

The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Vol. 84 • No. 6

www.therip.com

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Senate presents resolution

By Zak S. Cowan
Editor in Chief

The Bakersfield College Academic Senate recently presented its budget resolution to the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees at a recent board meeting. The meeting took place April 12 at BC.

The "Senate Resolution on Keeping Budget Reduction Impacts 'Furthest from the Students'" is a recommendation to KCCD on how to deal with budget cuts, with keeping the cuts "furthest from the students" a

top priority.

The resolution also calls for "transparency and timely and ongoing disclosure on the part of the KCCD in the following areas: plans and rationales for budget reductions for all segments of the district including district administration, the value of all assets and investments owned by the district (stocks, bonds, land, reserves for unfunded liabilities, etc.), and the legal uses of such resources."

Mary O'Neal, president of the KCCD Community College Association, the faculty union for

KCCD, said that this clause in the resolution is addressing \$12 million that the Board of Trustees moved out of the general fund in February of 2011.

"When they moved it out of the general unrestricted fund reserve, it no longer showed up as money available to them," O'Neal said. "However, at the time that they moved it, Tom Burke [KCCD Chief Financial Officer], made it very clear that that money would always be available if we needed to use it. Now, we find ourselves in this budget situation, and they say, 'no, we're not going to use

that money during this budget crisis."

O'Neal said there are three talking points that the CCA is bringing to "every single meeting that any CCA person or leadership is involved in."

The first is that the \$12 million be put back on the table and used to help prevent further cuts. Secondly, the CCA wants cuts kept furthest away from students. And the final talking point urges transparency with what is being done at the district office.

"We need to know what cuts Please see BUDGET, Page 8



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

From left: Chancellor Sandra Serrano, Board of Trustees president John Corkins and board member Rose Bans listen as Corny Rodriguez reads a resolution regarding proposed upcoming budget cuts at an April 12 KCCD board meeting in Forum West at Bakersfield College.

STITCHING Success

By Nate Perez
Reporter

Bakersfield College student Merritt Holloway originally began sewing over 30 years ago, after he broke up with his girlfriend at the time. He never imagined accumulating over 70 sewing machines and enough fabric to last a

lifetime. Thirty years ago, Holloway didn't have a lot of money to buy clothes like Michael Jackson, so he began sewing beads and sequins on collars of silk shirts. Being a musician himself, he not only wanted to play the part, he wanted to look the part.

Holloway remembers buying a tuxedo shirt and adding beads to it while on a routine three-hour bus ride to the church where he played the piano. After three hours of sewing beads onto the shirt, he finally finished and decided to try it on. There was just one catch — the shirt didn't fit. Holloway was baffled.

"I didn't know anything about sewing, but I looked at it and one

side of the shirt was higher than the other side and then I thought, I could do better than this," said Holloway.

Shortly afterward, Holloway teamed up with a Japanese woman in his voice class. After five days and almost 40 hours of sewing with this woman, Holloway began making his shirt.

"After the fifth day, I started my third shirt. After that I was really sewing, but because I was a beginner I didn't know how to pick the good fabric," he said. "Don't get me wrong, I was making cool stuff, but I was using the wrong fabric to make the stuff, so it looked stupid."

To say Holloway is a professional student is a bit of an understatement. He has been in school for over 30 years and has taken classes in carpentry, welding, Chinese and so forth.

In 1985, Holloway enrolled in Los Angeles Trade Technical College and began taking classes in men's pattern making and design and tailoring. After those two classes, long hours practicing

"I've always been on the outside looking in, all my life. I was too young for the black power movement, and now I'm the only one that's hardcore."
—Merritt Holloway, BC student



NATE PEREZ / THE RIP

Merritt Holloway poses wearing a shirt of his own making. Holloway makes all of his own clothes. He is also a carpenter, a welder and plays the piano.

at home and the private sewing lessons from the woman in his voice class. Holloway felt like an expert.

