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The Renegade Rip

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SGA taking steps with smoking ban

By Graham C Wheat
Features Editor

The vote for a tobacco free campus has taken place and the next step is a stance from the Academic Senate, an organization that serves as the voice of the faculty of the community colleges in matters of statewide concern.

The student vote on the smoking policy at Bakersfield College is official with 2,680 student votes for a tobacco free campus, 2,190 votes for designated-smoking areas, 154 staff member votes for a tobacco free campus and 67 staff member votes for the designated-smoking areas. These results were made public on the InsideBC portal on Jan. 30.

As head of the Academic Senate, Cory Rodriguez illuminated that part of the process.

"The policy, however it is drawn out, they will bring it to the [academic] senate and that would be considered first reading, and it won't be voted on until the following senate meeting, if they decide to take it up at all," said Rodriguez.

He was confident, however, that the matter would be resolved rather quickly on the academic senate's part.

"My feeling is that there are those in the senate who are going to say 'yes we need to take a position on this policy,'" he said.

The Senate will have its first reading of the policy on Feb. 13 and then have a decision at their next subsequent meeting, two weeks from that date, said Rodriguez.

He gave some insight into the senate's feelings on the policy, saying that some were for a tobacco free campus while others supported the idea of designated areas. Rodriguez also said that while the academic senate does give suggestions to the policy proposed, the senate does not have the power to outright change it.

"I don't know about power, but [we have] influence. The senate may say, 'we are willing to support this if...' or 'our concerns regarding the policy are as follows.'" Rodriguez acknowledged that this does happen often.

Rodriguez also saw no bars from holding the policy being

implemented.

"If the senate takes a position, and the students support it, and students have taken it to administration, I don't see why it wouldn't be implemented," said Rodriguez.

As head of the Senate, he also gave his personal feelings on the policy.

"I think what's crucial is that this whole issue regarding smoking is an individual choice, but that's not to say that the senate will not take a position," said Rodriguez.

"As a faculty member and a non smoker, I still feel a policy on smoking needs to be considered by all who are impacted. I feel that those who do smoke should have a designated area."

Rodriguez briefly outlined the next phase after the senate has made a decision.

BC's Board of Trustees would be the next entity to consider the policy and the earliest possibility for their approval would be in April because of a monthly meeting schedule. However, the board of trustees likewise may make suggestions prolonging the policy making process.

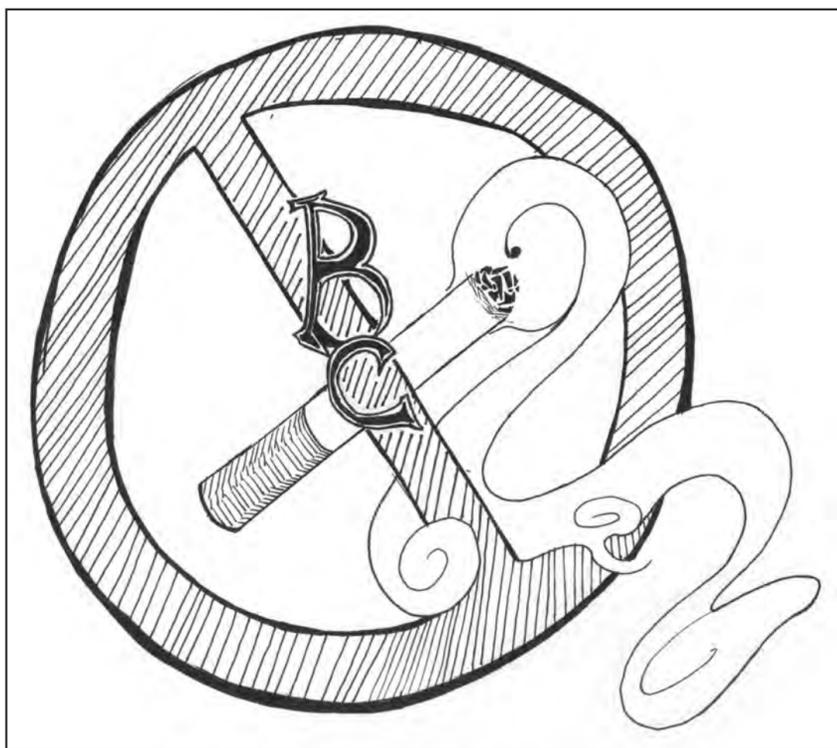


ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM CREE / THE RIP

BC honors former guitar instructor

By Luis Garcia
Photo Editor

Over 200 people attended a celebration of life at the Forum West building on Feb. 2 to remember Bakersfield College guitar professor Karl Fredrick Haas.

The 66-year-old lost his battle with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) at his home on Dec. 22.

Haas began teaching at BC in 1982.

Since then, Haas taught three courses, including two beginning classes, one intermediate class and one advanced class. His love for teaching could not just be contained within the walls of BC.

Since 1990, he had also been teaching private guitar lessons at Front Porch Music.

It was an emotional day as friends, family, students and faculty members gathered to share memories of Haas.

"He was a wonderful guy. I think a lot of people took lessons to come visit him rather than

even play guitar. He was just a likable guy," said Front Porch Music owner and longtime friend Artie Niesen.

In addition to playing guitar and trumpet in local bands Soul Research Foundation and San Joaquin Valley Fever, Haas was remarkably passionate about motorcycles.

A video tribute played during the memorial featured Haas on mountain excursions, working on his bikes and performing wheelies in his neighborhood and even the beach.

"He loved motorcycles. [He] and his buddies would go riding just about every other weekend," added Niesen.

Music department chair Dr. John Gerhold explained Haas' dedication for teaching up until the point when the guitarist was officially diagnosed with ALS.

"He taught until last spring but was already pretty sick at that time," he said. "He called me over the summer and let me know his illness was one that could not be cured and we had a



LUIS GARCIA / THE RIP

Karl Haas is photographed with his classical guitar which was on display during his memorial on Feb. 2.

chance to say goodbye over the phone."

Haas' granddaughter Lily Lauria, among others, performed and dedicated songs in his memory.

During an open forum, many attendees fought back tears as they recounted humorous stories, which quickly replaced tears with high-spirited smiles and laughter.

In a 2010 interview with the

Renegade Rip, Haas reminisced on a story on why he loved teaching.

"Guitar class is... well, I'll tell you that there was a guy who once got a speeding ticket on his way to school, and I asked why. He said that he didn't want to be late and I said he could've been a few minutes late. He responded and said 'but this is my favorite class.'"

New VP is here to stay

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

With the recent budget issues and changes in administrative positions, Bakersfield College has hired on several new deans and other administrative personnel to fill vacant positions. Among them is Zav Dadabhoj, the new vice president of student services.

The vice president of Student Services is responsible for supervising and overseeing different departments, the matriculation process, academic counseling and advising, as



LUIS GARCIA / THE RIP

Zav Dadabhoj is the new VP of student services.

well as the athletic and P.E. departments. Dadabhoj was the dean of students for six years at Colorado State University. He supervised student affairs programs, a similar role to his current position at BC.

Dadabhoj believes he's a good fit for BC, bringing both his experience and attitudes to the position to better help the student body.

"I think my job is to make sure that every single student succeeds, and for me that's a passion," said Dadabhoj. "I'm

Please see **NEW VP**, Page 3

Online classes offer students new options

By Michelle De Leon
Reporter

Like many Bakersfield College students, Cynthia Allen, communications major, balances work and school. Instead of taking classes on campus, she opted to take online classes to accommodate an internship in Pasadena along with a part-time job for this semester.

Online resources have changed the education landscape. They have given students like Allen more options while advancing their careers through education. Without having to go on campus and meeting at specific times, online education promises economic incentives by being able to reduce transportation costs and being able to work anytime. But it has its own set of challenges.

Although time flexibility can benefit students, it can also be a challenge. Allen considered scheduling her time effectively as her main challenge as an

online student. Meeting times may not apply to online students, but deadlines still do.

In writing assignments for her health class, Allen found that she wrote more openly in an online setting. But on her economics class, she said that she would benefit more from a classroom setting. She added, "I think in-person communication would be more helpful."

For many students, in-person communication is the main reason why they prefer classes on campus.

One of these students is Aaron Lopez, business major, who had never taken any online classes.

"I really like having teachers in the classroom because they can explain things in their own terms or in a way that you can understand," he said. "When you're online, they give you a set on how to do [the assignment]. I like the student-teacher interaction."

Please see **ONLINE**, Page 3

BC nursing student tries out for TV talent show

By Hannah Breeland
Opinions Editor

Bakersfield College nursing student Kristen Bumbaca, 24, auditioned to be on "The Voice." On Feb. 2, Bumbaca went to Los Angeles to audition in front of the producers for "The Voice."

"The Voice" is a reality talent show on NBC that has four famous judges. While the contestants are singing for the audition, the judge's chairs are turned around, so they can't see them, only hear them. The judges then have to push a button to pick the contestant. That person goes on the judge's team. Once the judge's teams are full, they coach the contestant the rest of the show. Ultimately, there is one winner.

Bumbaca's passion for singing started at a young age.

"My older sister inspired me

to sing," said Bumbaca. "Every time I would hear her sing, I would just think, wow, I want to sound like that when I grow up."

"My very first solo was at my eighth-grade graduation. I didn't even know I was doing it. My teacher said that she wasn't going to tell us until the last minute so that we wouldn't get nervous. It's the song right before people start walking across the stage. So as we're singing it, right when the solo came up, it got quiet and she pointed to me and said, 'Kristen go,' there were 300 to 400 people I was like, wow, I want to do it again."

Bumbaca continued, "I loved it because I didn't have time to be scared. I just did it."

When Bumbaca went on to high school, everything changed.

"My freshman year, something really bad happened," she

said. "It's very personal, but after that, I started really feeling the songs. I became more emotionally attached to them."

"I found that was the best way to express myself. It really changed my life. It was hard for me to express my feelings. That's when I realized through singing I could."

"You put your emotions into it, and it feels powerful. That's why I love Christina Aguilera so much. She has meaning in her songs. I understand what she's trying to say."

In high school, Bumbaca was in JROTC during which time she started singing.

"I was at 'boot camp,' and my sergeant asked me to sing the national anthem in front of, like, five platoons. Over the next couple days, I had to have sung the anthem 30 times," she said. "After that I started singing at



ALANA GARRETT / THE RIP

BC's Kristen Bumbaca demonstrates her singing.

military balls, and football and basketball games."

Bumbaca originally was going

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Jerry's Pizza gets 'Gassed'



LUIS GARCIA / THE RIP

The Kyle Gass Band performs one of the tracks from their self-titled EP. The group rocks local venue Jerry's Pizza on Feb. 2. Gass is gearing up for a tour with his most noted group Tenacious D that begins on Feb. 28.

By Samantha Briggs
Reporter

On a break from his performance at Jerry's Pizza and Pub, Kyle Gass spoke about his love for performing in Bakersfield.

"I love performing in Bakersfield," Gass said. "It has a great musical history and tradition, and it is great to be a part of."

On Feb. 2, The Kyle Gass Band performed at Jerry's Pizza and Pub. If the name Kyle Gass sounds familiar, it is because Gass is a member of the rock 'n' roll duo Tenacious D. Local bands Tesla Meets the Coil, Meditated Assault, and Dreadful Selfish Crime were also scheduled to perform. The venue was packed with loyal heavy metal fans.

Before Gass sang, he made it clear to the audience that he would not be performing any songs by Tenacious D, but that didn't stop some audience members from shouting their song requests. "We will not be performing any Tenacious D songs on the tour," Gass said. "But Tenacious D will be having a worldwide tour later this month."

The Tenacious D tour will begin Feb. 28 at The House of Blues in Atlantic City, N.J.

At the show, the band opened the set with the song "Raise A New Hell" sung by the band's vocalist and lead guitarist Mike Bray.

