

Column

Here's to a generation of, well... nothing

AS MY BRAIN EXPLODES | Martin Chang's take on culture and people

During the 2000s, when I was growing in junior high and high school I looked at the kids around me and saw a startling inauthenticity.

The things people said and the way people acted seemed a silly imitation of what they saw on television, or read in a magazine. The core of people seemed to be based on one-dimensional popular culture. They were defining themselves with throw-away trends.

By basing themselves on these nothing things, they became people that stood for nothing, people whose goal in life was not to do or say anything significant, but a people whose number one goal is to be the coolest person in the room at that moment.

This characteristic of flash over substance, that defined those people I saw growing up, is what defines our generation. It was something I waited for six years for my generation to grow out of but never did.

We have grown into people that do not applaud the original thinkers, the artists who have something real to say and won't back down until it's heard. For the musicians and filmmakers of our generation, going against the grain, rebelling against the status quo is unthinkable. Rebel is not in our dictionary; we don't understand what the concept is. Our rebels are nothing more than puppets for media companies to make money. Without truly original thinkers to show us the value of a culture rich in thought, how can we know the value of being unique, of saying something true?

It makes the blindly following of trends easy to understand. We simply follow the group because it's the easiest way to go. When you're different, people make comments, they judge you, and at the time it does not feel good. So why go through that when no one you know is different, when no one actually values that difference?

We are the nothing generation, a generation without a voice of its own, a people who let others define us, rather than define ourselves. We have let the desires to fit in, to be the coolest, to make the most money, grind us into a boring paste, a paste that has no voice. When people ask what our generation stood for there will be silence.

But it's not too late, don't let magazine pages, television and flash-in-the-pan trends define you. Define who you are and do not let anyone else decide. You do not have to follow what your classmates think, what your parents think, or what anyone else thinks. Strike out in the world and say something new, something real, something that people will remember forever. Look inside and find the real you, the you defined by no one but yourself, and scream to world, "This is who I am!"



Martin Chang

Two years long enough for students

By Keith Kaczmarek
Reporter

In a recent interview, Bakersfield College President Greg Chamberlain said, "Register early and carefully. Take only what you need to grow and go."

To add to that sentiment, I'd like to say: "Don't let anything here tie you down."

Coming to community college can be a frightening and exhilarating experience for some. It's their first exposure to college-level academics, they are marginally in the adult world, and for some they are just realizing

the benefits of a small income from their part-time work or financial aid.

That being said, it's a trap. Community colleges don't have what you actually need, and it's easy to get stuck here because you've formed connections to people and institutions here.

People join clubs, get involved in student government, or take classes that sound interesting and not the ones they need to graduate.

As traps go, it's a pleasant one, but that's only because people don't know what they are miss-

ing. Being at a 4-year school is a much more rewarding and rigorous experience, and any time spent taking classes you don't need that could be spent at a university doing upper-level work in your major is a waste.

Real employment that one can put on a resume puts money in your pocket, starts a career and exposes you to a world where age and what high school you went to are meaningless.

Heck, even the chance to get out of this town and meet people outside of your comfortable social circle is going to be a horizon-boosting experience that

will change your life.

Out in the adult world, no one cares what you accomplished in community college, so don't think that the time you spent as the president of a club or acing an Introduction course or doing a play is going to impress anyone.

Community college is about where it gets you, not about what you did here.

If your time in the Theater Club helped you get an acting gig on "Modern Family," then great. If your time on the SGA gave you an opportunity to get an internship with a senator,

then you are doing something right.

Hopefully, that "A" on your Intro To Logic final earned you a great recommendation for a scholarship or entrance to a 4-year school, or your great performance in Anatomy and Physiology got you into a nursing school.

Community college is a pit stop to better things, so do your best to not make this a three- or four-year interruption in your life. Plan it like a general plans a war, and ignore the various distractions that student life tries to offer.



By Nestor G. Fernandez
Reporter

I saw an online ad last week about a product called Flex Seal. This product caught my eye and stirred both my interest and curiosity.

PRODUCT REVIEW
★★★★★

I ended up purchasing this 14-ounce aerosol can at a Target store near my house on the afternoon of Jan. 21. The purchase price was \$12.99 plus tax, the total cost was \$13.93. Flex Seal is a rubberized leak sealing product that is supposed to seep into cracks and holes in order to seal out air and moisture. Reading the directions on the can, it did not state what drying time would be required to be ready for use, so I went back to the website to clarify it. I found out that it depends on the temperature, humidity and thickness of the coating. The site also made mention of the fact that it will usually

Sealant can't fix leaks



PHOTOS BY MARTIN CHANG / THE RIP

Flex Seal does not live up to expectations during a test run which involved spraying the substance onto a mesh drain strain and letting it dry for several hours. Water continued to leak through the drain, though at a much slower pace.

dry to the touch within two to three hours and in 24 hours fully cure and that it gets stronger over time. I wanted to try a simple task to see if this item actually works the way it's advertised. I proceeded to try my test, while carefully making the application according to the instructions on the can.

My test involved using a wire mesh drain strain that I have installed in two bathrooms. Going by the instructions, I shook the can well for one minute. Then using an even sweeping motion from a distance of about 12 inches sprayed and covered the 2

and 3/8 inch diameter of the test piece. Coming out of the can and onto the target area, it looked like black spray paint, and I thought to myself, "If this didn't work, where could I go for some neat graffiti art?" Next up on the agenda was waiting for it to dry, so I decided to check back on the process in a little over three hours.

Even before my test results were in, I could make one recommendation to you on this product. Wear protective gloves, and do not get it on your skin, as it is difficult to remove. This I can tell you based on my sloppy

work habits. Another thing I can tell you is this, I had to spray the mesh several times to cover the tiny holes and not see daylight, and this for an area slightly over two inches in diameter.

To me, this was a thing that already had me thinking about returning it.

The potential did not seem to be too good at that point, but I was willing to wait and let it run its course.

After an overnight drying period of over nine hours, I decided to go ahead and begin the test. I placed the Flex Seal covered drain strain in the drain opening.

I then unleashed about two inches of water to sit in the sink, and watched with curiosity as it unfolded before my eyes.

With absolutely no surprise to me, the water began going down, but at a slower pace.

