

Blood drive to be held over two days to save lives

By Gregory D. Cook
Photographer

The Student Government Association and Houchin Community Blood Bank would like to invite students to "save a life" by taking part in the National Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive Challenge at Bakersfield College on March 7-8.

Hoping to build on the success of last year's blood drive, this

year's drive will be a two-day event, a first for BC.

"We've been doing a blood drive for years here and last year's was the most successful year we've had," said Will Chandler, SGA legislative liaison. "So we said 'Why not do two days to have double the impact and save more lives?'"

This will be the first time Houchin has done a two-day blood drive, and Chandler says

that while they have lofty goals, he is confident that BC will come through.

"We're hoping to get 200-plus donors a day over the two days," he said. "It's open to faculty as well as students, so we want teachers to donate. We want staff to donate. It's a good opportunity to save a lot of lives."

This year, the SGA wants to encourage BC's clubs to turn out to donate.

"We want to get as much student involvement as possible," said Chandler. "So we are going to have incentives for clubs that sign people up and get people to donate."

Additionally, donors will receive free T-shirts while supplies last, free pizza and water.

Staff members from Houchin will be in the Fireside Room of the Campus Center screening potential donors from 10 a.m. to

4 p.m. on March 7, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 8. After answering some questions to ensure that they are eligible to donate, donors will board one of Houchin's mobile collection buses.

Potential donors need to be at least 17 years old with photo identification and weigh at least 110 pounds. It is also recommended that donors eat a meal at least three hours before.

Chandler would like to en-

courage people that aren't sure if they are eligible to give blood to at least ask.

"A lot of people think they can't give blood because they are diabetic or whatever," he said. "When oftentimes, they can."

Information provided by Houchin states that persons with diabetes and high blood pressure are still eligible to donate as long as those conditions are under control.

ELECTIONS: SGA to have online voting booths

Continued from Page 1

bringing the people to the table to vote."

Another change for this year will be that the voting will take place through the Inside BC portal instead of the Votenet.com Web site that was used last year. In addition to being more convenient for students, Kenner pointed out that the change will save money.

"We're actually saving over \$3,000 by going with the Inside BC portal," he said. "So the only things we're really paying money for are the incentives."

Kenner estimates this year's election will cost the SGA under \$800. "And most of the money that we spend is going back to the students in the incentives," he said. "It's a really good deal."

Students will be asked to vote for their choice for the positions of the SGA's executive board. The offices of president, vice-president, secretary, activities liaison, legislative liaison, general counsel and treasurer are all up for grabs, and any student who meets the requirements can run for the office.

Candidates must have completed at least 12 units at BC, and be enrolled in at least 6 units during their term in office. Officers are also expected to maintain at least a 2.0 overall GPA.

The first step in running for office is to pick up a candidate packet from the SGA offices in CC4. The packets, which must be submitted by March 13, contain the forms needed to declare candidacy and a petition upon which the candidate must gather 70 signatures of fellow students in order to have his or her name placed on the ballot. Candidates who miss the March 13 deadline can still run as write-in candidates.

Officers serving on the executive board of the SGA are paid \$8 an hour up to a maximum of 19 hours a week, with the money coming from the proceeds of the sale of the SGA discount cards.

Also on this year's ballot will be a proposed recommendation to amend the school's smoking policy.

"The smoking policy will be on there as well," said Kenner. "There's 100 percent tobacco-free, designated smoking areas, or just the current policy we have now."

Kenner stressed that what students will be voting on is a recommendation. The results of the voting will be presented to the College Counsel, a committee made up of department heads, and finally the college president.

"And if they approve it," said Kenner. "They will make it policy for the college."

DONATION: Donation to help MESA with scholarships

Continued from Page 1

-tive. This money is also used for scholarships that are designed to help students achieve their goals.

The donation will support academic scholarships, Mesa Week Zero, Peer Mentoring, Electro-Mechanical Program support and help students achieve their goals in the careers they prepare for in Kern County area middle schools, high schools and community colleges.

Travis Burns, 28, electrical engineer major, who received the Chevron scholarship last year, said it helped him reach his goal by helping him "pay for textbooks, because textbooks are so expensive."

Burns wants to be an electrical

engineer.

Burn's ultimate career would be "to create more accessible means for electricity so people get more electricity and pay less," he said.

Chevron is looking for people who have goals like this to invest in, and to also teach young students about careers that are available to them.

There were many other speakers.

One of them was Horace Mitchell, president of Cal State Bakersfield, who feels that, regarding math and science, "as a nation we are falling behind. In fact, we have fallen behind and now it's catch up mode and Chevron is making it possible. The way that you learn science is not by reading, but by doing."



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Adam Alvidrez, a representative from Chevron North America's department of Policy, Government and Public Affairs, speaks at a presentation on Feb. 21 in the courtyard of BC's Science and Engineering Building.