"A couple of years ago I got some of my really good friends together and started to play," Gass said on how he got his band together. "Everything just

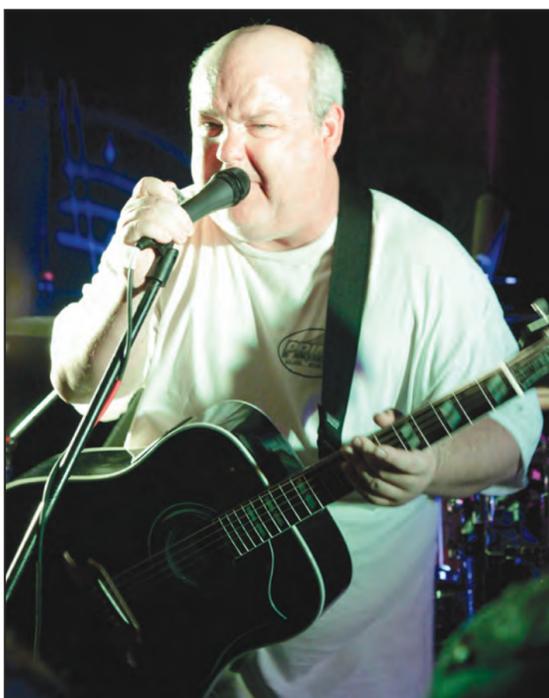
clicked. I have very talented people around me, that's the key."

The other members of the band are John Konesky on guitar, Jason Keene on Bass, and Nate Rothacker on Drums.

The band also performed "Bro Hoe" and "Man Child" which are on their self-titled EP. Most of the band's songs have a comedic flair to them. At one point in the show the drummer, Rothacker and singer/guitarist, Bray switched places. Rothacker sang a song about his dream to be the lead singer of the band.

Gass played a solo on the recorder during the crowd-favorite song "Gypsy."

"I like to incorporate the recorder in a lot of my songs because I've always loved that instrument when I was growing up, and when I got my band, I thought it would be a good opportunity to showcase it," Gass said. The Kyle Gass Band closed the show with a cover of the Thin Lizzy song "The Boys Are Back in Town."



Above: Gass gives his best sneer while performing "Man Child." Gass only played one Tenacious D song at the concert, making sure The Kyle Gass Project was center stage.

Left: Guitar player John Konesky lays down a riff for the song "Bro Hoe" while Kyle Gass does his best to add vocal flair for the track.

LUIS GARCIA / THE RIP



Former Korn guitar player makes new music, planning tour

By Robin Shin
Online Editor

Brian "Head" Welch, best known as the former guitarist of the nu metal band Korn, released his newest album "Between Here & Lost" with his band Love and Death on Jan. 22.

Welch stated that in the estimate of two weeks from Feb. 6, he will be going on a month-long tour from Texas to the East Coast.

The album's process began in the summer of 2011, in which Welch stated that they worked on it every few months due to the tour he was involved in.

"I pray a lot," stated Welch when asked what inspired him to release his album. "I prayed a lot and focused."

Welch stated that the music in the album is about going through hardships in life and a mix of energetic rock music melody.

"It's a decent debut," Welch said when asked about the current sale of his new album.

Welch also stated that they would be promoting their album while touring with Korn. They will be starting their tour, which will happen only in Europe, in June of 2013. Love and Death didn't really promote their music through the radio, but it mostly took advantage of promoting their album through

the Internet and magazines.

Welch professionally began to work in the music business in 1994, and he stated that he would like to continue working in that industry as long as he can. He also likes public speaking, and he stated that he would pick it up somewhere down the road in his life if music were to be checked out.

"I visit twice a year," stated Welch when asked about his visitation to Bakersfield. "My family is here." He stated that he attends the Valley Bible Church whenever he can.

When Welch is out working on his music, he is unable to attend church but stated that he would pray and work on his belief because it is very personal to him.

Welch stated that his collaboration work with his current band, Love and Death, may include Korn in the future. Their new album had a collaborative track with Mattie Montgomery of For Today.

"Hopefully everyone would pick it up," stated Welch when asked what he would like to say about his album.

They also recently released a music video for their track "The Abandoning" on YouTube and VEVO.

If possible, Welch hopes that he will be able to hold a small concert in Bakersfield some time in the future.

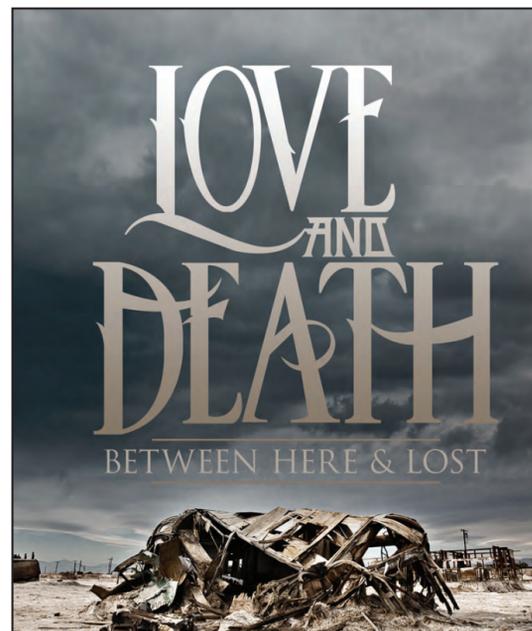


IMAGE PROVIDED BY BRYAN WELCH

"Between Here and Lost" is former Korn guitarist Bryan Welch's newest dive into the world of music. Welch acknowledged the possibility of a Korn reunion.

Gamers use a Steam online marketplace for questionable transactions

By Robin Shin
Online Editor

Steam, a software developed by Valve Corporation, is a growing community where people can make easy purchases of games, softwares and now virtual items.

In Dec. 2012, Steam launched a beta of their community market. The Steam Community Market is where players who have earned virtual items through the games can put it up for sale for a desired price.

Currently, the beta only allows items from Team Fortress 2 and Dota 2 to be sold in the market. The Market also allows the earned profit or deposited cash to only stay within the Steam software, which they call a Steam Wallet.

Trevor Hogsten, 19, is a gamer who plays Team Fortress 2 and uses the market to buy keys from other players.

"I buy keys for a cheaper price and then I sell it for a higher price, and then I turn it around (profit earned) in order to buy games," he said.

Mann Co. Supply Crate Keys, or popularly known as keys, are the standard currency on Valve made programs and games.



IMAGE PROVIDED BY GOOGLE

The most expensive items such as "Unusual Burning Team Captain" can sell for \$3,600.

Gamers who trade often can use keys as an advantage in Steam to buy games or other virtual items.

James Lavender, 20, supported the idea on the value of keys.

"Keys are items you can buy either in Mann Co. Store, and you can buy them to open crates to receive random items in the game," he said. "They are pretty valuable, you can use the key to open crates or use it as to buy other items."

When asked what they could do to improve on the community store's abilities, Lavender stated, "So far I think it's a good idea, but the only reason I don't use it is because I don't want to buy games with it. I wish that there was a way that it wasn't only in the Steam Wallet but the ability to transfer (cash earned) into your Paypal account or your bank account."

"It's in beta so some items are available and some aren't. When

you put the items for a dollar, [Steam] put it as a dollar and six cents or something. 15% Steam Tax," stated Jason Oakley, 30, a gamer. "I go [to the Market] for keys and for genuine and vintage hats."

Hats are virtual items that hold value mainly in the Team Fortress 2 community. They can range from \$3 to the most current estimate of \$3,600.

"Some people meet in real life with laptops due to some items

costing over \$15,000 in order to make transaction," said Oakley when asked if there were other ways to trade besides using the Market.

A Steam trader and gamer using the online name of Pivson, 40, stated that he does not like to use the Market.

"I just looked through, and I don't know how it works," Pivson said.

He said that using money in the Market is as though a person is using twice the money.

Pivson uses online forums in order to buy, sell and trade items. "You need to have a rep in order to really buy and sell things," he stated Pivson when he explained how things worked in the forum trades.

"Reputation (Rep), basically, it's to avoid scammers. So, basically, you use Paypal, and when the trade is done, you go to the person's profile and comment on how well the trade went, and they do the same to you."

Pivson also stated that when someone asks about your rep, you just have to show them your profile or go onto websites such as Steamrep.com.

On the topic of the most expensive virtual items, Pivson

stated, "Unusual Burning Team Captain, there's nothing more expensive than that shit, [a gamer] paid like over 2 grand in cash, and over a grand in items."

"I don't know what to say. It's whatever. You have to make money somehow," answered Pivson when questions of what he thought of the idea on people paying so much money for virtual items.

"I know a kid in Asia who's 14 years old, but he's making thousands of dollars by selling TF2 items."

When Lavender was asked about the transactions between items, cash and virtual cash, he stated, "There really isn't much you can do about it. Even if you want to stop it. I personally think that it is a good idea and that it is a good idea to make money, if you know how to trade and make profit out of it."

"There are consequences such as scamming, if you don't want to get scammed, then don't do it. There are people out there who hate it because they think that TF2 items are virtual and worthless, but you know, all man for themselves, whatever they think. Some people like it, some people don't."

Talk of issues at Café

By Ruben A. Perez
Reporter

The Gadfly Café is open this semester with new hot button issues.

Every semester The Levan Center for Humanities hosts three Gadfly Café discussions, moderated by philosophy professor Rene Trujillo, about topics that people may feel strongly about.

"We've talked about issues such as suicide to euthanasia or mercy killing to abortion to different religious issues such as the problem of evil."

Trujillo explained what the discussions will cover this year.

"We're going to be doing gun control this year, we're going to be talking about the idea of God and whether it's a manmade creation or whether God created man," he said.

"We try to bring up things that hope-

fully resonate with the community and that people have something to say about, something to share about and that perhaps there wasn't another avenue to do it on campus," said Trujillo.

The Gadfly Café started when Trujillo, a professor on campus, wanted to open up discussions among people on campus.

Trujillo said, "I came to Jack Hernandez, who is the director of the Levan Center, with an idea about two years ago that it would be nice to develop a format where faculty, staff and students could interact, so this is open to everyone on campus and in fact, also, other people that are connected to campus for a variety of different reasons."

The conversations are informal so people can come and go in case they have a class or need to leave. "It's

intended to be informal, these aren't lectures."

The topics discussed at Gadfly Café are topics that come from campus. "Jack Hernandez and I always begin before each semester talking about the ideas that we've heard come up in different forums around campus.

"I, also at the beginning of each talk, get my email out and encourage all the participants to give me ideas for further talks."

A BC student that had attended previous discussions submitted the discussion topic this semester on whether God created man or man created God.

"I want it to be a safe place that if people just want to come and listen. I also want it to be a place where we can air differences," said Trujillo.

The next Gadfly Café discussions are on March 5 and April 9 at 12:30.



MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

Rene Trujillo speaks to students about assisted suicide.

'Grow' event held

By Jazmine Montoya
Reporter

In order to get students more familiar with the campus and the offers it has for them, SGA hosted a Grow and Go resource fair Jan. 30 in the Fireside Room.

It gave students a chance to talk to counselors and members of the BC facility.

For the first time holding this event, SGA President Danitza Romo said that it turned out a success.

"The morning was packed and as the day has gone on it has stayed pretty steady. It's been a good turnout," she said.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until 3:15 p.m., there were "speed sessions" in assortment, which included Career Assessment, Rapid Resume and Healthy Eating. They even had a session to help manage stress, which is known to affect college

students on a normal basis.

Plenty of departments took part in the fair. There were a variety of tables to choose from, such as the athletics, EOP&S/CalWORKs, radiologic technology program, M.A.P.S., financial aid, and the writing center, as well as a table for SGA specific information.

Members of each of the departments were on hand to talk to students personally. Pamphlets and brochures were provided as well at many of the tables. If anybody had any concerns or questions, the members were there to put them on the right path.

Angel Otero, 21, said the event definitely helped. Otero said it is his first time attending BC this semester, and he plans on majoring in criminology. He said he would come back if this event was held again.

Another student, Claudia Rojas, 19, said she learned a few



ROBIN SHIN / THE RIP

Kimy Salazar, left, talks with Lora Larkin.

things from the foreign language table that she didn't know before.

There's a Spanish class offered this fall that's for native speakers.

"I speak Spanish fluently; this class is just going to help me with my reading and writing," Rojas said. She was glad to have found out there was a class that was able to help her out.

One of the volunteers that helped at the library table was BC library chair Anna Agenjo. She thought it was an excellent idea for the fair.

"It's always good to put a face to name," she said.

She said that she's found students may be afraid to ask or talk to adults for help.

