

Attendees indulge in some divine wine

By Megan Luecke
Photography Editor

The fifth annual Bakersfield College Red and White Wine and Food Festival was another great success despite the weather and changes in location. The event took place on April 12-13.

This year's festival brought new changes for those who were interested. Instead of one night of wine tasting, the event was spread out over two days, featuring three events.

The events included Wine for the Body, Wine for the Mind, and Wine for the Soul.

Mike Stepanovich, executive director of the BC Foundation, talked about what the event means to the foundation.

"It serves two purposes," he said. "It's first of all a fundraiser, but it is also a friend raiser, because you can't raise funds without raising friends."

He said the money raised goes to the foundation, the Culinary Arts scholarship fund and the Renegade fund. The Renegade fund is in place to provide support where it is most needed on campus.

The Wine for the Body event took place on the evening of April 12 and was a sold-out event, hosting 76 people.

It was made possible with the help of chefs Patrick Coyle and Suzanne Davis of the BC Culinary Arts Department, along with Andy Amador from MadoroM Vineyards from Napa Valley.

Food was prepared by the Culinary Arts students and paired with wine from MadoroM Vineyards. There were several courses to the dinner along with several types of wine served.

When it came down to who to choose for the dinner, the choice was clear, according to Stepanovich. He said that Amador is generous, and has a great love for Bakersfield, so the choice was easy.

Amador had a very simple philosophy on wine.

"If you like it, drink it," he said.

MadoroM Vineyards has three vineyards all in the Napa Valley. They have their MadoroM label along with their Camouflage label. Both labels are available in restaurants throughout town and in retail stores.

Amador surprised the foundation with two live auction items, one being a magnum of MadoroM paired with a dinner for eight at the vineyard along with unlimited



Stuart Bowles, left, pours Bakersfield College professor Gloria Dumler one of Imbibe's wine offerings.

wine flowing at the dinner. It immediately sold for \$5,000. The second item was four seats to Amador's pre-release party that sold for \$2,200.

The \$7,200 that was raised was used to start the scholarship endowment in Andy and Marissa Amador's name.

The second day of the festival kicked off with another new event, Wine for the Mind, on the morning of April 13.

This event was a panel discussion with California winemakers on "The Evolution of Pinot Noir on California's Central Coast."

There were three winemakers present: Chuck Ortman, Eric Johnson, and Kathy Joseph. The panel moderator was Stepanovich.

On the evening of April 13 was the original event, Wine for the Soul. It featured over 50 wineries from all over California and several international wineries, the culinary creations of BC Culinary Arts program, and The Bakersfield College Jazz Combo.



Attendees mingle and taste wine samples from over 50 different winemakers during the Bakersfield College Foundation's Red and White Wine and Food Festival on April 13.

Get your mom a gift she deserves

By Crystal Sánchez
Reporter

With Mother's Day quickly approaching, finding that perfect gift for mom can sometimes be challenging. When asked what they want for Mother's Day, mothers will often say, "I have everything I could possibly want."

Emily Vasquez, 30, is hoping that this year her mother will actually want something specific.

"It's so frustrating trying to think of all the things she likes but doesn't already have," she said. "Most of the time I just end up taking her out to dinner with the family."

Ryan Ferguson, 20, said that throughout the year his mother will hint at a certain gift she wants.

"My mom has this funny way of leaving not-so-subtle hints of what it is she's wanting for Christmas and Mother's Day," he said. "It's really great for me and my dad because we don't have to spend three hours at the mall wondering what to get her."

This year Ferguson said that his mother really wants the new iPad.

Gabrielle Herrera, 27, is a mother of two young children and said that she loves receiving the hand-made art projects her kids do at school.

"Every year I look forward to getting their gifts because they're so proud of their artwork. One year my daughter made me this beautiful sunflower with her picture in the middle. It is posted on our refrigerator," she said.

28-year-old Aimee Bright, a sales associate for KAY Jewelers, said that mother's rings are the most popular gifts.

"A mother's ring has the birthstones of all of her children in a beautiful ring setting," she said.

Bright said the most important things to know before buying any jewelry is to find out whether she likes white gold or yellow gold and know her ring size.

"I have seen so many men come into our store and not have a clue. So they end up guessing and then have to bring it back," she said.

Designer purses are also a very popular gift for mothers, said 23-year-old Brenda Serreto. Serreto, a sales associate for Coach, said that in her three years of working for Coach, that the majority of men come in the day of Mother's Day.

"Every year we make around 15-35 sales the day of Mother's Day," she said.

The price of a Coach purse can range anywhere between \$298-\$398, according to Serreto.

In hopes to help those last minute shoppers, she recommends knowing what color and style your mother likes. Now if your mother prefers something more intimate Alessandra Miranda suggests coming to Things Remembered.

Miranda, 22, said that mothers really enjoy their wide variety of jewelry boxes, water globes and jewelry.

"All of our jewelry boxes, water globes and jewelry can be engraved and personalized any way the customer wants it," she said.

The jewelry boxes are normally priced between \$30-\$120, water globes are priced between \$25-\$100 and jewelry ranges between \$20-\$60. "Engraving is additional" Miranda said.