All this product managed to do was slow it down somewhat, but nothing more.

Just a few seconds longer to dissipate and it was now time to put it all back in the Target bag with the receipt and seek my refund.

My letter grade on this sham of a product is a capital "B" for bogus.

Ideas emerge from political parties outside of Republican-Democrat paradigm

By Keith Kaczmarek
Reporter

In this recent debate, Libertarian politics have been discussed in an open and serious way by the nation, and that's good even if you don't like the Libertarian position.

It means that for the first time, people are actually looking beyond the two party monopoly of the Republicans and Democrats and are trying to find some new ideas.

Ron Paul has done quite well in several Republican primaries, and while he's not going to win the Republican nomination, it means that he's leading the charge to get different ideas

into the open and that there are people willing to break from the marching orders of the Republican and Democrat party leaders and listen.

This is a time of unrest. Protesters like the Occupy Wall Street movement are in cities all over the world, the Tea Party has taken seats in Congress and led the fight in the debt ceiling stand off that ruined the credit of United States, and the Libertarians are a fund-raising powerhouse that has stabbed right into the heart of right-wing politics.

We have plenty of reasons for unrest. The economy that was shattered by the policies of George W. Bush has not recovered, Congress is impotent

because the Republicans have refused the very idea of bipartisanship and instead use their narrow margin to block the president's appointees, and the Democrats have been too cowardly to take a firm stand on substantial issues.

The disease that created these symptoms has not been cured, or even given treatment.

Big finance still goes unregulated, the unemployed do not have jobs, and our representatives seem to think that the American people have an insatiable taste for war and are eager to send our finest men and women to die and be maimed on the battlefield.

Hopefully, this means that the

rise of the Libertarians is just a herald for a time when the two parties are dead and we have four, or five, or 10 parties representing a lot of new ideas and new ways to do things.

That being said, I also hope that people are wary.

Anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of economics or history knows that these fringe political groups are chock full of terrible ideas and that their candidates seem particularly flawed, so people are going to need to be very careful that we do not run from one leader into the arms of an even less competent one.

Examine every new idea and leader with a critical eye and

don't fall into the team mentality that should be reserved for national sports alone.

It's no longer about "conservative vs. liberals" or "Republicans vs. Democrats" or "my team vs. the other team," but it's about the American people coming together and refusing to accept dogma and propaganda in the place of discourse and solutions.

We don't need to shout each other down any more, but instead we need to steal the best ideas from our opponents and use them to solve our common problems.

The enemy has shown its face, and it was our own complacency all along.

The Renegade Rip

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

The Rip reserves the right to edit letters, however, writers will be given the opportunity to revise lengthy or unacceptable submissions.

If an organization submits a letter as a group, it must be signed by only one person, either the leader of the organization or the letter writer. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published.

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Staff Editorial

SOPA could lead to scary outcome if passed

On Jan. 20, when both the Senate and the House of Representatives pulled their support for SOPA and PIPA, it was a victory regardless of what you believe about the bills. At a time when people are more cynical about politics than ever, a group of people made their voices heard and the politicians actually listened.

According to Sen. Ron Wyden, lawmakers found over 14 million people who opposed the bills. People contacted their represen-

tatives in the thousands. On Jan. 18, at least 115,000 sites participated in the Internet-wide protest, where these sites changed their front pages and blocked content in a strong opposition to the bills.

This included large sites such as Google and Wikipedia and sites that represent the many shades of political thought such as Reddit, The Drudge Report and Wired.

The people of the Internet and the businesses on the Internet,

felt that the bills would interfere with their rights and ability to do business. So instead of just complaining on blogs and message boards, they actually got involved in the political process and made their voices heard like Americans always have, through protest and contacting the people they elected to represent them.

The amount of protest became too strong, the voices too loud, for politicians to ignore. What were once supported bills found less and less support. Multiple

senators who once sponsored the bills no longer did. The large companies that supported the bills such as The Motion Picture Association, and The United States Chamber of Commerce and the over 100 different lobbyists groups could not convince the politicians to ignore what the people were saying loud and clear.

Soon the bills had so little support it no longer made sense to even give them a vote, four days before the Senate would vote on

PIPA, the Congress killed both bills.

A bill that once had bi-partisan support and 30 and 40 co-sponsors, was now not even getting a vote. That shows the power what a group of people can accomplish when they disagree with what their government is doing, get out there and do something about it.

So what do the goings-on in Washington have to do with the average Bakersfield College student? We can make our

voice heard in the same way. We can accomplish change just like those online protests had.

We do not need thousands of signatures, or thousands of websites to make a difference. It only takes one phone call or e-mail from a few of us and we can be heard.

Often it can feel that the way things are on campus cannot be changed, but what the SOPA and PIPA protesters have shown us is what can happen if you simply stand up and get counted.

Corral busy, but good and cheap

By Hannah Breeland
Reporter

The Golden Corral is as busy now as it was when it first opened a couple months ago. Which isn't much of a surprise since their food is amazing.

RESTAURANT REVIEW
★★★★★

The prices aren't so bad since they do offer a lot in return. The one thing I really disliked was that drinks are sold separately.

Once you sit down the only way to get a refill is for your server to get it. This wouldn't have been so bad if the place wasn't packed, but it took a while to get a refill.

First off, the eighth wonder of the world, a.k.a. their chocolate fountain, was a little disappointing because all the hype about it made it seem humongous.

Don't get me wrong it's big, just not eighth wonder of the world big.

I did have fun dipping pineapple, marshmallows and strawberries in it.

All of which were delicious. They also offer cotton candy and different flavor ice creams, not just vanilla and chocolate. Home Town Buffet can't compete with their dessert selection.

For the real food, everything I had was good. Their Awe-



MEGAN LUECKE /THE RIP

Golden Corral, a new buffet in Bakersfield, has been open for a few months. They serve pot roast, pizza, and have a chocolate fountain to dip fruit into.

some Pot Roast has a fitting name because it's one of the best I've ever had. Their macaroni and cheese was just

okay but was a little dry. Their sirloin steak more than made up for it.

It has a bright atmosphere, and the servers

were very polite. When something ran out, like pizza, they did a very good job of refilling it. Overall, I was very im-

pressed and I can't wait to go back, when it's less crowded though. I can't wait to see what they have for breakfast.