Amgen coming to campus

By Jackie Gibson
Reporter

Amgen's Tour of California is coming back to Bakersfield. This is one of the most recognized cycling events and one of the nation's most popular sporting events and occurs on an annual basis. This year it will be held May 13-20.

The race is comprised of hill and valley routes that wind through our country and include a stop in Bakersfield.

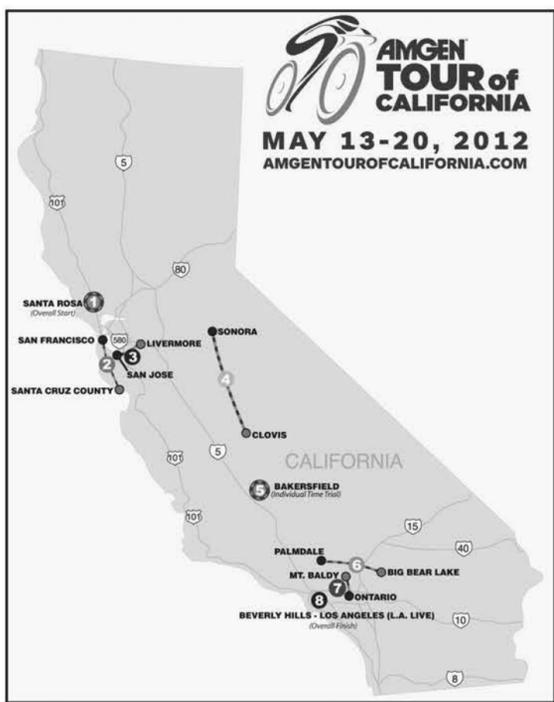
In this scenic race of California put on by AEG Sports, there are eight stages that the athletes will have to overcome in order to reach the finish line.

Stage one will start in Santa Rosa on May 13. Stage two will be taking off in San Francisco starting at Marina Boulevard. This will take the cyclists to stage three, taking place in San Jose, starting at Berryessa Community Center and ending at Livermore.

Stage four is the longest stage with 130 miles of ground to cover. With its starting point in Sonoma and ending in Clovis, it is also quite possibly the hardest stage in the Tour of California.

To many, stage five is perhaps the most interesting, as it will be starting and finishing at Bakersfield College on May 17.

Stage five is an individual time trial that in past years has been a favorite on the tour. In Bakersfield, it will be an 18.4-mile trial



COURTESY OF AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

course.

The cyclists will be going down Alfred Harrell Highway to a turnaround point at Lake Ming on the China grade and then the finish. It is a fast and high-graded road for the cyclists and, as it is occurring in May, it may also be hot from the Bakersfield heat.

Palmdale is the starting point

for stage six and it ends at Big Bear Lake May 18. The seventh stage takes the riders to mount Baldy on May 19. On May 20, stage eight takes off in Beverley Hills.

The winner will be crowned in Los Angeles on a special stage at L.A. LIVE along with the team the rider rode with.

News Briefs

Ouellette

Jennifer Ouellette, author of "The Calculus Diaries: How Math Can Help you Lose Weight, Win in Vegas, and Survive the Zombie Apocalypse," will be in the Fireside Room at 12:15 to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13. She will discuss how she overcame her math anxiety using STEM knowledge in the real world and how math can save you from zombies.

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month and BC is holding a number of events:

On Monday, March 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Dr. Lena McQuade will be holding a talk in the Norman Levan Center called "Re-producing History: Parateras (midwives), Public Health and Gendered Healing," a discussion of issues of race, reproduction, and colonialism in 20th century New Mexico and focused on the traditions and roles of parateras.

"The Healing Power of Women's Sexuality: You and Your Orgasm" will be held on Thursday, March 15, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The talk will cover the role and nature of orgasm in women's sexuality.

"A Walk to Beautiful," a film about Ethiopian women who recover from devastating childbirth injuries, will be shown on Wednesday, March 21, at Forum East 101 from at 6:30 p.m. Afterwards there will be a discussion led by Patricia Thompson.

Norman Center presentation

A presentation will be held by Jeannie Parent to talk about her project "Vietnam: Connecting Cultures, Changing Perceptions," designed to expose students to the culture of Vietnam through multimedia presentations and interviews. The talk will be on Friday, March 9, 10:30 a.m. - noon, at the Norman Center for the Humanities. No registration is required.

International students

Bakersfield College international students will be presenting the third annual Cup of Culture event, a collection of presentations, cultural activities and performances. This year's event will feature Cameroon, Croatia, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Poland, Spain and Venezuela, and will be held in the Fireside Room on Wednesday, March 21, at 1:30-2:30 p.m.

"On Friendship"

Walter J. Sterling of St. John's College in Santa Fe will be holding a talk called "On Friendship," a discussion on the promise of friendship and what it might imply about being human, referencing Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics and Homer's Illiad. The talk will be held on March 15 at 7 p.m. in the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities.