"It gave the staff a way to interact with the students," she said.

ONLINE: Online courses provide options for students of all ages

Continued from Page 1

"I like that the teacher can get to know you personally."

Daniel Flores, radiology major, also preferred the classroom setting.

"I don't learn by myself," he said. "I need someone to tell me how the subject is."

BC computer science professor Phil Mesel, who has been teaching online classes for over 10 years, shared his perspective as an instructor on communication in online classes.

"Unlike a face-to-face classroom, where communication [is] to an entire room of students at one time, including questions and answers where appropriate, are mostly verbal, online classes are mostly text that might be directed to a class, as well as much more individual correspondence, again mostly text," he said.

He added, "The week before the semester begins, I try and contact all online students in my classes to establish communication with them."

In his first correspondence with students, he asked them why they took his online classes.

"Some of the responses are: they have scheduling conflicts, [such as] work, child care, and other reasons...[like] transportation problems, and health issues, such as pregnancy," he said.

For students to succeed in his online classes, he said, "Students should be: self-motivated, be able to carefully and completely read and follow written directions, be disciplined in the use of your time, keep with the class schedule, have a basic understanding of computers, computing, and the Internet."

He said that a common misconception is that online classes are easier.

According to him, the rea-

sons for poor performance in his online classes are "about the same things that lead to bad grades and failure in any type of class, which would be to ignore recommendations...as well as failure to do well, or do at all, [on] all of the homework assignments, failure to study and do well on exams, or not take exams."

Furthermore, although the teaching methods between online and classroom setting differed, students in his online classes did not differ in performance.

"In a quick comparison of the last semester face-to-face and online, the student success rates were about the same," he said.

Beyond BC's online classes, students have the option of exploring their interests through online education. Websites like Khan Academy, which has lessons on a wide array of subjects, offer students the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom setting.

Even Youtube, known for viral videos, has a plethora of educational resources, such as Crash Course, which has videos on history, literature, and science. Through a massive open online course (MOOC), students can even take college courses for free without the need of even registering under one's name. The catch is that students take these courses with thousands of people without college credit. Coursera.org is an example of a MOOC.

Founded by Stanford University professors, Coursera has been offering free online courses since April 2012. It now has over two million users. By partnering with 33 universities that include Stanford, Princeton and the University of California Irvine, the website offers a variety of courses in different

categories, including Biology and Life Sciences, Business and Management and Humanities.

An example of the website's courses that can benefit students is Duke University's 12-week Introductory Human Physiology course beginning on Feb. 25, with a workload of six to eight hours per week. The course covers topics that the university would cover in its typical version of the course.

"In a typical undergraduate setting, this course would fulfill requirements for students applying to professional health science programs," the course description indicated.

Certain courses have different recommended prerequisites. For instance, instructors of Columbia University's Financial Engineering course recommended prior knowledge in probability and statistics, linear algebra and calculus. Other courses do not have any recommended prerequisites. An example is a course from the University of Maryland called Women and the Civil Rights Movements, beginning on Feb. 25. The website offers students free access to online textbooks needed by its courses, but a number of courses rely entirely on lecture notes.

With thousands of students taking each class, students cannot communicate directly with the course instructors. Therefore, the website utilizes peer assessment for classes like literature, and instructors encourage student interaction in the website's forums to improve the learning experience.

Many courses offer a Statement of Accomplishment after successful completion. In November of 2012, the website announced that the American Council on Education (ACE) began a credit-equivalence evaluation. Over 2,000 colleges and

universities generally accept ACE's recommendations. For a fee, students successfully completing select courses would then be able to get credit from the website's partner colleges and universities.

Another MOOC, similar to Coursera, is Udacity, which also began at Stanford. Udacity, which has over 250,000 users, offers business, computer science, mathematics and physics courses for free as well.

It partnered with San Jose State University, creating a program called San Jose State Plus, to make it possible for students to get credit from taking its elementary statistics, algebra, and entry-level mathematics courses for a fee of \$150. The program began in January with a limited enrollment of 100 students and priority for high school students, community college students, members of the armed forces, veterans and waitlisted SJSU students.

However, various reports indicated high dropout rates and low passing rates for MOOCs. The New York Times reported on July 2012 that out of the 154,763 students who registered for a course called "Circuits and Electronics" from a MOOC called edX only 7,157 passed. And less than half did the first problem.

Each individual has his or her own educational preferences. People can choose whether to pursue online classes or in-person classes, but utilizing these online resources to one's benefit rests largely on self-motivation, as indicated by edX's student success rate.

On pursuing education beyond formal classes, Mesel said, "From what I have seen, especially in the technology fields, many skills need to be regularly updated."

News Briefs

- A string of car thefts has hit the Bakersfield College campus in the past month. According to a timely notification bulletin email sent out by director of marketing and public relations Amber Chiang, four vehicle thefts have been reported. Though all of the vehicles were Hondas, campus officials are urging all car owners to take caution when securing their vehicles. Be sure no items of value are in sight, make sure all windows are rolled up, and use an alarm system if your vehicle has one. If unusual activity is seen on campus, they urge you to call BC public safety at 395-4554, or in an emergency, 911.
- There will be two holidays that will be canceling classes and closing the school, Lincoln's Birthday on Feb. 15 and Washington's Birthday on Feb. 18.
- The Gaslight Melodrama Theatre will be performing "The Good The Bad and The Funny" on Feb. 15 and 16. The Theatre calls the play, written and directed by Michael Prince, a play with "a colorful cast of characters and a boat of laughs."
- The White Forest Nursery located on 300 Morning Drive is having a Citrus Tasting on Feb. 16. At the event you will be able to taste different citrus fruits like oranges, limes and grapefruit and learn of citrus's benefits.
- The 100 years celebration logo has been announced. Alumni Keith Brandon has won 1000 dollars for designing the logo. See the logo at the Bakersfield College Facebook page.

BC SINGER: BC student tries out in singing competition in LA

Continued from Page 1

to audition for "American Idol," but the audition times changed and she wasn't able to make it.

"When I missed out on Idol, my friends and co-workers were telling me about 'The Voice.' I found out Christina Aguilera was a judge but unfortunately this season she wasn't doing the show," she said. "So I decided to audition even though she

wouldn't be on it."

Bumbaca wasn't picked to move on to the next audition in front of the judges.

"I went into the audition not thinking I was going to win, I just really wanted the experience. I didn't make it, but its something I can say I did," said Bumbaca. "So next year I'm for sure going to try again. I hear Christina will be back so I can't wait."

NEW VP: Vice president plans to stay 'much longer' than others

Continued from Page 1

going to bring my own bag of tricks with me. I'm going to bring my repertoire, my experiences, my education, my professional contacts, and more than anything else, you'll see energy and passion. For me this is not really just a job, it's more than that, it's a cause."

While Dadabhoj already has some ideas to help students succeed, he says he's currently at the stage where he's asking a lot of questions.

"I'm examining the entire process, the overall matriculation process. From the time the students contact the college, all the way to admission forms, to registration process, to counseling, and saying how can we improve the process in such a way that we can actually help each and every single one of our students succeed."

Among his first concerns is BC's orientation process, citing the lack of a campus Welcome Center.

"What is it that students see when the first get onto campus? How do we welcome them?"

How do we show them what the campus is all about? How do we show them where the different buildings are? How do we help them through the registration process? How do we make sure they are taking the right classes? So those are questions that I'm asking, and in some cases we have wonderful answers, and in some cases we're going to come up with wonderful solutions."

During his brief two months with Bakersfield College, Dadabhoj says he's had to do a lot of fact gathering. He has talked to fellow administrators, faculty, and some students, but he feels he hasn't had enough exposure with the students. "I'll have more thoughts when I get out there and meet more students, for me that's the critical piece."

Some may be concerned over the high rate of turnovers among administrative officials over the last few years, but Dadabhoj isn't worried. "I'm going to stay much longer than any of the previous vice presidents have stayed. I'm not moving across country, so mark my words, I'm here."

'GADE FEEDBACK' "How do you feel about the proposed smoking policy?"

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

Compiled by:
Graham C Wheat And Luis Garcia/The Rip



Jose Maldonado, Mechanical Engineering: "It is nice because I won't have smoke blowing in my face."



William Black, Undecided: "If you're not bothering anybody, why does it matter?"



Nicole Gonzalez, Digital Arts: "We should have designated areas."



Thomas Brown, Psychology: "It is an adult campus and we should have designated areas."



Chandler Simpson, Nursing: "I love the idea, people shouldn't smoke on campus."

Benefits from smoking ban

By Robin Shin
Online Editor

As a student who dislikes smoking, when I heard about the vote on whether they will make the Bakersfield College a smoking free or smoking designated campus, I was quick to vote on the smoking free campus.

It may be a selfish vote, but when I saw people smoke even in locations where the sign clearly read that they shouldn't smoke within certain feet within the area, I knew that the designated area wouldn't make any difference.

It also isn't the fact that people won't follow the rules, but it will keep non-smokers safe from becoming victims of secondhand smoking.

I don't personally have anything against smoking, but having friends who have bronchitis and asthma around me, I don't like the idea of being exposed to smoke when they already have trouble breathing.

I can handle headaches from time to time from smelling strong odor of smoke coming through a nearby vent that has a smoker at the end of it, but that won't stop me from feeling the irritation.

Now I'm not saying that smokers are selfish, but I do believe that they should have thought about other people's health.

Maybe not all smokers were inconsiderate and actually distanced themselves far enough so that they can smoke away from buildings for the required 20 feet, but it doesn't change the fact that it still brought harm to other non-

smoker's health.

With BC being a college for many parents in the county, I believe that it is good for a child friendly environment too.

There aren't many children on the campus, but I have seen some parents bringing their kids in and around areas where there were smokers present.

I have heard some smokers tell me "then why don't you avoid us?" or "then go the other way." There are a lot of things wrong with these types of statements.

First off, they were smoking around the H building, which during that semester was the main building for most of my classes.

Secondly, why should others move when you are the one that is causing trouble, not just for me, but for many others that are in the classes and could smell the smoke through the vents?

I've been in class where a professor was irritated by the smell, along with few of the students within the classroom, and had to exit the room to find the smoker and tell them to refrain from smoking near the air vent.

Not that it helped telling one person, because it happened again a couple of classes later by a different smoker.

For BC to become a smoking-free campus will benefit many non-smoking students' health, and it may even help from having lectures interrupted due to smoke coming into the air vents.

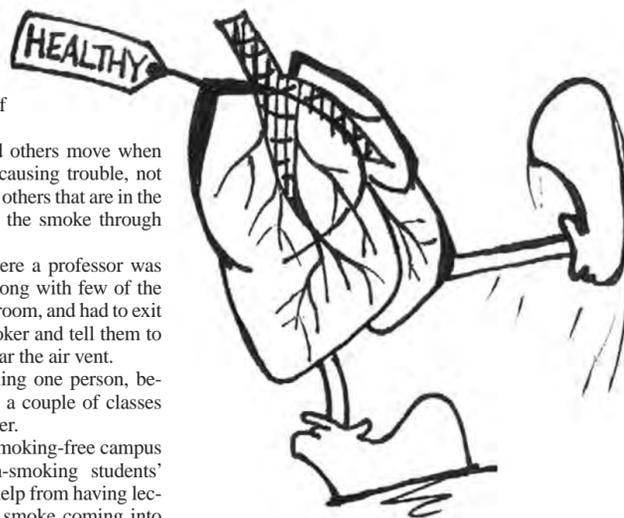


ILLUSTRATION BY ROBIN SHIN / THE RIP



ROBIN SHIN / THE RIP

The space seen from a stall when toilet paper is used.

Bathroom of Horrors

By Patricia Rocha
Reporter

My first semester at Bakersfield College, I had a three-hour break between classes every day.

While many people would have used that time for studying or having lunch with friends, I took the opportunity to sleep in the library.

I enjoyed many naps across from the circulation desk, and aside from the occasional round of people watching and the "Is anyone sitting here?" question, I was never directly interrupted.

The only times I ever needed to get up from my library nap nook was to use the restroom. This is where the incident occurred.

In case you've never had the pleasure of using one of the first four women's restroom stalls in the library, let me paint you a picture.