"After one semester of the tailoring class my sewing improved so much, the next semester my mother came to school with me," said Holloway. "I was making clothes for my sister and I was making clothes for my mother!"

When Holloway is carpentering, welding or making clothes, he not only does it for self-fulfillment, he does it as a means to boycott.

"I took my own money and bought all of [these things]," he said. "I didn't have no company making me [these things], but I went to school and learned how to use all the equipment."

"I've always been on the outside looking in, all my life. I was Please see MERRITT, Page 8



OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Merritt Holloway studies in a classroom at Bakersfield College. Holloway has been in college for over 30 years.

Dean stepping down from position

By Jon Nelson
Features Editor

Continuing a trend of administrative departures at Bakersfield College, dean of instruction Stephen Eaton has tendered his resignation.

He will be leaving April 27 to become the vice president of academic affairs at Barstow Community College.

"I have always felt that one of my strengths is facilitating other people's success: both students and faculty," said Eaton about his new position as vice president.

Eaton is looking forward to the transition ahead.

"I like to help colleges. I really like the idea of being that one person for the president that can make that [positive change] happen," he said.

Aside from being able to help both students and staff, Eaton cited increased responsibility as one of the reasons he decided to leave his current position.

"They want me to start as soon as possible," he said as to why he won't be completing the spring semester at BC.

Eaton was appointed to the position of dean of instruction for behavioral science, communication, performing arts, philosophy, art and social science departments at BC in October of 2010.

He received a bachelor's degree in speech and theater at Central Michigan University and a master's degree in Higher Education and Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Eaton has previous administration experience at Mid Michigan Community College.

Honor society sees major influx of students

By Keith Kaczmarek
Reporter

Phi Beta Kappa, a nation-wide honor society for students with a 3.5 or better GPA, saw a 637 percent increase in membership in Bakersfield College members from last year.

Niome Vick, executive vice president of BC's chapter, discussed the amazing growth in membership.

"I believe there was a boost in Phi Theta Kappa member-

ship because of the perks," Vick said. "If your matriculation is complete, you get priority registration. You receive access to the transfer and scholarship resource, collegefish.org."

"More than \$27 million worth of scholarships are available on collegefish, and membership in Phi Theta Kappa appears directly onto your transcript."

According to an article in the New York Times, "Phi Beta Kappa is both the oldest and the most exclusive honor society in the

country. Only 10 percent of colleges have chapters, and just over 1 percent of college seniors are elected each year."

"If you put it down for jobs, it really will matter," said Vick, noting the long and prestigious lineage of an honor society that began in 1776.

Former members include such notables as John Quincy Adams during the earliest beginnings of the society to such contem-

porary notables as Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor and President Barack Obama.

For local chapter members, the society is more than just a chance to polish a resume.

Many members have attended leadership conferences and joined

the society in local charity work such as a recent collaboration with the Wounded Warriors project that facilitated BC

student donations like kitchen supplies, socks, and iTunes gift cards to soldiers currently serving overseas.

"The Phi Theta Kappa honors society maintains four goals, or what we call 'Hallmarks.'

"Our four hallmarks are Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship," said Vick.

She's also found that joining the society has been personally fulfilling.

"I used to be really shy," she Please see HONORS, Page 8



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Renegades baseball primed for playoff push

Schwartz breaks two records at Mt. SAC relays

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

The Mt. SAC Relays on April 14 had a couple of major highlights for the Bakersfield College track and field team. In particular, Chris Schwartz broke two long-standing school records on the day. Schwartz won the 1,500 in a BC record time of 3:49.19, and again shattered the school record in the 5,000, winning it with a time of 14:34.38.

According to BC head coach David Frickel, the old record belonged to Charlie Wallace in the 1,500, with a time of 3:52.08 in

1981, and Angel Correo held the 5,000 record of 14:52.08 in 1978.

"The 1,500, when you break that down to a mile, that's a high 4:06 mile," said Frickel.