'Haunt' provides decent and clean fun



COURTESY OF KOTAKU.COM

"Haunt" utilizes Microsoft's Kinect technology and pairs it with a semi-horror genre of video games.

By Hannah Breeland
Reporter

"Haunt," for the Xbox 360, was released Jan. 18 on Xbox live for 800 points, about \$10. It's a single player game played from a first person perspective.

At first glance, Haunt looks like a Kinect game for little kids. Basically, you find yourself walking around a dark mansion with a flashlight, going room to room. You hold your arm out like there's an actual flashlight in it and anywhere you move your arm, that's where the light will go. Your guide is a ghost named Benjamin who is trapped in the many paintings that decorate the mansion. He is able to possess any of the paintings and he serves as your guide and a source for tips.

The object of the game is to help Benjamin gather all the missing pieces of a machine he's building. They just so happen to be scattered around the

mansion. The game was a little slow in the beginning, just walking around and collecting things. Then, all of a sudden, I'm fighting ghosts. At first, all I could do was dodge them. For instance, they would just attack me and move on. Then I graduated from that and was able to punch and kick at them. I have to admit it was fun beating the ghosts and it sort of felt like a work out.

The story line isn't scary, so you don't have to worry about it creeping you out. At best, there are a couple moments where it might startle you.

The one thing I hate was that the Kinect sensors are so temperamental that if you are too close or too far away it doesn't pick up your movements. So when the ghosts were attacking all I could do was stand there. That makes the game a little frustrating, but once I found the perfect spot the game was more enjoyable. Benjamin was funny and the ghosts at times had their own personality.

This may not be as fun or as challenging as other games, but I'll definitely play it again.

Difranco's newest album a 5-star gem

By R. A. Perez
Reporter

If you haven't heard of Ani Difranco by now, you need to.

ALBUM REVIEW
★★★★★

The singer-songwriter has been making music on her own label Righteous Babe for over 20 years. She gained popularity in the '90s with other female singer-songwriters like Aimee Mann, Sara McLachlan, and Alanis Morissette.

The scene was about women singing about issues that mattered to them, whether it was about abuse, abortion, love, or a vegan lifestyle. It was women with a real meaning to their songs, instead of feeling like Diddy.

The whole female singer-songwriter thing was pretty good, and pretty big, except everyone associated with it being labeled as lesbians.

This wasn't completely true because while some artists, like the Indigo Girls, were lesbians others, like Sleater-Kinney were

"It was hard for me to take this song off, because ... she just lays out her emotions for everybody to hear."

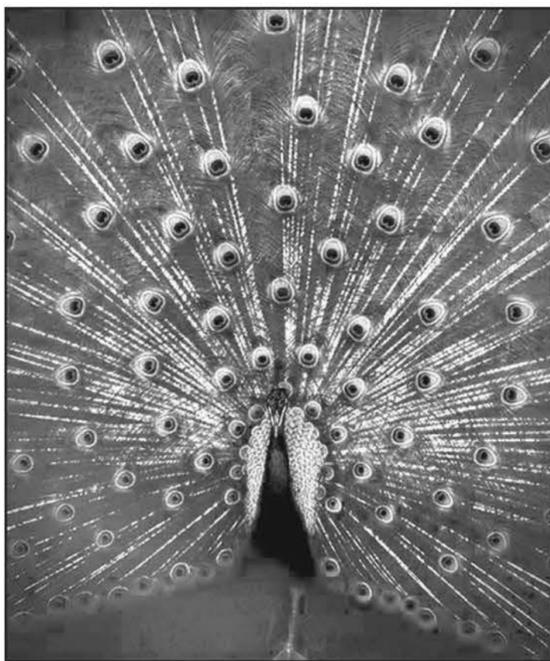
bisexual.

Unfortunately the whole feminist, I-don't-want-to-be-objectified movement went underground and was partially forgotten after the Britney Spears, bad, pop, I-want-to-be-objectified music explosion.

The new album "¿Which Side Are You On?", which was released on Jan. 12, ranges in styles from folk, marching band, to something kind of reggae sounding, but not really.

It's almost the perfect album to listen to if you want to kick back and ride the chill wave. Overall, the blend of different musical styles adds to her credit as a talented and smart musician.

In keeping up with the current political state, her lyrics on songs like "J" and "¿Which Side Are You On?" fixate on the problems



COURTESY OF RIGHTEOUS BABE RECORDS

Ani Difranco's first album in four years, *Which Side Are You On?*, was released Jan. 17.

in our government and policies. She also brings up women's rights issues on the album.

My favorite lyric is from the song "Amendment," "If you don't like abortion, then don't have an abortion."

In addition to her lovely songs of protest, she has songs about love to round out the album's

feel. A personal favorite is the opening track "Lifeboat."

It was hard for me to take this song off repeat because when the album starts she just lays out her emotions for everyone to hear.

Her strong and meaningful lyrics make this album a great addition to her fantastic collection of any music collection.

Hardcore show led by 'moshing ninjas,' and some brutal metal

By R. A. Perez
Reporter

On Jan. 22, five metal bands came and rocked the house at The Dome.

The first band to perform was Lifeforms from Sacramento. About two songs in, a few people started to feel the music and began "hardcore dancing." They were pretty good, but as with most opening bands, a lot of people stayed outside during their set.

The next band, Under City Skies, was from Arvin. With a bit more local recognition they got more people moving and things really started going. Not to say the first band was bad, but Under City Skies had more people doing their karate kicks.

Surprisingly, the next band was Murder Death Kill from Victorville. They weren't on any of the posters for the show so they came as a complete welcome surprise.

Their brutal hardcore music had the karate kids moshing so hard my friend was punched in the side, and I got hit in the neck. I felt a little bad for my friend, but forgot this when she reminded me she had a knife in her shoe in case she gets hit

again. With the way their music hit, I was actually worried she would shank someone.

Up next was Molotov Solution from Las Vegas. Their politically charged metal, combined with the hyped-up karate kids, really got things crazy.

Unlike the other bands that played, their lyrics try to make people more aware of government corruption and corporate greed, which at this time is more relevant than ever. The lead singer, Nick, said that this show was one of the better shows that they've done.

