

The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Vol. 84 • No. 3

www.therip.com

Wednesday, February 29, 2012



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Interim Bakersfield College president Robert D. Jensen.

Interim president arrives

By Jon Nelson
Features Editor

On the heels of Greg Chamberlain's surprise resignation as president of Bakersfield College comes the news that an interim president has been found to take his place.

As of Feb. 27, Robert Jensen has taken over duties as president until a permanent replacement can be found.

"People have been very warm, very hospitable," said Dr. Jensen as he shook hands with students and staff in the Fireside Room. Jensen is excited about coming

to Bakersfield and says that students can expect a "great advocate and an 'open door' policy" as well as his participation in the arts and athletics.

"Dr. Jensen has come highly recommended, and he has an excellent breadth of experience and an exceptional reputation," said Kern Community College District

chancellor Sandra Serrano in an email to BC staff.

Dr. Jensen is no stranger to leadership at the community college level. He has held positions as both president and chancellor of several community colleges totaling 19 years of service.

environment and seeing students pursue their goals and aspirations," said Dr. Jensen.

Jensen has a bachelor's degree in business and a master's degree in English literature.

He began his teaching career in 1962 and taught many subjects, including journalism. He then attended Washington State University for his doctorate in community college administration.

Jensen looks forward to working at BC and "assisting a college with a long history of excellence in serving its students and community with an outstanding faculty, staff and leadership team."

"I enjoy being in the college environment and seeing students pursue their goals and aspirations."

**—Robert Jensen,
BC's interim president**

"I enjoy being in the college

BC 9-2 with WSC play on horizon

By Zak S. Cowan
Editor in Chief

Bakersfield College's baseball has kicked off its season with a strong start in non-conference play and is ready to compete for a Western State Conference title.

Conference play will commence for the Renegades on March 6 when they head to Valencia to play College of the Canyons.

BC's record of 9-2 through the first three weeks of the season has the team in high spirits.

"I think, as we've gone out and played, this group has gained a little confidence," said coach Tim Painton. "We've kind of gotten a feel of who we are and what we are capable of doing at this point. I feel really good with where we're at [emotionally]."

At this point last year, the Renegades were 7-4 with conference play approaching. They won seven of their next eight games before finishing the season on a downslide, losing 12 of their last 17.

Painton is confident that this group will not have the same outcome.

According to Painton, the pitching staff has held the team up when their offense was struggling to

Please see **BASEBALL**, Page 11



OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Renegades outfielder Jordan Turner slides into home under Condors catcher Daniel Lerma during a game on Feb. 17 at Bakersfield College. BC won the game 7-4.

SGA seeks more turnout for elections

By Gregory D. Cook
Photographer

On March 20-21, the students of Bakersfield College will once again have the opportunity to decide who will be the new officers of their Student Government Association by casting their votes in BC's spring elections. But this year, the SGA is making a few changes in the process, hoping to improve voter turnout and streamline costs.

While voting will still take place online, in an effort to improve on the 941 voters that participated in last year's elections, the SGA plans on giving students the option of walk-up voting on campus as well.

"We'll have booths set up in locations where students can actually walk up to the table and vote using laptops," explained SGA general counsel Derrick Kenner, who is overseeing the elections. "And they can also receive prizes for voting."

Currently, the SGA plans on raffling off an MP3 player, an E-reader and a tablet as prizes, with a student's vote automatically entering them in the raffle.

"They can also receive walk-up prizes like t-shirts," said Kenner. "It's just something to

Please see **ELECTIONS**, Page 5



ANGIE DELGADO / THE RIP

Mike Taylor rides his unicycle on Feb. 23 down the stairs of the Math and Science Building. He has been riding for six years.

Unicycling up and down the BC campus

By Nicholas Sparling
Reporter

Many students around Bakersfield College have seen a gentleman riding around campus on his unicycle, dawned with a large afro and sporting his Bob Marley leather jacket.

Mike Taylor is a 21-year-old mathematics major at BC. He has been using his unicycle as a form of transportation since around 2005.