Going into the 1,500, Schwartz mentioned that he felt pretty good, but as he got closer to the start he started to feel a little bit nervous.

"Going into the last lap, coach yelled out the time, something a little over 3:00. So I thought to myself, I better get going, and I ran the last 300 or so in 44 seconds."

—Chris Schwartz, Cross-country runner

"I knew going into it, I wanted to go under 3:50, which is tough to do, but that was my goal," said Schwartz. "Going into the last lap, coach yelled out the time, something a little over 3:00. So I thought to myself, I better get going, and I ran the last 300 or so in 44 seconds."

As far as the 5,000, Schwartz kind of sensed that something special was going on, as the crowd cheered him on.

"The people started to cheer for me, and that kind of gave me some extra energy, I kind of fed off of that."

The BC team held their last meet at home on April 30 in Memorial Stadium. The Western State Conference Inland Meet featured six teams, including the Renegades. The event showcased many strong performances by several BC athletes, and those Please see TRACK, Page 10

Column
Trends
lacking in
quality

WORTHWHILE STYLE | The Rip's copy editor and resident shoe addict discusses the lost art of dressing for your own style.

As a woman whose future will most likely play out like the movie "Confessions of a Shopaholic," it's no secret I spend many hours window-shopping online.

I troll Pinterest, fashion blogs and my favorite online Etsy shops to find style inspiration and new ideas.



Patricia Rocha

However, while on the Forever 21 website I noticed something that I've often wondered about while in the physical store: why in the world don't any of their tops have any shape?

I cannot count how many tops I've picked up off the rack recently and been so distracted by the awkward shape that I just gave up on tops entirely and went to buy myself a pair of shoes instead.

I can't blame the fashion industry though.

It's a pretty well-known fact that when economic times are hard, the fashion world has to shift along with it.

What's the point of making really high-quality clothing with intricate detailing if no one can afford it?

Why spend time sewing garments to flatter a woman's curves when you can just attach some elastic to the middle and call it a day?

Why bother worrying about the sheerness of cheap fabric when you can sell a bandeau bra to go underneath it and call that a top too?

Why even make a whole shirt when people will pay the same price for half the fabric as a "bare-midriff" top anyway?

From a manufacturing point of view, it's a piece of cake to take two rectangle pieces of 99 cent fabric, sew them together, cut out arm and neck holes and call it a "flowy tank."

This way, stores worry less about sizing issues, fabric quality, and even hemming, because a shirt with a fraying edge is obviously so "in."

So the trend shifts into lesser quality pieces and people call it the newest must-wear fad.

Who cares if your shirt will fade and fall apart after four washes? It was only \$10 and you can just go back to the store and buy another one.

But the fault doesn't lie in Forever 21 alone; it's really been the mentality of many types of manufacturing companies in this country in the past couple years.

This is the reason so many people are buying vintage pieces and bringing back old trends. Clothes from the past were made to last.

The focus was on quality, not quantity. They were made with the classic American work ethic, before everything was manufactured overseas for cost. There's no way future generations will be able to find anything from now because it's impossible these clothes will go any farther than the landfill after five years.

My advice is to really think about what you're buying the next time you go shopping. Feel the fabric, pull on the seams and try it on.

If it feels cheap, makes you look like a marshmallow and you're scared to rip it if you pull on the seams, just leave it there.

You deserve so much better. Maybe grab some shoes instead?

Jerry's Pizza celebrates 20th anniversary

By Nicholas Sparling
Reporter

A Bakersfield staple celebrated two decades of existence in an event sponsored by the Downtown Business Association.

Jerry's Pizza turned 20 years old on April 3.

The man of the evening was owner Jerry Baranowski, who smiled as he moved through the crowd shaking hands with all his guests.

"The event is beautiful. I'm overwhelmed by the situation. It's not just for me though. The people, they deserve this. I really appreciate them. What would Jerry's Pizza be without them?" said Baranowski.

