



The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Goodall spreads message of unity

By Sharida Rejon
Features Editor

After months of anticipation from students and faculty alike, world-renowned anthropologist and primatologist Jane Goodall made an appearance in front of an audience of approximately 2,500 in attendance at Bakersfield College on April 1 to spread her message of unity and hope.

Goodall, who claims that her passion for animals and nature has been present since birth, says that one of her goals in life is to inspire people, including Bakersfield College students, to follow their dreams.

"My message [to BC students] is to remind them that every single day we make an impact in the world, and we have a choice as to what kind of impact we make, but also to follow your dreams, that's what my mother said to me," Goodall said. "If you really want something you have to work hard and take every opportunity."

Goodall gives her mother a great amount of credit for her success and calls her one of her biggest inspirations.

"I don't think for a moment that we can choose our mother or our fathers," she said. "We are just born into whatever family we happen to be born into, but gosh, I really hit it lucky. My mother, right from the

beginning, was really supportive."

In addition to her message about working hard for one's dreams, Goodall aims to spread awareness about the animal kingdom.

"I want to help people understand that animals, like us, have feelings and are capable of mental as well as physical suffering," she said. Goodall then went on to explain that even farm animals that are clearly bred for human consumption are just as important as every creature in the animal kingdom.

Goodall, who tours all around the world about 300 days out of the year, explained that these tours are crucial to keep her messages alive.

"I see young children every day and I know that they haven't heard it before, they haven't heard the message, so it's a first to them," she said. "There's no way I can retire, as long as my body continues to function, I have to do what I do."

Goodall is approaching the celebration of her 80th birthday, which will take place on April 3. At the end of the lecture, the crowd sang "Happy Birthday" for her.

Krista Moreland, an anthropology professor at Bakersfield College who pursued her goal to bring Goodall to campus, explained the influence that the primatologist had in the world throughout her career.

"Her work has shown that the

animal kingdom does not revolve around us, we are part of the animal kingdom, we exist within it," she said. "Her work has really changed how we define ourselves, how we view ourselves, and how we see our world."

Following the lecture, Goodall offered attendees a question-and-answer session, followed by a book-signing session. The book was released on the same day as the lecture.



PHOTOS BY BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Above: Jane Goodall signs a copy of her new book, "Seeds of Hope," for Lorre Webb, social work intern at the BC Health Center. Below: Goodall speaks with Mr. H Junior by her side.



SGA elections bring new blood to office

By Elizabeth Fernandez
Reporter

The Student Government Association voting polls were closed on March 27 and Alex Dominguez was voted in as president for the 2014-2015 school year.

A total of 758 students voted, but only 662 voted for a student government president. Dominguez won the presidency with a total of 363 votes, beating out two other candidates – Jose Hernandez and Emanuel Ramos.

Seats that ran uncontested included the secretary/historian, director of clubs and organizations, and the vice president. Jimmy Moran, who was suspended from SGA after the allegations during the fall 2013 semester, was elected vice president with a total of 631 votes.

At the forum held on March 19, Dominguez and the other candidates received the opportunity to speak to students and answer questions. Dominguez stated that he had three goals: to improve student participation on campus, improve community relations, and provide a voice for students to the administration and the board on costs and

fees.

"I am a leader and I have a strong voice. I will attend these meetings and I will properly represent you guys, I will fight for you guys," Dominguez said. "When people come and talk to me I know how to help." He added that changes would take time to happen, but affirmed that he can be the candidate to give students proper representation.

Students such as William Rivera and Erin Griepsma, both communication majors, were won over by Dominguez. When asked which candidate answered his question the best, Rivera responded that Dominguez had, and said, "He just sounds like he knows about doing something."

Hernandez, the aforementioned presidential candidate that ran against Dominguez and Ramos, told the audience at the forum that he was just a "regular student" who wanted to make a difference and help students identify with the SGA.

"You guys might notice I'm not wearing a suit. I am not a poli-sci major; I'm a music major," he said.

"So, I'm not going to use this so that later I can go and be President of the

United States, or be like this really big senator and just further this part of my career, because I'm going to go into music."

Despite having the background with the least amount of political experience, Hernandez received the second highest amount of presidential votes.

Some of the other speakers included Miles Post and David Vaughn who ran for senator positions, Trina Goree and Reg Autwell for executive positions that won, and Damaris Camarena who ran for Director of Finance, but lost to Aeri Kim at 276 to 351.

Ramos had simply said that despite the outcome, he knows they will do a good job. He urged students to continue to participate and voice their concerns.

This year's overall participation for candidacy increased, as compared to the total of five candidates in the previous year's election.

The new student constitution was also voted on with 573 accepting it, and only 40 rejecting it.

"Changes are coming and they're going to be good," said Nathan Mayer, current SGA general counsel.

STEM and Technology

Eddie Nunez 203

Omar Bahashwan 149

Zuan Nuestro 103

MarShaw Russ 72

English, Library and Pre-Collegiate Writing

Megan Lonsinger 270

Roshell Czar 247

*Names in bold denote

elected to SGA office

Humanities and Social Sciences

Miles Post 216

Sahar Forouzanfar 157

Paula Reynal 156

Physical Education and Athletics

Luckian Campos 286

Darren Adjei 231

Constitution

Accept 573

Decline 40

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Diana Valle 142

David Vaughn 128

Giovanna Burrell 99

Luis Bustillo 85

Anthony Sigala 72

Career and Technical Education

Brenda Corral 291

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Brides for a Cause raises money with dress sale

By Amber Hayden
Photographer

Bakersfield brides-to-be filled The Patino to buy discounted wedding gowns at the first event of the Brides for a Cause charity dress sale, on March 21. Brides for a Cause donates 50 percent of all proceeds to its partner, Wish Upon a Wedding, which grants wedding wishes for couples facing terminal illness or other serious, life-altering circumstances.

"I'm a bride on a budget, so when I saw the 75 percent off retail, I was all, 'I'm on it,'" said Elizabeth Puidlo, one of the many brides in attendance.

"When I saw it was for a good cause, my fiance upped my budget a bit."

The VIP event was filled nearly to capacity, according to event coordinator Melissa Puryear. She explained that media coverage and the vendors might have attracted more guests.

Erin Scharf, owner of Brides for a Cause, agreed that there was a great turnout for the first night in Bakersfield, and said that she was hopeful for the following two days as well.

A total of 25 brides found their dress during the road show, according to Puryear.

Although there were quite a few dresses donated, Puryear said one woman donated 18 gowns during the event.

She explained that she was hopeful that the event might create awareness about the organizations – that a guest might know someone who might qualify for WUW.

"We want to have a Kern County bride benefit from the event, not just hold the event and it help someone

elsewhere," she said.

In the past, the Brides for a Cause Boutique in Portland, Ore. has had to close so Scharf could travel to each city for the road show events. However, she explained that she was able to keep the boutique open due to the growth that the organization has seen since it first opened in 2012.

"Before, we would take everything we had with us," she said. "Now ... only half of the dresses we had would fit in the trailer to bring down."

Two designers, Klinefelds and Jasmine, donated a total of 136 brand new gowns to the charity to help with the road shows.

Scharf greeted each guest as they walked in the VIP event, giving them each a ticket for champagne.

After dinner was served and the brides were informed that they were welcomed to go into the ballroom where the gowns were located.

Brides were able to try on dresses at the event in an area of the ballroom that was transformed into fitting rooms.

Sew Eloquent, a local alteration business, was present at the event to provide alterations.

Puryear explained that brides might have taken advantage of the alteration service to have embellishments placed on the dress if they found an older dress that they liked, but thought the top was maybe too plain, for example.

There were also many other vendors and companies involved in the wedding industry present at the event to donate their time and services. They were also available to talk to brides that might have been interested in obtaining their services for their own weddings as well.



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ASSOCIATION

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PHOTOS BY BERNIE REJON/THE RIP

Brides-to-be browse through wedding dresses at the first-ever Brides for a Cause event in Bakersfield, which was held at The Patino on March 21. Half of the sales will be donated to Wish Upon a Wedding to benefit couples facing terminal illnesses.



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Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Events Calendar

Thursday, April 3

"Laughter Yoga" Art and Spirituality Center, Mercy Hospital, 2215 Truxtun Ave. 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Free admission. To register or for more information: (661) 632-5747 or www.mercybakersfield.org/art.

FAFSA and Dream Act application workshop. Bakersfield College Student Services building, room 151. 10 a.m. to noon. Sign up through Inside-BC at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu.