"[It's] something to get around and it fits in small places," he said.

He doesn't ride for the unique factor. Though it is rare to see people riding around on unicycles, for him it is more something so he "wouldn't have to ride a bike somewhere where it could get stolen."

When he first started riding around seven years ago, it took him about a

week to pick it up without having to worry about falling.

"[It] requires forward and backwards balance more than left to right," he said.

Taylor likes to collect and find the most comfortable unicycle for him. Although he only has one that works right now, he has many pieces that he trades out. He gets his unicycles at Snyder's Cyclery on Union Avenue and rides back and forth from home to school.

Although Taylor seems to be a normal BC student who likes to ride his unicycle to class, according to Taylor,

he has autism.

"It's like you can't do everyday

like everyone else.

[I] can't do things

without thinking

about them,"

he said. "When

you're autistic,

you're conscious

of every single

move that you

make. It makes it

really stressful to

make it through a

normal day."

Still, Taylor

doesn't let this discourage him from

doing the things that he loves to do.

He likes to build calculators for chess

positions, which Taylor calls "bots,"

where moves could be solved using

math and pure calculation.

Taylor makes these bots for chess, he said, "but not regular chess. There [are] too many people that make those so [I] make bots for chess variants."

He cites tempstchess.com as a place to test his bots.

"It's chess without turns, like you don't have to wait for your turn to play."

Taylor wants to make bots for that form of chess because there hasn't been bots made that can beat humans consistently.

The future holds more programming for Taylor as he continues with his study of mathematics.

"Like right now, [I] can't program that much with the math that [I] know."

He says by learning more math, he could probably build more powerful programs.

"When you're autistic, you're conscious of every single move that you make. It makes it really stressful to make it through a normal day."

**—Mike Taylor,
BC student**

Inside



Page 4: The Skabilly Rebels headline local show at B. Ryder's

Page 7

New bacon milkshake hits the tastebuds with disappointment

Page 9

Women's basketball team snubbed in playoff selection

BC recipient of major Chevron donation

By Angie DelGado
Reporter

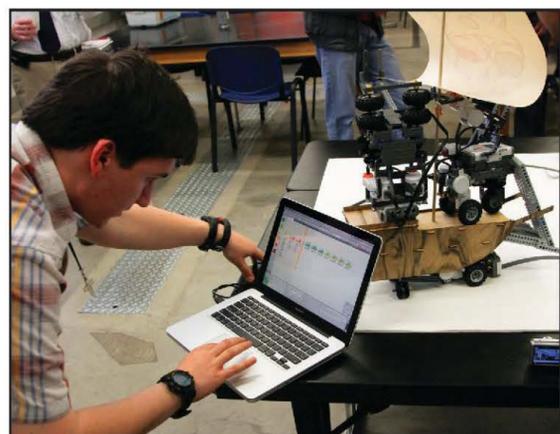
Chevron announced a donation of \$1.5 million to schools in Kern County at the Bakersfield College Science and Engineering quad during Engineer's Week on Feb. 21.

"Chevron's goal is to engage students, and have them understand that careers in engineering, science, and math are tangible and easy to get," said Adam Al-

virez Government and Public Affairs representative of Chevron.

The \$1.5 million donated by Chevron is going to help students by giving them the opportunity to experience science and math hands-on.

Out of the \$1.5 million being donated, BC is going to receive \$100,000 to support the development of the STEM Education/Workforce Development Initiative. Please see **DONATION**, Page 5



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Tim Ambrose makes adjustments to the programming of his team's robotic pirate ship during a Feb. 21 demonstration in the Science and Engineering Building.

Gospel concert celebrates Black History Month

By Ruben Perez
Reporter

Harlem & Beyond put on a gospel concert at the Greater Harvest Christian Center Feb. 25 to celebrate Black History Month and to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The theme of the concert was "Embracing the Past for a Better Future." The Master of Ceremony, Brother Charles Moore, said they put on the concert because "during the hard times, it was the music that brought people together."