Baranowski went on to thank his customers in a speech.

"We need to first say thanks to them, and then celebrate why they like to come. They are not new faces, they are regular customers. Everybody who was here today was at least here in the past, many are quite regulars," he said.

Baranowski also took time to thank his employees.

"All of them deserve recognition, whether they worked here for one day or several years," said Baranowski.

In its 20 years, Jerry's Pizza has had over 300 employees.

In attendance for the celebration was mayor Harvey Hall.

He was there to present Baranowski with a special award for his 20 years of service downtown.

"It's a true success story and we're very proud of what Jerry has done," said Hall.

Hall also commented on Baranowski's speech.

"The enthusiasm that he showed in his presentation shows that he loves what he does," he said.

Hall took time to recognize the service that Jerry's Pizza has done for youth.

"I think it has given the youth of Bakersfield a viable alternative for all types of music when you consider the many concerts that Jerry has conducted at his residence. That gives the kids and the youth an opportunity to look at things that maybe only Los Angeles and San Francisco

has.

"He has made that possible for our kids here. I think he has always had a good, kind, commitment to downtown Bakersfield, maintaining his presence and being a part of all the good things occurring downtown and making sure that his business fits into our community. I'm very proud of Jerry and his 20 years of service," said Hall.

Concert-goers in Bakersfield have long known Jerry's Pizza as one of the most popular venues in the city.

"We like all kinds of bands from all over and many bands from outside come here too. It definitely has given a good start for many young talents," Hall said.

After migrating to the United States from Poland over 20 years ago, Baranowski had no idea that he would end up where he is today.

"Most of things that have happened in my life have been very spontaneous. I like to plan the serious things, but as far as the music, it was very un-predicted," he said.



OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Jerry's Pizza hosted its 20-year anniversary on April 3.

Local heroes meet in the ring



OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

The Bakersfield Police Activities League put together the 18th annual Battle of The Badges on April 13 at The Dome. The event brought together different officers in law enforcement to fight one another in order to raise money for the Police Activities League. The Battle of The Badges brought 24 fighters, each fighting for three rounds. The event packed The Dome, making for an eventful night.



Right: Carlos Hernandez, left, and Ralph Lomas, participate in the 5th of 12 fights as referee Michael Dallas, Sr. looks on. Dallas fought professionally from 1991-98. His son, Mike Dallas, Jr., has a professional record of 17-1-1.

OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Patterson on 19th gallon of blood donation

By Hannah Breeland
Reporter

After almost 55 years of donating blood, Dave Patterson is working on his 19th gallon.

When Patterson was 18, he was in the military and tried giving blood, but was unsuccessful.

When he returned home he had no more difficulty and became a regular 56-day donor.

Patterson is so consistent that he hasn't missed a donation once.

He was even able to accomplish seven donations in 2011.

With donations only eligible every 56 days, he has managed seven in a year when most people donate six times in a year.

Patterson, 74, was born in Bakersfield at Kern General Hospital, now known as Kern Medical Center.

After serving out his military career Patterson returned to Bakersfield and started a family.

His wife is a big supporter of his 56-day ritual.

She gives blood along with their son who is a firefighter.

Even though they may not be as consistent, they do it when they can.

Patterson jokes that he would never pressure someone to give blood, only urge that it's the right thing to do.

He has spent the past 55 years making donating blood his priority.

"It's important, since it's our responsibility to the community," he said.

Once blood is given it can be used between 24 to 48 hours afterward. Blood only has a shelf life of 42 days, which is why there is such a shortage.

"It shouldn't take a disaster or a tragedy like 9/11 for people to give blood," Patterson said.

Patterson said everyone who is able to give blood should, even if it's not every 56 days.

Patterson promises to continue donating until he is physically unable to.

He hopes to get in another seven donations by the end of the year.