On first glance, it's like any other facility: toilet, paper holder, door, lock, and purse hook.

But upon closer inspection, the wall of the stall itself has two medium-sized cutouts, where the toilet paper holders and garbage can is hung.

For a while, I never questioned this architectural design, because if the toilet paper rolls are new, there is no gap in the wall.

However, after one of my many naps, I went to use the first stall in the restroom. I did what one does in the restroom

and reached for the toilet paper roll.

Unbeknownst to me, the woman in the stall next to me reached the roll a half a second after I did and snatched the toilet paper literally right out of my hand.

I was astonished to say the least. What does one do in this situation exactly?

Politely proclaim to eerily quiet toilet user next to me, "Oh, excuse me, that was mine?"

I think not.

I just sat there with my flabbergasted face, sporting Zooey Deschanel-sized eyeballs and mouth silently miming "OH MY GAWD."

I waited until I heard her leave before I used the roll and finished my business.

When I did so, I noticed the gaping hole in the supposedly private stall.

When the roll is short, there is enough room to see directly into the other stall.

I realized this woman could have simply leaned over and we could have had a face-to-face conversation!

I've heard of the whole "women using the restroom together" thing, but this is a step too far.

I suddenly wondered if this is how men feel at side-by-side urinals.

Surely BC has more tact than to make their female students use such a restroom.

Women shouldn't have to drape TP over large holes in the wall to have a little privacy.

All is fair in love and networking

By Robin Shin
Online Editor

In this new generation of mass communication, we are able to communicate with those who live in places we haven't even heard of, as long as they have an Internet connection. We use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr and many other social networks to get our lives known and shared by those who have the same interest.

You meet a cute girl or guy in class, you want to know their relationship status or what their interests are, so what do you do? Ask their name and look them up on Facebook to see if they are single or taken. It's what many people of nearly all ages now do. Not everyone asks in person. We are slowly relying more on our social networking for social interaction.

Some people who are in a relationship find that online social networking can ruin relationships due to the massive communication they are able to achieve and the lack of privacy due to paranoia created through the relationship. Why did your boyfriend just change his relationship status to being complicated on Facebook? Why is your girlfriend getting the same status likes from a certain guy from her English class? Along those lines of paranoia, there are also

new doors that social networking opens.

Online relationships. We are now in a generation where looks aren't everything. We actually have the ability to meet people who share the same interest, share the same point of view as you. Like the saying "don't judge a book by its cover," we are coming to a generation where we, at times, look at a person's interest before seeing their faces.

Now there is Match.com and eHarmony, which are commercialized for people to use in order to meet "the right person," but there are other ways that it works.

I'm not saying Craig'slist, but rather interest sharing sites such as: Tumblr, Pinterest, DeviantArt and more. Now I'm not saying use those sites as a dating site, but to use it as to find those who you share interests with.

As a person who has been in an online relationship for one year going to two now, I met my girlfriend through Tumblr.

We met through a history tag we were both very much interested in. I never really saw how she looked due to the fact that her photos were heavily layered with Photoshop graphics, and I didn't expect anything out of our friendship and connection.

In the end, we got together, and I saw a clear photo of her

just a week before she came to visit me so that I was able to pick her up from a hotel by LAX. She is from Ireland, a country that is over 5,000 miles away from Bakersfield.

Internet not only made us blind to genders, but to ethnicities and skin colors. Now, I'm not saying that we should all meet strangers online and start dating them. Trust, as it is in any relationship, is the strongest connection you have with those you meet online. How do you know that they are telling the truth? How do you know if that picture they have on their Facebook page is real? How can we tell that person isn't actually your neighbor who stalks you from behind the curtains of his window every day? How do you know that you are not being "Catfish'd"?

Well, I've gone through that level of relationship, too. A few years ago, I was a fool and was tricked into believing that a man I met online was interested in me for over a year.

We talked and exchanged many emails, but I am now glad that I didn't send him any photos of myself, for I found out later that he was actually a high school student who was trolling online for ignorant people at the time, like me.

Now I've heard many people ask how does an online relationship work without the physical

contact. If you're fortunate like me, you may have your significant other visit you from far as Ireland to Bakersfield. If you aren't, you'll have to work something out in order to meet up further down the road into your relationship.

Also, the communication works, e-mail, messages, chatting, or even texting and snail mail if you are willing to push your trust that far. Communication and trust is the master key to an online relationship. In order for those two to click, you'll need to have the key of patience.

I believe that social networking really opened many views, regardless of the blindside of who is behind the screen name. Imagine an online relationship, in which you get to judge their personality first instead of their physical appearance. You meet someone for their interests, get to know them and then you meet their face.

Maybe not everyone works that way, but the majority of the people online do. Social networking truly helps people from not judging someone alone by their looks.

Social networking, be it an in person relationship or an online relationship, truly has changed how communication works between two human beings, and I think everyone should give it a try.

Staff Editorial

Increasing BC security and informing students

In light of all of the school shootings nationwide and some car thefts on our campus, it raises an important question: Is Bakersfield College safe?

Every semester, there are some cars thefts and break-ins, but that seems to be the extent of most serious crimes at BC. Thankfully, there haven't been any shootings. So it seems safety isn't really something we need to worry about. That is exactly why we need to worry about it.

The popular phrase "expect the unexpected" is a good motto to follow.

We are aware there are drills for certain situations, but as students, we aren't aware of what they are for dealing with a gunman on campus.

That's something that every student should be aware of. How about the fact that the free parking area doesn't have any lights, and it's super creepy? It's impossible to see anything and those

who park there feel like characters from a horror movie walking around with arms extended, jumping at every little noise. But it's not fair to rest school safety with administration and Public Safety alone. It also involves the 15,000 students as well.

For starters, students need to be aware of their surroundings. If anything looks out of place or someone appears to be suspicious, we need to act on those feelings by calling for help or

reporting it to Public Safety. Students should try to park in well-lit areas, lock everything up and put bags in the trunk. It's better to be overcautious than have a broken window or a stolen car.

If everyone helps out with reporting suspicious behavior and knows what to do in dangerous situations and who to report to, we'll have a safer school. Every little bit counts. Just because BC is mostly safe place doesn't mean we should let our guard down.



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Winner of the 2003 and 2008
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Pinball is still a classic game

By Graham C Wheat
Features Editor

In the old and dying East Hills Mall, a humble arcade hosts something that might be old but refuses to die. High Voltage Arcade or “the nickel arcade,” now located in The East Hills Mall, has exhibited a number of pinball machines over the years.

GAME REVIEW
★★★★☆

Currently, they have some choice pinball machines including one that made pinball history. Out of the seven pinball machines that High Voltage has, three are clearly standout machines. That isn't to say that all seven aren't fun; Family Guy pinball wasn't bad.

However, three seem to draw a player more than the others. Third on the list is Theatre Of Magic, a relatively new machine made in the mid '90s by Williams. This one is fun because it has a clever playfield.

You are supposed to advance a Magician's various illusions by hitting certain ramps and bumpers. It uses a magnetized “trunk” that one must hit repeatedly to complete the tricks.

The sound effects are reminiscent of a David Copperfield special, with the machine yelping out “AMAZING” in its best cheesy magician voice when a stage is completed.

The graphics on the back glass too are a complement to a magic show, such as a buxom assistant revealing the magic box. The dot matrix display also animates things like sawing a tiger in half



LUIS GARCIA / THE RIP

Tommy Hodges plays Theatre of Magic at High Voltage Nickel Arcade in East Hills Mall.

or a vanishing act. Not bad for the mid '90s.

The second machine that really grabbed me was a much newer pinball machine, made by Stern Pinball, TRON made in 2011. Stern Pinball is the product of these machines refusing to die off. Their designers are all former Williams and Sega pinball visionaries.

TRON was fun because it had lots of cool movie license. Like the new TRON, it spanned the history of the movies. Cool Jeff Bridges quotes abounded while playing, and although the playfield was relatively simple, it was hard to master its angles and

ramps.

The piece de resistance as it were at “the nickel arcade” is a Gottlieb pinball machine based after the Super Mario Bros. video game.

The pinball machine was the first to implement a Dot Matrix Display on the back glass to inform players of their current status, like number of balls left and score. When you go to put in your credits to play, you hear the familiar plumber belt out “more money please!” in that derogatory Italian accent we all know and love.

Although it is an older pinball machine, it had me hooked

form there. The object is to travel through seven castles and save Princess Peach, and while it might not have all the bells and whistles of Theatre of Magic, its simplicity and degree of difficulty help it stand out among the others, not to mention the stellar Mario Bros. soundtrack and sound effects. A classic is always a classic after all.

If you're tired of blasting zombies or fighting for a virtual paramilitary company, get back the roots of what games used to be. If you can sacrifice a few bucks, you will surely find yourself pinning for the days when these kings of the arcade ruled.

Puppy Bowl brings the cute

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

While February 3 found most of America glued to the Super Bowl, a small, but growing segment of the population got its sports fix in a different way. While it may lack the expensive commercials and athletic prowess

TELEVISION REVIEW
★★★★☆

of the Super Bowl, Animal Planet's ninth annual Puppy Bowl packs quite a cute wallop. As the fastest growing canine-based football mimicking sporting event running during the big game on basic cable television, certainly it should.

In fact, the game is almost sickeningly cute, with Hedgehog cheerleaders, Hamsters in a blimp, a Parrot tweeting live, a kitty packed halftime show and, of course, puppies galore.

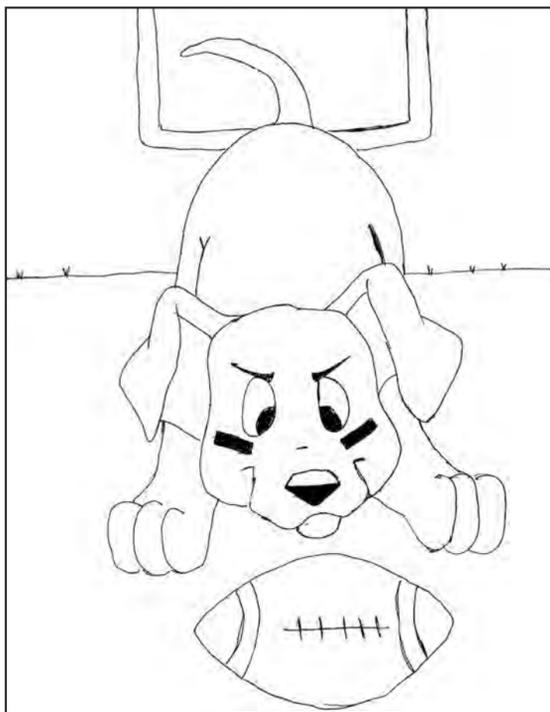
Of course, the game has all the trappings of a major sporting event. Quick reactions or snippets of commentary are provided

by members of several different Animal Planet shows, including “Pit Bulls and Parolees,” “Finding Bigfoot” and “Pit Boss.” The fast paced puppy action is interspersed with kiss cams, penalties for excessive cuteness, time outs for rest and there is even an MVP award at the end. There is no hiding of the fact that these young pups are no million-dollar athletes.

Within the first few minutes, that was abundantly clear. Countless times they stopped short of scoring, more interested in wrestling, running around and having fun than putting points on the board.

The players were disorganized, ill-disciplined and, it seemed, utterly disinterested in playing the game. Sometimes I couldn't even tell which non-existent team a puppy was on.

Anyone who watched the game for anything other than playful and adorable antics is out of their head cuckoo. Of course, scoring and competition isn't the point of the Puppy Bowl. There are no losers, and the real winners are the puppies and the viewers who



ALANA GARRETT / THE RIP

get to watch two hours of puppies horsing around and playing tug-of-war with chew toys.

The Puppy Bowl will probably never develop a market for expensive commercial debuts or million dollar celebrity endorsements. Refreshingly, that's not the point.

On a day when networks play marathons and reruns and new

programming goes to die, it's enjoyable to see a little bit of TV where the goal is simple, laid-back entertainment.

Animal Planet has managed to pull this off while still keeping with the spirit of the day and providing a welcome distraction for those who might not be interested in the big game or its slower parts.

Great dining and prices

By Alana Garrett
Reporter

Chef's Choice Noodle Bar is the perfect choice for your next date or dinner.