This is the third time that Harlem & Beyond put on the concert, but the first time at the Greater Harvest Christian Center.

The concert began with songs by the Greater Harvest Praise Team and a discussion of the book and movie "The Help." They brought up "The Help" as a reminder of the struggles people went through so that all people of color could eventually have the same rights and equality.

The concert then followed with the song "Walking in Authority" by the Bakersfield Community Children's Choir. They

performed three songs throughout the evening. After the Children's choir sang, the Bakersfield Community Praise Dancers performed a dance to a song about asking Jesus to help through the tough times.

The concert also included poetry from a local poet about the struggles she went through during the civil rights movement and when she was the help. She stressed the importance of people embracing their past to have a better future.

One Touch Music Ministry came from California City to perform a few songs.

The Children's Choir performed again, but this time dressed as older women with large church hats and ran around the church in praise.

The older women they were imitating got a good laugh from the children's choir's performance.

The music got most of the people in attendance out of their seats and clapping their hands. After the concert everyone was in good spirits, and a few people suggested that they hold the concert more often.

Riding down the path together



OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Bike Bakersfield held Pedalpalooza Feb. 25 at Yokuts Park. The event encouraged participation from all age groups and creative decoration of bikes. Competitions were held for Best Single Rider, Most Creative Bike Float, Best Family Presentation, Best Group Presentation and Best in Show.

New iPhone app provides info on cost of homes

By Crystal Sánchez
Reporter

Many Bakersfield College students are wondering if the "Who Owns that Home" app is really a great invention.

"Who Owns that Home" is a free app for your iPhone. With the click of a button, it provides information on who owns the home, how much they paid for it, and when the house was purchased.

The app uses public tax re-

ords to get the information.

App creator, Chris Frank, said in an interview with KGET that the idea of iPointer is to change the way people learn about their surroundings.

The easy access to this information is leaving some Bakersfield College students uneasy.

"I think it's creepy that people can have all that information," said Katie Long, 27.

"My house no longer feels private because I am worried people will know my information."

George Gutierrez, 20, believes that the app would best serve its purpose if only used the right way.

"That's crazy that people would come up with this app," he said. "I am sure if you use it the right way, it would be great, but you know a crazy person is going to use this to stalk someone."

Lucas Alindajao, a realtor for Lenox Realty, believes that this app is great for people wanting to get a better idea of a home before they buy.

"It will help consumers gather information about what the price ranges are in certain neighborhoods," he said.

As for how it will affect the realty companies, Alindajao says that it really won't make a difference.

"People will still need to see a realtor because they won't know how to buy a house. There is a process to buying a house that needs to be followed," he said. "This app can really help realtors with marketing and listing the

houses."

"I could understand the purpose of this app for realtors. I personally don't care to know how much my neighbor paid for their house," said Lukah Castro, 31.

Ashley Johnson, 57, thinks it is an unusual app, but she also believes it makes gathering information too easy for people.

"I cannot understand why you would give everyone access to such private information or why you would even want others in-

formation," she said.

"Before, if you really wanted to find this information, you had to go down to the hall of records. You had to work for that information, not just click a button on your iPhone."

Sandra Perez, 36, disagrees. "I really want this app. I think it is great to be able to know everything I can and have it at my fingertips," she said.

"People just need to be responsible with the information they are given."

Frozen yogurt trend excites Bakersfield residents

By Patricia Rocha
Copy Editor

Bakersfield residents have been known to get excited over new restaurant openings and the many new frozen yogurt places that have opened in the past few years are no exception.

Yogurtland, BurrBerry Frozen Yogurt, Daddy O's Frozen Yogurt and Galato and Tutti Frutti have all recently gotten the attention of Bakersfield College students as the newest places to get a cool snack.

The new locations have caught the attention of student Amayrany Claros, 18, who said she hasn't gone yet, but the variety of colors and flavors make it look interesting.