Studio offers clinic in master songwriting

By Breanna Fields
Reporter

The best in the music industry gathered in Bakersfield for a one-day clinic to discuss the craft of songwriting inside the studio.

Opening its doors to amateurs and professionals, American Sound Recording Studios hosted a series of Master Songwriting Clinics that offered aspiring songwriters and artists the opportunity to expand their musical knowledge through instruction by world-class artists.

The first clinic was held March 31, with a packed house during the songwriting session and a sold-out concert the night before.

Rick Stevens, manager of American Sound Recording Studios, said that these clinics are not genre specific and offer knowledge for all skill levels.

"They learn from the best songwriters in the business," said Stevens. "They're either Grammy Award-winning songwriters or major hit-maker songwriters that are doing these clinics."

Among the master songwriters

who attended the last clinic was three-time Grammy and Emmy award-nominated artist Steve Dorff, who has composed music for Kenny Rogers, George Strait and Eddie Rabbit, as well as a number of television and movie soundtracks. Also at the clinic was Randy Sharp, whose music has been recorded by Linda Ronstadt, Emmy Lou Harris, The Dixie Chicks, Reba McEntire and many others. His daughter Maia, produced by Grammy-award winner Don Was, was also there to share her talent.

"The idea is to give songwriters and artists an opportunity to advance their career in songwriting and artistry," said Stevens, whose own resume boasts a diverse musical background as a producer, as well as an opening act for Martina McBride, George Jones and Tracy Byrd.

These clinics will give artists the opportunity to hone their skills and further their education on subjects like song structure, songs in movies and commercials, the importance of publishing and the representational aspects of a musician's career,

such as producing demos.

"The songwriting process is not as easy as people think that it is," said Stevens. "I guess anyone could sit down and think they could write a song but writing great songs is a real art. It's a real talent and it doesn't just come to anyone."

The night before each clinic, there will be a concert featuring all of the master songwriters and their work.

During the clinic, there will be a critique session where musicians are encouraged to bring in original recordings for feedback by the instructors.

Apart from the Master Songwriting Clinic, Stevens is also working on a reality TV show titled, "America, Is It a Hit?" through his own project called VSAR Entertainment Group.

The concept is that songwriters are split up into three different genres (pop, rock and country) and will compete on weekly episodes where viewers can vote for their favorite artists, much like "American Idol." A panel of judges will decide the fate of each artist that performs.



MARTIN CHANG / THE RIP

Rick Stevens demonstrates how participants in the clinic can make demo recordings.

A pilot episode of "America, Is it a Hit?" has been filmed, and Stevens is now in the process of waiting for it to get picked up by a network.

At its core, the studio provides recording services for local artists and has expanded by offering to host corporate events and

birthday parties.

The recent addition of the Master Songwriting Clinics has proved to follow in suit with its appeal to local musicians who seek to craft and learn the elements of songwriting.

The concert is \$20 and the clinic is \$149, which includes

lunch at the studio's in-house Hot & Smokin' BBQ.

Although the date for the next clinic is still pending, Stevens says that they expect it to be the last week of June.

More information can be found at asrstudios.com or call 864-1701.

Bakersfield College prepares for Garden Fest

By Hannah Breeland
Reporter

Bakersfield College's annual Garden Fest is back for its seventh year on April 21.

The festival is free and open to the public.

Food and beverages will be provided by the BC Culinary Arts Department.

The Renegade Ranch trailer and Farmer's Market will be providing the fresh produce.

Since it started in 2005, it has

more than tripled in size.

Sally Sterns, the director of Garden Fest, is enthusiastic about this year's turnout.

"We went from having eight people and one booth in 2005 to 150 vendor booths booked," she said.

The vendors range from pet care to arts and crafts.

Free seminars on gardening, floral design, cooking and installing water features like the popular "Build-a-Pond" seminar from Buck's Landscape Materi-

als and Pond Shop will also be available.

The event is put on by BC's Horticulture and Agriculture Department.