55-year-old Sandy Snow has been a fragrance sales associate for Dolce & Gabbana and Gucci for 13 years, and said that fragrances are extremely popular during Christmas and Mother's Day.

"Fragrances can trigger wonderful memories and can remind you of certain people," she said.

Lupe Garcia, 47, is a mother of four and said that one of her favorite gifts is a bottle of perfume her children bought for her two years ago. "It was Vera Wang Floral Al-dyhdic, and it means so much to me because that was the month I had my fourth child. Now every time I smell it reminds me of that special Mother's Day."

Watch what you put on your back

By Crystal Sánchez
Reporter

Carrying textbooks and notebooks can weigh you down, which is why a purse is a bad replacement for a backpack.

Donna Hudson, 22, said that she used to use her purse as a backpack, but then had to stop because it was affecting her shoulder.

"I started to feel a pain in my right shoulder and knew that it was because of my purse, so I stopped using it."

Laura Rudy, 25, has always used a purse to carry her school supplies.

"It is such a hassle having to transfer everything from your purse to your backpack."

44-year old Brendon Bradley has been a chiropractor for 17 years and said that using a purse or a backpack can still greatly affect your spine.

"You really shouldn't carry more than 10 percent of your body weight because anything beyond that starts to stress your spine."

Bradley also said that by carrying a large load in a backpack, you are causing your spine to counterbalance the weight.

"It starts to put you in a forward posture and puts stress on your neck, which is in and of itself a problem." A purse also causes significant damage to the spine as well. "Now with a purse you are carrying the same amount of weight, only now you are loading one side of your body in two biomechanical fields," Bradley said. "Now you have to lean forward and to the side to counter balance that weight. So now you've added sheering forces to your lower back."

Aside from experiencing pain in your back, you can also experience a disk injury.

"When people talk about disk injuries, disks are the pads between the vertebrae, the worst thing you can do to a disk is to put it under a load, flex forward, and then rotate.

"That's what weakens a disk and allows a disk to herniate," said Bradley.

If you do not have an immediate injury, Bradley said that you would experience a muscle imbalance.

There are a few tips Bradley recommends to help your spine.

"Lighten the load as much as you can and try switching shoulders and alternate the weight."

Bradley also said doing some form of exercise or stretching routine is also very important in strengthening your back muscles.

"By carrying a purse, you are strengthening the abdominal muscles and weakening the back muscles." When looking for a specific backpack that can help your back, there are a few options to consider.

"They do make some backpacks with plastic units in them that allow you to shelf the books, so it spreads the load out. Another good idea is a rolling backpack," said Bradley.

Keeping Bakersfield clean



MARTIN CHANG / THE RIP

Hundreds gathered on the sides of roads in town to help clean up Bakersfield during the annual Great American Cleanup community service event. Volunteers wore their orange shirts and braved the wet weather together to pick up litter in different locations in town.

After the cleanup, volunteers met up at Yokuts Park to enjoy lunch and festivities. There, awards were given to volunteers and the winners of The Green Art Expo, which included pieces made solely from recycled materials.

Above: As a part of Bakersfield's participation in the Great American Cleanup, husband and wife, Sheridan and Torrie Nicholas, work together to pick up tangled wires at an empty field located on East Planz Road on April 14. Torrie Nicholas said her family participated "to serve and teach my kids not to litter."

Letter to the editor

State budget cuts equal a shrinking Bakersfield College

Editor:
Kern Community College District is building a two-year budget that will be as much as \$17.8 million less than last year. That's roughly equivalent to one of KCCD's colleges! Impending California budget reductions assure that KCCD institutions—Bakersfield College, Porterville College and Cerro Coso Community College — will all be reduced next year. As a result, you will see BC shrink.

When we talk about shrinking BC, that means losing access to opportunities for transfer education, workforce development and basic skills instruction for our sons, daughters, neighbors and friends. Cuts will result in fewer classes, fewer students, fewer employees and fewer opportunities for us all. Let's put the bottom line right up front: BC will be doing less with less.

Action in Sacramento are taking its toll, statewide budget cuts over the past few years have brought severe reductions to California community colleges. Just two months ago, community colleges lost \$313 million in budget cuts. California community colleges were subject to another \$102 million in mid-year "trigger" cuts.

Recently, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office announced that community college funding will take another \$149 million hit because the state's estimates on enrollment fees and property tax revenues were overinflated. And more potential cuts are on the horizon.

This litany of budget cuts has already taken its toll on KCCD. In the past four years, the number of classes open to students has dropped 22 percent. This year, for example, BC offered some 800 fewer class sections than were available to students in 2008. That's equivalent to turning away nearly 2,500 full-time BC students. Because of state budget cuts, thousands of KCCD students will not be transferring to four-year colleges, enrolled in nursing degrees or landing jobs as child care providers, emergency medical technicians or firefighters.

Meanwhile, we expect little help from the proposed state tax initiatives. The measures are billed as a way to increase funds for education. At best, however, they only offset some of the reductions to community colleges. Whether or not voters pass a tax increase, BC and KCCD will have less money to educate students than we did last year.

