



The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

“When I came into the presidency, we had several administrative vacancies, and rather than hiring interim people from the outside to come and help out the college, what I did was I opened it up for our own faculty and staff.”

BC President Sonya Christian comments on some of her first actions as president



PHOTOS BY BERNIE REJON / THE RIP

Sonya Christian intently listens to the questions posed to her about her late start as president, and ponders BC’s future.

BC president speaks on first year

Christian lays groundwork for the future

By Myrissa Johns
Reporter

Sonya Christian, president of Bakersfield College, discussed her transition to the presidency, chief goals, and other plans for the future of BC.

Christian, who started as president in the middle of the last school year, described what it was like for her starting such a key administrative role at that time.

“It feels completely natural,” Christian said. “Maybe that’s because I was here as a faculty member.

“I got my first full-time job at BC, so it’s like coming back home,” she said. “I feel I understand our student population very, very well. I feel I know what the issues are. I know our faculty and staff community. I know our external community.

“Because I feel connected, I feel comfortable where we are. There’s a lot to do. Our faculty and staff are very ambitious.”

Christian explained that her only daughter currently lives in Los Angeles where she is working on her residency. “So in many ways coming back to Bakersfield, from a family perspective, is really great,” she said.

Christian expressed her delight about getting to drive to see her daughter on weekends rather than only communicating through text messaging.

Christian started her presidency this year in



January. “The sanctions and the issues related to football started in January,” she said. “just two weeks after I arrived on campus.

“It has been really difficult but I do see it as an opportunity because what it showed me was that the community came on to support BC because they knew we were going through difficulty.”

Christian explained that she received many letters, phone calls, and emails from members of the community to express their concerns. She said that she has used that as an opportunity to get them to reconnect.

“I think it’s just going to make us even stronger and more close-knit,” she said. “The whole thing on the sanctions completely sucks, but I think it’s also a way for us to recognize how much our community supports us.”

Christian also came to BC at a time when there were many administrative vacancies. She explained that she felt that the turnover in administration has taken its toll on instructors and staff at BC.

“When I came into the presidency, we had several administrative vacancies and rather than hiring interim people from the outside to come and help out the college, what I did was I opened it up for our own faculty and staff,” she said.

“So now when you look at our list of people that are working on the different issues, we’ve got a team of administrators, but we also have a lot of faculty that are taking on lead roles. I think with that kind of distributed leadership we can build the confidence on our vision
Please see **SONYA**, Page 6

Scrutiny directed toward SGA pres

By Kennedy Thomas
Reporter

Student Government President Travis Tillis received a Vote of Censure during the Student Government Association Senate meeting on Sept. 20. The censure serves as a final warning from the rest of the SGA before an investigation is launched and the impeachment process begins.

Tillis, who began his term as SGA president during the summer session, has been charged with neglect of office duties; assaults on the floor; disorderly conduct; reference to personalities; misconduct in office, including making false statements to *The Renegade Rip*; disobedience to instructions by committees [sic]; conspiracy; and refusal to recognize members entitled to the floor.

Tillis defended himself against the charges listed in a document passed out to all senators during the meeting, beginning with the first charge of neglect of office duties. The charge cited missed office hours, failure to attend an SGA class presentation on Sept. 3, and failure to attend a scheduled hour of work in *The Renegade Pantry*.

“The next step is impeachment, and I don’t think this is even worthy of being censured,”

said Tillis in a prepared statement. “I missed my pantry hour because I was answering some important emails. This is not to justify missing my hour, but to take action without notice is unethical, and doesn’t say very much about us wanting to work together. I am saying please dismiss this accusation because this was not deliberate, and it is not something that is ongoing, which is a detriment to the organization.”

Tillis denied the charge of assaults on the floor, as well. The charge states that Tillis “neglected to relinquish his chair during his involvement in debate,” and instructed a board member to restate a motion for which discussion had been closed.

“I didn’t commit an act of assault on the floor,” said Tillis. “I didn’t use any foul language, I didn’t make any derogatory remarks. I have shown steady improvement meeting after meeting, and this is a growing process, and I am trying my best to be an effective chairman and president.”

Regarding the charge of conspiracy, in which Tillis is accused of attempting to create an alliance with certain SGA members, Tillis again denied the charge in his statement, feeling that it was exaggerated. “Conspiracy is a strong word, and I denounce that all the way,” he said.

Tillis asked for the charges to be dropped altogether, so that the SGA could continue to move forward as a team.

“I need my team to support me, and help me,” he said, “because we are a unit, and it does not look favorable upon the SGA to be informally in conflict with the president when these issues can be resolved

Please see **SGA**, Page 6

ONLINE

To see a full copy of the Censure report visit www.therip.com

Smoking issue at BC not forgotten as new semester underway

By Kennedy Thomas
Reporter

Initially intended to go into effect this semester, Bakersfield College’s smoking ban has been delayed due to administrative conflict between the Student Government Association and the Kern Community College District.

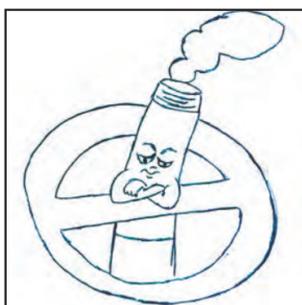
The policy, originally overseen by last semester’s Student Government General Counsel Nick Acosta, was a result of a campus-wide online poll for students, who were given the choice between a completely smoke-free campus and designated

smoking areas. The majority of poll participants opted for a full ban on smoking.

Since the results, SGA proponents of the ban have continued to have difficulty in seeing the policy through to its fruition.

While the SGA is adamant about a smoke-free BC, the KCCD wants to enact a district wide policy incorporating designated smoking areas, currently in place at both Cerro Coso and Porterville colleges, into BC before eventually moving to a completely smoke-free policy throughout the district.

With Acosta’s departure from BC



PRISCILLA DAUVEN / THE RIP

at the end of last semester, Student Government Legislative Liaison

Shelby Sward, 20, has taken up the responsibility of pursuing the ban.

Still planning on achieving a complete smoking ban, Sward acknowledged that there have been some roadblocks.

“The students here voted to have a smoke-free campus,” she said. “So everyone thought that we would have one by this year, but it doesn’t actually work like that, it has to go through the administration.”

Though she remains dedicated to the task, Sward did not hesitate to share her disappointment in the lack of action so far.

“To have nothing to show after

a year is a little embarrassing,” she said.

Sward said that the KCCD wishes to enact gradual change across the entire district by first establishing designated smoking areas at BC before eventually shifting to a fully smoke-free environment on all campuses.

Despite the KCCD’s desires for an initial shift to designated smoking areas, Sward wishes to pursue the full ban on smoking, as she feels that honoring the decision of the majority of BC students should come first.

Please see **SMOKING**, Page 6

Attracting locals for days of fun



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Friends and families from all over Kern County come together to enjoy the many attractions provided at the fair; many enjoy the various rides at the carnival.



MJ INGUIITO / THE RIP

Students from Global Sikaran Arnis, a Phillipine martial arts, warm up on the Frontier Stage.



MJ INGUIITO / THE RIP

The All Alaskan Racing Pigs take off at the KC Lane Loop.



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Entertainer Greg Frisbee performs his swallowing fire trick, at the Frontier Stage, in his solo act.



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

Vertigo, the fair's new attraction, spins participants at 100 feet.



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

A large crowd gathers to cheer on their favorite dachshund during the annual Wienerschnitzel Wiener Nationals at the Bolthouse Courtyard near the fair entrance.

Cookies contest just one of many at fair



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

Contestants prepared their cookies to be judged by the panel.

By Jason Reed
Reporter

Lois Ernst was happy to celebrate her second ever first place victory in the annual Grandma and Grandpa Cookie contest. She made peanut butter kiss cookies and when both judges took a bite they nodded their heads with smiles on their faces Ernst also looked at her husband and smiled herself.

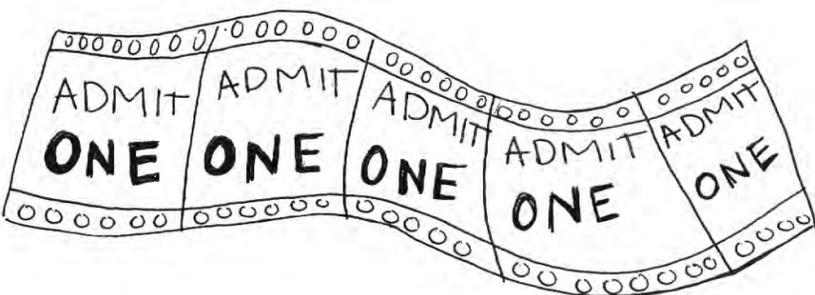
"I've made it before," Ernst said when asked if she ever made the peanut butter kiss cookie. "I thought the event turned out well. I just enjoy doing this," she added. Ernst said this is the first time she had ever made the cookie for the contest, but has made it before.

Sharon Black who finished in second place said, "I thought it was fun. I love seeing the kids eat the cookies."

"This is the first time we have ever done cookies," she said. "We've done pie in the past and to finish in second is very acceptable considering with this being the first time."

"It's always a good time doing this," host Linda Swanson said when asked about the event turn out and what she enjoys the most about it. "We usually have more participants but we were still pleased with the outcome."

Swanson says they will have cupcakes and pie judging contests at the fair also.



PRISCILLA DAUVEN / THE RIP



MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

Little boys feed two of the many alpaca's at the Kern County Fair on Saturday September 21.



MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

Chocolate covered bacon, from Mac's, leaves much to be desired in both the savory and sweet realm.

By Graham C Wheat
Editor-in-Chief

The smell of cotton candy in the air was palpable, sweet corn roasting, lines forming for Boy Scout baked potatoes stretched across Main St.

Fried food gourmards rejoice, your pilgrimage has arrived for two weeks.

As the one of the main attractions at the Kern County Fair, beyond concerts and drinking, the array of treats sweet and salty was showcased well in 2013. Although some more obscure options, like fried Kool-Aid balls, didn't make a come back this year there was plenty of options to choose from. Some old favorites returned, and a few new food oddities made their debut.

At noon I entered the fair prepared with a stack of antacids and plenty of water, preparing myself for the fried food binge I was about to undertake. Upon immediate en-

try into the fair, the wafting smell of savory barbecue and sweet delights had my taste buds at attention.

I wanted to jump "whole hog" so to speak into the weird arena, so I went with chocolate covered bacon as my starter for the adventure. Mac's, which is located on the main street to the right of the entrance, across from Boy Scouts of America stand, had a 10-minute queue for the ice cream treats so I was hopeful for the sweet-savory concoction.