Finally the headliners, Volumes from Los Angeles, hit the stage and blasted out some of their best songs from their EP *The Concept of Dreams* and their new album *VIA*. They gave a great performance and had everyone moving.

Oddly enough, it was in their last song that someone actually got hurt. The guy standing next to my friend was hit in the face and I believe he had his nose broken, but my friend only cared about how much blood seemed to get on her shoes. Seeing as how the song was actually dedicated to GG Allen, the violence actually seemed more than appropriate.

Column

Breaking
down the
football
playoffs

RIPPING SPORTS | Taking on every sports issue

It was incredible how in both conference championship games the two teams that lost had big special teams errors that played a big part in them losing.



Esteban Ramirez

I'm not going to say that the whole blame should fall on punt returner Kyle Williams of the San Francisco 49ers or on the kicker Billy Cundiff of the Baltimore Ravens, but seriously I thought you guys were professionals.

I know these guys are still human and no one is perfect, but all kickers are paid for is to make field goals.

I would also understand if Kyle Williams only fumbled once, but he dropped the ball two times and both led to Giants scoring drives.

I just hate seeing a team lose because of a muffed punt or a kicker missing a 30-yard field goal.

This year has been the year of the quarterback in the NFL, and a perfect example of that has been the way Eli Manning has carried the New York Giants to the Super Bowl.

Eli Manning has been on a tear this whole year, and now his statement at the beginning of the year, that he's an elite quarterback, doesn't sound crazy at all.

Manning's run has been great, whether it was rallying the Giants in a fourth quarter double-digit deficit against the Dallas Cowboys or leading the Giants to an upset victory over the Green Bay Packers.

The guy who's been known all his career as Peyton Manning's little brother might end up having more Super Bowl rings than the brother he's always been compared to.

I'm really getting tired of the Pro Bowl, and other than them changing the week it's played, it really hasn't changed.

I got so bored I actually chose watching something else over football. I understand that it's a great honor for players to be selected to the Pro Bowl, but the game itself is just so boring. Really nothing about it keeps me interested.

They need to have it mean something, like in baseball, or add skill competitions like they do for basketball. I really don't care which, but they need to change it because it gets really boring watching this game.

Just make it interesting so I won't change the channel after just two minutes of a pointless game.

On to a game that matters and is of actual importance.

The Super Bowl will be Feb. 5, and it's a rematch of Super Bowl 46 when the undefeated New England Patriots lost to the underdog New York Giants in one of the greatest upsets ever.

The major difference this year has to be Manning, because this time he's the quarterback coming in that's on a tear.

The Patriots have been on a great run themselves considering they have one of the worst defenses, but never count out Tom Brady and Bill Belichick. As for my Super Bowl pick, I like the Giants to take it 27-23 on a last minute touchdown drive by Eli Manning, and Victor Cruz will be salsa-dancing his way to the Super Bowl MVP.

BC wins to stay atop conference



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Renegades forward, Brittany Smith, drives past a defender during Bakersfield College's game against Santa Monica College in the Gil Bishop Sports Center on Jan. 28.

By Esteban Ramirez
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College women's basketball beat Santa Monica despite an injury to a starter and a player losing a contact lens during the game.

BC beat Santa Monica 79-65 on Jan. 28, in order to stay tied for first in the Western State Conference.

BC coach Paula Dahl commented on the game.

"I thought we did great because we had a lot of adversity. Gabi [Morales] got hurt and Jausecca [Cockeral] lost her contact lens, so she was pretty blind.

"We've had many troubles and tribulations this year, but we never quit," said Dahl.

BC got a great performance from freshman forward Brittany Smith, who put up 30 points and 13 rebounds. BC also got 15 points and 14 rebounds from freshman guard Andrea Harris and sophomore guard Cockeral chipped in with 11 points. Sophomore forward Morales also had 16 points before getting injured in the beginning of the second half.

Both teams were evenly matched to start of the game, and with BC just up 14-12, the Renegades were able to go on a 13-4 run to build a 27-16 lead. BC continued to add to that lead as they went into the half with a 39-26 lead.

BC started the second half slow as Santa Monica went on an eight to three run.

"We came out flat in the second half. That's always a coach's biggest fear," said Dahl.

With BC losing Morales to an injury, the Renegades weren't able to score as efficient as they did in the first half. They were just hanging onto a 59-55 lead, but Smith was able to give BC a boost with

them missing two of their starting post players.

"She's been practicing really hard. I think she's starting to get in her groove after coming back from volleyball," said Dahl.

Behind Smith, BC was able to build a comfortable lead, and were able to outscore Santa Monica 20-10 for the rest of the game.

Smith commented on the game.

"I thought we played as a team and we gave it our all. When we lost Gabi we knew we lost a big post player, but instead of giving up we just pushed harder," she said. "Honestly, I can't really depict my performance because we're a team and this was a team win. I still think we can grow from this by doing a better job making

our layoffs, and we won't just settle here, there's a level higher that we want to get to."

Cockeral also gave her thoughts on the game and playing without one contact lens.

"We did pretty good, considering we didn't have our two post players. I do think we were a little tired to start the second half, but it's the halfway mark so everyone is a little tired. We just got to push hard because every team is so close in the conference," she said. "It was difficult playing without the lens, but I still had one good eye. It could've been a lot worse."

Cockeral also said that they need to continue to work hard, be consistent and be ready for anything because like this game anything can happen.

Dahl added that Morales has a high-ankle sprain, but doesn't think it's anything serious.

BC's next game is scheduled to be at Glendale on Feb. 1.

ONLINE

More coverage of the women's team
www.therip.com

Baseball ready for fresh start

By Zak S. Cowan
Editor in Chief

After a late-season collapse in 2011, the Bakersfield College baseball team is dusting off its cleats and getting ready for a fresh season.

Invigorated by new faces and a determination to win, the Renegades look to best their first opponent, Golden West College, on Feb. 3 on Gerry Collis Field.

Tied 2-2 in the sixth inning of their final game of the season, the Renegades allowed two runs in the seventh, then a grand slam in the eighth, ending their playoff hopes and wrapping up a four-game losing streak to end the year.

"It's disappointing any time you miss the postseason," said coach Tim Painton, who is entering his 17th season with BC. "We went

down to the last day of the season with a chance to win a piece of a championship and ended up losing late in the ballgame."