Because BC is critical to the economic infrastructure and workforce development needs of this community, KCCD must take a strategic, reasoned approach to budget reductions.

BC's employees and students are now engaged in critical conversations to answer key questions: What is our core mission? What are the current and future needs of our communities? What systems, programs and services are essential to help students succeed? The answers to these questions will guide the difficult decisions we must make to shrink our college to the size dictated by decreased state funding for education.

Will every current program and service at BC be intact when the dust settles? Clearly, the answer is no. However, our goal is to provide required pathways for students to complete general education, transfer education and workforce training.

We ask that you join us in sending a powerful message to our legislators about the impact of the state budget on our local community colleges. Write or call state legislators today. Ask them to guarantee property tax and fee revenues to California community colleges. Ask them to protect the future of our community college students, thus securing the future of our communities.

Signed,
Robert D. Jensen, Interim President Bakersfield College

Sandra V. Serrano, Chancellor Kern Community College District

Staff editorial

We no longer have one of us

Bakersfield College is a school deep-rooted in tradition and loyalty. We are a community — a collective of people from all walks of life — all believing that education is of the utmost importance.

That is why we must all take notice at what is going on in the administration sector of our school.

That loyalty and tradition will not be found in the president's office these days. Now that former BC president Greg Chamberlain stepped down, and interim president Robert Jensen took over, we no longer have someone making critical decisions with the BC community at heart.

Jensen has been brought in during one of the most gloomy economic times in our school's history, and unlike a permanent president, will be able to wipe his hands clean after this

semester without worrying about the consequences of his vital decisions.

There is no way one can tell us Jensen wasn't brought in to make critical decisions on what to cut, knowing full well he wouldn't be around when those cuts start to take affect.

Kern Community College District chancellor Sandra Serrano said in a March 21 interview with the Rip that Jensen, "was brought in to provide an assessment of what we're seeing as what must be done within the next 18-25 months."

We know exactly what this means. This means that Jensen is their sitting duck. He was brought in to make the tough decisions and not worry about the storm.

The budget is obviously the main problem for BC at the moment, but don't forget there is a major debate

going on at BC about on-campus tobacco use.

The BC family recently voted for a 100-percent smoke-free campus, and the power is all in Jensen's hands to carry out such a policy.

There might be a few that think this is good for BC, but we are not part of that group. To have the head of our college making these monumental decisions on the budget, and on-campus tobacco use, without regard for the future, is scary. We all need to take notice of this situation and speak out against it.

At the moment, there doesn't seem to be a clear solution to this problem, and very little people are even aware that this problem exists.

Jensen says all the right things, as most administration leaders do, but keep this in mind: when we are all

dealing with the larger classroom headcounts, the small number of classes on the schedule and the hardship that higher fees and less financial aid will bring, Jensen will be gone; he will be back to his retirement.

This is the master plan our administration is working out, so that when the student body finally stands up, there will be no one on campus to blame.

Maybe this is a safeguard for the new president coming in — to make all the major cuts before he or she steps onto the hallowed BC campus — but there is no real way for us to know.

The way we see it, president Jensen is wrong for BC, not because of his ability to lead, or his ability to make smart decisions, but because he will make narrow-sighted decisions without worries of the repercussions of the future.

'Stooges' weak plot boosted by casting

By Omar Oseguera
Photographer

"The Three Stooges" is a ride back to the 1930s, when slapstick comedy was thriving in film and an experience for the whole family to enjoy.



For the average young adult not familiar with "The Three Stooges," this film may be somewhat of a bore, with the exception of a cameo from the "Jersey Shore" cast. The film reaches out to the older crowd, those familiar with the original Three Stooges and to kids with the use of songs and clean humor.

By splitting the film into episodes, the film felt like watching the classic in color.

Moe, Larry and Curly's new adaptations were excellent.

With their silly wardrobes and random hand gestures, there was no doubt in my mind that someone was going to get smacked with a hammer within a few minutes.

Although the movie did a great job recreating the characters, the overall plot was very weak. Sofia Vergara's role as Lydia, the greedy wife who sought to kill



COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

"The Three Stooges," released on April 13, is a remake of the classic television series. It features Will Sasso, left, as Curly, Chris Diamantopolos, middle, as Moe, and Sean Hayes, right, as Larry.

her husband, was some of the worst acting I have seen.

It was clear her appearance in the movie was just a pretty face to help the plot move along.

Another big flaw to the movie were the sappy moments. Personally, I do not care for any form of dramatic tearjerker scenes in a film that can do without them.

With the exception of one main group from the movie, every other character was pointless.

That main group was the orphanage run by nuns.

The orphanage gave viewers a humorous background on the

stooges. From the day they arrived, to until their adulthood, the stooges were shown as troublemakers that were inseparable.

The new adaptation of "The Three Stooges" was an experience for children, those who used to follow the original, and those wanting to go back in time to feel what it was like to watch the comedy in its prime.

Although I did enjoy watching it, I would not spend money on a movie ticket for this movie. "The Three Stooges" should have been a straight-to-DVD release or a cable TV movie.