To start, the chocolate-covered bacon was cold and from a fridge (although upon reflection I don't know another way it could be served), the bacon was cold and soft with a passable chocolate shell. The fatty content of the bacon had sort of gelatinized and that was an unpleasant experience. When I did get a crispy bit, it was indeed savory but overpowered by the sub-par chocolate. After shelling out \$5 for this, I was reticent about the rest of the odd food.

Fried foods return with fair



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

The deep fried peaches, covered in cinnamon and sugar with a whipped cream topping, are a hit.

So discouraged was I that I had to eat part of a delectable baked potato to regain my confidence about the day. Many fair goers for good reason know the Boys Scouts of America baked potatoes, and it is wonderful how something so simple can be so delicious. Simply a large russet potato wrapped in foil with your choice of toppings (from the likely fair of butter and chives to deep pit barbecue) is available for upwards of \$7. At the outset of the fair, the line was already starting to crowd the main drag of the fair. The half of a baked potato I had was moist, buttery and filling. Exactly what I needed to regain my fortitude.

Another simple and filling choice that can feed numerous people is also located on the main street, more toward the agriculture section. Everything Cheese has a chili cheese curly fry that does not disappoint.

Although it is \$9.50 for the order, there is an option for seven dol-

lars with no chili or cheese but that would be a travesty to this glorious brick of fries. The sheer spectacle of the pound of curly french fries smothered in warm cheese and chili is worth it. It is quite literally a cinder block of potato, orange cheesy and savory chili goodness. With a little salt and pepper, this easily fed four hungry college students. Its only improvement would have been extra chili and cheese, but I wasn't willing to fork over another \$2.50.

Do not be fooled by the impostor "spiral fries" that are located closer to the east entrance. This is merely a paper plate of curly fries that doesn't come close to inducing the same reactions as the aforementioned brick of fries.

After proper digestion time, I had a hankering for another sweet indulgence. To the delight of many, this year fried Twinkies are back. I can assure you, if you like Twinkies you will like this version of them. I also wanted to try some-

thing that I hadn't tried in the sweet category. Deep fried peaches were the order. Acquired on the Midway in the same places that sell the deep fried Twinkies, this treat was a pleasurable one. Peaches, what I think were canned, covered in batter and plopped into golden hot oil, then dusted with cinnamon and sugar, covered in whipped cream. Although the peach to batter ratio was too high, the warm peaches made up for it. It was almost like an instant peach pie. Fresh peaches would have been nice, but I still enjoyed them.

Plenty of options for indulgence are available at the fair. From Greek and Italian food to fried candy bars, you can find something to tickle your taste buds. Be prepared to put out some cash as the price range is ridiculously high (\$11.50 for a funnel cake!), but since it comes but once a year most people will be able to manage.

Comic Con brings out best in Cosplay

By Kennedy Thomas
Reporter

Approximately 2,500 fans showed up to the Marriott Hotel on Sept. 22 to attend the Bakersfield Comic-Con, the largest turnout in the event's history.

Promoted and organized by Steve Wyatt, 49, the convention has steadily increased in attendance since beginning in 2008. Wyatt has a large amount of connections in the industry and has used them to generate interest in comics throughout the community, as well as provide access to many of the mediums most prominent figures.

Sergio Aragonés, 76, illustrator for Mad Magazine since 1962, and creator of the Groo the Wanderer comic, was on hand to meet fans and promote his work. Aragonés, a long time friend of Wyatt, has lost track of the times that he has attended Bakersfield conventions. Wyatt and Aragonés have a longstanding business relationship.

"I was here last year," he said. "We've been friends for many, many, many, years. He's the only guy who I trust selling my artwork. He's an incredible, decent person. I trust him implicitly."

Aragonés believes that even though the Bakersfield convention is much smaller than some larger conventions in other cities, the attendees are more dedicated to the comic-book medium.

"Bakersfield has 300,000 people, so it's perfect for the amount of people," he said. "I like the small conventions because you have a chance to talk with the people, in a more close way."

In addition to his work for Mad Magazine, Aragonés is known for his incredible work ethic. He has missed only one issue of Mad, due to a post office error, and has maintained a steady pace of production throughout his over 50-year career.

"When I did Groo, my character," he said. "I did it for Marvel for 120 issues, it came out every month and I've never been late. It's one of the very few things that I am very proud of, and I expect the same thing from my publisher."

Aragonés' started his career with Mad Magazine in 1962, and appreciates the impact his work through the magazine has had on fans throughout the decades.

"I think the work in Mad has been making a few generations laugh, and that's what it's all about."

Aragonés offered some advice to aspiring artists that hope to contribute to the medium in the same way as him.

"Get better. Try to get better; learn. It's a lifetime process. Study your field and get better. I can see it in my work, from the early Groos to the new ones, it's like someone else is drawing it," he said, before adding a final recommendation: "Don't get hung up in the old-fashioned way to do things. Get into the new, modern, way."

Industry veteran Scott Shaw, 62, was present at the convention to promote his work and offer instruction to artists who hope to develop their own comic-book characters. Shaw is currently a storyboard artist for the popular show "Annoying Orange," on Cartoon Network, and also writes and draws the graphic novels of the same name.

A winner of four Emmys for his work on Jim Henson's Muppet Babies, Shaw also worked on the prevalent Flintstones Fruity Pebbles commercials, worked on Garfield, and wrote and drew Simpsons comics.



ANTONIO MENDEZ / THE RIP

Vanessa Gomez stalks the grounds at Comic Con in her zombie outfit.

Looking back on how the acceptance of comic book culture has spread throughout the last few decades, Shaw recalled the beginnings of the San Diego Comic-Con in 1970, of which he was an early participant.

"It started out with very few people," he said. "Three hundred kids, almost all boys, in the basement of one of the crappiest hotels in downtown San Diego. Back then the only women were moms who thought their boys were coming to get molested by pedophiles because the idea of seeing fliers saying 'Come trade old comic books!' in the basement of a creepy hotel sounded like a very obvious trap."

The stigma regarding comic culture has definitely changed, according to Shaw, who has noticed a significant shift in the popular culture.

"Things have changed a lot," he said. "Geeks may not be in the majority, but there are enough of us. I mean, I'm sure you've noticed the geek influence on things like car commercials and things like that."

Regarding the Bakersfield Comic-Con specifically, Shaw said that he appreciates the care that Wyatt takes in providing a variety of content for attendees to participate in, rather than focusing solely on the trading of memorabilia between fans, and has much respect for him.

"Steve Wyatt is not only a cartoonist himself, he's a friend to all of us cartoonists," he said. "He helps us out, so we're always happy to come to his shows. Steve has an extremely good reputation among the people in the professional community, so we're always happy to support whatever he's doing."

Celebrities were not the only exhibitors at the event, with several local artists, traders, and fan clubs present.

Stu Livingston, 27, a Bakersfield native who attended Bakersfield High School and Bakersfield College, was stationed at a table with two other BC alumni who have found success in the artistic industry, Edwin Ledford, 28, and Gabrielle Steiger, 20.

Livingston, who graduated from Cal State Northridge and went on to work in animation, most notably as a storyboard artist on the latest season, and final episode, of Futurama, said that BC was a great experience for him.

"My favorite professors were actually from BC, over L.A.," he said. "So go BC! Go Renegades!"

Livingston is currently working at Cartoon Network on an upcoming show called Steven Universe, a program created by former Adventure Time artist Rebecca Sugar.

To current art students at BC, Livingston offered some insight into how to succeed in his business.

"One big lesson I've learned is, if

you want to succeed as an artist or anywhere, it takes a lot of self determination," he said. "I didn't go to an art school so I didn't have those big advantages of being connected to the industry, but you gotta realize that you have to take responsibility for yourself to find those things, and be that resourceful person."

Ledford, a local comic book artist and prior exhibitor at the Bakersfield Comic-Con, was excited for the change in venue from last year's convention at the Double Tree Hotel to the Bakersfield Marriott. He felt that the prior location was too small to accommodate the amount of guests attending.

Less experienced in the industry was Steiger, who graduated from BC with an AA in Art, and hopes to transfer to L.A., was exhibiting at the convention in order to grow contacts and spread awareness of her work.

"I just made a 'zine for the first time ever," she said. "I want to be in the animation industry, but right now I'm just kind of diddling. A lot of my friends are in the industry too, so it's kind of nice having some connections. Mostly right now I'm trying to build up a portfolio."

The local regiment of Star Wars fan club The 501st Legion, a group that dresses up as stormtroopers, sith lords, and other members of The Dark Side, was present to offer some fun for children and money for the community.

Assistant Squad Commander for the San Joaquin Squad Joe Gonzales, 42, whose daughter attends BC, oversaw the club's Blast a Trooper contest, in which participants could pay a dollar for three shots at 501st members with a toy gun. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the game were donated to the Bakersfield Homeless Center.

Fan club members were not the only ones dressing up at the convention. Cosplayers were prominent, many there to participate in the convention's first costume contest, with

separate rankings awarded to children and adult competitors.

The winners of the adult contest were Denisse Narmandin as Pop-Art Girl, coming in third place; Sara Taylor in her Hawkeye; costume, coming in second, and the grand prize going to both Melissa Chambers and Justiny Jackson, who appeared as Two-Face and Scarecrow. Third place was awarded \$10, second place was awarded \$50, and first place was awarded \$100.

As with previous Bakersfield Comic-Cons, a large donation was made to the Bakersfield Rescue Mission. Wyatt said that the convention itself earned approximately \$2,000, and that by working with local Vons stores, that amount will be doubled to \$4,000 worth in food.



ANTONIO MENDEZ / THE RIP

Sergio Aragonés sitting at his booth promoting his artwork at Comic Con.



BERNIE REJON / THE RIP

501st Legion member Scott Wall as Darth Revan at the Sept. 22 Comic Con.



ANTONIO MENDEZ / THE RIP

Stu Livingston drawing a quick sketch for a fan.



ANTONIO MENDEZ / THE RIP

Cosplayers gather as the costume contest commences, competing for a grand prize of \$100.



ANTONIO MENDEZ / THE RIP

The Power Rangers competing against The Stormtroopers in a videogame contest.



PHOTOS BY CINDY HERNANDEZ / THE RIP

The Citalian Family poses with their 1972 Cadillac M-M Hearse at the Rock & Rod Show. The inaugural event took place at Stramler Park, near downtown.