"Beyond Basic Google" Library Workshop. Bakersfield College library, room 217. 2:30 p.m. Free for all students. For more information: (661) 395-4466 or follow the library on Twitter @libraryatBC

Friday, April 4

"Evaluation of Print Sources" Library Workshop. Bakersfield College library, room 217. 9:30 a.m. Free for all students. For more information: (661) 395-4466 or follow the library on Twitter @libraryatBC

"Ethics of Research" Library Workshop. Bakersfield College library, room 217. 11 a.m. Free for all students. For more information: (661) 395-4466 or follow the library on Twitter @libraryatBC

"Trojan Women" Bakersfield College Performing Arts Department spring play. Outdoor space between Fine Arts building and Auto Technology. 8 p.m., gates open at 7:30 p.m. \$5.50 general admission, \$3.50 for students, seniors, staff/faculty, and military. Free parking in parking lots along Mount Vernon Avenue. Adult content, no children under six will be admitted. To purchase tickets: (661) 395-4326 or at the gate.

Saturday, April 5

"Internet Evaluation" Library Workshop. Bakersfield College library, room 217. 11:15 a.m. Free for all students. For more information: (661) 395-4466 or follow the library on Twitter @libraryatBC

"Periodical Articles Online" Library Workshop. Bakersfield College library, room 217. 12:30 p.m. Free for all students. For more information: (661) 395-4466 or follow the library on Twitter @libraryatBC

"Trojan Women" Bakersfield College Performing Arts Department spring play. Outdoor space between Fine Arts building and Auto Technology. 8 p.m., gates open at 7:30 p.m. \$5.50 general admission, \$3.50 for students, seniors, staff/faculty, and military. Free parking in parking lots along Mount Vernon Avenue. Adult content, no children under six will be admitted. To purchase tickets: (661) 395-4326 or at the gate.

Sunday, April 6

"Trojan Women" Bakersfield College Performing Arts Department spring play. Outdoor space between Fine Arts building and Auto Technology. 8 p.m., gates open at 7:30 p.m. \$5.50 general admission, \$3.50 for students, seniors, staff/faculty, and military. Free parking in parking lots along Mount Vernon Avenue. Adult content, no children under six will be admitted. To purchase tickets: (661) 395-4326 or at the gate.

Monday, April 7

FAFSA and Dream Act application workshop. Bakersfield College Student Services building, room 151. 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Sign up through Inside-BC at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu.

"Evaluation of Print Sources" Library Workshop. Bakersfield College library, room 217. 10:30 a.m. Free for all students. For more information: (661) 395-4466 or follow the library on Twitter @libraryatBC

Bakersfield College Renegade Pantry sign-up day. Campus Center CC-4. For more information: thepantry@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Thursday, April 10

Bakersfield College Renegade Pantry pick-up day. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information: thepantry@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

"Internet Evaluation" Library Workshop. Bakersfield College library, room 217. 11:10 a.m. Free for all students. For more information: (661) 395-4466 or follow the library on Twitter @libraryatBC

Friday, April 11

Red and White Wine and Food Festival. Bakersfield College north stadium lawn. 5 p.m. \$50 advance tickets, \$60 at the gate. To purchase tickets: (661) 395-4800 or online at www.bcfoundation.net.

Saturday, April 19

Chris Shiflett (of the Foo Fighters) and the Dead Peasants will play live at Sandrini's Restaurant and Bar, 1918 Eye St., Bakersfield. Shiflett is best known as the lead guitarist for the Foo Fighters. He created the Dead Peasants in 2010. Opening and closing the show will be Vince Galindo and Country Deluxe. 9 p.m. \$5.



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

The Bakersfield College choir performs during its first concert of the semester, "A Concert of Nonsense," on March 21. The concert's repertoire included several songs from all over the world.

Choir collaborates for an evening of nonsense

By Sharida Rejon
Features Editor

The Bakersfield College Performing Arts Department presented its first choral concert of the semester, featuring the BC choir and chamber singers, on March 21.

"A Concert of Nonsense" included several pieces of music from around the world that, according to BC director of choral activities Jennifer Garrett, focus on the actual vocal sounds, as opposed to the text, which is often what is emphasized in choral music.

"The idea was to do nonsense pieces from all around the world, it was not so much about the text, but about the effect that each song had," Garrett said. "We were trying to get the style and flavor of each different nationality and each country with each piece. It was a lot about the rhythms, the style and the sound."

The concert also featured several guest artists, including the Bakersfield College jazz combo, BC theater professor Randy Messick, who narrated the show, and previous BC director of choral activities Ron Kean.

"Having Dr. Kean on stage was really fun," said Garrett. "A lot of the students worked with him last year, so they know him, so it was fun to have him come and spend some time with the students, and work with the men's choir on their piece."

"It was an honor to get to be on stage with him and make music with him, and a lot of the students enjoyed it too."

Nick Ono, a local tap dancer and BC alumnus, was also among the guest performers in the concert.

"I have danced at many different events, but this is the first time I have ever dance with a choir," said Ono. "It was wonderful to dance with a full choir and BC's jazz band. Dancing to live full music always has an extra edge and energy to it that is amazing to dance with."

Another guest artist featured on the show was Art Sherwyn.

"That was probably the most unique thing about the show," said Garrett. "An artist came and painted in reaction to what he heard. He was listening to the music and reacting to it on a canvas, and then it was



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Jose Flores, a member of the BC Chamber Singers, performs "A Whole Lot of Nonsense," a vocal percussion piece.

auctioned off at the end."

Garrett explained that the concept of the theme of the concert came after she wanted the audience to experience something fun and different.

"The concert was a lot about finding the nonsense side of life," she said. "I thought, 'how fun would it be to have a stress-free night where people come and they just get to enjoy fun music?' Often, choir

concerts can be very serious, or the repertoire can be classical in nature, and some people don't really relate to it or don't understand it, so I wanted to do something that was fun for everyone."

Colleen Wright, a veteran BC chamber singer, talked about the uniqueness of the concert.

"I think Dr. Garrett wanted to show the choirs that they could have fun and enjoy music while still making it amazing," Wright said. "This is the first concert that I have been in that has incorporated so many different features."

Garrett said that the preparations for this concert were a bit challenging at times, but was pleased with the performance.

"It was a totally new and a little bit kind of crazy idea to try to do," Garrett said. "We were combining

choir with instrumental music, art, and with dance. It was a collaboration of the arts.

Because we collaborated so much, the most challenging part about this concert was to try to pull everything together."

The Bakersfield College choirs will have their next concert on May 9 at Mill Creek Christian Church at 7:30 p.m.

The concert, titled "Oh The Places You'll Go," is based on the Dr. Seuss book of the same name and will focus on life and its different aspects. The Chamber Singers will also be performing during BC's 100th graduation ceremony on May 16.

In addition, select students from the choirs will be going to Rome in the summer of 2015, where they will be singing with an international choir and orchestra. Fundraisers are currently taking place for the trip.

"Every Wednesday at the new Yogurt Zone on Oswell Street, if you take in a flier, 20 percent of your purchase goes toward the choirs," said Garrett.

Flyers are available online at www.drgarrettbcmusic.weebly.com or from any member of the Bakersfield College choirs.



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

The Bakersfield College jazz combo provide music prior to the choir's performance. The jazz combo was among the numerous guest performers that were featured during the choir's concert.

Volunteers are needed for the hospice program

By Elias C. Ahumada
Reporter

Hoffman Hospice is currently seeking volunteers for its quality end-of-life care for current patients.

Since Hoffman Hospice is part of the We Honor Vets Program in the state of California, Brenda Nakanishi, volunteer coordinator, said although all volunteers are welcomed, she prefers to match veteran volunteers with veteran patients.

"I try and place a veteran with a veteran patient because if you have seen war, or battle, you might share some of those stories as a veteran with another veteran," she said. "But you won't share them with your family because you don't want your family to really know what you've been through. So, I like to connect the veterans with the veterans."

Founded in 1995, the Hoffman Hospice center has served

the Kern County community for 19 years. Hoffman Hospice is a non-profit organization and is the only four-star rated hospice center in all of California. Hoffman Hospice offers hundred of patients quality end-of-life care.

"That's pretty impressive, I think," she said, explaining her excitement that the hospice was the only four-star rated hospice in California.

"Hospice is end-of-life care, someone would need to be within six months of passing and end-of-life," Nakanishi said. "When [patients] decide to come on to a hospice service they've decided that they don't want any more life-saving measures."

"There's a team of people that take care of each patient," Nakanishi said. "Each patient has about 17 members. It includes a registered nurse, LVN, home health aide, person who gives the bath, changes the sheets and things like that, a spiri-

tual counselor, which is a chaplain, a social worker, and a volunteer, if they are requested."

Nakanishi explained that patients are divided up into zip codes because they cover all of Kern County to include Delano, Lake Isabella, and a team in Lancaster, although all operations are run out of the Bakersfield branch.

As far as the volunteer program goes, Nakanishi said Hoffman Hospice has 79 volunteers at the moment.

