly when World War I happened; they had the biggest war relief contribution out of any other British organization.

Now, all DBE organizations support retirement homes for British people in America.

There are four retirement homes in the United States that they fund, including Texas, Illinois, New York and California.

There are chapters throughout the nation, but there is a particular chapter for Kern County that's called the "Sir Edward Elgar" chapter.

The members come from Shafter, Arvin, Wasco, Delano, Taft, Lake Isabella and Weldon to meet in Bakersfield once a month. All chapters give to the retirement home nearest to them.

The Kern County section of DBE gives to the retirement home in the L.A. area, in Sierra Madre city.

Kitty Christensen is a member and is from Yorkshire, England. "We help send donations of money, whatever we can to support a retirement home for the British people ... we don't do much, but we do little sales between ourselves," said Christensen. "We buy each other stuff and the

money goes to them [the British retirement home], then we have tea and little sandwiches," said Joan Bohmwald, who is also from Yorkshire, England.

Even though they come together to support the British retirement homes, they all were looking for new friendships. "I've been in Bakersfield for 20 years now ... I didn't have any friends here, so I looked up in the phone book for organizations, that's how I found DBE," said Bohmwald.

The Bakersfield Chapter, "Sir Edward Elgar," started in 1965 with about 40 members.

Now the group is the smallest it's ever been with eight members.

They lost members for different reasons but mostly because they moved or passed of old

age. "Some chapters have over a hundred members," said Christensen.

The Kern County chapter lacks new and younger members. "Nowdays women aren't interested in joining because they're busy working, have children, or going to school," said Connie Corbell.

"Our daughters and their daughters can join, but they never come," said Enne Foster who is from Embra, Scotland.

The DBE group would have liked their daughters to join the group, but couldn't get them to stay. Lyn Brown, from North Hampton, England, is the president of the chapter.

"[Our daughters] don't have anything in common, they don't miss England, they've never been



KAYLA BROADHAG / THE RIP

From left: Enne Foster, Connie Corbell, Joan Bohmwald and Kitty Christensen, members of the Daughters of the British Empire, sit and chat on March 15.

there. And we miss our home, I was about 20 years old when I left my home," said Brown. "You get hungry to talk to someone who knows your language, who knows where you live because you're in a strange place."

Teacher triumphs over hearing challenges



Moya Arthur

By James Timothy
Reporter

"Excuse me if I wax philosophical," remarks Professor Moya Arthur as she sits in her office one afternoon. "After all, I am a professional."

Arthur is a professional in her field, no argument there. Even though she's obviously faux-boastful, Arthur remains modest about her knowledge and dedication to the field she has taught here at Bakersfield College going on 20 years.

Philosophy for her is "a school of thought and a method of examining the world around you. It's beyond a job and a paycheck; it's a way of life."

As Arthur puts it, "You get into philosophy not because it's a job, not for the money, but because it's something you love to do. Nobody goes into it for the money. I'm lucky enough today to get paid to do something I love." Arthur was a third-year biology student at UC Davis when she says someone essentially forced her to take a general education class in philosophy.

Arthur enrolled in the class, and her initial opinion was that it was "a complete waste of time."

"I basically hated and detested this class," Arthur said. "I was used to taking fairly tough science classes, and my first philosophy exam kicked my butt. I was like, 'whoa, I'm supposed to be smart, what happened?'"

Arthur at first disliked the subject, but the difficulty she experienced inspired and challenged her until the initial distaste turned into a fascination and eventually

"A school of thought and a method of examining the world around you. It's beyond a job and a paycheck; it's a way of life."

Moya Arthur, Philosophy Professor

a lifelong love with the subject. Soon though, you might say, life took a few turns to give her things to philosophize upon.

Arthur summarizes in a few words an incident that would transform her life forever. "My husband and I were in Santa Barbara, and we were having a perfectly lovely day. At night we went to sleep, and the next morning when I woke up ... I couldn't hear. It was terrifying."

Arthur spent almost a year with the world around her muted to utter silence, a devastating circumstance for an individual who comes from a musical background and is a musician herself. Countless doctors had no explanation for the phenomena, even though there were plenty of theories; genetic predispositions to various disorders with side effects causing deafness being the main culprits.