Budget problems will limit students' learning

By Omar Oseguera
Photographer

Bakersfield College, as well as all the other colleges in the Kern Community College District, is going to be facing a budget reduction of \$17.8 million. This situation should strike a nerve with every student continuing at BC next year, as well as future newcomers to BC.

Most students come here to eventually transfer out, but with the budget cuts coming, classes will be reduced, making it harder to get the classes needed to transfer. And how about the students who still have no idea what

they are going to study? BC has also played the role of a safety zone for those students. With plenty of classes to take at a great price, students are free to explore and discover what they are about. Unfortunately, we will have to say goodbye to that. These money issues are killing the soul of our college.

BC will no longer be about students discovering what they want to do and who they want to be. Students will just get in and get out. As someone who has one more year left on this campus, it saddens me that students coming in after my departure will not have the opportunities I did. I came into BC not knowing what I was going to do,

and thanks to all the available classes, I explored philosophy and photojournalism.

With the budget situation, classes such as photography may be the first ones to go.

Classes will be even more difficult to get into, so the opportunity of taking a class on ethics or political science simply for mental bliss is no more.

Even the extra time to take courses for fun will be taken away with everyone cramming into any class they can get.

There are plenty of students that have come to BC for a second chance. People in their 30s and older come

to BC because they've lost their job, were never able to come to school, or made mistakes in their youth.

With these new cuts, it will be a lot harder for these people to find their place.

I was always told that college was important to pursue my education and to get my degree, but it seems to me that college administrators don't see that.

They only see numbers, and now it's hard for me to walk through campus believing BC has a giant opportunity waiting to unfold. It seems that book has been closed, and the new one doesn't care about students.



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes, printed by Bakersfield Envelope & Printing Co. Inc., and circulated on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters.

The newspaper is published under the auspices of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, but sole responsibility for its content rests with student editors.

The Rip is a member of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

The Renegade Rip

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor in Chief.....Zak S. Cowan
Photo Editor.....Megan Luecke
Features Editor.....Jon Nelson
Opinions Editor.....Martin Chang
Sports Editor.....Esteban Ramirez
Copy Editor.....Patricia Rocha

STAFF

Reporters/Photographers: Hannah Breeiland, Gregory D. Cook, Angie Delgado, Metiqua Eng, Nestor Fernandez, Breanna Fields, Keith Kaczmarek, Meisha McMurray, Omar Oseguera, Nate Perez, Ruben Perez, Crystal Sanchez, Nicholas Sparling, Teela Walker, Nathan Wilson

Adviser.....Danny Edwards

Write The Rip

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.

How to reach us

-Address: Bakersfield College,
1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305
-Phone: (661) 395-4324
-Web site: www.therip.com
-Email: ripmail@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Column

Women have a spirit strong and powerful

AS MY BRAIN EXPLODES | One man's take on people and culture

There's a force in my life that propels me out of the deepest depressions, that sparks my creative spirit when it's at its most dead. The feminine spirit and how it expresses itself will be a friend, something that guides my path, for my entire life.

As cheesy as her music can be, I first discovered this spirit in the music of Vanessa Carlton. When I heard her first album "Be Not Nobody" at 14, I heard music that I could feel more deeply, music that affected me.

Revealed to me was a spirit with amazing depth.

What I heard was an expression of an inner spirit that all women possess, a spirit that sings in bright colors, a spirit that expresses a graceful inner-beauty that moves and flows with honesty.

It moves with an unapologetic fierceness that isn't scared to express the brightness of love, the darkness of heartbreak and all of life's up-and-downs at the high emotional pitch that people feel those feelings. Those feelings that are a part of human experience and speaks to that experience like nothing else can.

Whether it's Carole King singing about how we are all "Beautiful" or Kelly Clarkson's songs of strength, when this spirit sings about embracing inner-beauty, of finding the strength inside yourself to overcome the trials of life, it sings in a voice that knows.

This voice knows because of the struggle that women face in embracing that inner-beauty, in facing those trials of life. It gives that voice a power that is so, so, special, a power that digs deep and explodes with strength that cannot be matched.

The beauty of this spirit comes from these heavy places, but it also comes from something simpler, a grace that women simply have. It is expressed in a confidence, a confidence that comes from knowing a unique beauty inside.

Whether in paint strokes or notes in a song, this confidence comes out in a way that is both alive and flowing. It flows with an ease that is vibrant, a vibrancy that reaches the height of expression with its brilliance that glows with extraordinary brightness.

I've talked in songs and music terms just because that's what I know best. This spirit goes much further than music.

Everything from the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe, down to the small things like doodles in a notebook and the way women talk, expresses this spirit.

Even those women that choose not to express this spirit through art or any conscious way still have it. It's simply there and it's so strong that it gets out there somehow.

Yet, it's not surprising that some women choose not to make point of expressing this amazing spirit that they possess.

As I've come to appreciate this beauty, I've also noticed how many different ways women are told to hold it in, to not express whom they are, to be defined by others.

Women are told who to be by the media and the like to be all sorts of different things.

The media tells them what beauty is, making the women who may not fall in that narrow definition feel as though their spirit is not worthy.

They are pressured by the music, movie, and other industries to fall inside those narrow definitions of beauty.