"They look tasty," she said. English major Patrick Reyes said he's been to Daddy O's and BurrBerry Frozen Yogurt, the latter being his favorite.

"They have really good flavors," he said. "I like French vanilla yogurt, and I like to put caramel on it."

He says he thinks people get excited over new openings because people just like eating a lot and BC student Arelie Paredos agrees.

"I guess they read reviews and are anxious to try it out," Paredos said.

She said she likes the new Yogurtland location for its tasty toppings.

"They have more choices like cookies and junk food and all that," she said.

Student Karla Peck also agrees that Yogurtland is her new go-to place, admitting she's slightly addicted to the frozen treat.

"I don't feel extremely full like after I eat ice cream," Peck said. "It's healthy and yummy."



OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Yogurtland offers an array of toppings for their frozen yogurts.

Though she said the location is a little too small and busy to hang out with friends and family in, she feels the yogurt is worth the hassle.

"I get the cheesecake yogurt or the passion fruit yogurt topped with pineapple and strawberries and animal cookies."

Peck said she likes the service and the outside of the location is perfect for hanging out as Yogurtland is only a short distance away from River Walk Park.

"Everyone is pretty friendly there," she said.

"You can just take your yogurt and go."

Another selling point for the treat is the prices, which is said to be reasonably priced based on the overall weight of the final cup which many said was a good thing seeing as how there are hundreds of different flavor and topping combinations possible.

"You get a lot for really cheap, it's not pricey at all," said Peck. "I like to get toasted coconut yogurt with sliced almonds and a bunch of fruit."

"It's so good." Many students said they were excited to see what other types of dining venues will open in town in the future.



OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Yogurtland is just one of several new frozen yogurt places located in the Bakersfield area.

Column

Hipsters add to fashion

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

Depending on who you ask, past decades and eras can be defined by many things. Some people will say it's all about the politics, wars and diplomatic relations. Others will go straight to saying that just the names Chuck Berry, Jimi Hendrix and Cyndi Lauper help define multiple generations. But to me, when someone names a famous historical event or genre of music from a certain decade, the first thing I think of is the fashion.



Patricia Rocha

Bring up the second World War and I think of the way women had to give up wearing their nylon stockings and went through fabric rationing.

Bring up the mid '70s, and my mind races thinking of the birth of punk fashion. Just saying the word "grunge" makes me cringe for the fashion victims of the '90s. Oversized flannel is a friend to no one.

Because I see history this way, it kind of makes me sad to think what my generation will be remembered for in the future. Muffin-top inducing low-rise jeans? Uggs with mini skirts? Anything with the name Ed Hardy written on it?

However, I still have hope that at least one group of individuals is saving us from complete style loss, and those people are called hipsters.

I think hipsters get a bad rap. Yes, they steal all the good vinyl from Goodwill and annoyingly love putting mustaches and owls on everything, but they've done a lot for our generation in terms of fashion. They've taken some of the worst trends from the past and modified them to make them actually look good.

Women are wearing awesomely patterned tights with '50s and '60s style dresses. Men are wearing ties and vests. Everyone is wearing nerdy, thick-framed glasses. And seriously, who thought Bill Cosby sweaters were going to be at the forefront of style again?

Not to mention the shoes. Classic oxfords and saddle shoes in every color combination and pattern possible and '90s style combat boots with dresses! It's almost enough to make me forgive them for wearing Toms. (I said almost.)

Hipster fashion is all about being creative and resourceful. Wearing rings made out of antique spoons, making straw hats a statement piece, and scouring the Salvation Army for the perfect Molly-Ringwald-in-Pretty-In-Pink-esque floral vest.

It kind of amazes me anyone would ever be insulted to be called a hipster.

They're known for liking classic literature, lesser-known bands, and multiple mediums of art. Because of this, people think they're snobby and stuck up, but I honestly don't care about all of that.

If you go back in history, you'll see the most notable fashions didn't come from the mainstream, they came from the counterculture. Flappers of the '20s, greasers of the '50s, mods of the late '60s, Madonna's leather and lace ensembles, no one really took their style seriously at the time, but their style is really what's best remembered.