Campus forecast

The Renegade Rip		Wed. Feb. 29	Thurs. March 1	Fri. March 2
		Hi 64 F Lo 43 F	Hi 61 F Lo 40 F	Hi 64 F Lo 42 F
Mon. March 5	Tues. March 6	Wed. March 7	Thurs. March 8	Fri. March 9
				AVERAGES
Hi 74 F Lo 43 F	Hi 73 F Lo 45 F	Hi 74 F Lo 45 F	Hi 68 F Lo 46 F	Hi 68 F Lo 46 F RECORDS Hi 88 F Lo 30 F
Mon. March 12	Tues. March 13	Wed. March 14	SOURCE: weather.com Gathered by: Rip Staff	
AVERAGES	AVERAGES	AVERAGES		
Hi 68 F Lo 46 F RECORDS Hi 88 F Lo 25 F	Hi 68 F Lo 46 F RECORDS Hi 88 F Lo 28 F	Hi 68 F Lo 47 F RECORDS Hi 88 F Lo 28 F		

Complete Your Degree or Credential at One of America's Best Colleges

U.S. News & World Report and Forbes Magazine 2011-2012

Available Programs Include

- Business Administration*
- Organizational Management*
- Public Administration*
- Health Administration
- Liberal Studies (Teacher Preparation)**
- Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential
- Special Education: Mild/Moderate
- M.S. Educational Counseling
- M.Ed. Educational Management

* Also available Online

** Also available in Delano & Taft locations

Attend an Information Session
Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 6:00 pm



Call toll free at 877-GO-TO-ULV
degreeinfo@laverne.edu | laverne.edu

Kern County Campus

1201 24th Street, Suite D-200, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Column

City Lights enlightens your mind

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

When I visit City Lights, a bookstore and publisher located in the North Beach area of San Francisco opened by poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti in 1953, I feel a power. I feel the power of the hundreds of ideas and words, the power of the artistic dreams that fill the store.

This power is undeniable for me and many of the people that visit.

When I leave the store into the bustling streets of San Francisco, I feel energized, ready to write, ready to tell the world what I feel, the way I see the world.

It is not only me that feels that there is something special at City Lights. It's a place that when people enter the store, they respect the store.

People from all walks of life, from teenage girls, to middle-aged couples, talk in the store in hushed tones, as if at a library. At a chain bookstore people don't act that way. When people enter this special place, they know it's not just another Barnes and Noble.

These people can feel the undeniable something that demands quiet and respect, that something that makes the words jump out from the page and burn in your mind.

I call it a "something" because it's hard to put it into words. Maybe it's in the rhythm of the creaky floors. Maybe it's in the history of the place.

Maybe it's the plain way the books are presented, stacked on top of one another.

It could be that it just comes from a feeling, a feeling in the air.

So many wonderfully human stories get played out there. A mom reading to her daughter patiently while her daughter hangs onto every word. Another mom discussing the philosophy of Kurt Vonnegut with her teenage daughter. Even my story, where a 19-year-old learns the power of art through the medium of comic art.

The lines and words of those graphic novels showed me a new way of looking at life. The quiet beauty of the stories seem amplified at a such a special place.

As technology progresses, it becomes less and less clear what printed books are for, why they should even exist.

Places like City Lights are the strongest argument for them. What these places have is unique. Computer files simply do not demand the quiet respect that these places deserve.

The collection of written work, of human expression, that surrounds you, the peace that you get walking into this world of human thought from the bustling city, it can only be achieved at places like City Lights.

If the stories, the moments, that take place there everyday were to disappear, we would be losing something as a people and as a culture. It's OK to own a Kindle. It's OK to own an iPhone.

But let us not forget the value of these places.



Martin Chang

'Arrietty' impresses

By Nestor Fernandez
Reporter

Something that I normally don't do, but decided to give it a shot, is go watch a full-length animated fantasy at the Maya Theater in Downtown Bakersfield.

MOVIE REVIEW
★★★★☆

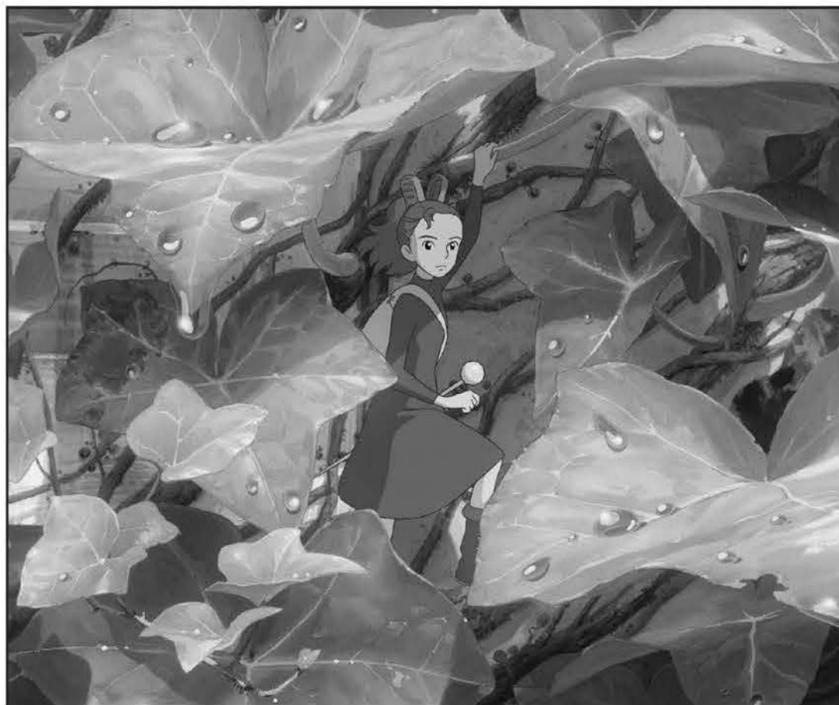
I had heard some good stuff about this cartoon, so I decided, "Hey, why not give it a shot?" It is the highest grossing Japanese movie of 2010, and was released for American audiences on Feb. 17, the day I attended. The movie is called "The Secret World of Arrietty," and was directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi and written by Hayao Miyazaki. It is based on the novel "The Borrowers" by Mary Norton.