Classic cars and classic style

By **Cindy Hernandez**
Reporter

The First Annual Bakersfield Rock & Rod Show brought rockers of all ages to Stramler Park. They played and relaxed in the warm sun on Sept. 14 while listening to several bands play on the stage.

The crowd was small but with a full bar, food, and fresh lemonade being sold, and the sun was no excuse to miss the hot rod show. All sorts of cars were featured in the show: sports cars, rat rods, hot rods, and even a hearse.

Bakersfield College Nursing teacher Noelia Citalian and her husband Jose Citalian are the proud owners of the

1972 Cadillac M-M Hearse. Noelia says, "We like living on the dark side." According to her, it is their family car and a great tool for bringing home groceries. Jose agrees and says, "See, this way we can roll with the whole family even if they're dead." This is their first car show and they haven't made any modifications to the hearse just yet.

On the other hand, Roy Hawks, 73, owner of a 1948 Chevrolet custom pickup truck has made several modifications to his car. One day during his process, he forgot the gas line was disconnected and when he went to start his truck, the whole front end caught fire nearly catching his garage on fire. Fortunately, insurance covered the dam-

ages. The fire damages alone added up to \$25,000. In total, Hawks has put \$60,000 into his pickup truck. His wife has been very supportive of his project pickup. Hawks concluded with saying, "There's a lot of history on these things and they're never done. There's always something you've always gotta do to them."

One of the rat rod owners, Isy Cooper, 39, from Taft says he bought his 1931 Ford Model A, as is, for \$10,000 and has done nothing more than paint his vehicle. He chose matte black rather than shiny black because he says he likes the way his rustic car looks. He drives his car everywhere, including to work.



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One Book, One Bako is on a community mission

By **Sharida Rejon**
Photographer

The annual project One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern, along with its main sponsors, Kern County Library and Cal State Bakersfield, are getting ready to kick off their fall 2013 events.

The project, which consists of a series of programs and events spread from September through November, promises to be a cultural experience designed to fascinate its audience and discuss issues that are present in our community in hopes to touch and define people's lives.

The book chosen for this year's event is New York Times bestseller "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," written by award winning science writer Rebecca Skloot. The book focuses on the famous HeLa cells, which became the first cells to survive and replicate outside of the human body that led to a medical revolution, and the woman behind the cells, Henrietta Lacks. The book touches on the themes of poverty, under-education, domestic abuse, and the inability to afford basic health care and medicine.

According to Kristie Coons, coordinator of One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern, these themes are relevant to our society. "The issues of poverty and

domestic abuse are issues that, unfortunately, haven't exactly been solved in Kern County. Many of the life issues that we face are ones that the Lacks family have struggled with," said Coons on the overall themes of this year's book.

One of the events being held during this year's project is a book signing and presentation by the author of the book, Rebecca Skloot. According to Coons, approximately 2,000 people are expected to attend.

The presentation and book signing will take place on Nov. 6 at the CSUB Icardo Center at 7 p.m. Another event will be a presentation by the Lacks family, who will talk about Henrietta and the legacy of her cells. The Lacks family presentation will be held on Oct. 7 at the CSUB Dore Theatre at 7 p.m.

In addition to these events, One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern will offer book discussions, lectures, and festivals.

"Our goal is not to invite the community to just read one book, but to come together and talk about the book and its scenes," Coons said.

For a full list of the events being offered by One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern, visit KernCountyLibrary.org, or pick up a brochure at the Kern County Library.

News Briefs

• Author Patricia McCormick will be visiting Bakersfield College on Oct. 15. Students can stop by to meet the author at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Her books, "Sold" and "Never Fall Down," will be available for sale during her visit in the Fireside Room.

• Students are invited to attend a poetry reading by award-winning poet, novelist, and painter Clarence Major. The poetry reading will be Oct. 3 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Norman Levan Center for Humanities on the BC campus.

Clarence Major has won many awards including a Western States Book Award for Fiction, two Pushcart Prizes, and a National Council on the Arts Fellowship.

• Roughneck Review, an online journal featuring student works, is encouraging students to submit their work for an issue to be published online.

The submission deadline will be Oct. 1. Roughneck Review publishes papers, artwork, musical files, dramatic readings, and many others.

Students can find submission guidelines on Roughneck Review's website www2.bakersfieldcollege.edu/roughneck.

SGA: New president embroiled in controversy over actions taken

Continued from Page 1

with a simple conversation.”

Tillis was not allowed to complete his prepared statement during the meeting, as his allotted time for speaking ran out.

Other SGA executive board members proceeded to clarify their reasons for proposing the vote of censure.

Janessa Jennings, SGA general counsel, explained that this was not the first time Tillis had heard of these charges.

Jennings, addressing the SGA executive board members and senators, said that Tillis had been spoken to individually on the matter, and that it had also been discussed in a group setting.

She expressed disappointment in Tillis' response to these discussions, and urged him to not let the situation worsen.

“There’s not much improvement, you see, as he stated, he’s missed several appointments continuously, and we’ve seen this. This is all documented, and now we’re coming to this vote of censure,” she said. “It’s a warning. It’s not impeachment. It gets looked into and everyone is notified. We’re all on the same page. Please take this example, and take it seriously.”

SGA Legislative Liaison Shelby Sward, 20, conveyed frustration with Tillis' reactions to the charges during the senate hearing, and addressed him personally in her response to his defense.

“Regardless of whether or not any of that warrants a vote of censure, or impeachment, what I fail to see is any responsibility for the actions that you’ve taken,” said Sward, before advising Tillis on what she felt would be the proper course of action.

“I recommended to you in the conflict resolution meeting that we just had, if you wanted to approach this senate with some hope, then you might want to start by opening your mouth and saying, ‘Look, I’m sorry, I made a mistake.’ All I see are more excuses, where is the actual responsibility and the mature action of making improvement, as opposed to just constantly saying ‘it’s not my problem and I didn’t do it?’”

The Motion for the Vote of Censure in regard to Parliamentary Procedure was passed with a vote of 12 in favor to 1 opposed, with 4 abstaining.

Tillis declined to comment on the matter after the meeting had concluded.

SGA Activities Liaison Daniela Miramontes,



KENNEDY THOMAS / THE RIP

Tillis speaks with SGA adviser Don Low.

20, fully supported the move to censure Tillis.

Miramontes said that Tillis had been made aware of the complaints against him many times, and had not adequately improved, despite ample time to do so.

Miramontes claimed that Tillis was content to ignore criticism and make excuses for his actions, rather than work to correct his performance.

“It might seem like this is a very brash and very harsh thing to do, but we have been in office for four months, and it is no longer a learning process,” she said.

“He’s just failed to correct his errors, or even admit to having any errors. We’re all humans. We have to admit to them. I think that all in all I would be doing a disservice to my constituents if I were to allow this to go on any longer without saying something.”

Erin Robinson, SGA secretary, also agreed with the censure, saying that Tillis regularly deflects criticism onto other members of the SGA, and refuses to take responsibility for his actions.

“I would have liked to see my SGA president take responsibility as an adult, and as a man, to own up to his mistakes, because what he’s basically trying to say is that we all are liars about what he’s doing, and I don’t appreciate that.”

To date Tillis has received two grievances filed against him.

Sward stated that if the SGA continues to be dissatisfied with Tillis' performance and attitude, and if one more grievance is filed against him, that they would proceed with an impeachment trial for the president, tried by the senate.

These issues remain in debate at the moment, and the future for Tillis remains to be seen.

East High loses longtime paper

By Myrissa Johns
Reporter

Randy Hamm, a long time Journalism teacher and adviser, expressed his disappointment, and other concerns, about East Bakersfield High School's student newspaper, The Kernal, being shut down.

“When our principal was interviewed by The Californian, he said that it was cancelled because of lack of student interest and a reduction in funding, that we didn’t have enough money for electives that didn’t have a large number of students in them,” Hamm said. “That’s what he said.”

“I don’t have any hard data to contradict what he said. I do know that I had 19 kids signed up at the end of the school year and historically, that’s a little bit lower than the last few years,” Hamm said.

Hamm explained that The Kernal used to average 10-15 students per year. “Since I took over 21 years ago, we’ve averaged 25-30,” Hamm said. “Some years I had as many as 36, but the last few years it was down under 20.”

Hamm spoke about a lawsuit against East High's former principal. “In 2005, my student editors sued the principal and the district and the superintendent,” Hamm said. “There was a legal case going on for a year and a half that was settled out of court essentially in favor of the students.”

The students started the lawsuit when the former principal and administrators refused to allow them to print a series of stories about gay students on campus. Some of the gay students were also a part of the lawsuit against the district.

Hamm said that the lawsuit against the principal was “their thing,” referring to his students, saying that he did not even suggest the idea.

Hamm explained that after the lawsuit, the principal adopted a policy of prior review, which meant that he would be able to read all articles before they were printed. Hamm said that in some cases, the principal would voice his opinion whether an article should be printed.

“I would tell him, ‘Well, they can legally do what they want and I can advise them, but they don’t have to take my advice unless they’re breaking the law,’” Hamm said.

Hamm explained that he felt that there may have been a connection between the principal being sued and the loss of a chain of high school newspapers.

“East High is just the latest one in a string of papers to get shut down since then,” Hamm said. “They clearly couldn’t shut the paper down immediately because that obviously would have been censorship.”

“But maybe eight years later, it’s not such a big deal,” Hamm said.

“Since [the lawsuit], which was 2006, four of the schools that had newspapers no longer have newspapers, and all of the schools that have opened in the last eight years have opened without newspapers except Frontier, which was just about to open when this whole thing started.

“So, it begins to look like my students won their battle and lost the war with the district,” Hamm said.

“I can’t prove that there’s a cause of relationship between that controversy and the loss of the paper.”

Hamm explained that he had seen a letter to the editor in The Bakersfield Californian that was written by a former Kern High School District teacher and activities director who had retired.

“He said, in his letter to the editor, that after The Kernal’s lawsuit, top level district administrators told the principals of all the schools that if they still had a paper that they needed to get rid of it as soon as they could, and that any school that opened would open without a newspaper,” Hamm said.

Hamm went on to explain that he called the former KHSD employee and asked him about his letter to the editor. Hamm said that the former KHSD employee would not tell who gave him that information but that he said that the source of that information was Joe Thompson, a former assistant superintendent of instruction.

“I called Joe Thompson this summer and asked him point blank, ‘Is this true,’ and he said no,” Hamm said. “So I’m not sure which the truth is.”

Hamm explained that in some cases the newspaper’s adviser would retire, or just get tired of being an adviser, and the principal would fail to find another adviser to continue the newspaper. He explained that this was the case with Joan Swenson, former adviser for Liberty High School’s newspaper.