"The volunteers will go out and visit the patients, and they will give care giver relief," she said. "I will try to keep my volunteers working in their own zip code."

Nakanishi offers classes for future volunteers for the veteran and other services. The next available classes begin April 14 at Hoffman Hospice in Bakersfield.

She encourages anyone who would like to volunteer to contact her at (661) 410-1010.

High-tech sim man aids BC students

By Myrissa Johns
News Editor

"Clear!" students yelled to ensure that no one was touching their patient as they delivered a shock to the Code Blue cardiac arrest patient, working to get its pulse back during a simulation on March 25. Bakersfield College Allied Health programs' students are working with simulation mannequins that have the capability to act as actual patients.

BC nursing professor Nancy Mai also acts as a simulation coordinator to make the high-fidelity sim man react to how the students treat it during the simulation from a control room.

"They are such a wonderful advantage," said Mai, who graduated from nursing school 30 years ago.

"We did a lot of skills on each other, which is not always the funnest thing, but having the ability to go through these types of situations before you're actually hit with them, that just makes so much of a difference."

The high-fidelity sim man gives visible chest excursions, which allows the students to see breathing, has audible heart, lung, and bowel sounds, and also has a pulse that can be felt. It can also be intubated, have IV fluids injected, and receive actual electric shocks during a cardiac arrest.

Although the five high-fidelity simulators have extra capabilities, BC also has six mid-fidelity simulators and a handful of task trainers, according to Mai.

"We can use all this equipment to expose [students] to things that don't happen every day in a clinical setting, because you never know what's going to happen with the patient, it's just kind of luck of the draw," she said. "So, here we can take them through something that they may not be exposed to in the clinical setting so they're prepared for it when they either get to the clinical setting or when they get out into the real practice."

She said students will be able to tell patients that they have performed certain skills before, saying, "The big joke then that you'll see all over the place



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

BC nursing student Joshua Karns performs chest compressions on a high-fidelity sim man as other students take steps to revive a Code Blue cardiac arrest patient during a simulation. Karns and the other students will graduate in May.

is of course I've done this before – on the sim man."

Despite the fact that the high-fidelity simulators are the only ones capable of being controlled by an instructor, the mid-fidelities and task trainers are beneficial to the students as well.

The task trainers allow students to practice specific skills, like straight catheter or foley catheter insertions, IV insertions, CPR, and other skills. The mid-fidelity simulators are more for role play for the students, accord-

ONLINE

For the simulation video, go to www.therip.com

ing to Mai.

The mid-fidelities are controlled by a remote that another student would use to select certain symptoms for the simulator to exhibit, which would then be determined by the student taking the vitals, essentially, testing each other.

Mai said she feels that having the technology is the best of both worlds, saying that she thinks the sim man not only makes it easier for students who are hands-on learners to learn skills because they can see the

patient react, but also helps students who are not by giving them the ability to watch other students' recorded simulations.

Each simulation is recorded and posted to the nursing program's website where it is available for students to watch and critique. Mai created a critique form to allow students to pick out what they like and don't like from the videos and learn from it.

Mai said she thinks BC got its first high-fidelity sim man in 2005 at a cost of approximately \$65,000, which was paid for with grant money.

GET bus gets community feedback on routes

By Rigoberto Lopez
Reporter

Although some people feel that the changes to the Golden Empire Transit bus routes hinder their days by causing them to walk farther to get to a bus stop, others feel that the changes are an improvement.

The GET has had the same bus route for over 25 years now. The city of Bakersfield has grown dramatically since those 25 years that's why the new route was implemented to the system on October 2012.

According to Gina Hayden who works for GET, some of the new routes were moved onto larger streets like Chester Avenue to make it more convenient for the bus drivers as well as the people who ride the bus.

In 2010, GET spent almost a year gathering data, seeking information on where people mostly got on and off the bus.

In 2011, they had a draft map to ask people who ride the bus where they would start and where their destination is.

They also went to the transit center and had a booth at the fair including having one at Bakersfield College.

Hayden said, "There's no other point in doing this except to make it a better system for our customers."

During the beginning of the change, GET received numerous complaints because the two major routes, buses 21 and 22.

Bus routes 21 and 22, which were supposed to run every 15 minutes, had a lot more people using those routes than the transit anticipated.

They have since added buses to those two routes to make it more convenient for their customers.

GET wanted to let the system run for a year and made sure they knew what was going on before they made any new changes.

According to Hayden, GET did surveys to ensure satisfaction, which a survey last month showed that most people were happy with the new route.

BC student Enrique Garcia has been riding the GET bus transit for three years. He said that it works for him because he now takes one bus to get to school rather than two buses like before.

When there is a new system, you see a drop in people riding the bus, which GET saw, but now the system is starting to see people riding the buses again, according to Hayden.



RICHARD J PETERSON / THE RIP

Bus riders wait for the bus driver to let them board the bus at the BC bus stop. Golden Empire Transit has been working to ensure riders' satisfaction in regard to changes to the bus routes.

BC website is revamped and upgraded

By Elizabeth Fernandez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College website was recently revamped, updated and released March 17. It has been a project that has taken the Kern Community College District and Sharon Musser approximately two years to complete.

Musser, the web content editor at the BC campus – each KCCD campus now has one – explained the project.

"All of the Kern community campuses were going to get new websites, just to kind of get everything updated," she said. "A part of the plan was actually to get everything branded more. We have a more professional look, we wanted to make everything more cohesive, and then also within each campus have the website be a better marketing tool."

Musser added that this project had been the primary reason for her employment. She is the first person to hold the title of Web Content Editor at BC. Preceding that, the site was handled by someone in the IT department, which might help explain why it hadn't been updated in so long – there was no one charged with the specific task of looking after it. The BC website had previously received its most recent redesign early during the spring semester of 2007. Musser was hired in April of 2012 and began reviewing the site right away.

Aside from Musser, there is a team at the district that did a lot of the back-end development, in fact most of the designing was their job. Together they had to make sure that they came up with something that would work for

each campus individually.

They began a series of user testing and surveying to find out what it was exactly that students and website visitors were looking for. To which Musser said, "I would give them, 'Find this item,' or 'find the catalog,' and see if how I laid things out made sense, because things made sense to me, but it's more important for it to make sense to the students. So we've done a lot of reiterations of it, a lot of tweaking to it."

Musser added that a couple of student government representatives were invited to the testing. There was also a series of pop-up surveys that many students and faculty members might recall. The online survey began by asking who you were, what the purpose for the usage was and then asking for basic feedback on the website itself.

Through that research, the KCCD district team for the website came up with a design and adjusted any features and pages. They also made sure web-forms, sides, and the menu tab were functioning properly while Musser's priority was taking the actual content and putting it onto the new site.

"So most of the web development itself happens at the district, but I kind of make sure it works for our campus. I tell them if there is something we need and I make sure all of content gets updated, stays updated," she said.

The web content editor is also in charge of the placement of the tabs as well as the information and links that go with them. According to Musser, the best placement for everything is still an ongoing process, and she

said, "Obviously we can't survey everybody who is going to use the site so we had to just have select groups. Now everybody can use it ... I want people to feel very comfortable. Send me an email."

Musser also said the next update may be within the next couple of weeks and the feedback they receive will be the basis for that. Currently, some site viewers feel the sliders on the front page are going too fast.

They are running at seven seconds and will instead change to 12 seconds. Huge updates to the website are not going to be made again at once anytime soon. Doing so may cause the website to crash, and Musser says, "We want to make sure that it doesn't affect as many students."

Musser's goals also included updating the technology of the website and de-cluttering it.

"I had to kind of go through and tweak some of that," Musser said. "We also had a lot of things that were probably not very useful, and were kind of just cluttering things."

The BC website went from having around eight or nine tabs to a more simpler four. Although Musser said the task was "tricky," she said a lot of it was old mission statements and employee links.

Faculty and staff have emailed asking where certain forms went and Musser replied, "I just let them know it's all still there. It's just a security thing. It's better to have the forms that only employees are going to use where only employees can get to. That way we can make sure you're only seeing the things that you are supposed to see. Like a key request,

some random person doesn't have to know how to request a key for Bakersfield College.

"That's something that only employees or students would need," she said. "So that's something only accessible to employees or students."

Freeing up the space enables more of the website to be used for information current and incoming students need.

"That's what we're focusing on," Musser said. "We're also trying to focus a lot on the outside community, showing the community what we have here, the events the activities, the great things our students their students are doing, and before we weren't as able to do that as much."

Other problems, aside from the slider images and link movements, have been links failing to work under certain browsers, finding a place for announcements, and students being unable to find the InsideBC tab.

The tab in question is located in the upper right hand corner, next to the search engine bar. Musser says she plans on making it bigger.