With the massive amount of turnover on the roster from year to year, Painton is reluctant to compare this team to that of 2011, but is confident that questions of pitching depth and balance along the lineup, that plagued last year's team, will be answered as the season progresses.

Among the new freshman on the team, Painton is looking at several that can make up for lost production that David Pennington took with him to the next level.

"He carried more of the load offensively then he should have, and I think we're a more balanced offense now," he said.

Blayne Ontiveros is one of those freshmen that Painton thinks can help them achieve the



MARTIN CHANG / THE RIP

Tyler Painton pitches during a scrimmage Jan. 26. Painton gets ready for the season ahead of the team by honing in his skills during a scrimmage.

balance and consistency that he is looking for out of the lineup.

Ontiveros was the player of the year in 2011 and batted .444 with 37 RBIs and 13 home runs when he led the Frontier High Titans to a 22-8 record.

Starting pitchers Brad Lindsey and Ryan Stapp, according to Painton, are the most prom-

ising of the freshman class in terms of the pitching staff.

Lindsey went 13-3 overall for Frontier with an ERA of 2.70.

According to Painton, the team is mentally strong and has come together as a group over the fall, but he thinks that they will be tested once the season starts and progress. Until then,

it's a guessing game.

"We're a little bit unique in that out of our 34 players on our roster, 30 of them are local kids," Painton said. "They're all in the same age bracket and they've grown up playing either with or against each other. They're not afraid to push each other to get better each day."

Track kicks off season quickly

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College men's and women's Track and Field season got under way on Jan. 28 at Antelope Valley College in the AVC All-Comers invitational meet. BC coach David Frickel discussed the meet.

"This was the first opportunity to compete in track since they haven't competed since last year," said Frickel.

"It was not a bad day, it was pretty breezy out there, it was kind of cool, kind of windy, kind of cold, so you're not going to get super sprint times at the end of January when the weather is not very good."

He went on to discuss the fact that it was just an all-comers meet, and that it's considered a low key type of event.

He added, "We're going to go back this week and do the same thing, so it's kind of just an intro into competition, whoever shows up."

"Some colleges were there, high schools, people that are out of college, so it's just kind of an all-comers type of meet, what shows up, shows up. There were only two junior colleges there, ourselves and Antelope Valley."

When asked to name some of his standout athletes, he mentioned a mix from both the men and women's side.

BC's Rachel Evans placed fourth in the women's 200-meter dash with a time of 28.16, and teammate Sarena Underwood finished fifth in the same event at 28.91.

In the women's 800, Tejera Dial took sec-

ond place with a time of 2:31.35, and in the women's discus throw, Amanda Mosby got second place with a throw of 29.21 meters.

On the men's side, Myren Moore won the 200-meter dash with a 22.75 time, Justin Evans won the 400 in 51.78, Davis Louustalot captured the 800 in 2:01.80, and Christopher Schwartz won the 1500 meter run in 4:11.83.

The Antelope Valley meet gave Frickel a good insight into where the squads are at as far as their overall progress to date.

"It's a good gauge progress wise right now, see where we need to go in the next couple of weeks before the real season begins," he said.

When asked about his expectations for the year, Frickel had this to say, "We just want to improve as the season goes. We want to get as many people as we can into the conference finals, and advance from there into post-season competition and into So Cal prelim finals, then state, so everything basically for us is a building block."

"We only meet a couple of times as a conference during the season, so most of the stuff during the season, most of our meets are basically invitational."

Frickel summarized his expectations by saying, "Each week during the season in the next several months, we just want to see progress in everybody in terms of dropping their marks, on going farther or whatever. Each week is kind of a building block, kind of a continuum."

BC's next meet will be on Feb. 4 at the same venue.

Softball starts sluggish

By Meisha McMurray and
Nestor Fernandez
Reporters

Bakersfield College softball traveled to Fullerton on Jan. 27 to play Cerritos College. According to BC Softball Head Coach Sandi Taylor, they lost 7-3.

Sophomore catcher Kara Frankhouser hit a homerun, a single and freshman infielder Sara Smith hit a double in the loss.

BC also played a doubleheader against Fullerton College on Jan. 28 in which they won the first game by a 13-10 score.

Frankhouser had a homerun, two doubles and a single, and sophomore outfielder Brittany Messer hit a triple and also chipped in with a stolen base.

BC lost the second game 4-3. During that game, Frankhouser got another homerun, and finished the three game stint with three homers.

This season there will be six returning sophomores, and they will have 28 home games. The first home game will be Feb. 4.

Swimming

The Bakersfield College men's swimming team is set to start their season on Feb. 10 in the Western State

Conference John Joseph Relays at L.A. Valley College.

The meet will feature all seven WSC teams, and will serve as a tune-up event for the Renegades.

Coach Charlie Pike considers this meet to be low-key and without a lot of pressure.

It gives him the chance to see how his swimmers are progressing.

Considering the season is 16 weeks long, and they've been very busy with eight practices each week, Pike commented on where he thinks his team is at compared to last year.

"In comparison to last year, the guys are right around the same, and the girls are probably just a little weaker than they were last year," Pike said.

He also mentioned the fact that the meet will give them a basic feel for where they're at as far as conditioning.

The coach went on to discuss his expectations about his team, and feels that the squad will perform well.

"We're hoping for two top-15 finishes for the men and the women at the state meet this year," he said.

He also mentioned his philosophy for the season, saying, "My whole thing is to train through the season and only worry about the end result."

The end result for Coach Pike and his swimmers will be at the California State Championships, to be held this year at East Los Angeles College, on Apr. 26 - Apr. 28.