Bakersfield's downtown is filled with shops, art galleries, bars, clubs and businesses that provide entertainments for many crowds. Bakersfield's downtown is also home to many restaurants like Chef's Choice Noodle Bar, a Thai restaurant located on the corner of 19th and Eye Street.

FOOD REVIEW
★★★★☆

Chef's Choice Noodle Bar, at first glance, doesn't seem like a very decent restaurant from the outside, but when you walk in you will be surprised. The inside

has a dimly lit setting that gives the restaurant a romantic feel. The tables were roomy, wooden, candle-lit with small white plates on them. The hostess greeted me with a kind smile and led me to a table immediately.

The booth I sat in was spacious and comfortable, but it felt private enough for two people on a romantic date. The waitress arrived with a smile and dropped off two glasses of water with lemon. She was nice, and she offered to take my order right away if I was ready. After my order was taken, I waited for my entrée, listening to soft music that played in the background. The songs were some of my personal favorites such as Jason Mraz's “I'm Yours” and Adele's “Someone Like You.”

When my entrée, the glass noodles with chicken arrived, I was very satisfied with my



GOOGLE IMAGES

Chef's Choice Noodle Bar is as good as advertised.

choice. The noodles were fried to perfection and had plenty of delicious vegetables that added flavor. The chicken was both tender and juicy with the right amount of seasoning. The food looked mouth watering and was well displayed on the plate. After I was done, I decided to order the Mochi ice cream quartet that included the flavors strawberry, mango, chocolate and green tea.

All the flavors were displayed perfectly on the white plate drizzled with different sweet sauces that went well with the Mochi ice cream. When the dessert was

finished and the check arrived, I was actually surprised that the bill was less than I expected. For two entrees and a dessert, the price was about \$26. I would recommend that couples and singles alike go and try out Chef's Choice Noodle Bar.

The service, food and even prices are great. Chef's Choice Noodle Bar is even planning a special Valentine's Day event that includes a champagne toast and a rose. If you're looking for a special place for your date head down to 19th Street to Chef's Choice Noodle Bar.

Letters to the Editor

There was more to the smoking story

Editor:

I always appreciate the overall quality of the articles in The Renegade Rip. From having taught at multiple colleges, I can see the professionalism that is being developed with your paper.

I read the most recent edition with my normal interest and read one article that seemed to have missed an important component, whether by intent or accident. Specifically, I am referring to the article “Then there were two: BC's smoking options narrow.”

Overall, I thought the article was well done. The one aspect that seemed to be missing, or understated, dealt with the decision-making process of narrowing the election. The article does identify that the last time there was a three-way ballot, and no specific option received a majority of votes cast. Then the article ends with “why”, “where was the choice to leave it alone?”

The answer is that this most recent election was a run-off of the top two vote earning options from the last election. This issue took a lot of discussion and debate before the re-vote was had.

SGA originally was poised to declare victory for no-smoking from last year's vote, despite that fact that it had not received a majority of the votes cast. Instead, it had received a plurality.

Concerns about the democratic principle led SGA to decide that a re-vote on the two top options would be more fair to the electorate that expressed desires from the last election than would be earned by accepting the plurality winning [but non-majority] vote for non-smoking. Unfortunately,

your article didn't seem to recognize this “run-off” aspect or give credit to SGA for providing the public with a final choice to decide the outcome in a clear fashion.

I give them credit for not claiming a plurality was a majority and ignoring the will expressed last time. And this recent election had around 5,000 votes cast, instead of the last election's total of less than 900 who actually voted on the smoking issue. Thus, this vote is more representative of the will of the campus than last time.

I appreciate the staffs' contributions, but I wanted to provide this viewpoint for you to consider.

SGA took a difficult decision to try to be transparent and gain a clean decision that reflects the will of the masses.

When you end your article on “where was the choice to leave it alone,” it gives the impression that the will of 81% of the last election [who voted for some form of change] should be ignored this time around, so that 19% can prevent the masses from engaging in a change they believe in.

In an election, someone always loses. The question that should be asked is whether it was fair. As a “run-off” ballot vote this January, I believe the process was fair. I just wanted your staff to consider these points. I could write four more pages to describe the process in detail, but I won't. However, I would be happy to explain if desired at a later time.

Thank you again for your diligent work and the quality of your paper.

Jason Stratton
Associate Professor
Social Science
Dept./History

Take time to think of our soldiers overseas

Editor:

Twelve years of unchanging news can callus even the most sensitive of well-meaning psyches. It was birthed as the iron fist of a wounded nation striking out in well-deserved vengeance, the very embodiment of biblical justice. The Great Eagle had been bruised and bloodied, but it was not down, and it swelled its chest with pride and sank its claws into its enemies. We cheered when the banner read “Mission Accomplished.”

We danced in the streets when the symbolic head of our enemy was cast into the sea.

And now we forget as we feel we have won. We move on, fixated on the mundane challenges of our domestic lives, precious little concern left to dedicate to a conflict that has, in truth, not affected the lives of a vast majority of us, save those with friends or family members in harm's way.

They live every day with what America has seemingly forgotten. They live within the confines of the phrase “conflict ongoing.” As we complain that tomorrow is going to be a busy day, a soldier prepares too for a few hours of sleep on a dirt floor.

He sleeps in his uniform, because he will take his turn on watch in a few hours. He takes a few moments to write a few sentences of a letter to his family, being careful to make things seem better and safer than they really are because he doesn't want his young son to worry.

He looks at a photo of his wife to make sure her face doesn't fade from his memory, mutters “92 and a wake up,” under his breath and drifts off to sleep. As we drive to work, irritated by the traffic, a Marine mans the machine-gun on top of his

parked vehicle. The vehicle is not moving because a few yards up the road, what was once the lead vehicle is now a smoldering pile of twisted metal. Medics are loading a squad mate into a medical evac chopper, but the Marine can't spare the time to worry about if his friend will live or die. He has to decide whether to pull the trigger and kill the child in his sights, a boy about the same age as his brother back home, who may be coming toward him to beg for candy, or to blow him up with a suicide vest. And as we wonder how high the price of gas will get, an Air Force medic packs supplies and prepares to go to a schoolhouse in the Zormat District to set up a medical clinic for Afghan children. When her team gets there, she finds that the schoolhouse has been burned to the ground, and the teachers have been executed, their bodies hung as a warning to anyone else with the idea of educating girls. She orders her team to set up the clinic next to the one remaining wall of the school and hopes that the people won't be too afraid to be helped. She hopes the people that burned down the school won't return, and she hopes that one day she will be able to close her eyes and not still see what she sees today. We need to remember that even if our individual lives are not changed by this war, our country's life is.

We need to remember a time when America went to war, instead of just sending Americans to war. We need to remember that we cannot begin to imagine what our soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen are being asked to endure. And we need to remember that the conflict is ongoing.

Gregory D. Cook
BC student

The reason I've never kissed a girl

By **Mitchelle De Leon**
Reporter

At 20 years old, I have never kissed, dated, cuddled, spooned, and definitely never done "it" with anyone. I know I'm not the only one: Google "20 years old never been kissed."

For most of my teenage years, Valentine's Day tormented me with visions of eternal bachelorhood. A persistent case of acne left me with little confidence. I spoke to peers outside my group of friends only when necessary but with great trepidation; someone even called me a mime. The Internet was my lover; I was its voyeur, and my hands were a pair of unpaid prostitutes. My friends said that I didn't have any "game." They were right.

In eighth grade, I asked someone out for the first and only time so far. Rumor had it that Cupid apparently shot his arrow to one lovely girl. As unlikely as it seemed to me and maybe everyone else, I believed in it because it meant that maybe someone actually saw past my perceived flaws. Maybe people viewed my silence as the sexy, enigmatic type.

My mantra for self-confidence then became: call me a mime, but, at least, I get girls. My own teenage romance storyline seemed imminent: hot, popular girl meets gawky, unpopular boy. I asked her over the phone, "Will

you go out with me?"

Like I had just told her to come kiss me even though I had a bout of mono, she politely declined. It devastated me not because I liked her. It devastated me because she shot down my chance at becoming what I and everyone else around me deemed normal. The problem was that I never liked girls.

I liked guys. But I refused to face that reality. As a teenager, I dodged occasional interrogations on my sexuality. My mother once confronted me with the question I dreaded the most, "Are you gay?" Unconvincingly, I denied it. I was quick to change the topic. With peers that bullied helpless individuals and a community that refused to understand homosexuality, who would be so brave to "come out?" With a family that looked down on it in disgust, who would be so foolish to do it?

Neither brave nor foolish, I decided against coming out, which also seemed so tediously awkward. I wasn't ready for it, so I used silence as a survival tool.

Consequently, I waded through the thick excrement called gay adolescence alone. Struggling to accept myself, I lamented, why me?

Although I never truly subscribed to any religion, I knelt before altars with clasped palms, praying to change myself. I repeated "I'm gay" so many

times to myself until it no longer sounded menacing; I embedded those true words to my mind, securing my love for who I was and who I will always be.

Since then, I've been able to picture a life beyond singlehood, a life that is true to who I am. Valentine's Day now stirs hope, not fear.

But don't confuse that with loneliness. I still struggle with insecurity like a lot of people, but I've grown to love my body, too. Although I pride myself as an introverted and generally awkward individual, social interaction doesn't intimidate me anymore, but a microphone and a podium do. And I still love the Internet. It sounds pathetic, but now, I'm able to seek and yearn for my own version of Prince Charming, the "Modern Family" version, without the need for acceptance constraining me. I just need to get a date.

"There are plenty of fish in the sea," the saying goes. The saying, however, doesn't seem to apply to the gay community. I don't even personally know any gay guys my age. Perhaps I should consider joining a group or a club. Join E-Harmony? I think I'm too young for that. Use Facebook to my advantage? I'm not really a fan of social media.

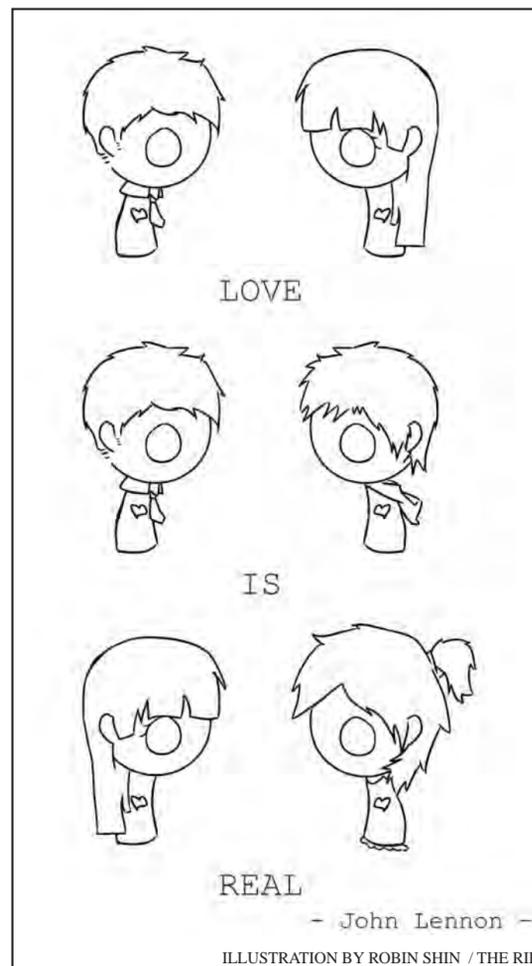
The so-called "gaydar" is effective, but it is not foolproof. Some guys set off the alarm as loudly as a marching band while

some do not, like stealth drones. The rest are ambiguous, which often poses the dilemma: to ask or to not ask some variation of "Do you like men?" One extreme response involves a fist while another begins with a kiss. One might argue that the "gaydar" degrades homosexuals with its use of stereotypes, but I believe that it's a survival mechanism, a way to find love.

I once gawked at a guy for an entire semester. To my delight, he gawked back. My own "gaydar" slightly beeped, but I decided not to pursue him. Instead, I occupied myself with questions like: what if he doesn't like me? What if he's not actually gay? My instincts proved right once I found his Tumblr account, filled with images of the male form and posts on his sexual anxiety. But my chance had passed since I didn't see him after that semester. Besides, in his "About Me" section, he described himself as "straight" despite his apparent phallic obsession. What kind of person shares his or her personal issues for everyone to read anyway?