For our generation, I think hipsters' fashion statement is what's going to leave a lasting impression, and someday when everyone else jumps on the bandwagon and starts to realize how awesome they really are, I'm not ashamed to admit I'm kind of excited I get the chance to say I thought they were cool before everyone else.

A new club for goths opens

By Jon Nelson
Features Editor

The once unused back bar of Riley's Tavern downtown is now playing host to something darker once a month.

Heresy, the brainchild of Bakersfield native Mike Fowler, is Bakersfield's new Goth Night.

"My wife and I couldn't find anything like it going on in Bakersfield so we decided to get together with some friends and go for it," said Fowler about starting the event.

Heresy has been running since December and has a new theme each month. The event features DJs, bands and a multimedia show projected on a large screen behind the dance floor.

Even the staff at Bakersfield College is getting in on the festivities.

"For anyone with a history of being around goth clubs, there is

enough of the trappings to make it entertaining, although the music was a bit industrial for me. Certainly some colorful characters in attendance," said John Davies, adjunct English professor at BC.

Fowler is also happy with the event.

"I am happy with the events so far. The attendance has been great. The club goers are excited. The bar owners are way cool and easy to work with. Also, I'm happy with the mix of people," said Fowler.

The crowd at Heresy is an eclectic mix of the black lipstick set, weekend warriors and curious on-lookers.

"I love the fact that they're trying to do something darker for the alternative crowd," said Katt Purdue, who attended Heresy in February.

For Fowler, the central theme behind Heresy is the people and



TEELA WALKER / THE RIP

Adrian Rocha showing off his dance moves for Club Heresy on Feb. 4 backstage at Riley's Tavern.

the sense of community it provides. "People who go to goth clubs seem to be united around a lifestyle of self-expression with their outfits and music as opposed to just wanting to go

out and get drunk at a bar," said Fowler.

For the foreseeable future, Fowler plans to concentrate on Heresy and make the event better.

"Heresy is once a month and that takes plenty of planning.

When you have to get things planned, that once a month comes fast. If demand grows, then I will plan it more often."

Local roller derby bouts



OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Dezi Von Dropya, Hooka Buzz-uka and Devious Darling, left to right, watch their fellow teammates play.

By Omar Oseguera
Photographer

Sports are highly thought of as dominated by men, but that does not stop the ladies of Derby Revolution of Bakersfield from stepping into the rink and displaying their intensity in Roller Derby.

Roller derby bouts consist of five women from each team on the track at one time, and so 10 women at a time on the track. Two of them are jammers and wear helmet pants with a star on them. The goal of jammers is to score points. The rest of the skaters form a pack and try to let their respective jammer get in through a hole while attempting to block the other team's jammer from scoring.

Tonya Warren, 41, also known as Tonka Toy, started the Derby Revolution of Bakersfield.

"I started Roller Derby six years ago, and had seen it on the

A&E TV show 'Roller Girls,' and was challenged by a friend to do it... so as soon as it came to town, I joined."

Tonya, who has been an athlete her whole life, recognized that there aren't many organized sports for women.

"Roller Derby isn't just a sport. It's almost like its own little entity."

She acknowledges that, although Roller Derby is a physical sport, you don't necessarily have to be an athlete to join.

"Everybody has their role on the team. You have the people that are athletes and then you have the people who are just great organizers that want to be a part of something... there is a place for everyone."

The current captain of the team, Christy Chanley, 43, also known as Chris T. McNuckles, is a correctional counselor for the California Department of Corrections outside of the rink.



OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

The Derby Revolution faces the Visalia V-Town Derby Dames on Feb. 25.

"I've been skating for three and a half years now. I started in July of 2008, I believe," she said.

"I chose to do derby because I saw a photo on the paper, and it was a friend of mine. She had a black eye, Tonka Toy, our founder. I finally kept a schedule on my refrigerator and finally made it to a bout. And as soon as I started watching it, I was like 'oh heck, where do I sign up?'"