Basketball Schedules

Men's		
Date	Opponent	Site
Feb. 1	Glendale	Glendale
Feb. 4	Canyons	Canyons
Feb. 8	LA Valley	Bakersfield
Feb. 11	Citrus	Bakersfield
Feb. 18	West LA	West LA
Women's		
Date	Opponent	Site
Feb. 1	Glendale	Glendale
Feb. 4	Canyons	Canyons
Feb. 8	LA Valley	Bakersfield
Feb. 11	Citrus	Bakersfield
Feb. 18	West LA	West LA
Feb. 22	Regional Playoffs	TBD
March 3	Regional Finals	TBD
March 9-11	State Tournament	Consumers/Riser

Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Feb. 3	Golden West, 7 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 4	Irvine Valley, 7 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 7	Allan Hancock, 2 p.m.	Santa Maria
Feb. 10	Hartnell, 10:30 a.m.	Visalia
Feb. 11	Golden West, 1 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 14	Allan Hancock, 3 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 17	Oxnard, 7 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 18	San Diego Mesa, 6:30 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 19	Moorpark, 3 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 23	Moorpark, 2 p.m.	Moorpark
March 1	Moorpark, 6 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 3	*West Los Angeles	Bakersfield
March 6	*Canyons, 2 p.m.	Valencia
March 8	*LA Valley, 3 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 10	*Citrus, 1 p.m.	Glendora
March 13	*LA Mission, 2 p.m.	Sylmar
March 15	*Glendale, 6 p.m.	Glendale
March 17	*LA Pierce, 6 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 20	*West LA, 2 p.m.	Culver City
March 22	*West LA, 6 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 24	*Canyons, 1 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 27	*Canyons, 2 p.m.	Valencia
March 29	*LA Valley, 3 p.m.	Van Nuys
March 31	*LA Valley, 1 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 3	Reedley, 1 p.m.	Reedley
April 4	COS, TBD	Visalia
April 5	Saddleback, noon	Bakersfield
April 10	*Citrus, 3 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 12	*Citrus, 2:30 p.m.	Glendora
April 14	*LA Mission, 1 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 17	*LA Mission, 2:30 p.m.	Sylmar
April 19	*Glendale, 6 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 21	*Glendale, 6 p.m.	Glendale
April 24	*LA Pierce, 2:30 p.m.	Woodland Hills
April 26	*LA Pierce, 6 p.m.	Bakersfield
May 4-5	Regional Playoffs	TBD
May 11-13	Super-Regionals	TBD
May 18-20	State Championships	Bakersfield

*Denotes Western State Conference Games

Softball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Feb. 4	Fresno, noon	Bakersfield
Feb. 9	Antelope Valley, 4 p.m.	Bakersfield
	Sierra College, 1 p.m.	Bakersfield
	Sequoias, 5 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 14	Ventura, 2:30 p.m.	Ventura
Feb. 17	Rancho Santiago, noon	Bakersfield
	West Hills, 5 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 18	Taft, 10 a.m.	Bakersfield
	Cuesta, 3 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 25	Cerritos, 10 a.m.	Bakersfield
	Southwestern, 4 p.m.	Bakersfield
Feb. 26	Cypress, 10 a.m.	Bakersfield
March 1	Oxnard (DH), 4 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 6	Santa Barbara, 4 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 8	*LA Mission, 5 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 13	*Canyons (DH), 2:30 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 15	*Glendale, 2:30 p.m.	Glendale
March 22	*Santa Monica, 3 p.m.	Santa Monica
March 24	Taft, 10 a.m.	Bakersfield
	Santa Barbara, 2 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 25	Riverside, 2 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 27	*Citrus (DH), 2:30 p.m.	Bakersfield
March 29	*LA Valley, 5 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 3	*LA Mission, 1 p.m.	Sylmar
April 5	*Canyons, 2:30 p.m.	Santa Clarita
April 10	*Glendale (DH), 2/4 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 14	Cuesta, 1 p.m.	Bakersfield
	Mt. SAC, 5 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 17	*Santa Monica (DH), 2 p.m.	Bakersfield
April 19	*Citrus, 5 p.m.	Glendora
April 24	*LA Valley (DH), 1 p.m.	Van Nuys
May 5-6	Regionals, TBA	TBA
May 11-12	Super-Regionals, TBA	TBA
May 18-20	State Final Four, TBA	Bakersfield

*Denotes WSC Blue Division Games

Tennis Schedule

Date	Opponent/Event	Site
Feb. 2	Fresno City College	Bakersfield
Feb. 5	Sierra College	Fresno City
Feb. 17-18	Modesto Invitational	Modesto JC
Feb. 23	Glendale College	Glendale
March 1	LA Pierce	LA Pierce
March 6	Santa Barbara City College	Bakersfield
March 7	Reedley/Victor Valley	Bakersfield
March 8	Ventura College	Bakersfield
March 15	Glendale College	Bakersfield
March 16	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara
March 22	LA Pierce	Bakersfield
March 29	Ventura College	Ventura
April 13-14	WSC Tournament	Ventura
April 26-29	Ojai Tournament	Ojai
May 10-12	State Championships	TBD

Swimming Schedule

Date	Event	Site
Feb. 10	WSC John Joseph Relays	LA Valley
Feb. 17	College of Sequoias	Bakersfield
Feb. 24-25	Mt. SAC Invitational	Mt. SAC
March 2	College of the Canyons	Bakersfield
March 8	Santa Monica/Ventura/Cuesta	Cuesta
March 9-10	Cuesta Invitational	Cuesta
March 23	Cuesta, LA Pierce	LA Pierce
March 30	LA Valley, Ventura	Bakersfield
April 19-20	WSC Championships	Cuesta
April 28-30	State Championships	East LA

Track and Field Schedule

Date	Event	Site
Feb. 4	AVC All-Comers	Antelope
Feb. 11	TBA	TBA
Feb. 17	COC, FCC, COS, AVC, SJD	Bakersfield
Feb. 24	Conference Relays	Citrus
March 2	COC, BC, SBVC, SADD	Antelope
March 9	WSC North Meet	Ventura
March 17	BC Relays	Bakersfield
March 23	Easter Relays	Santa Barbara
March 30	WSC Inland Meet	Bakersfield
April 7	Open	Cerritos
April 10-11	So Cal Multis	Cerritos
April 13	Bryan Clay	Azusa Pacific
April 20	WSC Prelims	Santa Barbara
April 27	WSC Finals	Moorpark
May 5	So Cal Prelims	San Diego Mesa
May 12	So Cal Finals	San Diego Mesa
May 18-19	State Championships	Cerritos

Men's Golf Schedule

Date	Event/Opponent	Site
Jan. 30	Bakersfield College Invitational	Seven Oaks
Jan. 31	Bakersfield College Invitational	Rio Bravo
Feb. 6	*Canyons	Valencia
Feb. 13	*Santa Barbara City College	Bakersfield
Feb. 20	WSC Meet	TBD
Feb. 27	Open	Rio Bravo
March 4-5	Pt. Conception Tournament	Santa Barbara
March 12	*Allan Hancock	Santa Maria
March 18-19	North/South Invitational	Paso Robles
March 26	WSC Invitational	Glendora
April 2	*Ventura	Saticoy
April 6	*Citrus	San Dimas
April 13	*Glendale	Glendale
April 26	WSC Finals	Santa Barbara
May 7	So Cal Regional Finals	Glendora
May 14	State Championships	Santa Maria

BC coach uses loss to inspire

By Esteban Ramirez
Sports Editor

Miranda Serna inspired her cousin, Bakersfield College men's basketball assistant coach Aaron Chavez, to pursue a coaching career. Last year Serna, the Oklahoma State University women's assistant coach, died in an airplane crash, leaving Chavez shocked.