“So that’s what happened at Liberty,” Hamm said. “They had a strong paper.”

Hamm went on to explain that in other cases, they just removed the program. “At South, they had an adviser and Stockdale, they had an adviser,” Hamm said. “And they just told them flat out, like me, ‘There won’t be a paper next year.’”

Hamm says that he will be retiring after the end of this school year. “I have two granddaughters growing up in Arkansas, and they’re only going to grow up once,” Hamm said. “Not having a paper makes it easier for me because I don’t have to worry about telling a staff of next year’s leaders that they’re not going to be able to do it.”

“I’d hope that I would be able to pass it on to another adviser, and there were two or three people who were willing to take over, but that didn’t happen,” Hamm said.

“I’m very, very sad,” Hamm said. “I think the primary reason I’m sad is because when a school loses its paper, it’s lost a major opportunity for students to express their opinions, student voice, and that’s for the whole student body.”

“And now, where do you go to hear what students think? It’s gone,” Hamm said.

“I’m also very sad because there were anywhere from 14 in the lowest year to 36 in the highest year, students who were learning valuable skills: leadership, interviewing, and writing of various types, and advertising sales, and desktop publishing, and design, and photography,” Hamm said. “And that’s all gone.”

Hamm stated that he believed that the newspaper could help students with other course work. “Although writing a news story isn’t the same as writing an essay for your English teacher, I think it does improve their writing,” Hamm said. “I think it improves their confidence across the board.”

“The big thing I see is that, in a school, most of the things that we ask students to do are for the teacher; write a paper for the teacher, do a research report for the teacher, make a poster for the teacher. Other people may see it but it’s primarily like a practice life.”

“But the newspaper is a real artifact. It’s a real thing that’s completely controlled by the students,” Hamm said. “If they mess it up, it’s on them. Their names are on the story. It’s passed out to 2,500 people.”

“So to me, it’s one of the best teaching tools for responsibility,” Hamm said.

Hamm said that the students think, “If I do it poorly, my name is on it and everybody reads it, therefore, it’s important to the students to do a good job.”

Hamm said that the student newspaper was very important and is what gave students a voice. “I think primarily it’s for the school to know that students also have a voice here,” Hamm said.

“It’s not just the dean giving us the rules. It’s not just the principal giving speeches. It’s not just teachers talking to us, but we have a place on this campus to express what we think about things,” Hamm said.

Hamm said that he felt that the newspaper brought what the students felt to the forefront and made people see that on a monthly basis. “It’s just almost a subconscious way of saying students and what they think matters here,” Hamm said.

“I have so many former students who have gone on into Communication and looked back and said, ‘Wow, that was the best thing I did in high school. It shaped my future. It made me who I am today,’ that kind of thing,” Hamm said. “And that’s over.”

“It’s just really sad that it’s gone,” he said. “I hope it comes back one day.”

Hamm spoke about the organization of a journalism club and hopes for the future of a newspaper at East High. “Mrs. McKinney has revived [the journalism club] and the kids are meeting at lunchtime and planning possibly doing an after school publication because they can’t have a class to do it in,” Hamm said.

“There were close to 30 kids who came to the first meeting and there’s an interest in keeping journalism alive, at least on a club level,” Hamm said.

Celia McKinney, East High teacher, says that she will be volunteering her time to work with the journalism club.

Hamm said that East High had a newspaper for 75 years. “East High opened in 1938 with a newspaper,” he said. “We’re now celebrating, this next month, Oct. 12, our 75th anniversary.”

“And as far as I know, all the 75 of those years, they had a paper.”

“There’s some alumni who were hoping that there would be a 75th anniversary edition and that the students would decide to make that their big opening issue this year,” Hamm said. “And now there are no students to do it.”

SMOKING: The smoking policy takes a new turn as admin vows action on the issue

Continued from Page 1

By coordinating with the student trustee from Porterville College, Genevieve Bunch, who gets to vote at district board meetings, Sward hopes to help tip the odds in the SGA’s favor.

“I’m hoping to work with her, to get her vote as completely smoke-free, instead of designated [smoking areas] for each school,” said Sward. “So we’ll start with her, and then we’ll hopefully continue advocating to the other members of the board saying ‘look, we understand your logic, but we don’t want that, we want completely smoke-free.’”

“This is what the students want.”

Even though she is confident that the SGA can succeed in creating a smoke-free policy, Sward has not discounted the possibility of compromise, hoping to have some form of smoking policy in place by next semester.

“Worst comes to worst, we’ll probably have designated smoke areas by Spring 2014. Best case scenario: completely smoke-free by Spring 2014.”

Bakersfield College President Sonya Christian echoed Sward’s concern about seeing the complete smoking ban passed in the near future, but maintained that the ultimate goal was a smoke-free campus.

“We are going boldly... We’re going to go fully tobacco free,” said Christian. “Do I think we can go tobacco free this year? No. We would need to have the policy in place, but what we’re trying to do is, if we can’t go tobacco free, then [we can] do designated areas.”

In addition to the SGA, Christian is coordinating with the Dean of Allied Health, Cindy Collier, who is working with a team to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of a prospective designated smoking area policy.

Sward, who was elected to student government for the first time this semester, remains dedicated to the cause.

“I’m still new to this whole thing, so I’m maybe naively optimistic,” she said.

“I’m really excited and ready to, with the help of Sonya Christian and the SGA, keep it moving forward.”

Also being worked on is a plan to enforce the potential ban.

Sward outlined a tentative plan, still in the early stages of discussion, which would see the primary punishment for smoking policy offenders resemble BC’s parking violation system.

Dedicated personnel would issue tickets to violators of the smoking policy, which would increase in cost if offenders did not pay off the initial citation.

In response to whether or not there were personal motivations for the SGA to aggressively pursue the no smoking policy, Sward stated that many members of the SGA are, in fact, smokers themselves, but that their personal feelings on the matter will have no effect on their dedication to implementing the ban.

“Ninety-nine percent of us smoke here,” Sward said, “but at the same time, that has nothing to do with our job; our job is to do what the students want.”

Sward assured that work on the policy will continue throughout the course of the semester, and that it has not fallen by the wayside.

“It hasn’t been forgotten, it’s just there’s nothing to show for it quite yet. But there is work being done.”

SONYA: Sonya Christian details start of presidency and talks about what is to come

Continued from Page 1

together.”

Christian stresses the importance of community for BC. She explained that there were 4,000 people at BC’s first football game at home. She said that her goal is to get 10,000 people in attendance. “We’re really focusing on building that community back,” she said.

“It’s our centennial year so it makes complete sense that during the centennial year we take that time.”

Christian explained that she would also like to get more events back on campus in order to attract the external community back to BC.

Christian explained the reason she feels the community is so important is because the community supports the college. She said that there are many ways that the community supports the college ranging anywhere from student scholarships to internships.

“So it’s really, really important to stay connected,” she said.

Christian explained that one of her goals is to increase the number of students with degree com-

pletion. She wants to instill student success habits in all incoming and current BC students.

One example that she explained was that sometimes students don’t study before taking placement exams. Therefore, they get placed in lower level classes.

Christian explained that if each student is informed that they should study and go back and retake the placement exam, then they might get placed in a higher level class which would then decrease the number of courses they need to take and also lessen their financial aid commitment.

“We’re trying to message them through our financial aid office and things like that, but why not crowd source it,” Christian said.

She explained that they want to use student clubs as a tool to try crowd sourcing. She said, “We’re planning on bringing all of our student clubs together so that all of them are messaging the same kind of student success habits.”

Christian urged students to follow her blog, stating: “It is a very intentional way of having people know the events.” Christian’s blog can be found by going to bcpresident.wordpress.com.

Low and Taylor fill interim positions

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

The start of the fall 2013 semester at Bakersfield College has come with several administrative personnel changes, including a partial restructuring and centralization of several student service positions.

Amongst this reorganization is the removal of the dean of students position, which was formerly held by Joyce Coleman.

The director of student life has replaced the position, which is now

held for the interim by Don Low, a retired dean of counseling at Orange Coast College.

Low has over twenty-five years of college administrative experience, including various interim positions held since his retirement several years ago. "I've served in a dozen colleges, from periods of anywhere from six months to a year."

Zav Dadabhoj, vice president of student services, believes this change is for the better. "Typically a dean of students position would be in charge of many different pro-

grams that have staff within them. To have a dean of students position in an office that is as small as ours wouldn't make sense."

The director of student life will share many similarities with the old dean of students position, but with a few changes to the programs and organizations that it oversees. The student government association, student clubs, student conduct and affairs, for instance, will be under the director, while the health and wellness center will now have its own independent director.

Another personnel change was caused by the resignation of Ryan Beckwith as athletic director back in August, who has been replaced by Sandi Taylor as an interim athletic director.

Taylor has been the associate athletic director for 17 years and has coached softball for more than 23 years at BC.

"Sandi has been here for years and years," said Dadabhoj. "She has also served for many years as the associate athletic director, and in that capacity she is a natural to

move up to the next level."

"She has administrative experience, she knows how the athletic department runs, she knows all the players, and knows all the history. When she was willing to step up and take on that leadership role I was very thrilled," he added.

While clearly impressed with her job thus far, Dadabhoj acknowledges that it is still too early to say whether or not this will be a permanent position for Taylor, or when the administration will decide to look for a different athletic director.



MJ INGUIITO / THE RIP

English instructor Richard Marquez provides writing sample, which reads "Cursive is not dead. It should continue to be taught in school."

California keeps cursive

By Myrissa Johns
Reporter

Bakersfield College English instructors voiced their concerns and opinions about the new standards of curriculum excluding cursive handwriting as a requirement for elementary schools. "I lament the fact that we're not teaching penmanship," Richard Marquez, BC English instructor, said.

So far, 41 states have adopted the new Common Core State Standards for English, which does not require children to learn cursive handwriting.

States do have the option to re-include cursive handwriting. However, so far, only California and Massachusetts have done so.

Cindy Hubble, BC English instructor, was shocked by this news. "I think it's a horrible idea," Hubble said.

"I think there are always going to be times when we have to hand write things."

She explained that she felt that notes for people's children, forms, and other things will always need some sort of legible handwriting, usually cursive.

Hubble reminisced that the year that she learned cursive handwriting was her favorite year of elementary school. "I think it is even an art for some," she said.

Marquez said, "When they said they were going to take cursive out of schools, I was like 'oh my gosh, that is so sad.'"