Parents and others tell women to "be this" and "be that" based on their ideas of what they think a proper woman is. Sometimes that is to embrace their spirit, but of what I've seen, often it is not.

These two things have created a cloud in our culture, a cloud that encourages women to be anything but themselves. A cloud that says, "beauty looks like this, and sounds like this, and anything that doesn't fit isn't beautiful."

This cloud tries to extinguish the strength of the feminine spirit. Sometimes it does and that makes me angry and sad. But when, despite these challenges, that spirit fights back and unfolds with all of its brightness, that spirit is that much more strong, that much more powerful, because they have to fight that cloud.

All the women in the world have this spirit I've been writing about, not just the ones that look like movie stars and magazine models.

I've written this piece so women can know this. I want women to embrace this immense thing they have inside, to express that thing however they want, and to not to let anyone say it's wrong.

Because when this spirit is expressed at its fullest potential, nothing is more inspiring and more beautiful.



Martin Chang

'MDNA' lacks the punch of classic hits

By Megan Luecke
Photography Editor

So many great songs and music videos come to mind when you hear the name "Madonna," so need-

ALBUM REVIEW



less to say I was rather excited when I found out that she would be releasing a new CD. A four-year break is more than enough, especially for an artist like her.

My hopes were high, but I tried to keep them in check seeing as her music has declined over the years, and with each new CD I'm less and less impressed. With guarded ears I dove into the new CD, titled "MDNA," excited to find out she worked with two new great artists.

On the regular CD she worked with M.I.A. and Nicki Minaj, both of which have quite a different sound than Madonna. I was surprised to hear the sound that came out of my speakers when "Give Me All Your Luvin'" came on. My first thought was that it was a cheer that you would hear at a football

game mixed with music. Nicki Minaj definitely brings her style to the CD and makes it more enjoyable.

Though the songs are explicit, depending on where you buy the CD, this did not stop me from enjoying it.

Madonna brought back her great dance music in the song "Some Girls." The beat and sounds make it a piece that would make a great addition to any party.

"I Don't Give A" took me back to the old-school Madonna sound. The beginning of the song reminded me of her previous songs, with a twist of Nicki Minaj.

The familiar sound continued with "I'm A Sinner," but be aware, this song could easily offend. Madonna does not shy away from mentioning religion in this song, but it was not enough to make me shut off the song. I was not surprised seeing as it is Madonna.

I was hoping that this CD would be a "Ray of Light" to my music collection, but it left me wanting more.

The original Madonna



MEGAN LUECKE /THE RIP

Madonna's new album "MDNA" is a mix of her style and guests like Nicki Minaj.

pieces will always be a favorite compared to the new work.

Her new music is missing the sound that is typical of Madonna. That tempo and sound

that makes you want to get off the couch and dance.

The days in which Madonna seemed to tell a story to her listeners through her music

seems to have gone by the wayside in the newer songs.

I found myself trying to figure out the meaning behind several of the songs rather than

just enjoying the music. The album leaves something to be desired, and cannot touch the previous works of the outstanding Madonna.

DIY style of Gibbons try new sound

By Breanna Fields
Reporter

If you have never heard the melodic sound of a musical saw, you wouldn't be the first.

The DIY styling of indie-folk strummers Gibbons and the Sluts have managed to combine the ethereal sound of this instrument along with nonsensical lyricism on their debut album, "Mama's Milk."

On its surface, the album has taken a bold step by offering audiences puzzling tales of sailing ships and creatures from other planets that may prompt the question of whether or not there is rational thought behind these lyrics.

Pinning down the intent of each song would be hazardous to the listening experience as it is meant to conjure different ideas from each listener. "Mama's Milk" draws inspiration from underground indie groups like Neutral Milk Hotel, The Dead Milkmen

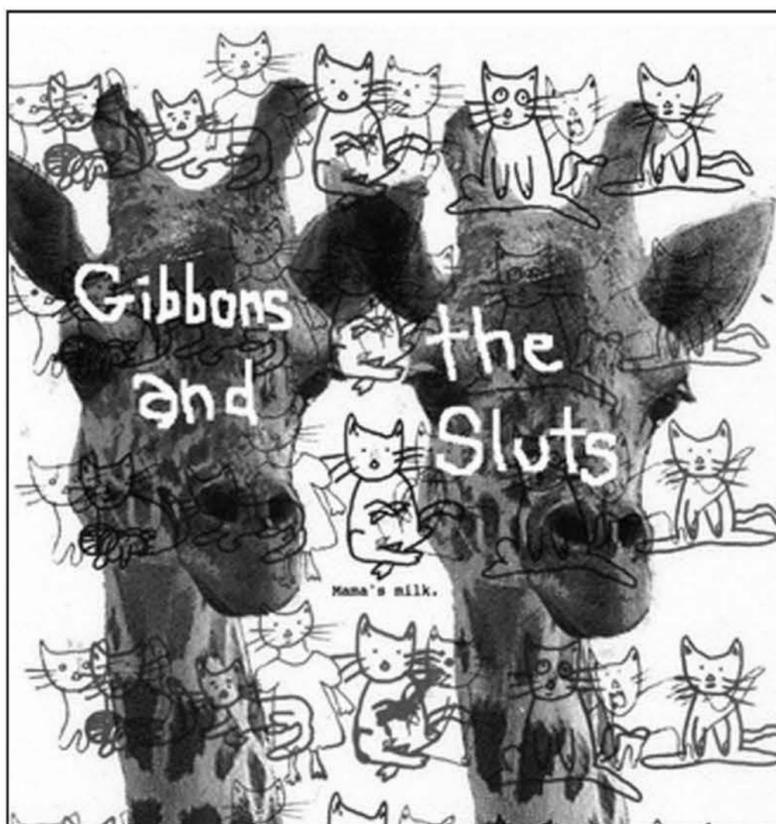
and similar bands from the Elephant 6 Recording Company.