Arthur went on to explain that inside the cochlea there are areas that respond to sound frequencies and interpret these frequencies as electrical impulses for your brain to read and translate into voice, a musical note, or the sound of a car horn.

These areas exist inside fluid-filled chambers of the cochlea and are like tiny microscopic hairs vibrating in response to the waves of sound.

Arthur compared her hearing to that of a person with normal hearing by saying that if someone with normal hearing had a thousand little "hairs," she herself only had twenty to work with. This prevented her from hearing at certain frequencies, especially

those that were of a lower register, say maybe a note from a bass guitar, or a deep male voice.

"I took a yearlong sabbatical where I didn't teach at all. That's when most of my hearing was completely gone," Arthur said. "My husband and I went to specialist after specialist and every one of them thought I could have some sort of horrible disease that might have caused it."

To this day, Arthur isn't absolutely sure what caused the loss of her hearing. Several different possibilities include the side effects of various disorders such as scarlet fever, or hay fever.

She theorizes her immune system may have become overloaded fighting one of these diseases.

"But eventually I was sent to UCLA where I underwent a procedure to insert a cochlear implant into my head to help restore some of my hearing," Arthur said. To this day, Arthur utilizes a combination of her ears, lip-reading, and her mind to experience the world around her and what people say.

"I'm considered a master lip-reader. It's very tough," she said. "Say I were to say two different phrases to you; 'island view', and 'I love you.'"

You have to learn to interpret these two phrases differently since they appear the same on the lips. You have to decide which the person is saying on a contextual basis.

Arthur sums it all up like the philosophy teacher she is. "I've learned a lot more than I've lost. But that's life. You're always learning."



CHRISTAL FORTT / THE RIP

Column

Shopping around can give savings and good fashions

By Chrystal Fortt
Reporter

Ever since the economic downturn in 2008, all of our budgets have been cut down. Instead of having Gap clothing in our closets, we just have the gap space of no clothing.

Now everyone can get fairly good style for cheap ever since the huge Forever 21 has decided to stay for good.

Forever 21 gets old after shopping there for awhile. The store usually ends up with a jacket that they sold last winter, only this winter it has different buttons.

However, getting jeans for about \$15 isn't so bad. But for the type of people who want variety but don't have the money, there are some ways to get more bang for your buck. Since some stores are cutting back on their budget and deciding to go green, they don't like sending catalogs through the mail.

Sign up for e-mail subscriptions from all the closest clothing stores near you. Even sign up for stores that you don't really like. You would be surprised when you see things that you like in a store that you never dared to walk into.

Save your money for when you get these e-mails. They always send you an e-mail when they're about to have a sale, have cheap featured items, or have an exclusive-online coupon.

The e-mails are better than having tons of catalogs in the house, but your e-mail inbox can

get pretty cluttered too. Make an e-mail account strictly for store subscriptions and junk mail. Since the stores have gone cheap on catalogs, they also want to make more money, so they'll try to offer you a store credit card, and they'll try to tempt you with a 40% discount.

Never sign up for the card, a devil is behind the discount. It might be hard to resist, but the card will just rack up debt.

A year later, you'll be stuck making payments on the shoes that you don't wear anymore. Buying the shoes with cash is a better idea and there's a way of getting cash for those shoes.

Turn the shoes and clothes that sit in your closet into a new outfit by going to Plato's Closet on Ming Avenue. Unlike most thrift stores, Plato's Closet takes slightly used clothes that are still in style and gives cash for them. They'll make you an offer depending on the condition and the style of the clothes. Plato's Closet might have the pair of shoes you were wanting.

If Plato's Closet is too modern, and vintage is more your style, of course thrift stores are your choice of place to shop. Even though vintage stores can have some deals, shopping at yard sales can be even better.

Yard sales can have a jackpot of designer vintage for cheap. The best thing about yard sales is that you can make deals with the seller for a lump sum of things for an almost stolen price.

The sellers usually take the offer since they're trying to get rid of stuff that they think is junk.