Overall, Musser feels the feedback has been positive and said, "It feels more real, more professional." For many this is the first contact with BC, and Musser added, "We want them to know we are doing more, students are doing amazing things, and I think our old website didn't represent that as well."

Musser strongly encourages any students, faculty members, and employees with any questions or concerns to contact her through her BC email or the one found on the site, web@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Levan Center hosts discussions on Dust Bowl

By Elias C. Ahumada
Reporter

The Norman Levan Center for Humanities at Bakersfield College was host to three BC professors in the third part of a series in honor of the 75th anniversary of "The Grapes of Wrath," on March 25.

Those in attendance included more than 40 people, including BC professors and students.

The professors who spoke were allotted about 20 minutes to weigh their thoughts on the book and give a little input from their studies about the Dust Bowl. Randy Beeman and Robert Torres, two BC history professors, were part of the panel, and Michael Harvath, economics professor, was also part of the panel.

All three professors have extensive literary backgrounds, all three having written books, and one professor having also written for encyclopedias.

Torres talked about how Mexico had a huge impact on the labor in California, especially after the Mexican Revolutionary War, and how Mexicans also migrated to California for work along with the Oakies.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD J PETERSON / THE RIP

Jack Hernandez, a former Bakersfield College professor who is also the director of the Levan Center, shares his thoughts with the audience during the third part of a series of discussions held in honor of the 75th anniversary of the novel "The Grapes of Wrath," which was held March 25.



The audience listens to the speakers while they share knowledge on the Dust Bowl migration. Some panelists included BC professors Randy Beeman, Robert Torres, and Michael Harvath.

Grade check to help student athletes succeed

By Robert Mullen
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College athletics is in the testing phase of a new grade check program designed to help student athletes.

Helmed by Interim Athletics Director Sandi Taylor, the program is undergoing a trial with both the Track and Field and Swim teams during their 2014 seasons.

Taylor says the intent of the program is to catch students before they get to a point where they are faced with being dropped from their particular athletic program.

Currently, if a student athlete is found to have less than a C in a class, a recommendation is made to them that they have tutoring.

but the tutoring is not required.

"Most of [the coaches] do it anyway, but this is more of a concentrated effort to make sure that everyone of [the coaches] and Victor, our academic advisor, get involved in picking out the [athletes] who are struggling," said Taylor.

Taylor said that the Swimming and Track and Field programs were picked for the pilot because of the sizable pool of athletes and equal access to both male and female students.

"They're both genders and have similarities, same training, same schedule, that sort of the thing. But it was the coaches that volunteered to be involved in it," she said.

While the program is still young, Taylor

said that they've already seen some successes.

"The first round, Victor said it didn't look too bad, and so we just talked to the ones that were struggling and tried to give them encouragement to get into tutoring, and getting them into all the services available on campus."

Taylor says that there hasn't really been reactions from BC coaching staff because the athletics department hasn't announced much about the program other than that they're giving it a trial run. Reactions from the faculty, however, has been positive.

"That's because part of [the program] is about communicating with the faculty, letting them know, 'here's what we're planning to do', and following through on our part so that

we're a team working together for the success of the students," she said.

A key part of this program is not just about keeping athletes from being knocked out of sports for grades, but also keeping them on track for transfer into a higher level school later on.

At the end of the semester, the athletics department will present the results from then pilot and decide as a department if the program is something they wish to implement, as well as deciding if tutoring will be mandatory, and other factors.

"We'll evaluate where we are with it, what worked and what didn't work, and see if we can't do something to make it available for all the students," said Taylor.



RICHARD J PETERSON / THE RIP

Existing lighting fixtures around BC are being replaced by LED lights in an attempt to become a more energy efficient campus.

LED upgrades get installed around campus

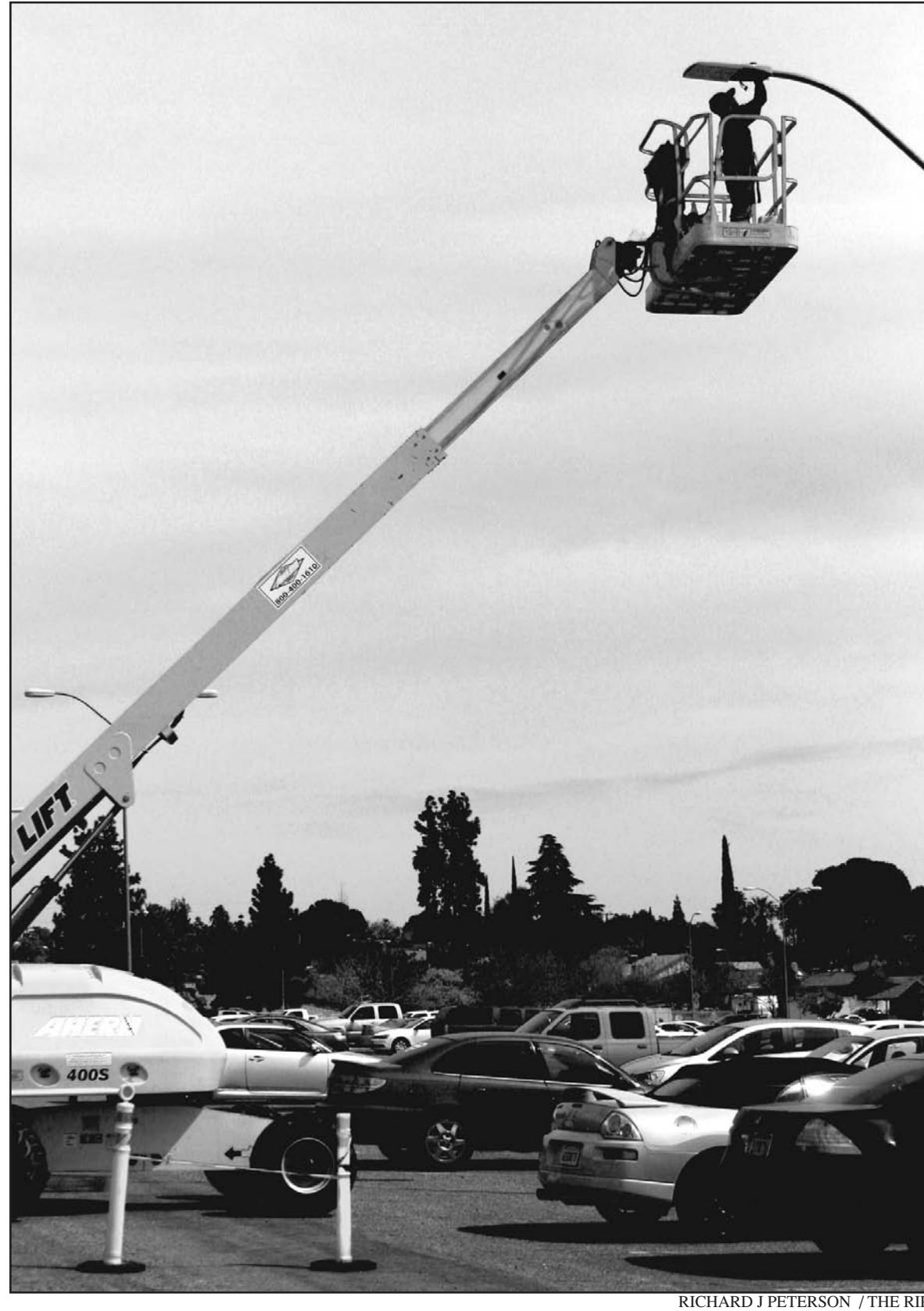
By Robert Mullen
Sports Editor

As part of funding given to Bakersfield College by the passage of California Proposition 39 back in 2013, the current bulbs in the light poles around BC are being replaced by new LED lights.

Jim Coggins, the manager of Maintenance and Operations at BC,

says it's a race against the clock to install these bulbs because the funding for this portion of the refit operation ends after the spring semester.

"The whole campus will be done this year, all the pole lights," said Coggins. "We have to have this completely finished by June 13. If we don't have this done by then, we lose the funding."



RICHARD J PETERSON / THE RIP

A hydraladder aids a lighting employee in the installation process of the new LED fixtures at Bakersfield College on March 20. LED installations are scheduled to be completed by June 13.

Already lights have been replaced around the campus near Haley Street, the library and the administration parking lot, and Coggins says that a second crew has been brought on to help speed up the work.

He said that the new LED lights are cheaper and easier to maintain, as well as providing more light.

"It's a brighter light, plus it's like half of the cost to run, and the

life expectancy of the bulb is four to five times more than a bulb we use now," he said. "So we shouldn't have any issue with maintenance for quite a while."

Prop 39 gives BC around \$1 million over the course of five years to fix the lights, which will help modernize BC's light infrastructure.