Currently based in Los Angeles, Gibbons and The Sluts are fronted by Cody McCune (known by band mates and fans as Money Gibbons), who got his start playing music in Bakersfield and previously played guitar for local indie rockers Russians with Ray-guns.

His band mates Vita Khachatryan on trumpet and accordion, Julie Orlick on clarinet and trumpet, Mateo Katez on drums and bassist Stanislaus Dyro are primarily from the L.A. area.

The album opens with "Sailing Towards a Perfect Sun," a mellow tune spanning just over a minute in length with McCune on vocals accompanied by his banjo and the accordion. The track, "Sailing Towards a Perfect Home" may be similar in name, but different in style with hints of what most would consider traditional Greek music.

The musical saw makes its debut on the tune, "Veggie Encounter with Water Dripping from Faucet," one of the many titles off of the album seemingly presented as a joke



COURTESY OF GIBBONS AND THE SLUTS

"Mama's Milk" is an eclectic collection of songs that feature instruments like clarinet and trumpet. It is a release by band Gibbons and The Sluts.

(that we just may never understand).

It should not distract from the song comprised of the saw instrument played with a violin bow that emits a sound much like an opera singer during a particularly emotional performance.

The album was recorded at a home studio, which is typically expected from underground groups of this genre. The amateur record production gave it a raw edge that would have

not otherwise been present had it been slickly produced and mixed in a studio setting.

If the thought process of the album could be explained, it may sound something like the lyrics, "I have a spiraling mind/It makes sense I could see once/But now I've turned blind," from the particularly upbeat and blissful song, "Mutiny Against King Jupiter." It holds its own as one of the better tracks off of the album along with "The Misleading

Wind Misdread," a trumpet driven song only 30 seconds in length but nonetheless an interesting piece of work.

While there may not be a consistent theme overall, the reoccurring ideas of the planet Jupiter and sailing make this a fun record.

Plans to release hard copies of this album are in the works, but in its current form fans of the underground indie scene can find their work available for download online.

Bad music can have swagger like Mick Jagger

By Patricia Rocha
Copy Editor

The world owes a lot to music. It has comforted broken hearts, rebelled against society, uplifted the weary. It defines generations and provides the soundtrack to our lives. However, there are times music can take a tragic turn and make people cringe instead of smile.

There are songs with lyrics that rhyme "swagger" with "Mick Jagger" out there for goodness sakes.

But you know what? It's ok.

Music is subjective, and no matter how weird or different or bad someone thinks a

certain song or genre is, there will always be someone who thinks it's great.

The genre that gets the most criticism is definitely pop music. Katy Perry, LMFAO, Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber, they all make music that gets extremely harsh criticism by music snobs who think these types of artists are ruining the music industry.

The fact is, this music matters.

I grew up listening to Britney Spears and *NSYNC in the '90s, shifted into pop punk through Good Charlotte and the "American Idiot" album in my awkward tween years, and from there just went on a complete music binge that has

shaped my love of Led Zeppelin, Benny Goodman, The Sex Pistols, The Who and Chuck Berry.

I look back on those bands now, and yes, they're cheesy and kind of lame, but they're my memories, my guilty pleasures. They were the baby steps that I needed to take.

I like to think the young girls that are swooning over Justin Bieber and One Direction today will eventually grow up and find songs with more depth and complexity tomorrow.

Someday they'll look back on them like we do Wham, The Spice Girls and the phenomenon that was "MMM-Bop" with a fond sense of

nostalgia.

People who take pop music so seriously are extremely annoying because they don't understand the function of these kinds of songs.

It's true, you can't have a philosophical discussion of a Katy Perry song like you can to a Bob Dylan one, but try dancing at a party or in a club to "Blowin' in the Wind." Think of all the chick flick music montages that would suffer if Natasha Bedingfield's songs didn't exist.

When you work out do you listen to Mumford and Sons and Radiohead? Of course not. You're blasting your "Party in the USA" or "Sexy and I Know It" to get you pumped.

It also bothers me when people accuse these artists of not having any talent. A lot of artists use their most cliché pop singles to sell their whole albums, which can have some real musical gems. Take Gaga for example. She's known for her outrageous fashion sense and lifestyle, but her song "Speechless" is leaps and bounds more soulful and complex than "Bad Romance" on the same album.