"My skate name is Chris T. McNuckles. The reason I chose that name is because as a kid I was always a tomboy. And when I was growing up, Christy McNichols was a pretty good actress, and she was a tomboy on 'Family,' so I went with that

because my friends use to call me Christy McNichols all the time."

When asked about the nicknames, Chanley said, "Some girls go with tough nicknames. It's just usually something to do with your personality."

The Derby Revolution of Bakersfield practices twice a week at the Boys and Girls Club on Niles Street Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"We do about 45 minutes of endurance drills... and just drills that have to do with the skills that we use on the track when we play," says Chanley.

The Derby Revolution of Bakersfield also has a junior team, called the Derby Revolution Brats.

The team ranges from ages 8-17. Practice sessions for the young team are just as intense as the adult league.

"They can probably outskate some of the adults to be honest with you, and their practices run the same as ours," stated Chanley.

Chanley describes Roller Derby as a very intense sport.

"Derby is a very physical sport. I would say it's a cross between Nascar, going around the track, and football... it can get violent sometimes. Roller Derby nowadays is not what you remember from the past... we have strict rules, not that we don't break those rules. It's not your grandmother's roller derby. It's real now."

Social networks become an addiction

By Crystal Sánchez
Reporter

Social media sites like Facebook and Twitter are becoming prevalent in the lives of many Bakersfield College students.

BC students spoke about how social media sites affect their lives and how addiction may soon become a problem. They discuss how the 10 tips to help social media addiction can be effective for curing social media addiction.

"I have a Facebook, Twitter and Flickr account to stay in contact with friends and to display my artwork," said Henry Howard, 20.

Howard said that becoming addicted to social media is not difficult to do because most people do not keep track of how much time is spent online.

"I know for myself person-

ally, I can easily spend an hour to two hours on Facebook and not even notice.

"My studies have slipped a little bit because I spend too much time on Facebook or Twitter, but I am trying to keep my grades up and have Facebook and Twitter be less of a distraction."

Dr. Rob Reiner, of Behavioral Associates in Manhattan, said in an interview with NBC New York that social media addiction could trigger anxiety, envy, and even depression.

"People are insecure and people think there is always something better and now there are more tools to take advantage of it."

"I feel disconnected from my friends if I'm not on Facebook reading their posts or sharing pictures," said Gabrielle Tills, 22.

"I can't imagine my life

without Facebook, much less my phone. I would die without my phone," she said.

Frances Garcia, 48, believes her frequent use of social media has decreased her time spent with family.

"Sometimes I catch myself paying more attention to my iPhone than I do my kids. It's really sad to admit to yourself that you are addicted to social media," she said.

10 Steps to help social media addiction

1. Admit you have a problem
2. Track your time online
3. Remember the telephone
4. Go outside
5. Limit your memberships
6. Use your networks productively
7. Prioritize
8. Stop procrastinating
9. Remove the cell phone apps
10. Spend more time with close family and friends

Many students even believe that the 10 tips are applicable to their lives.

Kenneth Parker, 35, said that the apps on his phone are a distraction.

"The apps on my phone are an easier way for me to stay connected at all times, but they also cause me to waste my time,"

Parker said. "I use them just because they are on my phone."

"Sometimes you realize how much you miss hearing your friend's voice rather than texting

them all the time," said Anna Sheak, 44.

Sheak currently has a son attending Fresno State and said she often misses hearing her son's voice over the telephone.

"I miss hearing my son's voice and listening to him talk about his day," she said.

"There is a human element to talking over the phone and hearing someone's voice."

Hannah Clark says she thinks limiting your memberships is the best way for avoiding social media addiction.

"I have so many memberships that it is hard to keep track of them all," she said. "Limiting my memberships would help me centralize my time and mind to just one site."

"My life would also be a lot less stressful with not having to check all of the sites for updates."

Weirdest job title may go to BC professor Bill Barnes

By Angie DelGado
Reporter

Bakersfield College professor of Animal Science Bill Barnes is the first to admit he may have an odd job.