Marquez went on to explain that he went to

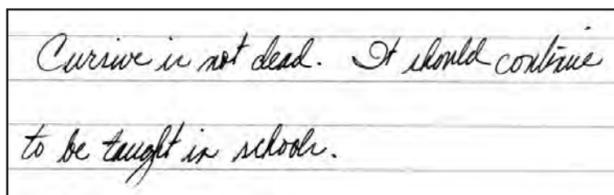
a Catholic school, where not only were they taught penmanship, but they were also graded on it.

"I have the handwriting of a 70-year-old nun," joked Marquez.

He laughed at his long-standing joke explaining that he did learn his handwriting in a Catholic school and actually modeled his handwriting from a nun.

Marquez explained that he already has heard of and even been confronted by students that are unable to read cursive handwriting. "If I'm still here 20 years from now, I'm going to be teaching these kids that don't even know what I'm doing," he said.

Some instructors were able to raise more questions and concerns



than answers.

Longtime BC English instructor Rebecca Mooney said, "I think it's a huge problem because most places require a signature and signatures are done in cursive." Mooney questioned whether people would just start "block printing" their signatures.

Kate Pluta, another longtime BC English instructor, raised similar concerns. Pluta questioned why they would even decide to take it away. She wondered if they will be devoting that time to teaching something else. If they're planning to teach keyboarding as an alternative, Pluta wondered if there is even funding for keyboards.

"I think since the process has started, it won't stop," Mooney said. "Teachers will have to learn to adjust."

BC files legal actions after third appeal denial regarding sanctions against football team

By Myrissa Johns
Reporter

Bakersfield College has filed legal action against the California Community College Athletics Association after the denial of the third appeal against the sanctions of the athletic department and football team.

Earlier this year, BC received communication from the Southern California Football Association and the CCCAA that required the college to vacate all wins of the 2011 and 2012 seasons, including the state championship. BC was also placed on probation for the

2013 and 2014 seasons. BC was also put on a postseason ban for the 2013 season.

Since then, BC has filed three appeals against the sanctions, and all of them have been denied. That prompted the legal action by BC, and the CCCAA and the SCFA were served on Sept. 13.

The college has retained the services of Christine Maloney, an attorney based in San Francisco.

Sonya Christian, president of BC, explained that the decision to hire an outside attorney, rather than the district lawyer, was due to Maloney's experience in the field.

"She represented a community

college related to a similar lawsuit related to athletics and was successful," Christian said. "So her expertise is going to be very, very beneficial for the college."

Christian explained plans for funding the legal aid of Maloney. "The Kern Community College District Board of Trustees really felt that the college was not treated fairly in this process," she said.

"Because they felt so deeply that the college was not treated fairly, they have released sufficient money from the KCCD reserves to take care of the costs and we are also exploring alternative sources of funding," said Christian.

Bi-visibility celebrated by Gay Straight Association

By Liza Hernandez
Reporter

On Sept. 23, members of Bakersfield College's Gay Straight Association celebrated International Bi-Visibility Day.

"We are helping to promote bi-visibility," said GSA member Justin Housdan.

"Most of the time the bisexual community is shunned by both the heterosexual and homosexual communities. A lot of people believe that bisexuality doesn't exist. We are trying to help get the message out that we are here and that we do exist."

From 2008 to 2012, only \$5,000 out of \$100 million in grants was

given to non-monosexual specific projects or organizations. Furthermore, as of now, no major Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered organizations have non-monosexual projects, outreach programs, or have non-monosexual board members.

Along with manning a table outside the Fireside room and handing out information sheets to raise awareness, GSA held a discussion panel to discuss views on non-monosexuality as well as a rally and barbecue.

"I am hoping that people will feel more comfortable with themselves and know that there are people like them," said Housdan, "that there is a community there for them."

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SGA presents its Grow and Go Resource Fair

By Liza Hernandez
Reporter

On Sept. 25 the Student Government Association will be hosting a Grow and Go Resource Fair.

"It is an event where various departments and programs from all over campus will be in one room to give information about the many resources that are available on campus for students," said SGA Vice President Elizabeth Gonzalez.

The event is meant to provide an opportunity to students to speak with various representatives about possible career pathways and making good life decisions. Students can use the information to grow

and then move forward with their educational goals.

"Ultimately, the goal of the event is student success," said Gonzalez.

Along with resource information, the event will include free drinks and food for students and staff members. Also, students who collect seven or more signatures from visiting tables will be entered to win one of 25 gift cards ranging from \$5 to \$50.

"The last SGA hosted the event and it was very successful," said Gonzalez.

"It's something we would like to make into a tradition."

The Grow and Go Resource Fair will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Fireside room.

Staff Editorial

Loss of Kernal a threat to our freedom

In an American society that is increasingly watchful, we are losing our greatest tool to combat ever-encroaching government. It is a tool that indeed keeps our liberties in highest regard and exercises those freedoms on a daily basis.

We are losing our journalism, and it is starting at the most critical and crucial level. As a society, we are eradicating high school journalism. Granted, this is the infancy of what journalism becomes and should rightfully be seen as something to grow from.

This is the stage where students become interested in the fundamentals of what it means to be a journalist. It is a place to learn the ethics of a free society and cultivate the mindset of what will become true writers with their finger on the pulse of modern - and niche - societies. It is only after such exposure to these things that a young person can truly be interested in one of our greatest tools and careers. The seeds of journalism must be planted to bear the fruits of justice and liberty.

Locally, we have all but relegated high school journalism to unimportant electives and club status. East Bakersfield High School, just down the road from Bakersfield College and with a long-standing student newspaper tradition in The Kernal, is stopping its presses indefinitely. While on paper, the district stands firm that class sizes and budget cuts forced these issues; however, the long time teacher of journalism at EBHS felt that this is a matter of clever timing, not budgetary constraints. Those schools, although it cannot be explicitly proven, used this framework to erase much of the programs in the county.

The argument is made that, since they are high school students, the issue of free press is moot. Instead of using such an instance at EBHS as a teaching tool that truly mirrors the journalism world, the powers that be quelled any student voice and slashed the program.

This type of behavior, the degradation of journalism at a high school level and suppression of true journalism, has negative effects on young students that are clearly two-fold.

As a community, we are denying students a legitimately diverse career choice that they may be interested in. Secondly, again as a community, we are giving high school students a demonstrative model for what journalism is supposed to protect against. Of the latter, we are feeding the idea wholesale to high school students that journalism isn't important or viable. The worst part is that most students will accept that example as one to follow, perpetuating a cycle of apathy toward the sword against tyranny that is journalism.

Syrian situation once again divides American viewpoints

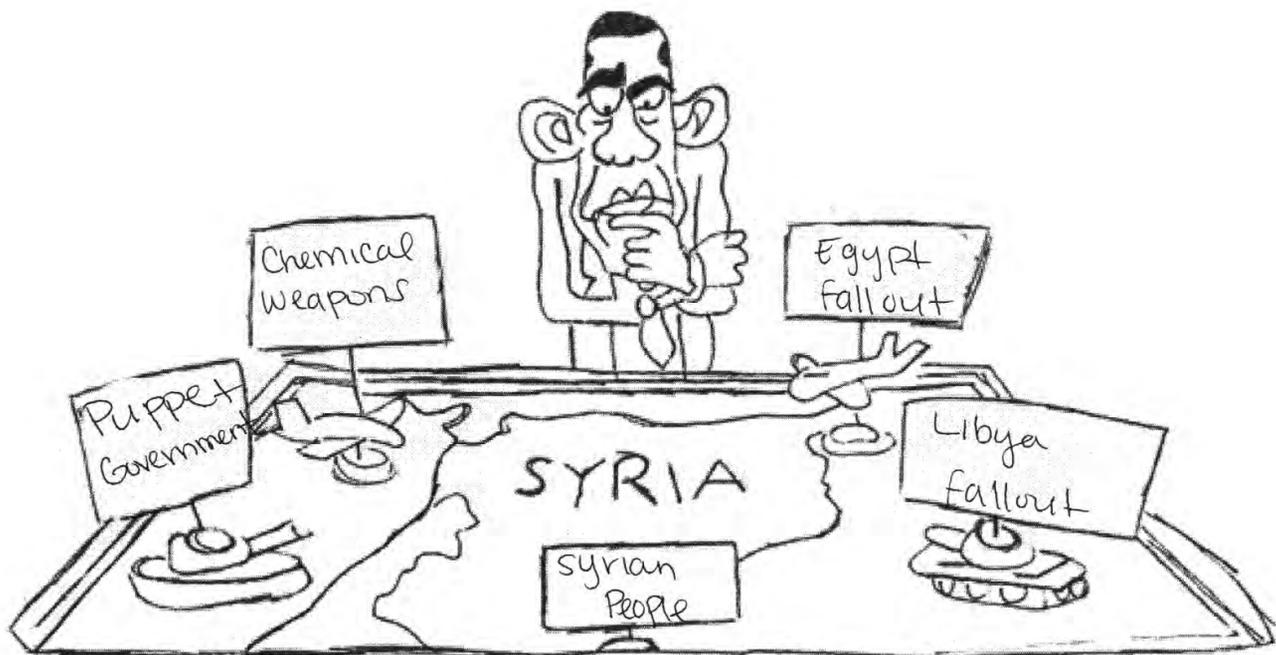


ILLUSTRATION BY PRISCILLA DAUVEN /THE RIP

We must make an assessment of the human price that is paid in all of this

By Liza Hernandez
Reporter

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." To me, there are no words more poignant to describe the current situation in Syria. An injustice did occur that day and the consequences of that single act are being dealt with by the entire world.

Anytime a government uses chemical weapons against its own citizens, the very people it is meant to represent and protect, calls for a serious assessment of leadership of that government. The use of chemical weapons is an action that cannot be tolerated or appeased. It is an act that requires efficient and decisive action from the global community or individual nations such as the US. If not dealt with, the use of chemical weapons could be thought of as an acceptable act.

The idea of chemical weapons being used by Syria is a formidable and frightening concept, especially considering that Syria is going through a civil war. Not only does it pose a threat to the opposition forces in Syria, but also to Syria's neighboring countries, like Israel, though I don't believe the effects of chemical weapons end within this region.

Our world is a global community, whether or not some members wish to belong to the community at all. The idea that every country is its own isolated island is bunk.

In this day and age of globalization, whatever one country does begins a ripple effect that stretches, perhaps affecting some more than others, across the globe.

I have to ask whether a government that is capable of using these types of weapons on their own citizens would have any qualms about using them on another country, particularly if the government has had increasingly negative interactions with other countries.