The star of the movie, voiced by Bridgit Mendler, is Arrietty, a tiny 14-year-old that lives in

the crawl spaces below a suburban garden home with her parents, voiced by Will Arnett and Amy Poehler. The homeowner and her housekeeper, voiced by Carol Burnett, are unaware of their existence. Like all little people, Arrietty remains hidden from view except during occasional covert ventures beyond the floorboards to "borrow" scrap supplies, like sugar cubes, from her human hosts. The little people describe themselves as "borrowers."

When 12-year-old Shawn (voice of David Henrie), a human boy who comes to stay in the home, discovers his mysterious housemate one evening, the beginnings of a friendship soon follows. If discovered, their relationship could drive Arrietty's family from the home and into danger.

But once Arrietty begins to trust Shawn, their bond takes them through adventures together, and when they have to part ways at the end, that bond



PROVIDED BY FILMOFILIA.COM

This still from "The Secret World of Arrietty" shows the film's keen attention to detail.

is carried forever. I found the animation to have the distinct sense of being able to transport me into their world and, in the process, made it seem real and genuine.

The quality of the animation was excellent, and the detail in it made it seem believable. I was

impressed not only with that, but also with the quality and nature of the story itself. Even though the film is based on make-believe, for me it became real, and it took me to their world.

For me, this film is a beautifully crafted, intimate adventure

movie, and it got me thinking about a sequel. I really would like to see more. Whether you have kids or not doesn't matter, go see it and you'll probably enjoy it. And this is coming from someone who doesn't watch cartoons.

Van Halen album brings rock back to airwaves

By Breanna Fields
Reporter

Van Halen's new album, "A Different Kind of Truth," stirred up a number of reactions within the music industry after its international release on Feb. 7.

ALBUM REVIEW
★★★★☆

This long-awaited reunion featuring the original line-up, with the exception of bassist Michael Anthony, has created an enormous amount of excitement and no doubt a bit of hype due to the fact that this is a group that at one point was considered the greatest rock 'n' roll band.

While electronic music currently rules the airwaves, this album has made a considerable attempt to bring back the essence of rock music that has been missing for quite some

time. For that fact alone, we must salute their efforts.

The single off of the album, "Tattoo," proved to be somewhat of a disappointment. It was a lackluster piece that did little to show off the talents of these legendary hard rockers.

The standards of mediocrity were set early on as far as lyrics were concerned, when David Lee Roth belted out the first few lines singing, "I got Elvis on my elbow/ When I flex Elvis talks/ I got hula girls on the back of my leg/and she hula's when I walk."

A possible explanation for the lack of musical depth could be contributed to an inherent attempt at commercialism.

It would not be far-fetched to believe that a band would plan to reform and tour for the sake of selling records and merchandise. Take Aerosmith for example. Boston's bad boys have

grown old and withered, but their ticket prices have only increased and their push for merchandise sales is enormous.

You can now purchase apparel, jewelry, and become an official member of their fan club, for a fee, of course!

That isn't to say that Aerosmith or Van Halen couldn't put on a thrilling live performance. It's just a matter of maintaining dignity and having the ability to write new material and continually progress beyond their hit songs released a few decades ago.

Sifting through the tracks, it was not difficult to identify the hidden gem that stood out as an original work. That track, "China Town," is a fast-paced tune driven by Alex Van Halen's impressive drum beats and Eddie's intense riffs.

The song includes the core elements of classic rock while utilizing a more modern approach.



PROVIDED BY ROLLINGSTONE.COM

Van Halen's new album, "A Different Kind of Truth," is their first album in 14 years and features David Lee Roth.

It also features a piercing solo that flaunts Eddie's style and innate ability to play his instrument.

Another notable track off of the album is "Stay Frosty" which starts off with a calm and reserved blues melody and then builds and progresses into a daring feat that sounds very similar to the song, "Ice Cream Man"

off of their self-titled album released in 1978.