Boys and Girls Club raise money and hope through dodgeball games

By Monica Bolger
Reporter

The Bakersfield Boys and Girls Club hosted its annual coed dodgeball tournament on March 19, in attempt of raising money to support its youth organization and achieved so in an entertaining and recreational manner.

"It's a fundraiser we have every year, and it's a fun way to raise money to help support us, and everything we do around here," said Associative Executive Director, Berry White.

White and various others came to support dodgeball "The Tournament" along with Bright house, that's been shown to be

one of the clubs main sponsors, according to their website.

28 teams arrived with their game faces on, and squared off against the opposing team of the same sex in a race to grab the nearest ball, and chuck it across the room as fast as they could while avoiding being hit themselves.

Each team carried six energetic challengers that sported their group's name on the back of their shirts, and were simultaneously pumped-up to the sound of "Mr. Dodgeball" on the mike, who taunted them with his fancy two-Step and dougie moves, and used catch phrases like, "yayah" and "that's what's up."

"It can get pretty rough on the court, but it's all in good fun, and it's such a great sport," said White.

To the east of Harvey Hall Gymnasium, DJ "Marky Mark" scratched jams, and spun records of hip-hop, techno, and R&B tunes to heighten the intensity of Saturday's event.

A massive cluster of screaming bodies and flaying body parts described the scene at the opposite end of the court.

Among the crowd of supporters were Congressman Kevin McCarthy and Senator Michael Rubio that attended to watch their family members play. "Kevin McCarthy came earlier

to support his son's team, Team Recon," said White. "And also Rubio, that's here for her boy's team." Competitors ranged from pre-teens to senior citizens, and were not only dressed in their team gear, but sported outfits that resembled cartoon and action characters.

"Dead Barbies" showed off their athletic skills as they played wearing pink tights, blonde wigs, and white face makeup, and won the title of "Most Creative Costumes." The end result was \$10,000 raised in donations, and a gold trophy in the shape of a dodgeball was given to the first place team, "Bakersfield Headshots."



BRANDON BARRAZA / THE RIP

The Bakersfield Headshots pose with their trophy after winning a dodgeball tournament March 19.

News Briefs

Correction

In the March 16 issue of The Renegade Rip, the article "Anti-abortionists converge at BC" stated that dean of students Joyce Coleman and SGA president Lisa English attempted to get Project Truth to vacate the premises. This was not the case. Project Truth was asked to not take pictures of students but was not asked to leave.

Correction

In the March 16 issue of The Renegade Rip Richard Villanueva's name was misspelled in an article.

"Red White Wine Food Festival"

The "Red White Wine Food Festival" will host more than 50 California wineries and food from the Culinary Arts program on Friday, April 8 at the North Stadium Lawn. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the gate. Call the Bakersfield College Foundation at 395-4800 for details.

St. Jude Home Giveaway

Annual St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway has begun. Prizes include a \$400,000 house or \$200,000 cash, as well as other items. Tickets are \$100 and are available at all Kern School Credit Unions, Roger's Jeweler's, Urmer's, or by calling 1-800-385-9134. Contest details are available at www.dreamhome.org.

Gardentfest

Gardentfest, the campus festival put on by the Horticulture Department, will be on campus April 9 at the Bakersfield College Horticulture Renegade Park from 9 a.m. to 4p.m. There will also be booths for campus clubs and other organizations. Reservation forms for booth space for campus organizations can be found on www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/gardentfest, and the space fee is \$75 beginning March 17. Booth space is free up until March 16.

Scottish Gathering to be held at Stramler Park

The Bakersfield Highland Gathering and Games, a festival for Scottish/Celtic music and culture including food and athletics, will be at Stramler Park on Saturday, April 2.

CSUB admissions at BC

CSUB will be doing on-site admissions at BC on April 6 in the Gymnasium Foyer and on April 6 in the Fireside Room. Both events are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students should bring an unofficial transcript and a completed CSUB application.

Recent vehicle thefts on BC campus

BC Public Safety Security is currently working in an investigation with local police about recent vehicle thefts on campus, and they would like students to be aware of unusual activity around BC and to call them at 395-4554 if they observe suspicious activity (or call 911 if it's an emergency).