I have to give President Obama some credit. This time, the president is going through the proper procedures regarding a possible military strike against Syria. He took the issue to Congress for a vote first, even though the idea of intervening in Syria seems to be against public sentiment. It is refreshing to see constitutional procedures followed.

Currently the Congressional vote is postponed, pending on Syria's compliance to the agreed terms of the deal, beginning with presenting an exhaustive list of Syria's chemical arsenal and allowing inspectors to enter chemical weapon sites.

I hate sounding like a war-monger and quite frankly the optimist in me hopes that the agreement reached by the US, Russia, and Syria works out. However, the idea that any community action hinges on a resolution for action passing in the United Nations, knowing that Russia has already vetoed three resolutions on Syria, doesn't inspire much confidence.

Let history be a guide this time around; do not repeat our bad past decisions

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

I'm adamantly opposed to U.S. military involvement in Syria. This isn't due to my politics by any means. I'm a relatively moderate conservative.

In fact, I actually agree with what President Obama said on Sept. 10. I'm anti-involvement because right now the opposition does not have a single voice and any government they put up is unlikely to remain stable for a great period of time.

Nearly half of the opposition forces are radical Islamists. They're not fighting for a free and independent Syria. These Mujahideen really want to topple Assad's government and replace the secular government with one under Sharia law. This isn't speculation on my part, these groups are very public with their ideology.

It's stupid to think that these groups will simply dissolve if the Free Syrian Army replaces Assad's regime. They'll maintain the secular government, which will cause problems with the radical Muslim forces. The jihadists didn't disappear in Egypt, they didn't disappear in Libya, and fighting is still going on there, years after these uprisings.

And this is my main point. If the US intervenes we will eventually have to help the new government crackdown on militant Islamists. It's a commitment for the long haul: overthrowing Assad, dealing with the various sub-factions and their

sub-factions, establishing a new government, providing aid during the interim, and finally waging a long and painfully slow war against insurgents.

We've seen with Iraq just how long, slow and expensive this kind of a war will be, and before you say that Syria is not Iraq, stop. Syria has the same kind of government, the same types of insurgents are fighting, and the geography and type of urban war we will have to fight are going to be identical. While we have a bit more experience in this type of fight, I don't believe it will be enough to speed up this new government's stability.

Beyond the above, we don't owe Syria anything.

We've not really promised them much besides the same meaningless platitudes to give "aid" as we do to nearly everyone. I'm fine with that because this is a civil war; the aggressor in this instance was the people, not an invading country.

Syria is a sovereign nation. If the people fighting there now want to maintain that after this ugly mess, they will have to slug it out like so many countries did before them. Thus far the Syrians seem to be willing to pay the cost of blood. America has already paid, is still paying, for two other countries.

Syria does not need our help right at this moment.

Until the opposition can speak with one united voice, one common cause, and one idea on a new Syria, they shouldn't get it.

And we shouldn't give it.

When the smoke clears, what will be left in BC's new smoking policy?

Graham C Wheat
Editor-in-Chief

The perpetual carousel that is the smoking issue has once again entered the spotlight of school administrators and the student body. This turn of the gears promises to have a resolution by next semester, whether it will be an outright ban or designated areas, remains to be seen. Most likely, due to union difficulties, designated areas will emerge soon.

This action is nothing new to the campus of BC, and anyone interested in the history and chronology of events can find the story easily with a bit of informed searching.

It has been an embroiled topic for some time, and this round of administrative bouts will result in the same outcome. Nothing.

This dedication to the smoking issue, is merely inflated posturing by the school government. Both SGA and administration are to blame.

Yes, there was a vote by (some) students to take action on the topic last semester. However, this wholly unrepresentative informal poll does not accurately paint the picture for the majority of students at Bakersfield College. The poll itself was a loaded one, with options being geared toward administrative feelings, and not student sentiments.

In the rapidly changing landscape

that is junior college, how can one set of rules be expected to represent the ebb and flow of constant new students? At this level, a single semester can change a campus drastically.

This policy has no consideration for all those incoming students. A policy that was passed two semesters ago, a lifetime in junior college, couldn't possibly hope to be indicative of students who are new to the college.

The most unnerving aspect of this whole issue is the unfeasibility of enforcement. With the manpower and monetary concerns, there is no possible way the school could police smoking. Look at how

many public safety officers are on the campus and imagine how many smokers are on campus. On this front, it is purely a numbers game. Yes, a precedent could be set on the matter, but constant enforcement of the policy would be daunting.

Smokers will light up whenever they want, and the small force of campus security will be hard pressed to police every puff; and what about people who are not students here? Will they be expected to pay a ticket for smoking in their car while waiting to pick up a family member or friend?

So what is the moral to this cloudy story? Leave well enough alone. Let the laws that are here remain.



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The Renegade Rip

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Music Review

Maybach Music Group good not great

By **Ruben Hill**
Reporter

Maybach Music Group is at it again with the release of their third studio compilation "Self Made Vol. 3." The highly anticipated album was released on Sept. 17.

The album features contributions from the group's core Rick Ross, Wale, Meek Mill, and Stalley, and this album introduces the newest member of the group, Rockie Fresh. The album also includes a number of features from J. Cole to Lil Boosie.

The album starts off in a bitter-sweet mood with an intro from the late Lil Snipe. Snipe was an artist on Meek Mills "Dream Chasers" record label. The 18-year-old rapper from Louisiana was gunned down earlier this year. The track reflects the short-

lived success the rapper was going through. As the intro fades, Rick Ross gives his condolences and the album finally begins.

The album definitely has some high points with tracks like "Black Grammys," which features a very witty freestyle from J Cole. Another record that stands out is Stalley's only appearance on the album with his solo "Coupes and Roses." The hottest record on the compilation is "Levels," a high-powered Meek Mill song explaining the levels of the rap game.

A lot of people get compilations mixed up with group albums. A compilation is not supposed to mesh, it is simply a stage for everyone in the group to show off their skills.

Everyone from the untouchable Maybach Empire brought their "A" game on this one.

When the group signed Omarion last year, many people were skeptical on how and if the R&B singer would mesh with the rap heavy group. He put all the doubts to rest on the track "Know You Better," featuring Pusha T and Fabulous.

The song is about trying to dig deeper into the mind of a woman that you have feelings for. As we all know, there are none better when it comes to R&B collaborations than Fabulous, and he did not drop the ball on this track. Fabulous, in my opinion, easily dropped the hottest verse on the entire album.

The only complaint I have about the compilation is that Wale only appears on three songs. Wale is the group's best lyricist and should have had a solo song on the album.

★★★★☆



IMAGE PROVIDED BY GOOGLE

Video Game Review

Grand Theft Auto V makes a fully loaded comeback

By **Graham C Wheat**
Editor-in-Chief

Game developer and publisher Rockstar Games has yet again captured the minds of millions, not just in the video game community, with the most recent release in their flagship of the franchise, Grand Theft Auto V.

As the fifth iteration in the open world crime tale, Rockstar has melded their ventures in many other video games to be the gigantic game that is Grand Theft Auto V. The story of three bank robbers from very different backgrounds helps to complete one of the most realized game worlds that exist.

This tale follows the exploits of not one protagonist, but three distinct personalities who eventually team up to liberate Los Santos residents of their decadent extravagancies. You can switch between the characters on the fly with a press of a button, which keeps the game fresh and doesn't stall on a part of the story you might not like as much.

The writing is witty and current, lampooning society cheekily at least 4 times within the first hour of the game. Vice president of Rockstar Games Dan Houser was at the helm of the story and writing in this game, as he has been with nearly every GTA, or Rockstar game period, and his writing in this tale is the best yet. I was compelled to complete every side mission because I knew I would find something contemplative or downright funny in the storytelling. The in-mission colorful dialogue, like when driving to your next mission, had me laughing every time instead of speeding to my next checkpoint.

The amount and type of missions is for the most part regular fair for open-world sandbox video games. Players will feel right at home undertaking various mission type. Which include illegal racing, stick-ups, or some similar illicit activity. However, it does seem to have more depth to each mission than previous GTA games.

For example, the first big heist as a crew puts you in charge of tactics of entry, crewmembers to hire, and types of disguises. All of these elements use a risk/reward strategy. You might spend more of your score hiring better crewmembers, but that also means that a lame driver isn't going to crash your ill-gotten gains into the Los Santos River. It creates a sense of real control, and if you screw up the mission you only have your greed to blame.

This time around the money you accrue doesn't go to waste. There is a litany of options to spend your stolen dough on. From fully customizable cars; akin to that of Midnight Club, to tons of clothing options for each character, you will be undertaking any mission to grow your bank account. The options to do such, like a virtual stock market that you can manipulate, will keep your wallet fat.

Rockstar took lessons from their hit Max Payne 3 and refined the shooting mechanics to be tight and



GRAHAM C WHEAT / THE RIP

The extensive map for GTA V comes included with the game.

easy to pick up, yet hard to master. The guns too have much more character than the last games in the series. Typically if you wanted to see some distinct changes in weapons for GTA you would need to compare pistols and rocket launchers. Now each gun feels unique in its own right. Two different types of pistols, one that appears to be a .50 caliber and the other a 9mm, feel like their counterparts. Heavy and powerful for the first, and light and maneuverable with high fire rate for the latter.

The fictional city of Los Santos, modeled after Los Angeles very accurately (including things like iconic landmarks to skateboarders in Santa Monica), finally has the justice done to really include it as a character in and of itself. In older GTA games the city was prominently featured, however now it seems the practice Rockstar had with games like Red Dead Redemption and tangential GTA stories gave them a blue print for everything they wanted to enhance. Simply exploring the city has never been so rewarding. Finding hilarious billboards and landmarks you know is only part of the organic unfolding of the exploration.

Yet again, what compliments part of that natural discovery is the

extensive musical collection in the form of in-game radio. I do mean extensive too. From Pet Shop Boys on the pop station to old school gangsta rap courtesy of Snoop Dog and N.W.A. Or if hip-hop and pop isn't your thing, rest assured they have plenty of hilarious talk radio, electronic music, and classic punk rock. Flipping through the fictitious channels to find a song to "get your roll on" to feels like the real life thing. Music has always been a big part of recent GTA games, but in what seems to be a theme for GTA V, it takes on a life of its own to supplement the overall product. Not to mention the enormous spike in youtube hits for tracks that are featured in the game.