The bottom line is, music is an art form, and art is subjective. You can like it, hate it, love it, or completely don't understand it, and that's what makes music so great. You get to decide if something is so bad it's awesome.

SGA member steps down

By Gregory D. Cook
Photographer

Citing undisclosed "personal reasons," Will Chandler, Bakersfield College's Student Government Association legislative liaison, resigned his office in late March. Chandler declined to comment on the exact reasons for his departure, stating only that he felt that "It was time for me to leave."

Chandler was appointed to the office in early January to fill the vacancy left by Bonnie

Wilson.

Neither SGA president Tawntannisha Thompson, nor Dean of Students, Joyce Coleman, SGA's advisor, had any comment on Chandler's resignation.

"Before he was appointed, the job was divided up between the rest of the [executive] board," Thompson said. "So we'll do that again until we find a replacement."

In the recent SGA elections, the office of legislative liaison had no candidates for the position resulting in the

potential for the position to remain vacant going into the next academic year.

According to Coleman, the SGA has the option to fill the position with an appointee if they desire.

"The president can find someone qualified for the job and suggest that person to the E-board if they want," she said. "Then, they approve them and the person is qualified they can appoint them to the position."

According to the SGA's constitution, the office of leg-

islative liaison is responsible for chairing the Legislative Affairs Committee, which ensures that the SGA's bylaws are up-to-date and enforced.

The legislative liaison also attends the Kern Community College District and California Community College board meetings and prepares reports on the meetings for the rest of the student government.

People interested in being considered for the position should contact SGA President Tawntannisha Thompson in Campus Center 4.

The process of a thought-out scam

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

Thousands of emails are sent daily congratulating people that they have won some sort of lottery in an attempt to scam them. These messages usually appear in the spam folder, but some are sent physically.

On March 21, I received a letter stating I had won \$50,500 from the Customers Compensation Lottery Draw in conjunction with North American Sweepstakes Association. The letter mentioned that they had made several unsuccessful attempts to contact me regarding my winnings. With the letter was an authentic-looking check for \$3,500 from a law office in Memphis, Tennessee. The letter stated that \$2,500 of the winning amount was to be used to pay taxes on the winnings. On March 26, I talked to the receptionist in the law offices of Baker, Donelson, Berman, Caldwell & Berkowitz.

The receptionist informed me that the check I received is a scam attempt directed to getting money from me, while using a phony check made to look like one of theirs. She also stated that the local FBI office in Memphis had been notified and they filed a report.

The letter with the contact information is from a Mr. Jerry Mongoly from the Bronx, N.Y. The letter specifically instructed me not to cash or deposit the check until after I contacted them first for details.

Mr. Mongoly answered my phone call on March 26 and I recorded the conversation.

He asked for my claim number, and I gave it to him. He congratulated me on winning and elaborated about the check.

"Our financial Dept. sent it to help you pay the winning tax... Once you pay the winning tax, we send you the balance of \$47,000," he said. "Sign your check, deposit it in your bank and give us a call back after you have done that," he said.

On March 27 I contacted the FBI

office in Memphis and spoke to a duty agent that could not give out his name due to their protocol. The agent informed me on some of the most common methods used by the scammers.

What typically happens is the victim deposits the check into his account. After doing that, he or she is instructed by the scammers to send a money gram to a specific location in order to pay the applicable fees (taxes). Once the transfer is made, they have your cash in hand and you've got a phony check floating in your bank account. Since a check normally takes 3-5 days to clear, it takes at least that much time for the bank to come back to you and hold you accountable for the amount.

The agent also stated that sometimes a check will float around in the Federal Reserve System even longer, until it gets figured out that the routing number or account number or both are invalid.

After the bank figures out that the check is no good, it comes back to the account holder.

If the account holder doesn't have the sufficient funds to cover that check, then he or she will also be charged applicable overdraft and other fees as well. In the meantime, their money is in the scammers hands, and long gone.

A big target group for this type of scam is the elderly, the agent said. He also said once someone becomes a victim of these scams, the name is given out in a list format, called leads, to other scammers and sold for the typical fee of \$1.00 per name. So after they've hit you up for your hard earned money, your name alone is worth more money in their pockets.

The FBI has a money threshold of \$200,000 for this type of scam. The agent stated that they do not have the means to investigate anything under that amount since there are way too many for their workforce of about 13,000 nationwide agents to handle. Also, you have to be an actual victim, not just a potential one.

MERRITT: Crafting his own life

Continued from Page 1

too young for the black power movement, and now I'm the only one that's hardcore. Well, I'm more like a barking dog. I don't bite, but I will tell you where I do bite. I boycott shit."

And by that, Holloway hardly buys anything. Almost everything in his apartment Holloway has personally made.

Granted, he does buy things at second-hand stores and basic necessities.

His apartment is filled to the brim with numerous bookshelves, fabric, tools and machinery for welding, sewing machines and books.

His most recent project was making 150 church seat covers.

Holloway wasn't always an

intellectual, though. It wasn't until his mid-20s that he got serious about learning.

"When I was 25 I thought to myself, 'I'm so stupid, I don't know anything. I want to learn something,'" he said.

"Back then, people could have told me the moon was blue cheese, and I would have believed them because I was stupid."