Great American Cleanup

The Great American Cleanup and Greater Bakersfield Green Expo will be at Yokuts Park on April 9. This expo showcases recycling and renewable energy business in Kern County. Further information for the event is available at www.gbgreen-expo.org and www.keep-bakersfieldbeautiful.us.

TRANSFER: Board still to determine 'local' CSU

Continued from Page 1

Cal State Fresno and Cal State Northridge could be considered local schools.

The process started with the California Community College State Academic Senate organizing curriculum proposals with faculty members of the state's CSUs. Their efforts have created what are called Transfer Model Curriculums, which will create degree programs that all of the CSUs will accept. With this process, a degree in psychology will be earned with the same curriculum requirements offered at all California community colleges.

"Faculty are convening and meeting all over the state and are hashing out what these Transfer Associate or these Transfer Model Curriculum are going to look like. They are going to be fast-tracked to Sacramento through the chancellor's office, and they're going to be available to students in the fall," Granger-Dickson said.

Currently, there are 21 schools that have responded with at least

16 agreeing to all three Transfer Curricular Model proposals as they were first presented, according to an e-mail from Jane Patton, president of the Academic Senate for Community Colleges.

According to Patton, most CSUs have acknowledged or agreed to the new terms except San Diego State University. SDSU does not feel that the new Transfer Model Curriculums coordinate with their degrees. They are the only university that feels this way; however, because 1440 is a state mandated measure, the university must reach a satisfactory decision regarding the TMCs.

"Given that the majority of CSU campuses have agreed to accept all three of the first TMCs, there is reason to be hopeful that the outstanding implementation issues can be resolved," Patton said. Negotiations and planning are currently ongoing.

At this time, according to Granger-Dickson, there are three Transfer Model Curriculums that have been completed: psychology, sociology and communica-

tion. Currently, more TMCs are being configured and will possibly be ready for the fall term.

She is excited for the bill and feels that it will eliminate confusion for students as well as the number of units they are taking.

"I'm excited about it because I think that anything that can reduce barriers for students is great. Anything that's going to increase transfer of our students is great because our transfer rates, while strong for transferring to CSUB, are not as strong as I'd like them to be," she said.

Granger-Dickson urges students to plan ahead when taking courses and stresses to complete math and English courses sooner than later as well as declaring a major early on to avoid taking unnecessary courses. She also encourages students who are unsure of their major to research by talking with professors and professionals in their fields of interest to see if it's the right decision for them to make.

"I think that those students who really come to those decisions fairly early and do that

Quick Facts about Senate Bill 1440 "Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act"

SB 1440 "seeks to promote transfer of California community college students to California state universities by guaranteeing admission to local campuses for all students who complete 60 transfer units and a minimum 2.0 GPA."

The Associate Transfer Degree majors currently completed and ready for fall term transfers include Psychology, Sociology and Communication. Upcoming majors nearing completion are Criminal Justice, Kinesiology and Mathematics.

Additional majors to be com-

pleted include Early Childhood Education, Physics, Geology, Art, Biology and Chemistry followed by Liberal Studies, English, History, Political Science and Business.

Mandatory Requirements for guaranteed transfer:

- Complete 60 CSU transferable units.
- Complete CSU General Education Breadth or IGETC.
- No Local CC Graduation requirements allowed.
- Minimum 18 units in an Associate Degree major.
- Minimum 2.0 GPA.
- Guaranteed Admission to local CSU campus.

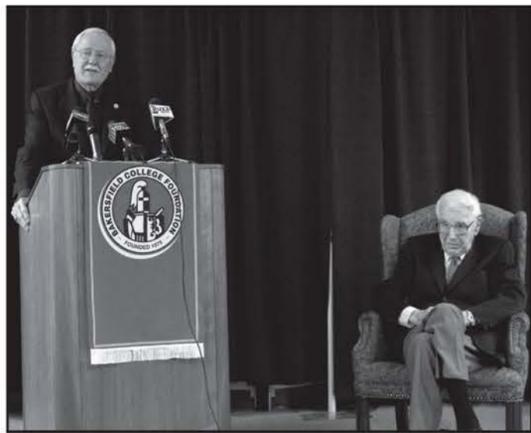
*Information provided by Sue Granger-Dickson

research and are well informed are going to be [at BC] less time. And that's the whole point, to not waste student time and money, which is also federal and state money at this point through financial aid," she said.