"This is the first phase of a five-year plan. Next year, in the second

phase, what we plan on getting into is the soffit lights on the exterior of the campus, on all the buildings, and we'll get those all changed out with an LED," Coggins said. "Then hopefully we can get into some of the energy management systems and tying in all these lights into that system, then everything can be controlled with programs, including the lights at the stadium."

Special events planned for BC graduation

By Trina Goree
Reporter

Save the date. On May 16, the class of 2014 will be making history with a commencement that offers more than usual.

Bakersfield College has been celebrating its centennial all year long with a multitude of events and will conclude with its biggest commencement ceremony yet.

The ceremony will begin with an honor lap made up of all former students of BC.

The former students are encouraged to wear red and Renegade regalia.

The participants will be broken down into groups, according to their class year as the alumni make their way around the track.

The commencement committee would like to have 2014 graduating students represent their degrees by carrying their respective discipline sign on the field.

Professor Jack Pierce, who is on the BC commencement com-

mittee, explained how a graduating student can carry a department sign.

"Graduating students need to let professors know if they are interested in carrying their discipline sign," he said. "However, it will be up to the department on how students are selected to be sign carriers."

The deadline for departments to submit their sign carrier is April 18 if the carrier name is going to appear on the graduation program."

Pierce said there will also be large projection screens so everyone on the field and stadium can see the event.

Also, medallions are currently being sold to faculty and staff for \$16 at window eight in the Admissions and Records office building, Pierce said.

A fireworks show is scheduled to take place at the end of commencement.

There will also be live music by BC alumni Mento Buru performing from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.



PHOTOS BY SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

The Kern County Kennel Club offers its annual dog show at the Kern County Fairgrounds on March 29. Various breeds of dogs are featured in events judging their agility and showmanship.

Kern County Kennel Club dog show



'GADE FEEDBACK "Have you voted for your choice in student elections?"

Compiled by:
Richard J Peterson
The Rip



Tim Pettit,
Nursing:
"No, not yet. I
didn't know about
it. I will check it
out."



Katie Baca,
Nursing:
"No, because I am
not interested."



Hamid Camara,
Biology:
"I voted because
I want to
support elections
for student
government."



Kelsea Knight,
Undeclared:
"I didn't vote, not
interested."



Fabian Medrano,
Fire Technology:
"I voted because
I saw the tent and
this is my fourth
semester."

BC students raise funds for Relay for Life charity

By Trina Goree
Reporter

There are more than a dozen members registered for Bakersfield College Delano Campus Renegades team that will participate in American Cancer Society Relay for Life on April 12-13.

The advisers are Helen Calip and Loy Salarda, and the captains are Ana Santana and Krystal Vellido. The team members are Jaime Astacio, Geovanna Burrell, Guadalupe Romero, Jennifer Ponce, Marisol Avila, Lindy Perez, Mark Laboca, Carolina Madrigal, Christian Espinosa, Mona Reyna and Diana Valle. The event will begin at 9 a.m. April 12 at Delano High School.

Vellido knows all too well the devastation cancer can cause. Her grandfather died of cancer, and that would provide the catalyst that prompted Vellido to take action and be an active component in the eradication of the disease.

The Delano team is focused and looking toward even better success at this year's Delano city event. Throughout March, the team has organized events to help with fundraising.

"Our goal for each member is to raise \$100 ... so we fundraise to help each member accomplish this goal," mentioned Santana, a participant in Relay for Life for three years.

Santana also stated, "I have always enjoyed helping the community out."

Events that have taken place include a Relay for Life food and refreshments sale, which was held in the DST Lobby, a hub for Delano Campus students. There was also a rummage sale and elaborate booth at Delano Earth Walk and Car Show event, St. Patrick's Day sale.

Salarda, a close friend to individuals who are cancer survivors, is involved with Relay for Life events to demonstrate active assistance.

"This is my way of showing support," Salarda said. "There are at least a few hundred different known cancers that affect humans, so raising as much money as we can for research will bring better treatments to cancer patients."

Hungry's reopens food area and offers students discounts

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Across the street from Bakersfield College, at the corner of Mount Vernon Avenue and Christmas Tree Lane, Hungry's Market is operating with a food market again.

Amanda Pace has been the unofficial manager there for over a year and became the official operations manager at the beginning of 2014. Pace has had her ups and downs with the establishment and mainly, she missed having the grill operational.

In 2012, the market closed its drive-thru and food portion of the business, once named Frosty King, boarding up the drive-thru window and ignoring its large grill area.

Beginning this spring semester, under the guidance of Pace, the storeowner made the decision to reopen the food area. Pace made sure to ask for a special for the students of BC.

"When you are a student, you don't always have a lot of money," Pace said. "I wanted to make sure that when we did open the grill back up that we not only had good food, but we had lower prices for the students."

Pace has extensive experience working grills and preparing food. She calls her burgers the Alice Burger and said she puts a lot into them.

"The Alice Burger is the best in town because I make each one with love," she said.

"I cook from my heart, and add a touch of homemade when they are seasoned. I cook the Alice Burger with the most love because I love burgers."

"I try really hard to make the best tasting food so that students will feel that it is worth the time to come over and the money they have to spend."

For a burger, fries and soda, the students would pay \$4.99 for a single, and \$5.99 for a double combo. Adding items, such as bacon, cheese or avocado costs 50 cents per item. You can also get the bean and cheese burrito for a dollar.

There are breakfast items, small biscuits and gravy for \$2.99, large biscuits and gravy for \$3.99, or a breakfast burrito for \$3.99.

There are many options offered at the market that are not available at BC.

At Hungry's Market, you can get a hot dog or chili dog for \$1.49, chili fries for \$2.50, chicken nuggets for \$2.99, an order of onion rings for \$1.99, a 6-inch submarine



PHOTOS BY RICHARD J PETERSON / THE RIP

Hungry's Market, on Mount Vernon Avenue, has been recently remodeled and is ready to serve.



Hungry's Market has opened its food counter after the recent remodel and is now ready to serve the customers, catering to BC students by offering discounts on food and other select items.

sandwich for \$2.99 or footlong sub for \$5.99.

All prices are before taxes.

BC Student Raymond Page, a regular of Hungry's Market, said, "Some items are only a few cents cheaper, but as a student, it can make a difference."

"I would recommend Alice Burgers to anyone," he said. "They are tasty and fill you up."

The market used to be located in the southwest area years ago, before that location was bought out, which

bodes well for BC students.

BC student Ron Holguin has said, "I like that we have more options than having to leave the campus in your car and lose your parking spot. I like that Hungry's Market is only a 10-minute walk from my class, before lunch."

"That gives time for me to walk over, order and eat."

Students would agree with Holguin that losing your parking spot to go to a fast food place is not worth it, especially if there is an alternative

that has more options available.

"You can't usually find food this good unless you cook it at home," Holguin said before heading back to class, burger combo in hand.

When the grill is fired up, you cannot only hear the sizzle, but you can smell the aroma all throughout the market.

"The smell alone makes you want to spend money," Page said, "You automatically are inclined to give Alice a reason to start the grill. The Alice Burger is an instant favorite."

Poet discusses his new works at BC Levan Center

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Award-winning poet Jeffrey Knorr visited the Bakersfield College Levan Center on March 28 for a poetry reading and Q-and-A session. Knorr read from his newest collection of poetry, "The Third Body."

He called himself a simplistic author, with his poems reading no more than 12 lines and keeping up with his favorite genre of poetry – prose.

"There are so many things underwater and some days there aren't even fish to capture," he said, relating his writing to fishing.

Knorr said his favorite topic to

write about is love, and he has used his own experiences in his writing.

The poem "Splitting Up" expresses his feelings as his ex-wife and he separated. One line reads, "Before I watched her drive away like she was taking the dead to their grave, we held each other in the house among empty spaces and boxes, an autumn evening closing on us like

our own eyes."

Knorr talked about the love he had for his ex-wife, the continued love for his children, and especially that of his new love.

When asked of what he felt was his greatest accomplishment, he did not say being the current Poet Laureate of the city and county of Sacramento. Instead, he said being a parent to his son, and current girlfriend's three children, was his greatest accomplishment above everything else.

"Being a parent is the hardest job in the world, but I love my life," he said. "My children complete my lover's and I relationship."

According to Knorr, all of his recent accomplishments can be accredited to his inspiration of love, which he said will always fuel his work.

Knorr has a group of close friends who edit his work. The group exchanges literary work and reads each other's work to give collective criticisms.

To prepare to write, Knorr has his journal and something to read, which he said gets his creativity flowing.

He said he has been most inspired by author James Wright. He explained that Wright especially inspired his writings of nature in "The Third Body". He explained to a member of the audience that writers could use others' work to inspire their own style and the message they want to convey.