"I felt disbelief, heartache and I was just at a loss"
—Aaron Chavez, BC men's basketball assistant coach

"I felt disbelief, heartache and I was just at a loss. Sure you can talk to your colleagues about how you feel, but anytime you lose someone that was close to you, it's going to hurt," said Chavez. "When I was at the service everyone stood up with respect toward her. We all knew she was gone, but we were in disbelief because it was hard to accept."

Chavez also commented on how Serna inspired him to be a basketball coach.

"Growing up in a small town in New Mexico you don't know growing up if you can accomplish your goals, but she was the reality to my dream. When you have someone in your family that has accomplished it you start to think, 'Hey, I can do it too.'"

On Nov. 17, 2011, OSU's basketball head coach Kurt Budke and Serna died in a plane crash while on a recruiting trip. Serna

was entering her seventh season as the assistant head coach for OSU and eighth as assistant coach for Budke including a short stint at Louisiana Tech University. She also coached at Long Beach State University, Chicago State University and Fresno State University. During her time at Fresno, the Bulldogs posted a 20-win season in the 2002-03 season. She was part of two state championships while playing at Eldorado High School in Albuquerque, N.M. She also won two national championships at Trinity Valley Junior College and one as a coach.

Chavez is entering his seventh year on the BC coaching staff. He also coached at Bard College in New York and at West Las Vegas High School.

"She was a very giving and extremely humble person. She grew up in a small town ... always stayed humble and never forgot her roots. Often times you hear people giving their shirt off their back, well, she would've given her wardrobe."

"She was on the highest level of college women's basketball and yet she never bragged about it because she never wanted to make anyone feel inferior. We all knew she could be a head coach on a college team, but she was so humble that when she talked about it, she talked about being the head coach for



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Bakersfield College assistant basketball coach, Aaron Chavez, honors his cousin who died in the Oklahoma State plane crash by wearing a badge during a home game on Jan. 25.

Mora High School," he said. Chavez wasn't the only person at BC that Serna has left a positive mark on. Serna has also had an impact on Mike Young, a freshman guard on the Renegades men's basketball team. Young is from Oklahoma and his sister played for Serna, so he

had a close bond with Serna. "I was hurt and I just didn't think it was real when I found out. She was a great woman and I won't forget everything she did for me and my family," said Young. "She would do anything for anyone in or off the court and

she always put everyone before herself. This has made me push harder and be thankful for everything she did." Young added that he and Chavez are much closer now after experiencing the loss of someone that they were both so close to.

Turnovers plague the 8-13 Renegades in conference loss

By Esteban Ramirez
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College men's basketball team lost to Santa Monica College because of too many turnovers in the first half.

BC lost to Santa Monica 69-63 on Jan. 28 and dropped to a 2-5 record in the Western State Conference.

The game was a tale of two halves for BC. In the first, BC wasn't able to really attack Santa Monica's zone and turned the ball over nine times. In the second, they started to find easy shots and only turned the ball over three times.

"Our report against them was not turning the ball over, and we had too many turnovers in the first. That's where we lost the game," said BC coach Rich Hughes.

BC got a good game from freshman forward Conroy Lester, who had 17 points and 15 rebounds. BC also got 13 points from freshman guard Duncan Schramm.

BC started the game well getting an early 19-18 lead by being the aggressor and attacking.

Then Santa Monica changed their defense and started to force turnovers.

"They started to play a matchup zone and we just didn't attack it really well," said Hughes.

BC struggled to get any easy points, and Santa Monica was able to go on a 21 to three run to take a 39-22 into the second half.

BC got back in the game by going on a 14-4 run to start the second half.

"We made an adjustment on our zone offense and we got ourselves back in the game," said Hughes.

BC was able to get back in the game, but every time they got within six, Santa Monica would push the lead back to double-digits. BC tried to make one last run, but the first half deficit ended up being too big for them to overcome.

Hughes commented on what he expects for the rest of the season.

"I just want us to keep getting better each game, don't



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Renegades point guard Daniel Womack attempts to force his way through tight coverage during Bakersfield College's game against Santa Monica College in the Gil Bishop Sports Center on Jan. 28.

give up and keep competing. With most of the team being freshmen, hopefully they can continue to get better," he said. Lester commented on the game.

"I think we came out slow and got down in the first half, but we came out in the second half and fought hard. We started getting the ball inside the middle of their zone in the second half, but we

just turned the ball over way too much in the first, and it cost us this game," said Lester. "I think I did okay, but I think I could've done better job finishing at the rim and making my free throws."

"Hopefully we can get stronger as a team, practice hard and hopefully it will help us in these last five games," he said.

BC is scheduled to play at Glendale on Feb. 1.

New gym gives BC FBS atmosphere

By Esteban Ramirez
Sports Editor

The Athletics Department recently finished improving the Gil Bishop Sports Center, including the floor.

The Gil Bishop Sports Center work was started about three months ago and it was finished on Dec. 30, according to athletic director Ryan Beckwith.

Beckwith commented on how the gym turned out.

"I think it's fantastic. It was a way for us to show some pride in Bakersfield College and when you see the red and white you will know where you're at," said Beckwith.

"Now our opponents will walk in and know that they're in BC. It gives us that great college atmosphere, when before nothing really signified that it was our gym."

He added that it wasn't excess cost and the only thing that cost extra was the walls.