Barnes uses artificial insemination in livestock production, which is a very common job in the beef and swine industry. After all, it is an important aspect in producing milk and food for most of the country.

Swine production is mostly what Barnes focuses on, and while it may sound like an easy job, there are a lot of aspects to be aware of. First, you have to make sure that the female pig is in heat.

"Female pigs go through a cycle when she is in heat. It is called the estrous cycle. It happens ev-

ery 21 days," said Barnes.

When the female pig is ready, a rod is inserted at a 45-degree angle, then it is turned to the left, and once it is in the cervix, it locks in.

Then a bottle of semen, which can cost upward of \$150, is taken and put at the end of the rod.

Some pressure is applied slowly, and once it is empty, she's done. Then the rod is turned to the right and it is removed. The same procedure is done again in 24 hours.

The way to tell if the procedure is successful is to wait another 21 days, and if she does not come into estrous cycle again, then the process does not need to be done again.

If she does come into the cycle, then the same procedure is followed again until it is successful.

"Once she is pregnant, it will last 114 days. That's three months, three weeks, and three days. About 6 weeks into it, she'll develop a tummy," said Barnes about knowing when the pig is pregnant.

Some aspects of the process can be dangerous.

"When I was collecting from a boar one time, I was bitten by one. They get really aggressive," said Barnes.

The boars are a little more aggressive than the female pigs; the female pigs are a little more stable.

"The females are normally not aggressive," said Barnes.

Even though the job may sound a little bit different than most, it is a job that pays for itself. The average person may make up to \$70,000-\$75,000 a year for

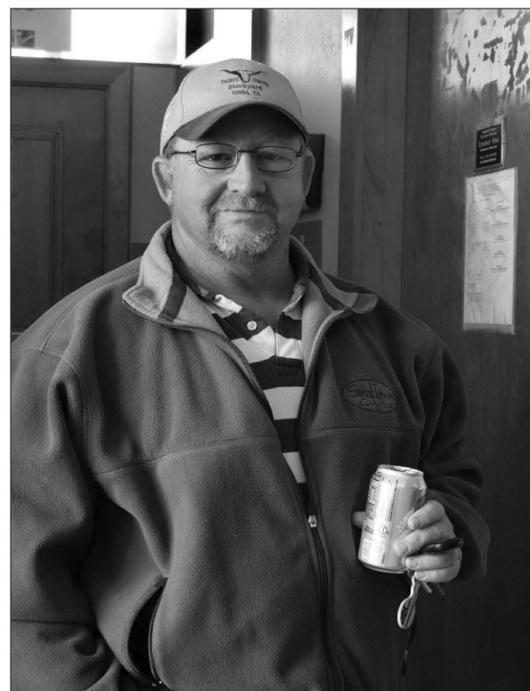
beef production, while in swine production the average is about \$50,000 a year. The beef industry is more popular in the West Coast while swine production is more in the Mid-West.

Barnes' advice to someone who may want to get into the field is that he or she may want to major in animal science.

The courses can be taken at Bakersfield College, and then the student can transfer to a school like Fresno State, Chico State or Cal Poly.

While in a four-year university, a person interested in the major may want to do an internship with the large producers of pork or beef in the country.

Some people may want to be a part of the scientific aspect. They can also major in anatomy and work on new developments.



TEELA WALKER / THE RIP

Bill Barnes, professor of Animal Science, on Feb. 23 stands in front of his office. He is a professional artificial inseminator for swine and is not afraid to admit that he has a weird job.

The Skabilly Rebels delight the crowd at B.Ryder's

By Nicholas Sparling
Reporter

There was a good turn out on Feb. 25 to see Roddy Radiation of The Specials play with his American band, The Skabilly Rebels, at B. Ryder's Sports Bar and Grill. The Specials have rocked the United Kingdom for over 30 years, and this was Roddy's first time playing in Bakersfield.