"Of course, don't turn that work in, but use it to fuel your own writ-

ing style and what you have to say," he said.

When asked what advice Knorr has for students who want to write, he said, "Don't worry about publishing." He said his first and most important work throughout all the years was an article that was published in the magazine of reviews for his school, Watershed Campus Review.

"It gave a validation of my work," he said, explaining that it was the first time he felt that he had accomplished something in writing.

"Out of all of the reviews and articles I have written, that review was the most important."

Knorr said that as a student, your most important validation would come from the fundamentals of the learning process.

"If you are a student at BC, write for the Roughneck Review."

Knorr is currently an English professor at Sacramento City College and has published three books, although two – "Standing Up to the Day" and "Keeper" – are currently unavailable because they are out for press. He has also co-authored three books for Prentice Hall, "Mooring Against the Tide: Writing Poetry and Fiction," "A Writer's Country," and the newly released "The River Sings."

Knorr has been an editor and presented different awards, such as the 2008 Bradbury Award in Poetry.

He was also co-editor and poetry editor of the Clackamas Literary Review, which won Best New Magazine in 1997 and 1998.

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Staff Editorial
BC website
improves
to be less
outdated

The Bakersfield College website has seen a major overhaul and it should not go unnoticed. The website is definitely cleaner and modern looking now, but it seems like some important resources have been thrown to the back burner in order for the school to do some serious self-promotion. Is the website just a bunch of bells and whistles or is it really useful?

What takes center stage is a huge, half-page, scrolling slideshow that shows upcoming events happening at BC. This is a good thing, but the photos they have scrolling aren't the best and make it look like a kid put it together.

If you are going to have something like this take up a majority of your website, then you need to make sure it looks the best. With BC having a fine arts photography program and a journalism program that has photo classes, surely they could get someone to take better pictures for the website.

The color scheme is more neutral and uses our school colors as more of an accent, which works well and isn't as in your face as the previous version of the website.

Along the top, there are fewer, and more simplified, choices, which make it better to navigate the core of the website, but at the cost of some of the options being buried in menus and taking more than just one click to get to them.

Does the new website help us or does it hinder us from easily accessing our basic services we need as students? Yes and no.

The bottom half of the page is where most of the information is located, including the calendar and the social media buttons. The calendar is such a confusing jumble that it's almost an afterthought. It does include the student events, but the way they are formatted is really confusing.

The best part of the website is that the bottom section has panels. All four panels – current students, future students, community, and alumni – are geared to a certain group of people, so it makes the website more customized depending on your reason for visiting the website.

InsideBC is getting a big promotion with this update. Over the past couple of semesters, professors have really been pushing this down our throats and with good reason because it centralizes all of the information a student needs while taking classes here. So, the incorporation of this into the website really helps make it easier to use this service, instead of fighting with the older banweb portal.

For current students, the website is a breath of fresh air and is actually a website to be proud of. The last one seemed so old school and made the college look second-rate. Over time, we think the website will come full circle and be a place to get all the information students need, without being overly simplified.

So, if you haven't visited the new website, you should at least check it out and see how much better it is compared to the old one.

All the play with no pay

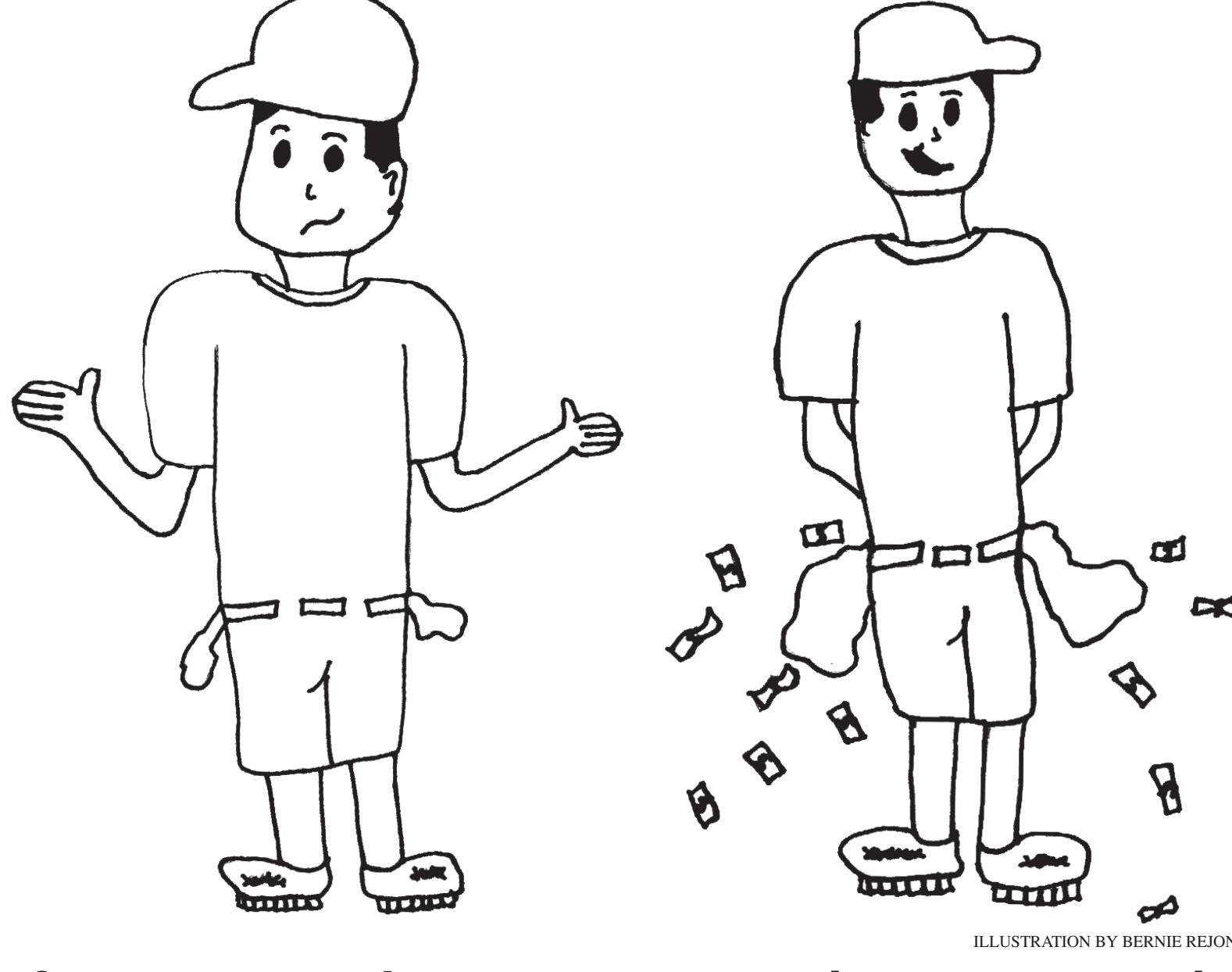


ILLUSTRATION BY BERNIE REJON

If everyone else gets money, pay students

By Daniel Ojeda
Reporter

Student athletes perform and entertain millions of college sports fans. Without them, the millions of dollars that collegiate athletics generates simply would not exist. We wouldn't have the millions of fans buying tickets to watch a game, and those same fans definitely wouldn't be subscribing to those expensive cable and satellite sports packages. Despite this, the student athlete receives zero monetary compensation, and I think they should.

Those who oppose paying athletes frequently refer to the free education that the student athlete receives because of scholarships. That education is dependent on the condition of their health and success to the team; these schools place education second to athletics.

If the student athlete is hurt or unsuccessful, they are suddenly discarded and the player is left with nothing.

In contact sports like football, no one ever mentions the lifetime of healthcare bills that athletes are sometimes left with. If a player is left with a debilitating injury caused on the playing field, how will that free education compensate them? Players sacrifice their bodies when competing and all they get is a "thank you" while the school is counting the money made off of the player.

Universities are run like businesses when it comes to athletics, and the student athletes are the ones left having to juggle their schoolwork, job, early practices and all the traveling across the country.

The ongoing NCAA tournament can be used as an example of how universities value making money over their students receiving a proper education. Forbes recently released

information stating that teams that make a deep run in the tournament will have missed an average of 17 days of classes, or 24 percent of the spring semester. Doesn't that reduce the value of the free education that athletes are receiving? Yet rather than attending class, many of the student athletes are hundreds of miles away preparing for a basketball game. How are these athletes supposed to be students first when the most important item on the agenda is preparing for the big game?

Last year, college athletes helped the NCAA generate over \$6 billion with a largely unpaid labor force. During events, such as March Madness or football's bowl games, that figure can almost reach one billion dollars. But student athletes see none of that because most of it goes to pay their head coaches and other aspects of their schools' programs.