Recycling riffs can be risky business, but in this case they managed to pull it off well.

Van Halen has already embarked on its 2012 tour and is currently making its way across the U.S. This includes six tour dates in California that are scheduled to take place in June.

Political truths shadowed by marketing

By Keith Kazmarek
Reporter

In the Republican Party, there is an idea popularized by Reagan known as "The Eleventh Commandment," and it states "Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican."

This is not a gentlemen's agreement, but a simple marketing strategy. Most importantly, this rule can be seen as a representative sample of the way that conservative thought works.

Conservative thought withers under discourse. Simply talking about the ideas, taking account of relevant data and viewpoints, and bringing light to flaws in the arguments for those positions diminishes their power to

a great extent. The same techniques used to sell products on midnight infomercials form the basis of an entire wing of the American political system.

Conservatives know this on some level, so they work very hard to frame their arguments in ways that ignore the available data or employ other marketing tricks to fool the audience. Of course, liberals do this too, but it happens to such a huge degree among conservative thinkers that the public should take special note.

The current Republican primary is a prime example of this effect. Politicians who were considered front-runners have been forced to drop out of the race by the simple act of being

forced to talk about their ideas and actions.

The propaganda is so weak that it cannot survive even the weakest challenge.

We never talk about "social programs" because the conservatives would rather talk about "entitlement programs." The two things are the exact same, but one sounds terrible and the other sounds great. In fact, polling suggests that the American people are overwhelmingly in favor of social programs and against entitlement programs, and the joke is on them because the two terms apply to the exact same thing.

Republicans refuse to acknowledge that the Democratic Party uses that name, instead

calling them "the Democrat Party" because it's a way of isolating Democrats from the good press of being associated with democracy.

Leaked documents from the Heartland Institute, a libertarian organization, show a structured plan to blur the minds of young children on the basic facts of climate science by presenting them as a controversy. Let's be clear in stating that there is no controversy. The scientific community is overwhelmingly clear on the facts of climate science and in agreement that human activity is warming the world.

"Testimonials" are often trotted out to support the most bizarre positions on conservative publications, such as Michelle

Bachmann's "vaccines cause autism because someone told me" or the mythical "small business owner" who ends up being a millionaire owning dozens of businesses and thinks he should no longer be forced to adhere to local health and safety codes. I'd cite a single example, but the "small business owner" is such a staple of conservative thought that it needs no citation.

As the election nears, people should take note of the marketing techniques that blur the facts. If a politician accuses someone of being a Nazi or a Communist, there is a good chance that the accuser is just using marketing tricks to hide the facts.

Look deeper and make your own choices.



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

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

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

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

The Renegade Rip

EDITORIAL BOARD

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

STAFF

Reporters/Photographers: Hannah Breeland, Gregory D. Cook, Angie Delgado, Metiqua Eng, Nestor Fernandez, Breanna Fields, Jackie Gibson, Shaquiel Jones, Keith Kazmarek, Meisha McMurray, Omar Oseguera, Nate Perez, Ruben Perez, Crystal Sanchez, Nicholas Sparling, Jerold Tanner, Teela Walker, Nathan Wilson

Adviser.....Danny Edwards

Write The Rip

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

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

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

How to reach us

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

Staff Editorial

The Renegades rip you a new president

Bakersfield College will have a new president in the near future, and the Rip has decided to give the suits at the top our opinion on who should be selected for the much-esteemed position.

There is obviously an assortment of candidates to consider for the job, and it was mightily hard to narrow it down.

Let us start at the top of the top pole.

Because of his position on the tips of everybody's tongues, Rick Santorum was one of the first names to come up.

But, rest assured, he wasn't

considered for very long.

Poor Rick just couldn't keep a lid on his fear and hatred of the Prince of Darkness recently. This can't be a characteristic of our next president.

Someone who isn't tight with the man downstairs will have a hard time getting anything done at the top.

Next, Hugo Chavez was considered, briefly.

But his unluckiness – you know, being on the brink of death and all – was his ultimate downfall.

So then we decided to move

on to Hollywood.

Yes, BC is totally worthy of a movie star making key administrative choices for the collective student body.

Enter Brad Pitt.

Great resume. Great face. Everything you could want in a school president, right?

One problem: his significant other, Angelina Jolie can't be trusted stalking the halls of the administrative building. It'll be as if Hillary Clinton were elected president in 2008.

All right, enough negatives.

After going through the muck

that was the list of candidates, we narrowed down our search to three reasonable persons.

Donald Trump. Nuff said.

Yeah, he easily managed the quickest ousting of all the terrible presidential candidates last year, and he may very well be the biggest jerk that ever existed, but he will always be the best at what we want our president to do the most: firing people!

Trump's fire-red hair, and how it stands up ever so devilishly, is what we need sitting in the president's office. That's what bleeding BC red is all about.

Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul also made the list, and not because of his desire to balance a budget – any budget. Neither was he considered because he'll restore student liberty to the BC campus. Paul made the list because of one attribute that will come in handy, especially for us.

Paul answers questions honestly and without fear of reproach (even if his answers are racist or condescending).

Call us homers, but that is exactly the kind of thing we want in a president.

The third and final candidate that made our final list is NBA commissioner David Stern.

Stern's willingness to backstab anyone that stands in the way of his "duty" as commissioner makes him top-tier in our book.

Disregard the best team in the league wanting to get better if that makes our guy look bad. Have at 'em Stern.

In reality, these are all characteristics that the American people look for in their president, and we hope that the Kern Community College District treats the search a little more seriously.

Divorce the Bacon Shake now

Martin Chang
Opinions Editor

Ever have one of those days that started out okay, not great, just okay, but then it gradually gets worse and worse until you are having an undeniably awful

FOOD REVIEW
★★★★★

day? That is what drinking the Bacon Shake from Jack in the Box is like.

Jack in the Box has recently launched the Marry Bacon advertisement campaign with their trademark strange humor. The ads revolve around a character named Neal who is literally marrying bacon.

As a part of this campaign, they have released the Bacon Shake, the same sort of stunt that KFC pulled when they released the Double-Down, an item so strange it seemed like a joke. Yet their Bacon Shake is even stranger since the shake has no real bacon. It simply has bacon-flavored syrup, an ingredient that could only be created by a fast-food restaurant.

Looking at the shake, it looks like any other shake you might have at Jack in the Box. This was disappointing. A joke item like the Bacon Shake should have a garishly fun look with bright colors, and so you feel like you're having a weird food item. After all, anyone ordering this item is doing so for the shock or strangeness of it, not to have an actually pleasant food experience.

It is actually really hard to mess up what a shake is. It's basically drinking ice cream with an added milky punch. It's the perfect dessert. The shake part of the Bacon Shake is actually pretty good. Jack in the Box is proud to have real ice cream in their shakes and it shows.

But then that bacon-flavored syrup comes into to play. The syrup has a vague taste of a generic pork product. Not really bacon, but a weird, sort of meaty, flavor. Yet it also has this really strong smoky taste that is very unpleasant. It's hard to imagine the syrup tasting good on anything. It definitely doesn't go good with what would otherwise be a pretty good shake.

Yet when I first started drink-



NATHAN WILSON / THE RIP

Jack in the Box's new bacon milkshake ruins a great American classic.

ing the shake, the syrup was easy to ignore. The taste of it was not that strong. It basically tasted like a smoky shake. The syrup wasn't adding anything to the flavor, but it didn't overshadow the shake.

But as I kept drinking it, and as the shake melted, the bacon taste started to bother me more.

The smell and aftertaste of the syrup became more intolerable. The horrible syrup filled my

senses. I tasted it in my mouth, smelled it on my fingers and felt a rumbling in my stomach that I knew wasn't right.

What started out as a good shake with a little weird taste became an all-out attack on my body, especially my stomach. Hours later, I still felt a sense of unease in my stomach.

The aftertaste of that weird, smoky flavor lingered and lingered much longer than anyone

would want. I wish I hadn't ordered the thing.

So what was once a delectable, classic dessert is now a regretful decision with added flavor that not only doesn't add to the item, but also actually destroys any appeal that the item once had.

A classic American milkshake is now disgusting. That bacon-flavored syrup is really, really bad.

Reformed primary should become a nationwide day

By Gregory D. Cook
Photographer

Unless you actually have been living under a rock – a rock without television, newspaper or internet service – you must know that later this year, the people of this great land will be asked to once again enter the election booths to make their choice for America's front man. To that end, "Primary Fever" is also sweeping the land, as the Republican Party scrambles over itself to decide whose name it will place opposite Barack Obama's on the ballot. The Democrats are also holding primaries, but with President Obama's main competition coming from the likes of Massachusetts' Vermin Supreme, who campaigns on a platform of government-enforced teeth brushing and Zombie-Apocalypse readiness, the Republican Party's primaries are garnering the lion's share of the media attention.

With the mud-slinging and "he said this, he didn't say that" sensationalism only promising to intensify over the next months, one might be tempted to wonder if the primary system is really necessary in today's day and age or an unnecessary distraction and drain on the non-incumbent party.

The primary system doesn't have its roots in the Constitution. In fact, until the early 1820s, that party's congressmen nominated the candidates for each party. While the first primaries were held in 1910, it wasn't until after the chaos of the 1968 Democratic National Convention that the primary system became the nation's standard method of thinning the presidential-wannabe herd, and choosing the Republican and Democratic candidates.

One of the main problems with the primary system, as it currently stands, is the fact that they are spread out over the better part of a year. At the time this is printed, only 11 of the 57 total primaries will have been held, and already there is talk of a front-runner. We

are barely into the first turn of this horse race and already Mitt Romney is being touted as the potential winner. In fact, all but four of the horses have already quit the race based on the way they came out of the gate. This can't help but affect the way the rest of the country votes. When the California primary finally roles around in June, what choices will we have left?