For students interested in learning more about transferring, university representatives

make regular visits to BC and are available to answer questions about their college. The counseling department also offers transfer workshops on various subjects regarding CSU and UC transfers.

For dates and times or to learn more, visit the counseling center in Student Services.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Bakersfield Mayor Harvey Hall (left) speaks during a press conference announcing Dr. Norman Levan's donation to Bakersfield College on March 24.

REACTIONS: Renovating campus suggested

Continued from Page 1

"Rebuild the buildings and put the teachers back to work," said Bill Parker, graphic center lead printer.

"What good is a scholarship if you don't have anybody to teach you what you need? Scholarships aren't getting

the teachers back in the classroom," said Parker.

"I've been here a long time, and I watch students get their financial aid checks for their schooling, and they spend it on the totally opposite things, and then they struggle trying to get through school," said Parker.

BOOKSTORE: Outsourcing could result in cheaper textbooks for BC students

Continued from Page 1

be revealed at the time of their formal evaluation. "Who the companies might be is hard to say.

"There's probably large bookstore chains but then there's probably operators of college bookstores that are independent - it's hard to tell and would be all speculation at this point," Chiang said.

One advantage the change will have for BC staff and students is that the bookstore will be more competitive in book pricing, according to Laura Lorigo, auxiliary manager for BC.

Lorigo is optimistic that a new management company will update the bookstore to an electronic records and tracking system, making the ordering and purchasing processes more efficient for students and faculty at BC.

Another feature that Rodriguez hopes will take place with the electronic update is the ability for students to be able to look up the books they need based on the books associated with the classes on their schedules. He also feels that this feature would

be very beneficial for students and their families that want to assist students in purchasing their materials.

According to Chiang, some of the reasons for change in management are the demanding responsibilities associated with running a bookstore as well as an incentive to find a more cost-effective and efficient way to operate.

"A lot of it has to do with the overwhelming work involved with getting the books ordered, getting the books shelved, keeping them stocked and all of that moving around, and we basically have people who are staff who we train to do that but it's a huge job," Chiang said.

She added that one of the primary reasons is to increase the efficiency of the bookstore's operations to better meet BC's needs.

"The thought process, as far as I understand it, was maybe it would make more sense to have someone that actually operates bookstores all the time come in and get things streamlined and smoothed out," Chiang said.

Another change that both

Rodriguez and Lorigo are optimistic about is the possibility of the bookstore being more competitive in pricing, resulting in cheaper books.

Lorigo commented that students are buying books from a variety of places like Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com to find the best deals and so now, with the new changes, more students will buy their books at BC.

At this time, due to the formal review process, it is still possible that more applicants may submit bids for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

It is also possible that the bids that have been submitted may be rescinded or rejected by the district during review for a variety of reasons.

Also, it is uncertain whether student employees will continue to work in the bookstore. According to Chiang, these are factors that would be discussed within a company's proposal package.

The formal review process is not determined at this time, though sources feel that it will possibly occur during the April Board of Trustees meeting.

SGA encourages students to donate blood

By Amber T. Troupe
Reporter

The Blood Bus is going to be located on campus in the parking lot behind the bookstore on March 31 for the annual 2011 National Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive Challenge, in which Bakersfield College is competing with many colleges across the nation.

Katrina Oldershaw, the Stu-

dent Government Association's legislative liaison commented on the regulations and requirements to donate blood.

"The blood screening takes place in the fireside room and they basically just check to see if you are able to donate.

Things like how old are your tattoos and piercings, weight check to make sure the body can handle the loss of blood, just have to be at least 110 pounds,

or to see if you are sick, and once cleared by the nurses from Houchin Blood Bank escorts students to the Blood Bus," she said.