They spend all year getting ready by growing the plants that are sold and working on the Renegade Park landscape where the festival is located.

Business and sales majors for agriculture will be in charge of the Renegade Ranch trailer.

"This is a great way for the agriculture and horticulture majors

to network with the businesses that will be present," Sterns said. "I've had students who have gotten on-the-spot internships."

Sterns also mentioned that some BC students thought that the park and lab areas were private property.

"After every Garden Fest, more students become aware of the agriculture and horticulture departments," she said.

"More people come by now and have lunch and enjoy the scenery."



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

An orchid blooms in one of Bakersfield College's greenhouses in preparation for the Garden Fest.

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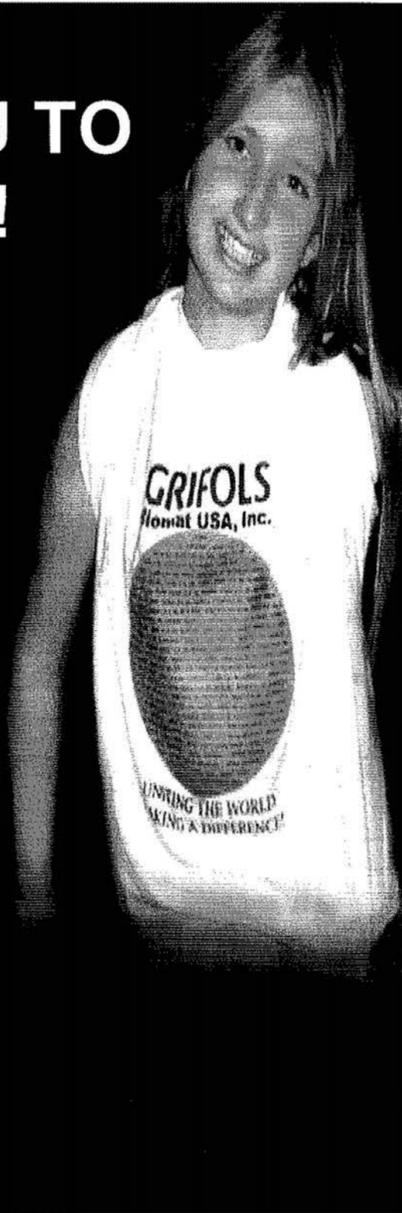
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Levan Center presents classics in new light

By Ruben Perez
Reporter

The Norman Levan Center for the Humanities continued its Reading the Classics series on April 12 by presenting works of William Shakespeare along with The King James Version of the Bible.

Jack Hernandez, director of the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities, who put the event together, explained why they had decided to put these two pieces together.

"Last year was the 400th anniversary of the King James translation, which was done in 1611," he said.

"It was 2011 last year, so we kind of missed that by a little bit, but we thought it's really affected our language a lot.

"Shakespeare finished his last play 'The Tempest' the same year that the King James Version of the Bible was published," said Randy Messick, Bakersfield College theater instructor, explaining the relationship between the two texts.

Messick began the evening by giving some background on the English language at the time and explaining how the work of Shakespeare related to the King James Version of the Bible.

"The Renaissance, printing press, and education coming back ... came together to make the English language just explode and become this awesome vehicle for expressing human intellectual thought, emotional thought, spiritual thought.

"The word was just a form of

entertainment. If nothing else, they would sit around and have a drink in a tavern and just out-wit each other with the use of our words and the use of our wordplay and that's why Shakespeare's works are so full of wordplay and the manipulation of a word that becomes important," he explained of the time.

Messick also explained that the writers of the King James Version of the Bible had no rules that stopped them from writing in a poetic sense or manipulation of the words. So writers of the King James Version of the Bible, along with Shakespeare, were able to create something that could have multiple meanings.

Messick, along with Bob Kempf and Kim Chin, then read different versions of "Song of Songs" from the King James Version of the Bible, and two more updated versions to illustrate how the English language has changed from then to now.