In an alternate world devoid of bigotry, gay guys should possess some sort of insignia like in "The Scarlet Letter," without the negative social impact part, to make it easier to at least get a date. "H" for homosexual? "A" for available, not adultery?

In reality, I should be braver.



Who needs

By **Graham C Wheat**
Features Editor

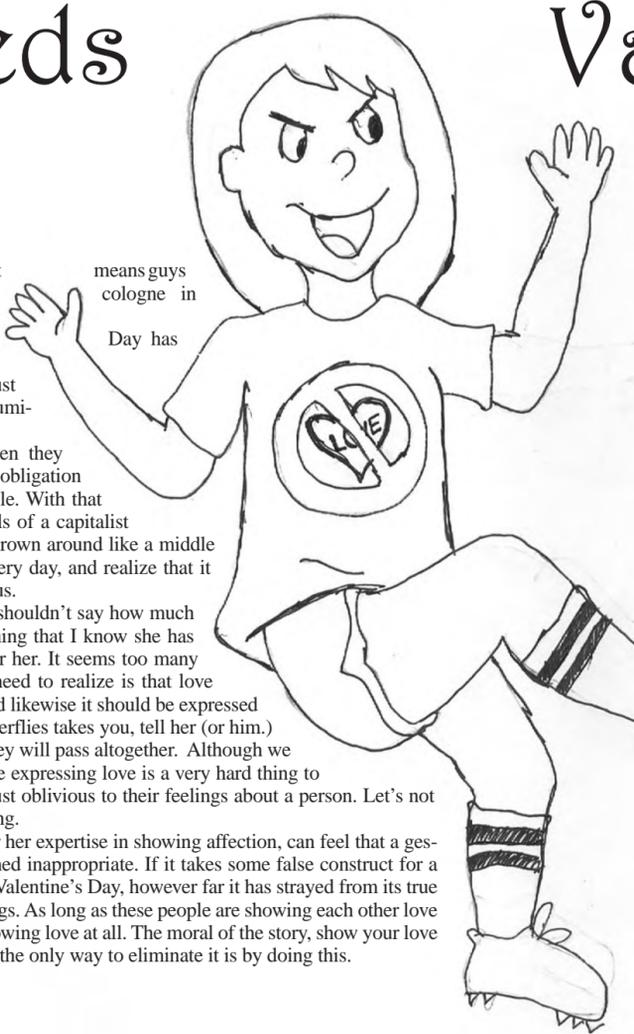
Valentine's Day is upon us once again, and that scrambling for chocolate and girls buying musky an effort to display some meager affection.

Like most American special days, Valentine's become wholly commercial. It is dominated by a consumer-driven attitude that believes one must shower another with materialistic trinkets to illuminate one another's fondness.

People buy each other meaningless crap when they don't love each other, and they feel that it is out of obligation because of some non-existent Valentine's Day rule. With that said, this isn't going to be a tirade about the evils of a capitalist Valentine's Day and the bogus affection that is thrown around like a middle school quad. This is a plea to love each other every day, and realize that it doesn't take a holiday to motivate us to be amorous.

I don't need a day to tell me when I should or shouldn't say how much I care for my significant other. If there is something that I know she has wanted, like some crappy trinket, I will buy it for her. It seems too many only relegate the love to this day. What we all need to realize is that love doesn't need a day. It is spontaneous in nature, and likewise it should be expressed that way. When that overwhelming feeling of butterflies takes you, tell her (or him.) If we wait for a day to articulate those feelings, they will pass altogether. Although we should love each other every day, for some people expressing love is a very hard thing to do. Either they can't say it, show it, or they are just oblivious to their feelings about a person. Let's not forget about outright fear. Love can be a scary thing.

This is a day where anyone, regardless of his or her expertise in showing affection, can feel that a gesture toward a loved one won't be judged or deemed inappropriate. If it takes some false construct for a person to eliminate their fears, then so be it. This Valentine's Day, however far it has strayed from its true intent, allows a majority of people to do these things. As long as these people are showing each other love at least once a year, it is better than them never showing love at all. The moral of the story, show your love whenever you feel it. If you hate Valentine's Day, the only way to eliminate it is by doing this.



Valentine's Day

By **Alana Garrett**
Reporter

Valentine's Day is about more than just overpriced bears, candy, balloons, Chocolates, flowers and heart-shaped cards that say "be mine."

Although most people love Valentine's Day, I don't. When I think of this day, I think bah, humbug. I'm the scrooge of Valentine's Day because the holiday isn't about love. Yes, Valentine's Day is marketed to be about love or falling in love, but what it's really about is the money.

People go out and spend millions of dollars on flowers, candy, cards and jewelry.

You pay for some overpriced teddy bear that would normally cost you five bucks any other time of year, but you go to Wal-Mart and spend fifty on it just because its Valentine's Day.

Not to mention there is this huge pressure to buy gifts or do something for your significant other because it's Valentine's Day.

And what about the couples that get into fights over Valentine's Day, or the people that get into fights because their significant other didn't get the right reservations or right gift?

There are people who even get into fights on Valentine's Day because they're making a big deal out of Valentine's Day. People end up getting married or committed on Valentine's Day because it's supposedly the most romantic day of the year and then get divorced a month later.

Valentine's Day just isn't Valentine's Day anymore. I'm not saying that people should not give each other gifts or show people you care about them, but why just buy your significant jewelry, candy, flowers or bears only on Valentine's Day?

Why can't you do that on any day of the year?

ILLUSTRATION BY ALANA GARRETT / THE RIP



PHOTO BY PRISCILLA DAUVEN / THE RIP

Mr. and Mrs. Zaragoza deeply in love.

The puppy love you've never heard of before

By **Hannah Breeland**
Opinions Editor

This Valentine's day I'm not going to be thinking about flowers and candy or not having that special someone. My heart will grow heavy with the thought of my four-legged friend. I love animals. I don't know why but I just do, especially dogs: they have always been a part of my family.

A couple months ago my mom rescued a six-month-old golden retriever. She had been lying in mud in the middle of the road, abandoned by her owners. My mom brought her home. We took her out to the backyard to give

her a wash and to give her some food. As my mom tried to figure out how to find the owner, I stayed in the backyard with her.

I just sat out there, and she curled up at my feet. We already have three dogs, so there was no way we could keep her. I was going to try and distance myself, but I couldn't. When we let her into the house, she followed me around. When I sat down, she would lay at my feet. Later on, when I was swimming, she jumped in the pool to swim with me. My brother and I felt we should give her a name, Shelby.

To be honest, I didn't assist in the least to find the owners. After three days of playing fetch,

swimming and jumping on my bed in the morning, my mom's friend found a family that would love to have her.

At first, I was happy. Keeping her wouldn't have been fair. We already had so many animals. It would have made things difficult. Then the lady showed up. She put a leash on Shelby and took her out to her car. My heart was beating so fast that my throat was swelling up. I couldn't go out there, I thought I could handle it but I realized I couldn't.

My mom and my brother thought it would be a good idea to say goodbye. I slowly dragged my feet and walked outside. Shelby was sitting by the car. The

moment she saw me she tried to come over, but the lady had a hard grip on her leash. I walked over to her, and she jumped up to put her paws on my shoulders. As I looked down into her eyes, I knew I couldn't hold it in. She started to lick drops of salty water running down my cheek. I had to help her get into the car since she kept jumping out.

Now that a couple months have passed, my mom got an update saying how great Shelby's doing and that she just loves her new family. I get this bittersweet feeling. With Valentine's Day coming up and people talking of puppy love, I feel that I have a different definition.

New track, new opportunities says Beckwith

By Jason Reed
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College athletic director Ryan Beckwith provided details about a new plan for an upgrade on the track and artificial grass for the football field in Memorial Stadium.

"You go down the list of schools, and there are a lot of

them that have these fields now," he said. "And so that's where we're going because it allows us kind of a multipurpose situation, where not only our football team will be able to play in it, but we can host a high school football game the night before and not have to worry about the grass being torn up."

Beckwith believes that this

will give the school more opportunities to bring events to Memorial Stadium.

Beckwith said that the school is going after the same type of track as schools such as Oregon, Stanford, USC and UC Berkeley. Beckwith said that BC is trying to put out an ad campaign to raise at least \$2 million.

"It's going to be an entire cam-

pus campaign, where it's not just athletics involved," he said. "The president is very, very supportive of this and getting this done." Beckwith believes that if the school is able to have enough events in the venue, the money would be huge for the campus.

"This has been something that has been on a lot of people's minds for a few years now,"

Beckwith said when asked how long the idea of a new track and football field has come up.

"I've been working on just getting all the research done, making sure we get the right surface, getting everything that we can packaged correctly before we start any type of fundraising campaign." Beckwith said that they'd like to get the project done as fast as

they can. He said that the better facility the school has would mean better events.

"Sporting events, professional, college, concerts, I mean really it allows us versatility to do a lot of things in there because we don't have to worry about ruining the grass anymore," Beckwith said when asked about renting out the stadium for special events.

Women's basketball loses big game, still confident

By Jason Reed
Sports editor

The Bakersfield College women's basketball team lost one of its biggest games of the season Feb. 9, against visiting College of the Canyons.

Both teams came into the game 6-2, tied for second place in the Western State Conference, behind 7-1 LA Valley College. Canyons pulled away from the Renegades in the second half and earned a 75-55 win, putting them a half game behind LA Valley for first place in the WSC.

With the win Canyons improved to 17-8 on the season, including winning seven of its last eight games. Canyons also earned a regular season sweep against the Renegades. Canyons beat BC 80-65 back on Jan. 16, at Canyons.

"We just panicked offensively and as we started to panic offensively, we stopped rebounding and different things like that," BC head coach Paula Dahl said on her team's second half meltdown against Canyons.

Canyons took a six point 36-30 lead into the second half.

BC opened the second half on an 8-2 run and tied the game at 38, before Canyons went on a 22-2 run and ran away with the game as BC couldn't recover.

"You know they (Canyons) were doing a good job of tak-

ing Emily and Haley out of the game," Dahl said. "We started rushing shots and we struggled when we do that, I called a timeout and told them to stop looking at the scoreboard."

Guard Emily Parks and Haley Huntington were limited to only six points a piece, with a combined of 4-for-20 shooting. BC was out rebounded 59-53 and shot 3-for-16 on the free-throw line in the second half.

BC will take its 6-3 conference record on the road Feb. 13, at LA Valley, a team in which they beat 55-49 on Jan. 19 at BC.

Dahl believes her team is confident and will be ready to go as they look to keep their conference winning hopes alive against LA Valley. The Monarchs are one and a half games ahead of BC for the first place lead. LA Valley also swept Canyons this season, winning both on the road and at home. BC (13-11) beat Glendale College (6-19) Feb. 6, 63-54 after going on the road and beating Santa Monica College (8-16) 71-64, which improved their winning streak to two before losing to Canyons.

After the game, BC learned that sophomore forward Mackenzie Odle has a possible meniscus tear. Odle did not suffer the injury in the game against Canyons. Her status on the conference battle against LA Valley is unknown.



MARTIN CHANG / THE RIP

Left: Mackenzie Odle attempts a shot against Glendale Community College. BC won the game on Feb. 6.
Right: Haley Huntington, a sophomore, dribbles the ball down court against Glendale in the same game.

Men's basketball looking to mount a comeback after three straight losses

By Jason Reed
Sports Editor

The Bakersfield College men's basketball team lost its third consecutive game Feb. 9, after falling to College of the Canyons 69-68.

The team found itself trailing 35-29 at the half and overcame a 13-point deficit mid-way through the second half and took a 63-61 lead with 1:43 left in the game.

"We had a chance to quit and they didn't quit," BC head coach Rich Hughes said on his team's play down the stretch to climb back into the game. "They just kept fighting and Canyons is first place in the league for a reason. We battled back into the game, but we didn't make enough plays to win."

BC played Canyons back on Jan. 16, at Canyons and was defeated by the Cougars 84-81.