The drive is going to be there to help those in need of blood as usual, but also to beat last year's record for the amount of registered donors and the amount of blood obtained.

BC actually is ranked 37th in last year's most successful blood

drive award with a donor goal of 125 with 120 registering and a pint goal of 152 with 89 collected.

So this year BC wants to break its own record as well as beat out the competition, and SGA is trying to make that happen by giving presentations in certain classes as well as including free T-shirts and a slice of pizza to registered donors.

The big incentive they are us-

ing this year compared to last year's is being entered in a drawing to win one out of five \$100 BC Bookstore vouchers.

This year's drive will not have as much media coverage because Oldershaw says that it may drive some people away from donating.

The SGA encourages everyone to come out and donate blood not just students, but the community is invited as well.

Digital arts professor speaks on turmoil in Middle East

By Keith Kaczmarek
Reporter

While Egypt is on the other side of the world, the effects of the unrest there have touched those here in Bakersfield like Adel Shafik, a digital arts professor at BC. Though he emigrated from Egypt in 1986 after being educated at Egypt's Helwan University and became a United States citizen in 1999, he still has four sisters and a brother living in Egypt.

When the unrest in Egypt began, he tried to contact his family. "It was difficult to get in touch with my family with no landline and Internet, but after the fourth day I was able to get in touch with my brother," he said.

After getting in touch with his family, he was afraid for them. "After the police and security left their positions, there was no law with people robbing shops and businesses and that was the most

fearful thing about it," Shafik added. "The internal security and ruling party opened the prisons and a lot of the criminals came out and there were trying to use them to terrorize the people," he continued. "It begins as a peaceful and honest revolution, [then] they created chaos and fear and unrest, thinking that people would break off. That's when the army came in."

The reason for the revolution was clear in his mind. "The people wanted jobs and opportunities," he said. "Mubarak was in office too long - 30 years. That's too long." He also mentioned economic problems. "It was that there were no jobs for college graduates, high food prices, no places to live and no increases in pay [to account for] inflation."

Corruption also seemed to be an issue to him. "I was told that they saw the wealth that government officials had, [as well as] the politicians and police force."

After performing a quick calculation, he mentioned that the average engineer might make \$1,200 a year "versus someone on the police force who can buy the most expensive Rolls Royce."

The future of Egyptian politics concerns him. "My fear is that you are going to get a different group, such as fanatics like the Muslim Brotherhood, and personally I don't want Egypt to become like Iran or Afghanistan."

That being said, Shafik has hopes for the region. "My opinion is that the idea for change was good, and it was a youthful revolution," he said. "There are all kinds of groups, and people want all groups to have opportunities." Later he added, "I'm hoping for a democratic election, a secular government, and real freedom of expression and religion. I'm hoping that there will be real change and that I can go back and visit my family."

Shafik thinks that there are lessons to be learned from the Egyptian revolution. "We should listen to the people, and we should not take things for granted. Our officials should have a wiser way of dealing with conflicts around the world. We lose credibility when we support people like Saddam. We should be the kind of place that people can learn from. I'm a strong believer that democracy is a strong way to live." He later added, "The West learned long ago that you need to separate religion from politics."

With Egypt having three different governments in power since the British-backed King Farouk in 1952, Egypt has changed a great deal from the Arab cultural center it was in the 1950s. "We had a wonderful culture of the arts and it's become colored by the religious atmosphere. We have this incredible history," Shafik said. "After Farouk left in 1952, we still had a freedom of

the arts. In the Arab world, our governments ran to religion for a more secure way of life."

Neighboring Tunisia also had peaceful revolution while Libya has had violence. Various protests have also been happening in nearby nations like Yemen. "When one place has started, it means that there is pressure at other places. With Tunisia, it said to people 'why not.' The economy was a big issue. When they look at the future, it was a dark future."

Shafik has remained optimistic about the situation in Egypt. "I think it's very positive that is was a peaceful transition, but the government is still run by the armies. It's still early to see if it will be a peaceful transition. It is positive that the ministers are under investigation," he added. "I have great faith that things will change for the better, but it will come with sacrifices. That is the cost of freedom, I guess."