Messick's version from the King James Bible began with, "Thy two breasts are like two young gazelles, that are twins which feed among the lilies."

Kempf's version was, "Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of the gazelle that graze among the lilies."

Chin's translation said, "Your breasts are perfect, they are twin deer feeding among lilies."

They also did this with a few of Shakespeare's works as well.

Hernandez said he wanted people to take from this an, "appreciation of the language of the time and what the people were trying to do with the language."

Art show presents work by students

By Jon Nelson
Features Editor

The Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery, located in the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, is holding its annual exhibit of student art.

The Bakersfield College Art Student Exhibit brings together student work from across all disciplines in the BC art department. Traditional paintings and photography are displayed alongside headaddresses made from recycled paper grocery bags.

"The show is really well put together. This semester has a better mix," said Daniel Nunez, a 23-year-old fine arts major at BC. "I'm enjoying this show a



NATE PEREZ / THE RIP

Oksana Pekker and Leonid Pekker take in a ceramic mailbox on April 12 at the student art exhibit at BC.

lot more."

One of the more unusual pieces at the show was a large, ceramic Koopa shell from the Super Mario Bros. video games made by BC student Aveleardo Castro.

"I really like the ceramics. I didn't realize that was big at BC," said Juliana Paz, 23.

Another crowd favorite was a series called "Your best friends" by Deborah J. Nava-Korhonen.

The artist used broad strokes along with bright colors to paint

various breeds of dog on several canvases.

"There's a lot of cool stuff," said Lorraina Paz, 21, an art major at BC.

Another notable work was a painting titled, "Dark Coffee" by Samantha Garrett, who had several pieces in the show. "Coffee" uses a Van Goghstyle painting technique to forge a moody portrait of a man drinking coffee.

BC professors chose the work that was contributed to the show



NATE PEREZ / THE RIP

Casie Stoddard, 24, nursing, looks at a drawing on April 12 at the Bakersfield College art student exhibit inside of the Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery.

from pieces made during the semester.

Margaret Nowling, curator of the Wylie and May Louise Jones

Gallery, was very pleased with the turnout and the exhibit itself.

"It's a very strong show. All the areas of art are represented,"

she said.

The Bakersfield College Art Student Exhibit runs until May 3.

Veteran blues musician Alastair Greene to rock Pyrenees Cafe

By Martin Chang
Opinions Editor

Alastair Greene is a blues guitarist and songwriter who has been playing blues-style music for over 20 years. He likes to play crowd-pleasing blues standards, but also creates music of introspection.

Greene says he was first exposed to rock 'n' roll and blues by hearing other artist's records.

"It was my parent's record collection, a lot of Beatles, Leon Russell, Stevie Wonder, stuff like that," said Greene. "I discovered blues through a friend of my dad, who loaned me some blues records when I was a junior in high school. That's what originally got me hooked on blues."

In discovering blues, Greene found a genre of music that con-

nected with him.

"It really resonated with me. There's an honesty about it. First and foremost I'm a guitar player, and something about blues guitar really connected with me," he said.

Greene will be playing his brand of blues-rock at Pyrenees Cafe at 2 p.m. on April 21. Greene describes his shows at places like Pyrenees as a lively atmosphere.

"We try to keep the energy up. It's a party atmosphere more often than not. We'll do a lot of classic blues songs, some classic rock songs and try to mix some original material as well. We try to keep it upbeat. If it's the type of place where people want to dance, we try to keep that up, keep that vibe going. We do tons of Chicago and Texas blues," he

said.

Although Greene has played with acts like Alan Parsons around the world, Greene still enjoys playing close, intimate venues like Pyrenees.

"I love it. It's more immediate, especially if there are people in there dancing and having a good time," he said. "It's a different atmosphere than playing a big concert. Guitar wise, when I'm doing my band, I'm doing pretty much whatever I want. The songs usually aren't the same. We'll jam on things and improvise more. It's insanely fun to be creating on the spot. My hope is that what I'm doing is exciting to listeners and that they enjoy sharing those moments. It's a communal feeling."