BC had three players reach double figures in scoring, led by forward Conroy Lester who registered 17 points for the Renegades. Guard Ed Daniels caught fire late in the game, going 3-for-4 on three pointers, finishing with 15 points. Guard Duncan Schramm finished with 14 points, hitting six free throws out of six attempts.

"We've got to keep competing," Hughes said. "We've played well against Canyons both games, came out you know, not winning the games."

"We're capable of playing with those teams, it's just a matter of executing down the stretch, which we didn't do against them to win the games."

Canyons guard Jaylın Bland was huge for the Cougars, with 15 points, and got a lift from forward Tyler Barber who led the team second in scoring on the night with 13 points going 3-for-4 at the three point line.

The loss dropped BC to 3-5 in the Western State Conference after a promising 2-0 start. The loss also dropped the Renegades to 0-2 on a three-game home stand.

BC lost to Glendale College 77-67 back on Feb. 6 in overtime. BC controlled the game throughout the first half of regulation but couldn't close out the game to prevent losing its second straight.

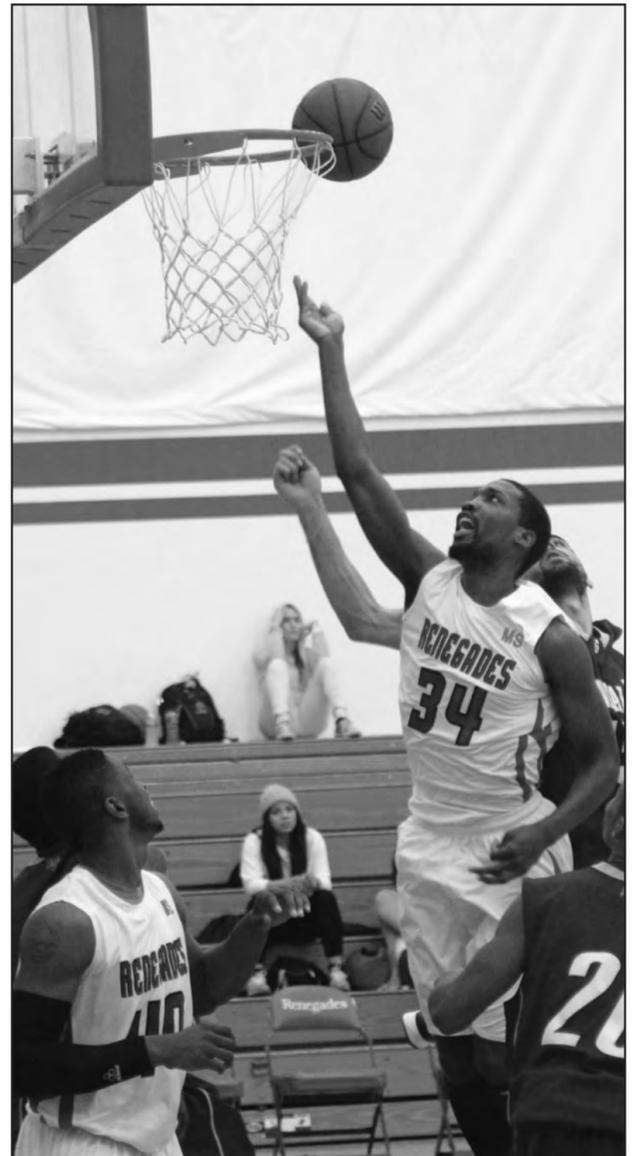
BC will play host to LA Valley College Feb. 16 in its final home game of the season. The Renegades beat the Monarchs 66-59 back on Jan. 26 at LA Valley.

The Renegades finish the regular season on the road with a 5 p.m. game at Citrus on Feb. 16.



ALANA GARRET / THE RIP

Ed Daniels goes for a layup during the men's game on Feb. 9. Daniels scored 15 points during the game.



MARTIN CHANG / THE RIP

Forward Conroy Lester tries to make a tough basket against College of the Canyons. Lester had 17 points despite the loss.

SPORTS FEEDBACK "How do you feel about the idea for the new Blaze stadium?"

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

Compiled by:

Graham CWheat and Luis Garcia/The Rip



Beau Pearson, Mechanical Engineering: "I think it's a good idea. It would be closer to things to do."



Estevan Velez, Psychology: "If they build a bigger stadium, I don't think it will fill up."



Michael Perez, Architecture: "It is a good idea because it will bring people together."



Erik Hernandez, undecided: "I don't follow Bakersfield sports, but if it is what the fans want to do it."



Edwin Borbon, Business: "I couldn't care less to be honest."

McCarthy honors BC football team

By Jason Reed
Sports editor

On Jan. 30, fourth generation Kern County resident and Bakersfield congressman Kevin McCarthy honored the Bakersfield College football team.

BC won the state championship on Dec. 8, when they defeated City College of San Francisco 35-14 at Bakersfield College.

McCarthy, who attended Bakersfield College in 1984-1985, was presented with a BC state championship jacket by BC president Sonya Christian. Before McCarthy was introduced, Christian expressed how excited she was with the championship run. "We showed California what Bakersfield is made of," Christian said. "Let it be known that our athletics excel on the field and more importantly, in the classroom. We are proud to be Renegade!"

After being honored by Mayor Harvey Hall Jan. 23 at City Hall, BC continued to get recognition and support when McCarthy presented the team with a framed United States flag, that

was flown over Washington D.C. in honor of their state championship victory.

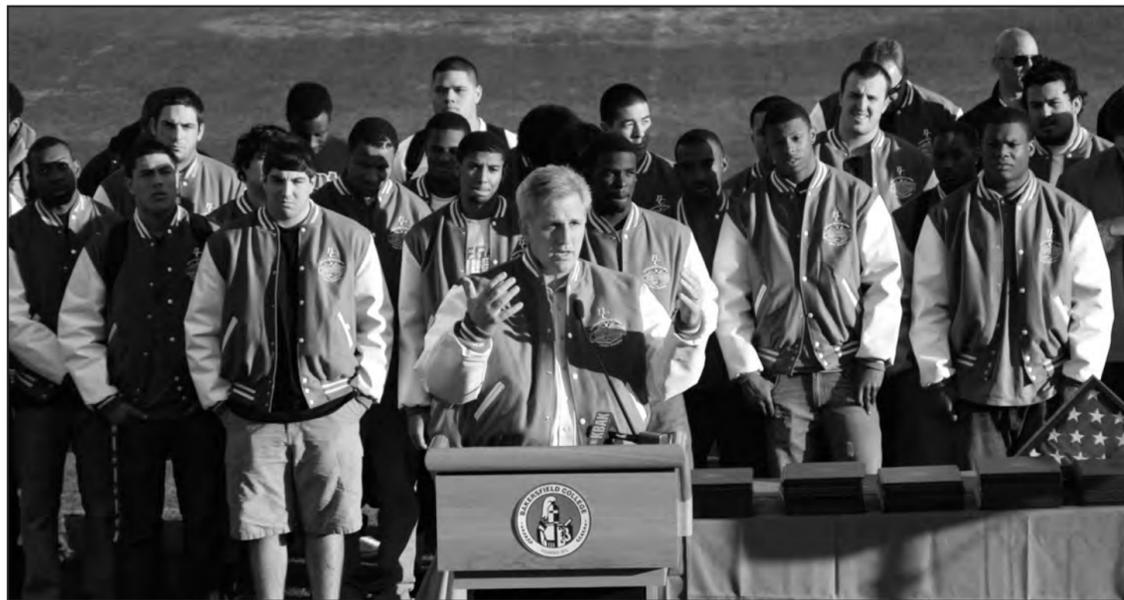
"What you did in this victory will stay with you a lifetime," McCarthy said about the football team. "People will talk about it for years to come, but the thing you have to learn from what you did, is the teamwork of what you created."

McCarthy also talked about when he was a teenager, he would come up to Memorial stadium and watch the Renegade football team play.

"When you talk to people throughout the community, they talked about the pride that the team gave them, but more importantly what this community means."

McCarthy also honored each member of the team with congressional records, to remind them every day of the achievement they accomplished, which was winning the state title and how they had to fight for their playoff hopes to capture the opportunity to play postseason football.

McCarthy said that what the



LUIS GARCIA / THE RIP

Honoring the BC football team, Congressman Kevin McCarthy gives a speech Jan. 30 at Memorial Stadium.

players learned at a community college will have them better prepared at the next level of school they attend.

McCarthy, (a proud fourth generation resident) said that he takes great pride in starting his political career in Bakersfield. "It brings me a great deal of pride," said McCarthy when asked how it felt to be back at BC.

"I grew up coming to this sta-

dium, I went to this school. As a young kid I came in here and played. I watched many games and I remember as a young kid going to the Pasadena junior Rose Bowl. But this team winning the state championship is a great deal of pride. It's a pride for the team, it's a pride for the college, and it's a pride for the community as well," he also added.

Sonya Christian also commented on her thoughts of The

Renegades "incredible" title run when she was asked about the feeling of the football team championship victory in her first year in office.

"It's really an honor; I really believe that athletic programs increase the academic performance of students," said Christian.

"Our athletic program, our coaches, our athletic director and our faculty, we emphasize the importance of our student ath-

letes really performing well."

Christian also talked about how amazed she was on the support the community gave the football team.

BC drew a crowd of 16,000 plus fans.

"What was amazing was the turn out of our community to support BC. It was incredible and we need to continue to keep the support and bring the community back."

BC assistant equipment manager passes away

By Jason Reed
Sports editor

Two weeks ago, Bakersfield College was struck with major news when learning that long-time assistant equipment manager, John Chapman passed away.

"It's tough," BC's athletic director Ryan Beckwith said. "It's like losing a family member; John has been a part of us for years."

Beckwith also expressed

how much BC admired Chapman and how deeply he will be missed. Chapman ran cross-country for Bakersfield College. "It's like family member, especially one as important as John, who has been around us for such a long time, and he's touched so many different people."

Signing day

On Feb. 6, Bakersfield College hosted National Letter of Intent signing day.

Three BC football members signed letters of intent with the

college they committed to. Offensive linemen Brandon Sarabia signed with Texas State, cornerback Mercy Maston signed with Boise State, and linebacker John Olgesby signed with Missouri Western.

Three of the players who already committed to their colleges were in attendance. Linebacker Ozzy Sombo, of Charleston Southern, tight end Mike Dunn, Fresno State, and linebacker Keylon Hollis who will be attending Utah State.

Men's and women's tennis start in opposite directions

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

Bakersfield College women's tennis has started strong this season, winning two matches and taking first in a tournament.

BC opened the season at College of the Sequoias 8-1. The Renegades played Fresno City College on Feb. 1 at home, thoroughly trouncing the Rams 9-0.

"We came out as I hope the girls come out all the time, expecting to battle and expecting to have to really work for your points," said assistant Coach Charles Provencio. "[Fresno] traditionally have had a really strong team, this year it was a young team, they were all freshmen. So we kind of had a little advantage experience wise"

"All of the girls played fantastic. Very tough mental tennis, they stayed in the points, they didn't give anything up, and overall I think they should be pretty proud of the way they played today."

On Feb. 8, BC played Antelope Valley College as part of a tournament and won 9-0. Following that game, on Feb. 9, BC beat College of the Sequoias 8-0. The third doubles match was called for time. The final match of the tournament was against Cerritos College, and again BC won 5-4. In the singles Nancy Ramirez, Leah Stewart, and Jackie Griffin won their matches. Nancy Ramirez and Leah Stewart won their doubles match, as did Jack-



PRISCILLA DAUVEN / THE RIP

In a game against Fresno City College, BC tennis player Nancy Ramirez hits the ball in a tennis match Feb. 1.

ie Griffin and Karissa Coronel. After the tournament, Coach Lynott expressed satisfaction with the teams play, though she notes that the team might have won a couple more matches if they'd come in fresh.