Even though California controls the most delegates of any single state in the nation, the race will more than likely be all but over by the time we get around to voicing our opinions. Are we really being given a fair voice in the political process? It doesn't seem like it. Also, the primaries seem like a tremendous waste of money and effort for the non-incumbent party.

According to a recent New York Times article, Republican front-runner Mitt Romney has already spent over \$37 million in hopes of winning the race just to the starting line of the real race. In fact, the Republican candidates combined have raised over \$100 million just to trash each other, while the Democrats are able to sit back and wait to unload on the unlucky fellow that manages to climb out of the mud pit of the Republican National Convention in late August.

We can't just get rid of primaries altogether. Not only do they serve to focus the financial and campaigning might of the major political parties, they also prevent the American public from being presented with a ballot containing so many choices that it dilutes the vote to a point where there can be no clear winner.

But a fairer, more sensible proposition would be to have for a nationwide primary that took place all on the same day. That would, at the very least, give everyone, even the 53,000 people of the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth that is last on the Republican primary list, a choice of the full field of candidates.

Depp's adaptation simply not as good as original

By Nicholas Sparling
Reporter

Hunter S. Thompson was once quoted as saying, "Some may never live, but the crazy never die."

MOVIE REVIEW
★★★★★

For him, this rings true. The recent release of "The Rum Diary" on blue-ray and DVD

stands as the third movie adaptation of his work onto the silver screen, not to mention the countless documentaries made about his life and madness.

I have been anticipating the release of "The Rum Diary" movie adaptation since 2004 when I first saw Johnny Depp's original portrayal of Thompson in the crazy

ride that was "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," a movie based off of arguably Thompson's most popular work.

In training for "Fear and Loathing," Depp lived with Thompson, and being the method actor that he is, learned Hunter's mannerisms, everything down to the way he moved and spoke.

Thompson was much happier with Depp's portrayal of him than Bill Murray's movie adaptation, "Where the Buffalo Rode," based on Thompson's journalistic coverage of the super bowl. Even though Murray and Thompson were good friends, Thompson was repelled by Murray's job in the film.

Depp did not receive full admiration, but got the closest he could to Thompson's ideal.

It was because of his portrayal in "Fear and Loathing" that Thompson had Depp promise to portray him in his first and second personal favorite of his work, "The Rum Diary."

"The Rum Diary" was written in 1961 when Hunter was no older than 22. It was based on his experience in San Juan as a writer for a failing newspaper. The story takes place in the late '50s. The book was narrated through the eyes of a 30-something-year-old man expressing Hunter's fear of growing old and having done nothing with his life.

There was a secondary character in the book that was Thompson's character that never showed up in the movie.

A grand disappointment for those who were fans of the book

and looking for a strict translation, as I was, was to find the character named Yemmon to be omitted from the movie.

Instead, the character was combined with another character named Sanderson. It was a monumental disappointment that the character that was supposed to be Thompson's view of himself in the time period was not included.

Other than being disappointing in that respect, it is still truly entertaining.

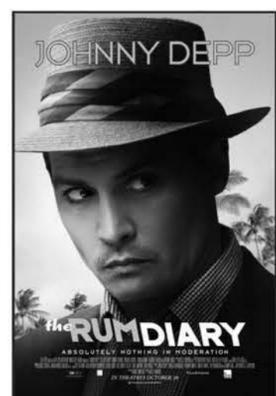
As expected, the movie is filled with rum and even an ambiguous drug scene where Paul Kemp, Depp's character, and his photographer and roommate try "the most powerful narcotic known to man," a drug I can only assume as being LSD consider-

ing the time period in which the movie takes place.

Many of the inconsistencies in the translation could be attributed to the writer and director Bruce Robinson who, before taking on the project, was sober for 6 1/2 years. When he experienced writers block, he drank a bottle a day, then again sobered up when the script was finished.

Although Depp has obviously aged since his original portrayal of Thompson back in 1999, "The Rum Diary" seems to play out as a prequel to "Fear and Loathing." The movie hardly follows the book, but tries to make a political statement of greed and the rape of our natural resources, and this point it gets across quite well.

If you're a Thompson fan, it is a movie that must not be missed



COURTESY OF MOVIESPAD.COM

despite that it may not be what a fan of the book would be searching for.

BC club hopes to instill sense of purpose

By Metiqua Eng
Reporter

Reaching out to help students on a spiritual journey with Christ is just one of the many goals and aspirations for the InterVarsity Club at Bakersfield College.

InterVarsity is an interdenominational Christian fellowship club on campus that has been around on many college and university campuses in the United States for over 70 years.

The club is dedicated to helping college students develop God's word through the love of Christ no matter what their color or background.

Students gather together every Monday and Wednesday to practice fellowship, Bible studies, and overall share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with fellow Christians and non-Christians.

Amos Mbong and wife Emily Mbong are both staff members for InterVarsity.