Players at some schools, like Northwestern University, have taken steps to be formally represented by a labor union. Those players aren't looking to be paid a crazy amount of money for what they do, all they want are guaranteed scholarships in case of injuries and trust funds that players could access after their NCAA eligibility expires, which would allow them to finish their degrees.

I don't think there is anything wrong with universities trying to make as much money as possible, but the student athletes who are generating this money should be earning at least a small piece of the pie.

Athletes earn their schools millions of dollars, increase enrollment, and are used as a recruiting piece for generations. Top NCAA executives are earning more than one million per year while a student athlete can't even earn 20 dollars for signing an autograph.

We need to open our eyes and compensate the student athletes that put their bodies on the line as well as entertain us.

PRO

March is over, end the madness now

By Amber Hayden
Photographer

When it comes to paying college athletes, I have to think that the idea alone is ridiculous.

Students come to college and are already given money like financial aid and grants to go to school, so why is it necessary to give them more money just because they are athletes?

I've always noticed that if a college wants an athlete bad enough, they offer them scholarships, but now they want to pay them on top of this.

I get that, yes, it's expensive to go to school and that it could be seen as good, but to other students on the campus, including myself, it seems like favoritism toward the athletes only because they draw a crowd for sporting events.

If a college is seeing it as a good thing, why not take the funds and put them into each department equally? At least that way it's fair across the board.

Now they want to add into the mix paying student athletes and even a union for the athletes. How far can this honestly go?

Don't get me wrong, I think athletes deserve the recognition for being good at the sport that they play, I just think there needs to be more thought put into the whole idea of paying them.

When I see an athlete at school, I don't see them as a person who plays a sport. I see them as someone who is just another student who happens to have a special skill.

If they are unable to afford to play the sport, which requires them to miss school and possibly work, then maybe they need to change their priorities to the more important focus of college.

CON

Other students are expected to be able to pay for all the fees without the benefits of getting scholarships most of the time.

I rely on my job and financial aid to pay my way through school, and I don't get the chance to have the school pay me to go to the school and for any extra credit activities that I choose to do.

With March Madness happening, I understand that the athletes are looking at all the money they are having to put out for costs, but the schools take care of the more expensive parts of it, such as the hotel and other fees associated with travel that are required to get them to the games.

At least that is my understanding, and I've never heard anything different.

So what exactly do the athletes need the extra funds for? Other than putting the money into their own pockets to buy things they don't even need for school.

I feel frustrated that despite the fact that a lot of students might express a dislike to the idea, no matter what I, or anyone else say, these athletes will probably still end up being paid just for going to school.

There has to be a better way of dealing with this issue without making other students feel left out of everything just because they don't play a sport.

College is supposed to be about education, such as finishing a degree and moving into the work force.

It's not about the constant strain of which sport will be better this year and who is going to bring in the most money for the school.



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How to reach us

** Address: Bakersfield College,
 1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305

**Phone: 661-395-4324 **Website: www.therip.com

** Email: ripmail@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Music Review

Shakira surprises with her new album

By Sharida Rejon
Features Editor

Shakira's 10th studio album, which is self-titled, has proved that certain artists really do get better with time.

The Colombian singer's music has been contagious throughout the years, and her artistic image has always been dance influenced, and although I did get that during the first few tracks on the album, it was the ballads that unexpectedly won me over.

From the get-go, Shakira gives listeners upbeat dance songs like "Dare (La La La)" and "Can't Remember to Forget You," which made me expect an abundance of pop and dance infused songs, like in her previous albums. However, the singer's self-titled album includes more ballad type tracks, and I surprisingly found the honest lyrics in songs such as "Broken Record," "23," and "That Way" speaking to my heart.

"23" is definitely the most personal song in the album, where she ponders life before finding love and then transitions into singing about the bliss of being in love. Lyrics like "God knows that I'm a good dancer, my feet can move to the music he plays, but there were times I asked for an answer, but he was acting in

mysterious ways, there were nights that I stayed up crying, because I was certain that things wouldn't change, but then you came and I saw you smiling" let us see that she is completely vulnerable and emotionally stripped, and perfectly illustrate the transition from the hip-shaking diva we know to the mother and woman in love that she is now.

The best track on the album is "Medicine," a fantastic collaboration with country singer Blake Shelton. The song is slightly country infused, without losing Shakira's pop style. The singers' voices blend well, and some listeners might identify themselves with the lyrics.

Besides "Medicine," the album includes other pleasant collaborations with artists Rihanna, Magic!, and Carlinhos Brown that resulted in a great diversity of music, including elements of ska, reggae, and rock.

Other tracks in the album such as "Spotlight," "You Don't Care About Me," "Chasing Shadows," and "Empire" will remind listeners of Shakira's pop rock beginnings, where her unique voice was the star in every tune.

Shakira also incorporated a couple tracks in Spanish, staying true to her Latina roots. One of these tracks is "Nunca Me Acuerdo de Olvidarte," the Spanish version of her



IMAGE PROVIDED BY GOOGLE

single "Can't Remember to Forget You," sans the Rihanna part, which I thought gave the song a refreshing twist.

The album definitely shows a different side of the singer, not what the commercial world is used to. It is clear that she is happy and in love and reflects that through her music.

There were songs that did make me want to dance around in my room and play drums on my steering wheel while driving, but it was the sincerity in her lyrics, and not her hips, that took the spotlight on this album.



Ferrera and Peña make movie ripe for the picking

By Bertin Rodriguez
Editor in Chief

"Cesar Chavez: An American Hero" is the right way to make a biography movie that shows the history of an important event in time. From beginning to end, the film will have you on a rollercoaster of emotions from happy to sad and back again.

It follows Cesar Chavez, one of the most important civil rights leaders of the modern era, and the struggle between the farm workers and the growers. He was the leader of the National Farmworkers Association, which later becomes the United Farm Workers of America, which helped get fair wages for all the farmer workers.

The sacrifices and hardships that Chavez went through to help lead these workers to victory was inspirational and this movie showed, with great acting from Michael Peña, those struggles perfectly.

Peña plays Chavez and is very good at playing the firm but soft-spoken leader. Peña shows so much emotion in the movie especially during the 25-day fast where he was struggling with not sleeping very well and becoming weak because he didn't eat.

America Ferrera plays Helen Chavez, Cesar's wife, and does a great job at showing raw emotion on screen, especially when she chose to be martyr for the cause and yelled "Huelga," which means strike in spanish, to the sheriff and the other officers patrolling the grape fields after the word was banned from being used.

There is also a point in the movie when she looks on the brink of tears and completely spaced out in the kitchen during Chavez's 25 day long fast. You could see the fear and worry in her eyes as the son asks if everything is ok.

Another great character in the story was Dolores Huerta, played by Rosario Dawson was not