"Instead of refinishing it, we sanded it down. It's the original floor, but we just put some style on it. It was something that didn't cost too much, but made a huge difference," he said.

According to Beckwith some of the things they did to the gym were painting the lower walls, stripping them and putting logos on them.

The tiles that were by the water fountain were eroded, so they were replaced. They also painted the banister and put the new BC athletic logo.

"We felt that Gil Bishop deserved the respect for everything he has done, so we thought the best way is by dressing it up and keeping it classic," Beckwith said.

BC men's basketball coach Rich Hughes commented on the gym.

"It was awesome what they did because the thing hadn't been redone since '93, it's great. I really liked how they stripped down the floor and the new logo they put on center court," he said.

Hughes added that the players were really excited to be playing in an improved gym.

"I think every player wants to play in a nice gym, not one that is outdated and I think it will help us in recruiting. I think when everything is finalized we will go from the worst gym in our conference to the best," he said.

BC women's basketball coach Paula Dahl also gave her thoughts on the gym.

"I love the gym. I'm excited and happy with what Beckwith has done. I think people need to come and check it out."

"I've been waiting for this for a long time and it's good to see what happens when we have a go-getter like Beckwith," said Dahl.

Beckwith also said that their next project for the gym is to get championship banners for every sport that has a conference, state and national championship.



NATHAN WILSON / THE RIP

BC's basketball team practices on the newly redone court on Jan. 24. The athletic department's yearly funds and help from the booster club helped pay for it.

PLAYING FOR THE LOVE OF THE BEAT

By Breanna Fields
Reporter

At first glance, the sight of two young men on a street corner may not appear to be anything out of the ordinary.

It didn't take long for those nearby to see their cardboard sign which read, "Help us get to DCI finals," and realize that they were more than just a couple of kids busking on a street corner; they were part of something much bigger: a drum corps.

Charismatic would be the best word to describe Dom Miller as he made an attempt to sing over the roaring engines of cars as they passed by. In the palm of each hand he held a wooden drumstick, worn from hours of use.

These are the tools that enable him to be heard; the tools that fuel his musical creativity with each beat and allow him to entertain an audience with bursts of enthusiasm.

"Gotta get the crowd goin' man!" he shouted to Jesus Navarro, a friend and fellow member of Drum Corps International.

Both Miller and Navarro belong to DCI, a non-profit organization created to entertain audiences through live performances and provide an outlet for young people to compete in drum corps.

"Drum corps is pretty much the major leagues of marching band. Everything is taken up to a whole other level of competitiveness.

"Everything is more intense, a lot more intense," said Miller.

Miller recently auditioned and was chosen to play the drum

set for the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps based out of Ohio. The Bluecoats consist of 150 members between the ages of 15 and 22.

Navarro belongs to the Blue Devils, based out of Concord, California. The Blue Devils are a successful corps sporting the title of three time world champions. Navarro also belongs to Bakersfield College's drum line and teaches Highland and Bakersfield High School drum line.

"I've been drumming for almost my whole life," said Navarro. "I was in the car with my mom and she said she wanted to sign me up for band class. I wanted to play guitar, and she said they don't have guitar. I was like, 'well, then I'll play drums!'"

Navarro and Miller both plan to gear up for a grueling three-month summertime tour across the nation from June to August. Tour fees cost a total of \$2,500, though with fundraising Miller said that he has already accumulated \$500 over the course of two months.

A recent street performance took place on the corner of Ming and Stine, near an AT&T building. Not long after they began playing, an employee appeared with a bouquet of blue balloons.

"We're not getting in trouble are we?" Miller teased.

The mood lightened as she

explained that the reason for her emergence was not to shut down the street corner show, but to applaud them. Miller gracefully accepted the balloons, and went to work tying them on his black drum kit.

There was a constant flow of cash being tossed into the case laying open on the sidewalk for donations. Many were happy to oblige,

"We've had people from the other side of the street try to hand us money and we're almost risking our lives in the middle of traffic trying to accept cash."

—Dom Miller, BC student

opening up their wallets, rolling down their windows or jumping out of their car at a red light, scrambling to the sidewalk to make a contribution before the streetlight

turned green.

"We've had people from the other side of the street try to hand us money and we're almost risking our lives in the middle of traffic trying to accept cash," said Miller.

An elderly woman offered Miller a dollar if he would assist her in crossing the street.

"I denied the money, and helped her cross the street, but she insisted that I take the money," he said.

The intersection was crammed with cars trying to catch a glimpse of the action. A number of characters made their way to the crosswalk with groceries and handbags and pushed baskets filled with their belongings.

These Bakersfield residents had come from all walks of life,

though in that moment it was apparent that they shared the same love of music and expressed the same amount of excitement with each smile and passing glance.

"In drum corps, each person is depending on each other to always be the best that person can be. Each member has a task they must do. Although everyone is responsible for their own part, at the end of the season everyone helps with delivering a great show. Performing in front of thousands of people is one of the best feelings. It can be nerve-wracking, but once you get used to it, it's a feeling you can't get anywhere else."



PHOTOS BY OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Dom Miller plays in front of an AT&T store off Ming Avenue and Stine Road on Jan. 26.



Jesus Navarro plays his snare drum outside of AT&T on the corner of Ming Avenue and Stine Road.



Jesus Navarro plays his snare drum as Dom Miller keeps a soulful groove on the drums.

GO ONLINE

For extended multimedia coverage on Dom and his drums.
www.therip.com

Oranges galore



Hawk-Eye, 60, a Chiricahua Apache, is a frequent volunteer of the agriculture department and graduated from BC twice with forestry and anthropology majors.

Photos by Omar Oseguera

The agriculture department's annual orange sale was held on Jan. 25-26. The sale, which occurs at the agriculture laboratory across from the Grace Van Dyke Bird library every year, raises money for the Agriculture department. The annual sale has been going on since the late '70s when the trees were first planted by former professor Keith Haycock. Handpicked bags of the fruit cost \$3, while pre-picked bags cost \$5. The funds go toward supporting field trips, farm equipment, feeding the department's animals, maintenance and other financial needs.



Jay Griggs attends the Bakersfield College Orange Harvest for the first time Jan. 25.



The Bakersfield College Agriculture Department picks and bags oranges to sell to the public Jan. 25.