They help lead students through fellowship, identity and feeling the love and purpose of Jesus Christ.

"One of our main goals is to make sure students don't feel like being at Bakersfield College is just a pit stop. We want to bring a sense of purpose and direction to students," said Amos Mbong.

InterVarsity also tries to spread the word through the club website where it indicates the awareness of Christian college communities and maturing Christian faith.

The website also breaks down what the club is all about from beginning to end.

"The Purpose of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is to establish and advance at colleges and universities witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture and God's purposes

in the world," the website stated in the Our Purpose section.

The InterVarsity Club isn't just limited to the gatherings on campus. They also hold events off campus. The club attends seminars to learn more and gain more knowledge on the teachings of God.

At a Feb. 24-26 Winter Conference seminar held at the Olive Drive Church, first-time attendees discussed topics such as "Our Identity in Jesus." Returning attendees discussed subjects such as "The Wonder and Power of the Word."

The club strongly encourages others to join, and hopes to continue to grow, and spread the word of the workings and fellowship of Jesus Christ to other interested students both on campus and beyond.

"One of our main goals is to make sure students don't feel like being at Bakersfield College is just a pit stop."

**—Amos Mbong,
InterVarsity Club**



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Members of the Bakersfield College InterVarsity Club take time out of their Feb. 27 meeting to pose for a photo in the Fireside Room.



PHOTOS BY NATE PEREZ / THE RIP

Above: Crismat Mateo covers "Price Tag" by Jessie J on his ukulele Feb. 24 during the "BC's Got Talent" show held in the Fine Arts Building.

Left: Audraey Marie and Jotae Fraser perform a selection from "Sweeney Todd."

Students dance, sing and quote in SGA-sponsored Black History Month show

"BC's Got Talent" was Bakersfield College Student Government Association's Talent show held on Feb. 24.

The show highlighted the talents of BC students of all ages from all walks of life and consisted of many acts, including dancers, singers, musicians, and poets.

Though the SGA was prepared

to give away cash prizes to first, second, and third place winners, a tie caused there to be two first place winners. These winners were a dance team called Team Dance Fever and inspirational singer Crismat Mateo. According to SGA president and talent show host Tawntannisha Thompson, this will hopefully not be the last talent show BC hosts.

EPA recommends special handling for CFL bulbs

By Ruben Perez
Reporter

Compact Fluorescent Lamp light bulbs are being pushed by our government onto consumers for their ability to save more energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Fox News and CNN have raised some concerns about the fact that these light bulbs contain the element mercury and emit ultraviolet radiation.

Although the CFLs do contain mercury, it is about four or five milligrams whereas old thermometers contained about 500 milligrams of mercury. Though the bulbs do not pose a serious threat, special care needs to be taken when the bulbs go out or break.

When the bulb does go out, the Environmental Protection Agency says that it should be recycled. This prevents the bulb from being broken down and left

to sit in a landfill where the mercury could sit and accumulate. In addition to keeping the chemicals out of landfills, parts of the bulbs can be recycled.

In Bakersfield, you can recycle these bulbs at the Metro Kern County Special Waste Facility or at your nearest Home Depot or Lowe's Home Improvement store. The website Earth911.com can help you find the nearest recycling center to you.

The EPA suggests that if the

CFL does break, special precautions need to be taken. When it first breaks, they suggest that you air out the room for 5-10 minutes to the outside environment and shut off any central air system you might have on so that it does not contaminate your house.

The EPA stressed that you should not vacuum the broken light bulb as it could spread the mercury into the air and to the rest of your house. They recommend picking up the broken

pieces with sticky tape to keep your fingers safe and to put the broken pieces into a sealable container.

After the cleanup, you should place the container outside until they can be taken to the proper facility. The EPA suggests that after cleanup you continue to let the room air out for several hours.

The other important issue pertains to the UV radiation from these bulbs. The Food and Drug

Administration has taken precautions to make sure that the levels of radiation within these bulbs are at safe levels. If CFLs do exceed these levels, they are either not sold or sold with a warning. The Health Protection Agency, an independent organization in the United Kingdom, did a study on the UV radiation emitted and found that they can exceed safe levels if you are within 30 centimeters of the bulb for an hour or more.

'GADE FEEDBACK What did you think of the Oscars?

Editor's note: 'Gade Feedback is a feature that asks students their opinion on various topics.

Compiled by:
Megan Luecke, photo editor



Holly Steele,
Psychology
"It was funny watching it, we sat around and drank beers. Talked about what everyone was wearing."



Renzo Navarrete,
Astronomy
"Dull. I didn't see any of the movies that were nominated except for one, 'The Help.'"



Chelsea McNally,
Undecided
"I swore I saw Jennifer Lopez's nipple. The silent film won too much."



Alfred Cadena,
Welding
"The French won most of the awards. A lot of the awards I had never heard of the movies."



Meagan Papisergia,
Psychology
"They made a big deal out of Angelina Jolie's leg."