It seems that GTA V is greater than the sum of all its parts. They have taken the mechanics from their best games and implanted them into the world of San Andreas, almost as if past games published by Rockstar were extremely profitable experiments to get the components to make GTA V. The world often feels like you have been there, if you have played any Rockstar game in the past five years then you are at home.

★★★★★

Shakespeare coming back to BC in October

By **Liza Hernandez**
Reporter

In October productions of "King Henry V" and "Fractured Shakespeare," a comedic take on the different ways Shakespeare's plays can be portrayed, will grace Bakersfield College's Renegade Park.

Aside from BC student actors, the casts for the two productions include community and professional actors.

"The mix of people is sought in order to help the students," said theater professor Randall Messick. "They get to be in contact with professionals that are making a living by acting and have a lot of experience," he said.

The student actors are enthusiastic about the addition of the community and professional actors to the casts of both productions, seeing them both as possible mentors and links into the acting community.

"I love it," said Tyler Steelman, a Theater Arts major who will portray the character of Williams in "King Henry V."

"I love learning from everybody... it just makes you want to try harder because you see these

people that have done so well for themselves."

"It doesn't intimidate me as much as it makes me excited," said Lindsay Book, a new addition to the cast that will appear in both productions, "...because I feel like I am able to grow from them."

"One of my favorite things is to really connect with my character," said Book, "because true acting delves deeper than just the surface of the line."

While eagerly waiting for opening day to arrive, Messick and the cast of both plays are hard at work preparing for the upcoming productions. From rehearsing lines in the heat to practicing sword fighting with wooden dowels, the crew is covering all aspects in order to open with quality productions for their future audiences. It is a responsibility Messick takes very seriously. "My favorite part of play production is the challenge of making them the best we can make them," said Messick.

"King Henry V" will be held on Oct. 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, and 20. The production of "Fractured Shakespeare" will be held on Oct. 10, 12, and 19. Both events will be held in Renegade Park.

Fight Analysis

Mayweather proves himself against younger opponent

By **Ruben Hill**
Reporter

Floyd Mayweather Jr. was back in the ring on Sept. 14, this time around facing a much younger and stronger Saul "Canelo" Alvarez in a fight labeled by promoters as The One.

Both fighters entered Saturday night without a loss on their records. Mayweather came in at (44-0, 26 KOs) and Canelo at an impressive (42-0-1, 30 KOs). Although on paper the fight seemed like an even match, in the ring it was not even close, the 37-year-old Mayweather dominated the 23-year-old Canelo much of the fight.

Coming off of his shortest layoff in many years, the seasoned Mayweather silenced all the doubters who were saying he is too old to continue his level of excellence. He did not appear at all to have lost a step or be fatigued. Instead, he was sharp and just as efficient as ever, putting the 23-year-old Canelo through a boxing clinic.

During the later rounds of the fight, Canelo seemed very tired and frustrated because he could not pierce through the signature defense we are accustomed to seeing from Mayweather. "I didn't know how to get him, it's extremely simple," Canelo said. "He's a great fighter, very intelligent. The frustration was getting in there, but he's a great fighter. We tried to catch him."

Mayweather cruised through much of the fight by solely using his jab and defense to tire out

Canelo. Canelo had some success during the fight going to the body of Mayweather, but he did not stick to it, showing some inexperience.

The bout was fought at 152 pounds. Canelo weighed in at exactly that, while Mayweather came into weigh-ins at 150½ pounds. However, when the two stepped into the ring it was reported that Canelo bulked back up to 165 pounds, and Mayweather stayed put even losing a half pound at 150.

The weight difference did no good for Canelo, because the much smaller Mayweather proved to be too fast. Mayweather was able to land almost everything he wanted and get out of the way before Canelo could react. If Canelo had any power advantage at all, it didn't matter because Mayweather didn't feel it.

The win for Mayweather didn't come without controversy, though. One of the judges scored the seemingly one-sided fight a 114-114 draw. Judge CJ Ross posted that score, and he's infamous for the scorecard that eventually cost Manny Pacquiao his belt to Timothy Bradley in 2012.

"I thought it was a joke," Mayweather responded when asked about the scoring. It's hard to be mad at anything when you are the recipient of a guaranteed \$41.5 million purse at the end of the day.

The verdict is still out on who, if anybody, can beat Floyd Mayweather. One fact still remains: 45 have tried, and 45 have failed.

BC soccer holds winning record as conference play draws near

By Jason Reed
Reporter

The Bakersfield College soccer team has to feel pretty good on going 3-1 with four straight games away from home and now find themselves 4-2 going into conference play.

"Obviously you're trying to go win everything you can," BC head coach Scott Dameron said when asked about the feeling of a 3-1

record away from home. "We just didn't quite connect that well," he said referring to BC's 1-0 loss to Feather River College following a 2-0 win over Solano College.

In three of BC's four wins, they have managed to shut out three of their opponents and have allowed only one goal outscoring their opponents 10-1. BC has been shutout in each of its two losses but has allowed its opponents to score just two goals and is a plus seven in

goals scored verses goals allowed, outscoring all of its opponents 10-3 so far this season.

Dameron said the team is dealing with a few minor injuries. He said he isn't concerned because it always happens this time of year. He is pleased with the fact that multiple people are contributing and the opposing team isn't just focusing on a certain player.

"Everybody that went in was solid," he said. "We did a really good

job of closing them out. We gave up a late goal with about three minutes remaining, but I believe that had a lot to do with fatigue," he said talking about BC's 2-1 victory over College of the Sequoias.

The win over Sequoias was the first game in which BC allowed a goal in a winning performance.

BC beat Sequoias 3-0 in its season opener; Dameron had mixed feelings about having to play them twice considering the fact that they

are a non-conference team.

"It was a tough game," he said. "Both teams had their chances, both keepers made good saves to keep their team in it."

"Once we started being more consisted with our game plan, we found ourselves up 2-0."

BC will play host to (0-5-1) West L.A. College on Oct. 1. West L.A. College has been outscored 20-1 in six games this season and has been shutout in five of them.

Early season losses haunt BC volleyball

By Ruben Hill
Reporter

The Bakersfield College volleyball team won four of the six matches it played in the past two weeks, improving its overall record to 4-4.

"You play, you learn a little bit about yourself, you make some adjustments," said BC coach Carl Ferreira. "Our biggest adjustments have come from trying to be more efficient, by increasing point production and decreasing errors."

All four of the Renegade losses have come to top-10, state-ranked opponents Grossmont and San Diego Mesa. BC played both teams earlier in the season, and then lost to both of them again Sept. 21 at San Diego Mesa.

Grossmont defeated the Renegades 25-19, 25-15, 25-16; Mesa beat BC 25-21, 25-23, 25-22.

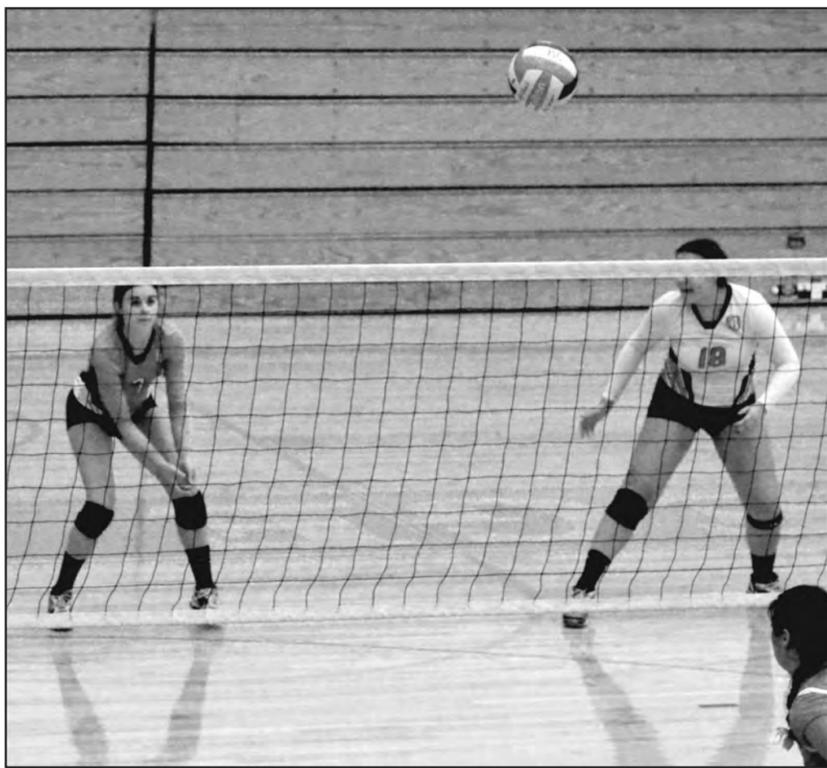
Before those matches, though, the Renegades went on a winning streak by beating Moorpark 3-0 and L.A. Pierce 3-1 at home Sept. 14. From there, BC beat Victor Valley 25-20, 25-21, 25-14, and beat El Camino 21-25, 25-23, 25-21, 21-25, 15-7.

At that point, BC had improved to 4-2 but then had to meet Grossmont and Mesa again. BC had lost to both of those teams at the start of the season on Aug. 31.

Despite being a pedestrian 4-4, the Renegades are still very confident with where they stand.