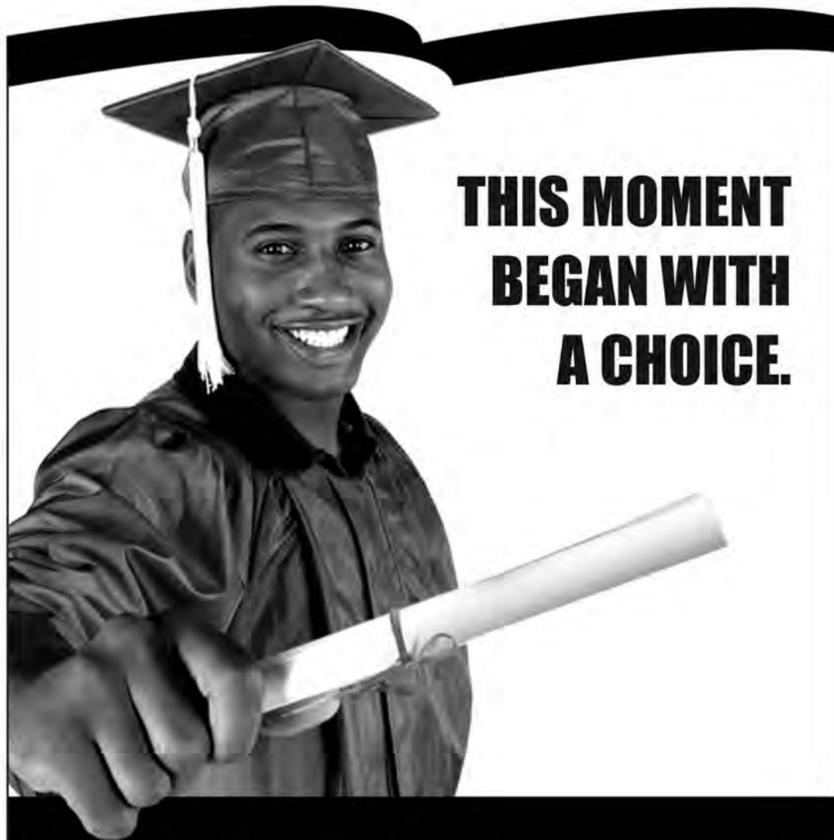
"We've had a long weekend of a lot of tennis and I think we were pretty tired. . . and I think that showed a bit in a couple of the matches that we played."

Women's tennis has their next game on Feb. 19 at home against Glendale College at 2pm.

Men's tennis played against Fresno as well on Feb 2 but lost 9-0. "We were not completely surprised by that result, they're

probably the toughest team we'll have to play all season," said Teri Lynott, the tennis head coach. "They're deeper, according to their coach he felt we played a very good match and we'll be competitive in our conference."

Regardless of the loss Coach Lynott is still looking forward to the season. "I know it's hard to sometimes take a loss, but I think we were encouraged by the performance out there, even though we did lose. We know how good they are and we played some very good matches against them, even though they won them." The next match for the men's team is on Feb. 15 at Modesto College.



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MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

College of Sequoias' Tyler Newberry gets tagged out as he slides into home Feb. 3 against Bakersfield College. The Giants beat the Renegades 6-1.

BC baseball team off to a 6-1 start

By Jason Reed
Sports editor

The Bakersfield College men's baseball team is off to a 6-1 start, after beating Golden West College 12-7 on Feb. 10, for its fourth consecutive victory. The lost dropped Golden West to 3-4 on the season, including losing three of its last four with a two game losing streak.

Golden West struck first, scoring two runs in the first inning before BC came roaring back in the bottom of the second inning scoring nine runs, including a two run home run by outfielder

Jordan Turner.

"We didn't take care of the baseball very well in the first inning," said BC's coach Tim Painton, when asked how his team got down early in the game. "They're a good hitting team, they're a very good ball club and to bounce back, you don't have nine run innings very often and we were able to put some extra base hits together to kind of put the game out of reach."

Turner capped off the second inning with four RBIs and a two run homer, going 2-for-2. BC also got back-to-back triples in the inning by outfielder Cole

Hallum and third baseman Luc Pomales.

Golden West left-handed pitcher Quentin McGrath was chased off the mound early in second inning after giving up six earned runs in the first two innings, including eight in the first inning.

The Rustlers didn't go away quietly, scoring three runs in the third inning before BC answered with two in the bottom of the third inning and took a 12-5 lead. The Renegades, allowing four runs and four hits in four innings, also chased Golden West right-hander pitcher Tanner Brown off

the mound early.

Painton thought his hitters did a great job offensively to put together great at-bats. BC's right-hander pitcher Brad Lindsley pitched six innings, giving up 10 hits and two earned runs. BC's defense struggled catching the ball, picking up three errors which resulted in six unearned runs during Lindsley's time on the mound.

"It was OK," Painton said when asked about his team's pitching performance in the game. "Our defense hurt us early in the ball game, which extends pitch counts for pitchers and they have

a tendency to lose focus in long innings," he said. "It was just average, it was OK today, it wasn't great but obviously good enough to win so we'll take that."

The win extended BC's win streak to four, BC's only loss of the early season came Feb. 3, against College of Sequoias, when the Renegades fell 6-1, including five errors. Since then BC has been on a batting tear, scoring 37 runs on their four game win streak.

The Renegades' next game will be Feb. 14, on Valentine's Day at Allan Hancock. BC defeated the Bulldogs back on Feb. 2.

Softball team starts season 0-3

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

It's been a rough start for Bakersfield College softball. The season's first three games have been losses.

On Feb. 1 BC traveled to Fresno City College where they lost 12-1 in the fifth inning. Karisa Jones, an outfielder, managed to score the only run in the fifth inning, while Fresno scored four runs in each of the first, second, and fourth innings.

"We got outplayed," said Coach Sandi Taylor. "I thought we played nervous, I thought we played without any confidence, and it's hard to get confidence without success, but it's hard to have success without any confidence."

BC's next game was at Santa Barbara City College on Feb. 5 and the Renegades lost again 12-2. BC gave up eight runs in the second inning, though they managed to hold the Vaqueros off in the third. Katie Hoffman and Kassidi Ward both scored runs in the fourth, batted in from Kelsey Best and Karisa Jones. SBCC scored another four runs in that inning, ending the game after a dead fifth inning.

"I thought at Santa Barbara we played better," said Taylor. "We had one bad inning that we couldn't seem to shake, but we swung the bat with a little more confidence, and if we could just get a little taste of success I think we'll be hooked."

"Clearly you can't give up so many runs and not swing the bat, because if we're going to give up 12 we've got to score 13. We've got to figure it out."

Taylor also saw improvement on the mound but admits pitching is something that will still need work.

"We can throw a lot of strikes," she said. "That's not the problem. We've got to work at being more efficient and getting them to hit it at us, and it was better at Santa Barbara, but then we coupled that with a couple of walks and errors and so that didn't help any."

Earned runs dropped from 12 to two, while base on balls went from five to three.

On Feb. 7 BC played at home against Cuesta College losing 18-11. Cuesta scored one run in the first inning, but then BC held them until the fourth, where they scored four more. The Cougars scored two more runs in the fifth

but were unable to stop BC from coming back hard with six runs in the fifth; Brittney Roberts, Brooke Charles, Katie Hoffman, Ward, Kylee Rice, and Jones all scored in the fifth inning.

In the sixth, Cuesta managed five more runs, including a home run, then scored another six in the seventh inning, including two more home runs. In BC's seventh inning, Roberts, Charles, Savanna Torres, and Jones all scored runs. Kelsey Best also scored after hitting a homerun.

"Well I think the positive is that we finally started shaking it up like we were capable of.

We just can't give up that many runs," said Coach Taylor after the game. She was impressed with the team's improvement on the plate, crediting their fifth and seventh inning drives to a more aggressive play style.

"The [girls] just finally started swinging; they gave themselves a chance by swinging the bat. Early on they were too tentative," she said.

BC will play Taft on Feb. 12 and will then have two home games on Feb. 15, the first against Santiago Canyon at 10 a.m. and then a rematch with Cuesta at 4:45 p.m.



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

Bakersfield College pitcher Scout Hawksley hurls the ball toward an opposing batter.



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BC swim team ready for season

By Jason Reed
Sports editor

The Bakersfield College swim team will start its season Feb. 16, and they are going into 2013 with high hopes and a new head coach.

This is Matt Moon's first time as a head coach; he spent his previous two years at the Union College, which is a private college located in Kentucky. Moon mentioned key returners and key freshmen for BC and also added that the entire team has stood out to him.

The BC men finished 24th in state last year and the women finished 25th in 2012. A returning member of the team, Mat Prasser, took sixth place, in the 50 freestyle at 21.65 seconds. He also placed 13th in the 100 breaststroke at 59.91.

Catherine Lugo took 19th in the 50 freestyle at 25.76. She also placed 13th in the 50 butterfly at 27.23. Another key returner, Josh Delarosa, finished 16th in the 200 individual medley at 1:59.65. Delarosa finished 15th in the 200 freestyle at 1:46.06 and placed seventh in the 200 backstroke at 1:56.69.

"We have a fairly young team," Moon said. "That's pretty exciting to have that level of swimmer kind of just handed down to me."

Moon also mentioned the freshmen swimmers that he believes will make an impact. He said that Liberty graduate Ted Richardson will be a sprint freestyler. He also made notable mention of Cameron Hunter and Zack Foster.

"They've been training really hard and swimming really well," Moon said. "I hate to narrow it down to a few, but I'd say, just as a whole this has been a really dynamic team."

Moon said the team has done more dry land workouts, with weight lifting and said that he is ready for the team's upcoming meet. BC will have its first swim meet Feb. 16, at Ventura College.



ROBIN SHIN / THE RIP

A group of art admirers look at multiple art pieces by local high school students at the Jones Gallery in the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library at BC. The exhibit runs from Feb. 6-27.

Invitational showcases art at BC

By **Mitchelle De Leon**
Reporter

On Feb. 6, Bakersfield College's Jones Gallery opened this year's Panorama Invitational with a reception that featured artwork by high school juniors and seniors from all over Kern County.

According to gallery curator Margaret Nowling, this year's Panorama Invitational showcased the most artwork since the annual exhibit began nine years ago.

Nowling believed that displaying the students' work in the gallery benefited them.

"A lot of times when a student makes a work of art, they do it in the classroom, and it just goes home, but nobody sees it but them and their family and the

other students in the classroom," she said. "This way their peers get to see it from other schools and they also get to see the works that are being done by other artists in their age group so they can be inspired and challenged by them."

The students used different mediums and inspirations for their artworks.

North High School junior Tateanna Marhx used her artwork to represent a fictional plot.

She created "Vampire King" in charcoal. She described it as about "a king who wants to be immortal so that he can take over a whole entire kingdom, and so he makes a sort of potion to make himself immortal, which turns out to be successful."

Independence High School junior Donald Mendivil drew in-



ROBIN SHIN / THE RIP

Joshua E. Perez stands next to his John Lennon ballpoint art piece as his family takes a photo of him.

piration from his own culture.

On his artwork titled "Crocodile Boot," he said, "I just drew this because I like to dress up

like a cowboy, and it's a way to show my Mexican culture."

Some students based their creations on people that influenced

them. Centennial High School junior Joshua Perez based his artwork on a public figure.

He chose to create a portrait of John Lennon in ballpoint because, to him, the musician was an inspiration.

"I find my solace in music, especially that from John Lennon," he said.

Other students, like Stockdale High School senior Kaylee Rundle, created their artworks based on people they personally knew. Rundle created a portrait of her great grandmother in ink.

"It's my first year to be in advanced art, and having my work shown is a really cool feeling," she said.

Marhx, who called her own style "sort of different," shared the sentiment.

"It really means a lot because

it's my first time," she said. "I like for people to be inspired by other people's art."

Garces High School art teacher Mark Brown had five of his students showcasing their artwork.

He said that he was proud of them and added, "I don't know if I taught them a lot of this stuff, but they have a lot of creativity."

BC students also attended the reception. Gabriela Fernandez, chemistry major, admired an artwork titled "Drowning in My Mistakes" by Mira Monte High School student Erica Sanchez.

"I like what it says about letting go of our mistakes and moving forward," she said.

The Panorama Invitational 2013 exhibit runs from Feb. 6-27 at the Jones Gallery, located inside the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library.

ROCKY THRILLS AGAIN



MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

Actors playing Brad and Janet parody the storm scene during the second night of the Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Empty Space on Feb. 2.



Above: the Velvet Darkness actors perform along with the Rocky Horror Picture Show.



Left: First time Rocky Horror "virgins" participate in a preshow clamato juice game for prizes.

MJ INGUITO / THE RIP