"I didn't know anything and so, when I was around 28, I got serious about school," Holloway said.

"I had been going before, but I used to sit in the quad and look at the girls and get F's in classes."

Aside from making his own clothes, Holloway also plays piano in the BC and Cal State Bakersfield bands.

He is also a welder and a

carpenter.

Holloway's father instilled music in him as a child and would make him practice on the piano for eight hours a day.

It's the reason he says he is so talented and would eventually go on to play in the Navy band.

"I was training to be a hydraulics mechanic to fix airplanes, but what happened was I went to go hear the band because I was looking for a part-time job, and I got an interview," Holloway said.

"I wasn't really trying to be in the band, but after they heard me play, the senior chief told me my playing was unbelievable, but my attitude was [holding me back]."

Holloway joined the Navy band and they would fly to

places all over the world, but Holloway received the privilege of being assigned to the admiral ship and was his personal piano player.

The admiral would have dignitaries of different countries as guests, and Holloway would go to the store to buy music books of the country's national music.

Holloway would awe his guests by playing their national music on the piano.

Holloway is a man of many trades and uses each and every one of them to his advantage.

He doesn't overstate his abilities, though.

"I don't think the same way like everybody else, and I'm not doing anything that other people cannot do," said Holloway

HONORS: Students use Phi Beta Kappa to excel

Continued from Page 1

said. "It has helped with [my] leadership."

Vick plans to advance the Bakersfield chapter further in the Phi Beta Kappa hierarchy,

completing various projects that will unlock more scholarships for BC members.

"If I could say anything to the entire student body, it would have to be that academ-

ics are important, networking and the connections you make are important, but the most vital thing you can do in community college is complete it. Not enough students enrolled

in community colleges actually finish a program. We'd really love to see more of our students receive a degree and reap the rewards they hoped for."

The more you
TRY
the more likely
you will **succeed.**



Celebrate the Earth:
Live Tobacco-Free

1-800-NO-BUTTS

BUDGET: Senate calls for transparency, backed by Union

Continued from Page 1

are being made at the district office so that we, at the colleges, can make our plans accordingly," she said.

In the resolution, the senate, "requests that the chancellor conduct an audit of administrative tasks, particularly at the district level, to determine which tasks can be eliminated without net financial harm to the direct instruction and support of students..."

KCCD Chancellor Sandra Serano confirmed that the district is moving forward with an evaluation, and reiterated the concern to keep cuts as far away from students as possible.

"I understand that we need to make cuts that are in the best interest of our students," Serano said. "And I must say that... there are reductions that can be made to some courses, maybe even some programs. I don't know. That's up to the faculty to look at using data to make some change that is in the best interest of the students."

"Everything has to be on the table and under a microscope," she said. "Certainly at the district office, we are doing that. We are conducting that audit."

The Senate's resolution, though, claims "no evidence is available showing that a comparable review has occurred of reductions down to the bare minimum of administrative or compliance tasks that must be done in order to bring no net financial harm to the district and the direct instruction and support of students."

The resolution has been fully endorsed by the KCCD CCA, as well as both the Cerro Coso College and Portville College Academic Senates.

News Briefs

Roughneck Review

Bakersfield College's new online journal, the Roughneck Review, will get an official launch on April 24 at 10 a.m. in the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities.

The launch will consist of readings from students whose work is featured in the new journal, as well as the first unveiling of the premiere issue. The event is free and open to public, and students are encouraged to invite family and friends.

Levan Center discussion

"Who are we? What disasters tell us about ourselves" is a panel discussion about how people behave in disasters and what it means for society.

This discussion is being held on April 18 at 7 p.m. in the Norman Levan Center. Admission and parking is free. For more information, call 395-4339.

Mentor program

On April 18-19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Fireside Room, CSUB representatives will be helping students with their transfer needs such as helping with admission and financial aid.

Make sure to bring your transcript and CSU Mentor application. Call Denise at 395-4600 for more information.

Natural history

Buena Vista Museum of Natural History will be holding a free admission day on April 19, from noon to 3 p.m.

The museum is located on 2018 Chester Ave. and can be contacted at 661-324-6350.

Campus forecast

The Renegade Rip		Wed. April 18	Thurs. April 19	Fri. April 20
		Hi 78 F Lo 54 F	Hi 81 F Lo 61 F	Hi 88 F Lo 63 F
Mon. April 23	Tues. April 24	Wed. April 25	Thurs. April 26	Fri. April 27
				AVERAGES
Hi 92 F Lo 57 F	Hi 84 F Lo 57 F	Hi 81 F Lo 57 F	Hi 78 F Lo 57 F	Hi 78 F Lo 53 F RECORDS Hi 98 F Lo 34 F
Mon. April 30	Tues. May 1	Wed. May 2	SOURCE: weather.com Gathered by: Rip Staff	
AVERAGES	AVERAGES	AVERAGES		
Hi 79 F Lo 54 F RECORDS Hi 101 F Lo 38 F	Hi 80 F Lo 54 F RECORDS Hi 102 F Lo 37 F	Hi 80 F Lo 54 F RECORDS Hi 101 F Lo 38 F		