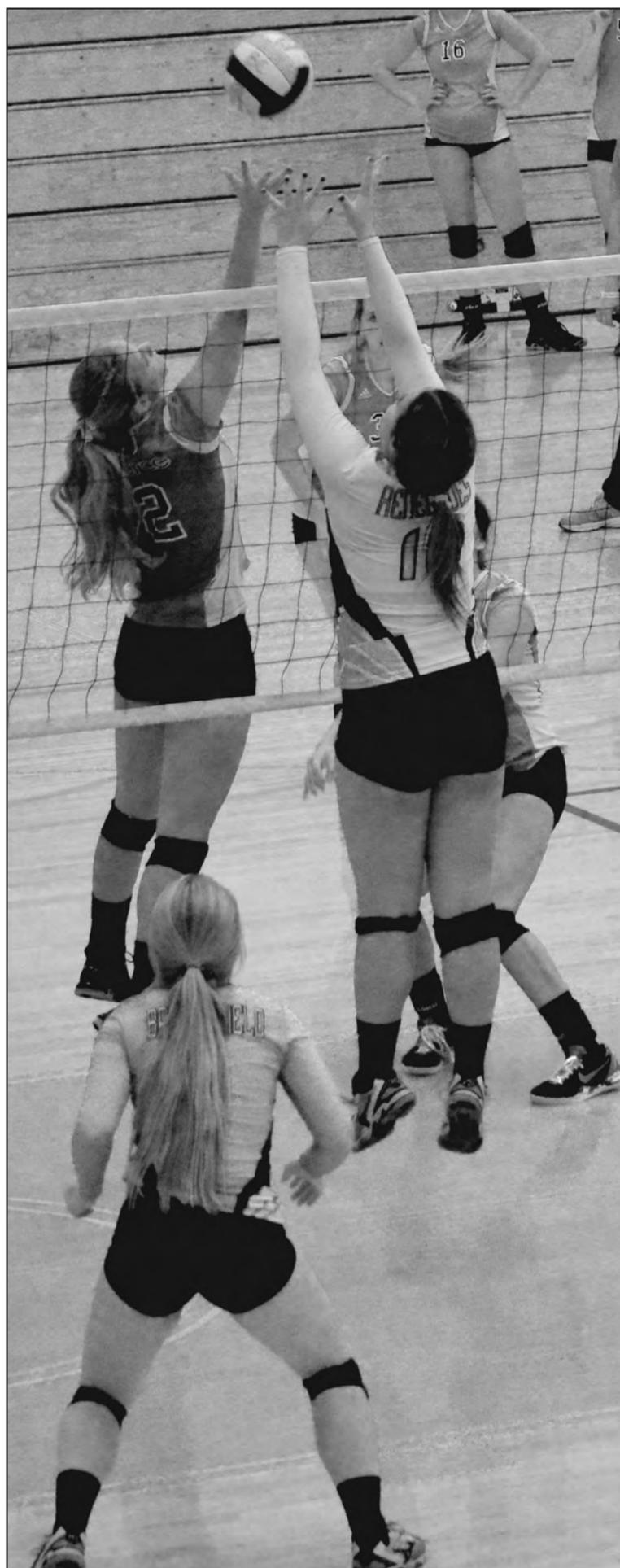
"The better you get, the harder it is to improve sometimes," said Ferreira. "I really think we have a very, very good team. You have to really pay attention to the little details to get better."

The Renegades meet Hancock at home Sept. 25.



PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA DAUVEN / THE RIP

Top: Jesse Trall in mid-serve. Above: Maddie Demarco, left, prepares a pass with Allyssa Mathews (18). Right: Trall jumps to prevent a block during the Sept. 14 game against LA Pierce College.



BC women's golf showing promise

By Nicholas Torres
Reporter

As the Bakersfield College women's golf season is under way, the team is trying its best to make themselves better every day.

Despite only having four total players, the Renegades managed to finish third at the Western State Conference Canyons Event on Sept. 16 held at Simi Hills Golf Course in Simi Valley.

The other colleges competing in the tournament were College of the Canyons, Citrus College, Glendale College, and tournament winner Santa Barbara City College. The Bakersfield College team finished with

an overall score of 363.

Promising freshman Kendall Husler, who shot a 78, tied for second for the best individual score. Sarah Soderberg from Glendale College finished with the best score of 77. The rest of the individual scores for the BC team were as follows: Melissa Lopez shot an 87, Jessica Madrid with a 96, and Julianna Padilla with a 102.

Now that the girls have had a few tournaments under their belts, Coach Bob Paillet said, "I think we can do better. We have to keep building on what we are doing. The girls are competing the best they can."

The next event for the golf team is Sept. 29-30 at the Morro Bay Tournament.

Wrestling opens season with losses at tourney

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

The Bakersfield College wrestling team has opened the season on rough footing, going 1-3 at the Sept. 21 tournament at Mt. San Antonio College.

BC suffered losses in the first and second round, against Cerritos College 30-20, and Santa Anna College 39-9, but came around to beat Rio Hondo 24-18 in the third before a fourth-round loss to East L.A. 24-21.

While head coach Bill Kalivas was disappointed with the team's overall performance, he was pleased with several of the indi-

vidual matches.

Heavyweight Josh Davis went undefeated at 4-0 as did Jowayne Fambrough (149 pounds). Jonathan Gomez (157) only lost one match, taking three for BC.

With a team comprised mostly of freshmen, Kalivas wasn't too surprised at the outcome, as he had noted before the tournament: "We're a fairly young team, and in seven of the 10 weights we're untested. I'm trying to put in these feelers, but I have no idea what's going to happen."

Being a freshman dominated team wasn't his only concern, the team had only started practicing in early September due to "new protocols ... from the administra-

tion," that had put the team a few weeks behind schedule, and Kalivas felt that the missed time hurt them.

With the first tournament out of the way and a new feeling for the team's capabilities, Kalivas is already preparing for BC's home tournament on Sept. 28.

"We've got a week to try and shore some things up and help [the guys] improve," he said.

Kalivas knows it's still too early to tell how far this team can go, but he knows it will certainly be a hard road. BC stands in one of the toughest conferences, and will have to compete with other colleges that don't have to share local talent with a four-year college.



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

Bakersfield College tight end Thomas Hearn makes a catch at the Renegades home opener against Mt. San Antonio College. Mt. Sac dominated BC 40-9.

BC loses two in a row

By Jason Reed
Reporter

After a convincing season opening 24-9 win against Santa Ana College, Bakersfield College has taken a major step back with two straight blowout losses to Mt. San Antonio College and Fullerton College.

BC was defeated by Fullerton 45-23 on Sept. 21. BC trailed by only eight points at the half and was down 17-9 but was outscored 28-14 in the second half. The win dropped the Renegades to 1-2 on the season and the Hornets remained unbeaten improving to 3-0.

Fullerton dominated BC on the ground rushing for 541 yards. Ryan Byrd and Lavorrie Johnson each combined for 474 yards, including four touchdowns on the ground. Byrd was able to rush for a team high 273 yards on 25 carries; Johnson was able to carve up 201 yards on 13 carries and three touchdowns.

Fullerton was able to score on its first play of the game after a three and out by the Renegades. Johnson broke out for a 49-yard run, putting his team up 7-0 in the first quarter.

After a 40-yard interception return by BC's Brodie Scott, Byrd ripped BC on a 71-yard run to the end zone. The Hornets had five rushing touchdown plays that went 26 yards or more. BC quarterback Cruise Adams played a solid game for the Renegades completing eight out of 15 passes with 139 yards in the air with no interceptions. Darrik Martin also played at quarterback for BC, completing seven passes for 63 yards and an interception.

Adams' only touchdown pass came in the fourth quarter when he and wide receiver Colin Spencer connected on a 23 yard strike.

On Sept. 14 BC opened up at home in front of a crowd of 4,134. Mt. Sac opened the game on a 95



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

BC wide receiver Brock Martin gets tackled by Mt. Sac's defensive back Garrett Horine while BC's Zach Clayton (47) and running back Rapi Sotoa III (39) attempt to block.

yard kickoff return but was called back due to a holding penalty. Thirteen plays later, they found the end zone on a three yard rushing score by Jamal Overton. Mt. Sac scored 27 straight points and led 27-7 at the half and won the game 40-9. Mt. Sac ran for 275 yards. Over-

ton had 175 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 24 carries. Mt. Sac quarterback Rocky Moore completed 13 of 20 passes with 150 passing yards and a touchdown to Leonard Rhodes.

Besides the touchdown from Renegades running back Kwame

Johnson, BC had a miserable night offensively. Martin completed only eight of his 28 passes and went down late with a leg injury after a sack by a Mt. Sac player. With the game well out of hand Adams replaced Martin and went 0-for-2 passing before Martin would return.

BC had a full parking lot of fans tailgating, listening to the game on the radio while also watching the Floyd Mayweather and Canelo Alvarez fight.

The Renegades next game will be at home as they host Ventura College on Sept. 28.



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Bakersfield College kicker Brady Wylie punts one of the nine punts of the night against Mt. San Antonio College.



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Defensive end Stephen Meda, linebacker Brodie Scott and defensive linemen Chikkerrian Garrett get ready for the snap against Mt. San Antonio College.

Cars show off at West Coast Nationals

By Nicholas Torres
Reporter

The fifth annual West Coast Nationals were held at the Famoso Auto Club on Sept. 21-22. The event offered a variety of different attractions such as racing, a drifting competition, car show, and music festival.

This event really focused on import cars such as Honda and Toyota that ranged from the early 90's to the present.

Many spectators showed up to see these cars up against each other in competition.

Eric Benko, who entered his 2002 silver Honda Accord in the car show, said, "I've been into cars for over 20 years. I had my first car when I was 18 and ever since then I have been hooked."

What made his car standout was that it was a 4-door sedan, which is typically not the ideal type of vehicle that gets upgraded with heavy modifications.

"I like it because it's not something you see in the streets everyday, most of the time you see hatchbacks and coupes," he said.

Although Benko brought his Honda, he also said he likes all types of cars, "To me it is all the same. It's a good hobby, but expensive."

Although there was a lot of Hondas and Toyotas at the event, another car show participant, Isaak Esparza entered his Nissan GT-R.

He said he enjoys coming to car shows because, "I like how everybody is here for a common interest. It shows that there are people for everything."

Although his car is completely stock, he said people always come up to ask him questions about his car such as what is its top speed and about its performance on the road.

Esparza said he likes to mostly go for joyrides in his car but sometimes gets the urge to speed away.

"The fastest I have ever gone is about in the 150 mph range. I know it can go faster I just have to find the right place to do it," he said.

Even though he enjoys coming to



STEVE LARA / THE RIP

The 5th annual West Coast Nationals event really focused on import cars, such as Honda and Toyota, that ranged from the early 90's to the present. Many spectators showed up to see these cars up against each other in competition.



NICHOLAS TORRES / THE RIP

Drag race participant, Angel, placed 2nd in his 1972 Toyota Corolla. He achieved a speed of 109 mph with a time of 12.7 seconds. Angel was one of the many racers showing off their speed and their cars

car shows to see what other people have to offer, he admits it can cost some money.

"It is an expensive hobby because you invest so much time, effort, and money to have your car be show ready. In the end, it is all

worth it," he said.

Many spectators walked around the area and took pictures of different cars and asked the owners of the cars questions.

One spectator, Eddie Reyes, says he enjoys coming to all types of car



NICHOLAS TORRES / THE RIP

Eric Benko shows off his '02 Honda Accord with many customized features, such as an air bag suspension.

shows. He said, "I like to see how cars have changed over the years. Nowadays, I don't see that many lowriders or classic cars anymore." Reyes said he does have a 1977 Buick Regal at home back in Los Angeles and often takes it cruis-

ing. "Cars are something that everybody can enjoy," Reyes said. "The things you can do to them are endless and that's the beauty of it. There is no finish line saying you have to stop."

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