Danny Dean, guitarist for the Skabilly Rebels, has been "waiting for eight to ten years for [Roddy] to tour in the US." To him, it was well worth the wait despite his now-busy schedule. The band spent the previous night in San Jose and is soon off to Australia and Italy for their tour.

Roddy enjoyed the turn out. "I like a mixed crowd. It's nice having all ages in," he said.

Throughout the night, Roddy was quite worried about the band's tour manager, who when standing up caught her head on a table and may have been mildly concussed for the better half of the night, but she was still dancing and swinging to the music which was a nice mixture of rockabilly and ska genres.

From his younger days, Roddy told a story about when he injured his head.

"I tried to jump down a whole flight of stairs and knocked me head on an eighth story beam. I had to wear a Liverpool hat the whole tour," he said.

He said they wouldn't give him painkillers when they

stitched his head after shaving a horseshoe into it because of the fact that he had been drinking.

Roddy, who will be turning 57 in May, is not as young as he once was, but still knows how to rock 'n' roll. He does recognize the fact that he's getting older, evidenced by the arthritis that has set into his shoulder from playing a Les Paul since he was 13 which has made him switch to a lighter guitar. Also, the fact that on his last tour one of his teeth just fell out when he was singing on stage and he just spit it into the crowd.

All Roddy could say about these facts was that, "someone upstairs... he's sure taking a piss. It's like all you want to do is relive it, or do it all over again."



PHOTOS BY OMAR OSEGUERA / THE RIP

Above: The Skabilly Rebels, fronted by former member of The Specials, Roddy Radiation, left, performs Feb. 25 at B. Ryder's. The Skabilly Rebels are currently making their way through the United States

Left: Roddy Radiation of The Skabilly Rebels performs Feb. 25 at B. Ryder's. The Skabilly Rebels were the headlining act for several bands at the show.

Levan Institute brings art of Tai Chi to Bakersfield College

By Nicholas Sparling
Reporter

Bakersfield College is bringing the ancient art of Tai Chi to its halls through the Levan Institute for Lifelong Learning. The class is taught by local martial arts instructor David Woods and teaches students martial arts through slow, graceful, gentle movements.

"[Tai Chi is] most commonly practiced by older people who wish to improve their balance, coordination, joint mobility and blood circulation," said Woods.

Woods is well qualified to be teaching Tai Chi as he has trained all over the world, including what he says was his most inspiring training at the Shaolin Temple in China. That is where he learned Tai Chi.

There, Woods learned the slow, graceful art and also the practical application of Tai Chi, a fighting style.

Woods also teaches Kung Foo San Soo where he holds an 8th degree black belt. He taught at Fighting Dragons, but soon outgrew that facility and moved to Bakersfield Elite Martial Arts where he teaches with two other people.

The Levan Institute for Lifelong

Learning sent out a survey to find out what classes would be popular, and Tai Chi came back with a great report. It turns out that they were right.

"I wanted to do a Tai Chi class because it's a popular topic," said Robert Allison about catering especially to their demographic of 55 and older. The class turned up full and even waitlisted. Allison became personally interested in Tai Chi when he was in China and saw mostly older people practicing it.

Woods is quite happy with how his class is progressing and the turnout.

"I am very pleased to have a big class with students that are very focused and dedicated. [It is] progressing better than expected," Woods said. "Because my students are so intent on learning, they learn a little faster than the average Tai Chi student."

Woods would like to see self-defense and Tai Chi as an actual class on the BC curriculum. He says that his biggest goal "is to kill people's attitudes before it kills them. In other words, I teach a very violent form of martial arts in a way that teaches the student to be a more peaceful person."



Show brings a different sound to Riley's

Andreotti plays the guitar during the Indie Mashup on Feb. 17, which was held at Riley's Backstage. Joseph Andreotti founded the band Funeral Club with his wife in 2006. Funeral Club recorded their third full-length album in 2011. The event was presented by Loiter Productions. Funeral Club was just one of five bands that played at the event.

NATHAN WILSON / THE RIP