Although Greene has never played in Bakersfield, he does

have some memories of the area.

"My grandmother lived in Visalia when I was growing up. Whenever I'd go visit my grandmother I'd always drive up through Bakersfield."

Greene laughed as he remembered a particular local memory.

"I remember when I was a little kid there was a sign outside of Bakersfield that said, "Sun, fun, stay, play, Bakersfield". When I saw that I knew I was getting close to Grandma's house."

It is Greene's first time playing in Bakersfield and he is looking forward to playing here.

"I'm excited. I know a lot of regional bands from L.A. have gone there and had a good reception. I'm friends with some people in the area. I'm really looking forward to it. I'm stoked to come and play."

On his most recent album, "Through the Rain," Greene is trying something a bit different than others in the blues-rock genre.

"It's the same thing from bands I admire, from bands like Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix, where you take blues influences and try to do something a little bit different with them, and try to insert your own personality into the stuff."

"Since I grew up on Beatles music, and I listened to what could be considered pop when I was younger, I try to come up with strong melodic choruses, which isn't necessarily a blues trait. That was one of my goals to come up with choruses that got outside what I'd done previously."

When writing songs for

"Through the Rain," Greene's songs take on a darker tone than some other blues-rock.

"I think it's easier to me to be more original lyrically by coming up with things that maybe aren't happy songs, maybe things that are more introspective, or things that I draw on from things that I've experienced or watched other people experience, so the new record tended to reflect that, as opposed to being an upbeat party record."

Overall, Greene finds music to be an outlet.

"I've just always enjoyed expressing myself through music. I don't have a huge vocabulary. I'm not a poet. The things that are inside of me don't always come out the best using words, they come out the best playing guitar."



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Nokia creates tattoo that vibrates when you get a cell phone call



ANGIE DELGADO / THE RIP

Ryk Deshon, an apprentice at Mad Dog Tattoo, shows a tattoo machine. The vibrating tattoo is to be applied the same way as a regular tattoo, but they use ferromagnetic ink.

By Angie DelGado
Reporter

The phone maker Nokia has created a patent for a tattoo that vibrates to alert users of any phone calls, text messages or emails.

The tattoo will use a type of magnetic ink called ferromagnetic ink that receives magnetic waves from the user's cell phone. Ferromagnetic ink contains metals and magnets that will vibrate when they receive magnetic waves from a ringing cell phone.

The different vibrations on the tattoo can be changed for different contacts in your phone. It can go from a soft tickle to a little bit of a harder vibration on your skin.

The tattoo may sound like a good idea for someone attending meetings, or for someone who

doesn't want their phone going off in class. However, some students at Bakersfield College do not think they're going to get it because it may be a little too much.

"That's gross," said Candice Graham.

"It's trippy," said Rebekah Mack, who said she would probably not get one.

The tattoo would be applied in the same way that a regular tattoo would be, the only difference is the type of ink being used. So far the idea of having this tattoo does not seem promising in Bakersfield.

Billy Von, owner of Modern Electric, a tattoo shop downtown, feels that it is a bad idea.

"It's stupid," said Von. "What if you don't want to use that phone anymore?"

Even though there's not yet a

single person who has the tattoo, Nokia has made it clear that if someone doesn't want to use the tattoo, they can use a sticker that has ferromagnetic ink in it. It will alert users in the same fashion as the tattoo would.

There are still many questions regarding the nature of the tattoo. For example, how much will this special ink cost? And what could be some permanent damage that this tattoo may cause? Nokia has not given many answers to any of these questions, but it makes people wonder if this is even going to work.

"It sounds like they're saying 'tattoos' to get people interested. Then it won't work, so they'll have to use stickers," said Von.

Nokia has not given a date or any further information as to when the tattoo will be released. For now, it is only a patent.

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