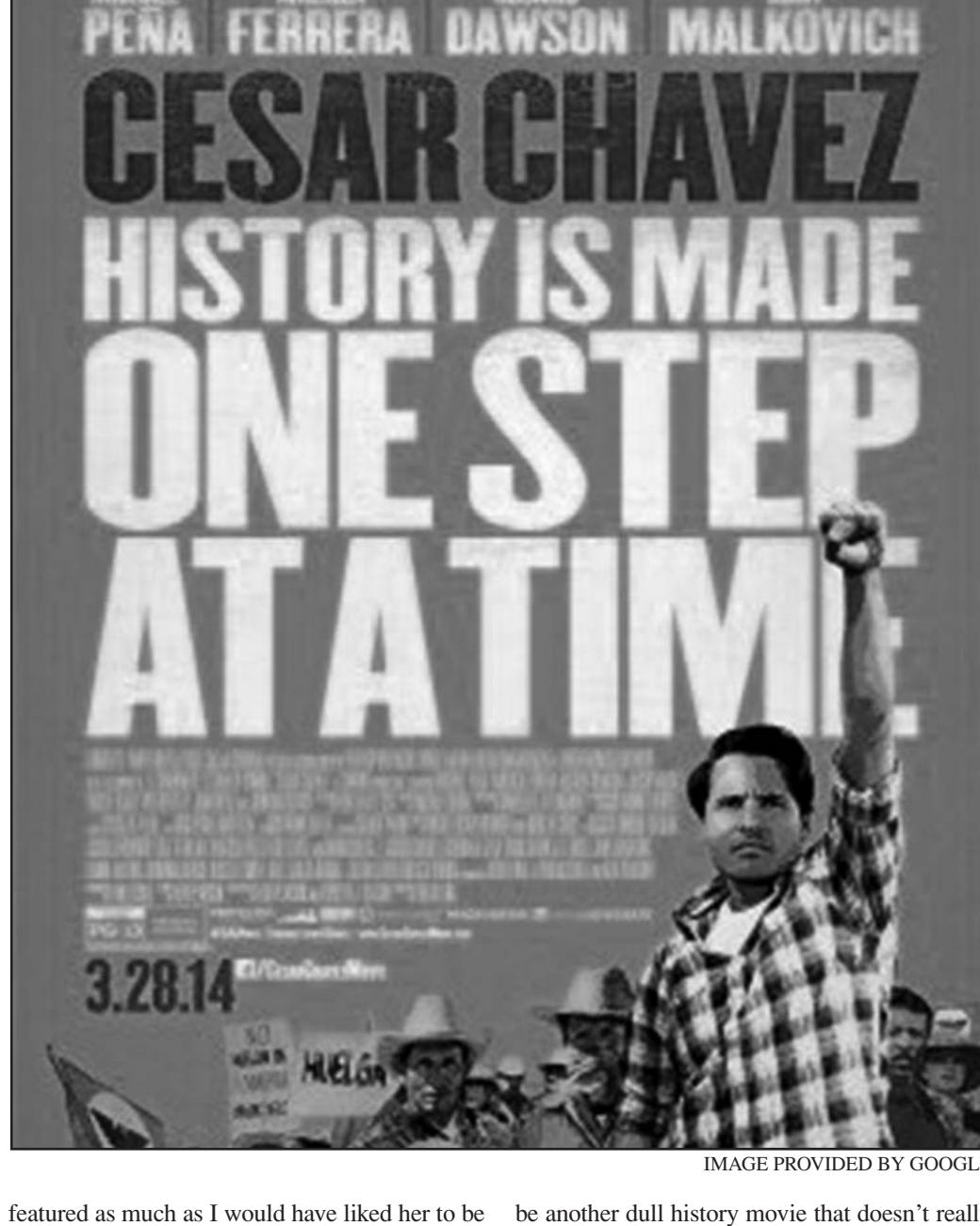


IMAGE PROVIDED BY GOOGLE

featured as much as I would have liked her to be since she co-founded the NFA with Chavez and played a big role in the movement.

I personally think that Huerta should have her own movie that follows her life during this time because she was such a strong and independent woman, and Dawson does a perfect job of capturing that.

I went into this movie thinking it was going to

be another dull history movie that doesn't really showcase why it was made in the first place. I am not old enough to remember this time in history, but I have always found it interesting. "Cesar Chavez" is a must-see movie for everyone.



Game Review

2D classic shooter proves it is worthy

By Bertin Rodriguez
Editor in Chief

Mercenary Kings gives you the classic feeling of Metal Slug with an RPG element that will have you grinding on enemies to collect supplies to upgrade your gear for hours.

You have the choice to play two characters, King and Empress, and they are both infantry experts. The rest of the mercenaries are M.I.A. and Colonel Tasker thinks that CLAW is behind the whole thing. CLAW is an organization and the main antagonist in the story ran by Commander Baron.

The story itself is pretty straight forward and basic, but I felt it was the right story to use. I really started to get into it more and more as I continued through the levels.

The learning curve on this game is huge. I found myself dying over and over on the first mission. You get a set time limit on each level so it is difficult to finish because I found myself exploring the whole level top to bottom and the time really doesn't permit that type of play.

The game is played with only the keyboard so if you are a keyboard and mouse kind of guy like I am, you might have trouble adjusting to the keyboard only controls. After a while you do get used to them and I find that the controls compliment the game in places where a mouse just wouldn't.

I would even say that more 2D side scrollers should use this style of controls.

The type of missions vary from collecting a certain amount of coins to even rescuing a hostage from the grasps of CLAW. It does kind of get repetitive for some missions, but the upgrades you can obtain make it worth while.

You start with a basic pistol and it's actually pretty powerful for a default gun. After you get the materials you need to upgrade it, that pistol can turn into a shotgun, a sub machine gun, or even assault rifle. The combinations of barrels and grips are almost endless.

The reloading mechanic for your gun is very similar to the Gears of War franchise where if you reload at the right time, your bullets get a boost in power and you also reload faster. If you screw up the reload, your gun becomes inoperable for a few seconds and you are left without a way to protect yourself.

If you are looking for a classic shoot em' up game with a solid RPG element, then this is the game for you. Mercenary Kings is out now on PC and PS4.



Food Review

Boss Pizza needs some more work to be good

By Bertin Rodriguez
Editor in Chief

There is a new name in town for pizza, and it seems to think it's the boss. That is not the case with Boss Pizza Co. located in downtown Bakersfield at 1525 18th St. It is more like an unpaid intern in the pizza business.

Blink and you might miss this small restaurant located next to On The Rocks. I have been waiting for this place to open since I heard about it on Facebook. The thought of a fresh place to get a thin and crispy pizza seem liked a great addition to have in the downtown area, especially with all the business workers looking for a new lunch spot.

Boss Pizza Co. is like the Subway of pizza places with quick and customizable orders. For those not willing to live on the edge of their slices, they can try one of 10 specialty

pizzas which go from the more traditional like their all meat pizza called the Carnivore to something more bizarre like their jalapeno popper pizza.

I walked in ready to dive into an oasis of pizza choices and to my surprise I was greeted by multiple employees upon entering. The young lady behind the counter was ready to serve me and even offered to tell me about a couple of their specialty pizzas. I asked her what was their most popular pizza, and she said the Westchester or the Boss Combo. I went for the less traditional Westchester with its creamy garlic sauce, chicken, red onion, artichoke and sundried tomatoes topped with a pesto drizzle.

They write your order on a sheet of wax paper that they place under your dough, from there it goes to the next worker in the line who then places your toppings on the pizza. This

gentleman also greeted me with a smile as I watched him make my pizza. He made quick work of putting together my pizza and then it was handed to another worker who actually puts in into the oven.

I walked to the register and paid for the pizza, which was reasonably priced at \$7.95. There I was offered a dessert called a Boss Bar, which looked like peanut brittle on steroids. I chose to take a rain check on it, but it looked amazing.

By the time I went to fill my drink at the soda machine, they had my pizza cooked and at my table. The presentation of the pizza looked amazing and I was ready to take my first bite.

The one problem is that once I took my first bite, I was immediately disappointed.

The pizza was bland with the only flavor that I could actually taste was the red onion.

I then ate the toppings individually and I was left with the same feeling as before, nothing had flavor and the artichoke tasted old. I forced down one slice and despite my best judgment tried another slice hoping for the best.

After another bite, I sprinkled cheese and chili flakes onto my next bite and was finally able to enjoy a bite. I shouldn't have to sprinkle those two things onto a pizza to make it good, it should be good on its own. Those are condiments, not essential toppings.

I had high hopes for Boss Pizza Co. and was severely let down. One day I will try it again, but this time I will stick to a more traditional pizza because they can't possibly do any worse than this visit.



SPORTS

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The Renegade Rip | www.therip.com

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Women take third at meet

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

The Western State Conference Inland track and field meet was held on March 28 at Bakersfield College's Memorial Stadium.

The women's team placed third with a score of 105, behind second place West LA College and first-place Glendale College.

Alicia Torres led the pack with the only first place win for the women.

Torres won first place in the shot put, with a distance of approximately 40 feet. She also took second in the discus throw with a distance of 120 feet. Torres also placed third in the hammer throw with a distance of 111 feet.

Deion Louden won the only first place for the men with a time of 55.87 seconds in the 400-meter hurdles. Louden placed third in the 100 in 11.23.

The women totaled 34 placings in the meet.

Natalie O'Dwyer placed second the 200 with a time of 35.86 and the 400 with a time of 57.95.

Jade Gridiron has also had an impressive showing, taking second place in the 100 with a time of 12.56 and third in the 200 with a time of 26.21.

In the 800, Leah Theroux ranked second with a time of 2:19.94, and Jessica Campbell was not too far behind, placing fourth with a time of 2:21.83.

The women's 4x400 relay team placed first in a time of 4:02.17.

Esthefani Perez came in fourth place in the pole vault, with a height of almost 12 feet. She also placed fifth in the javelin throw with a distance of over 45 feet.

Tiffany Tellez also placed in three three field events -- the shot put, the discus, and the javelin.

The men took last place at the meet, with a team score of 30. Jose Leandro placed second for the pole vault, and Juan Calderon came in fourth place in the 800 in 1:56.32.

The next track and field meets for the Bakersfield College team will be held on April 8-9 at Mt. San Antonio College. The conference preliminaries and finals will follow. The prelims will be held at the College of the Canyons on April 18 and the finals will be held on April 25.



AMBER HAYDEN/THE RIP

Alicia Torres has placed in the field events in nearly every WSC meet held so far this year.

Torres ranked first in WSC shot put event

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Bakersfield College's Alicia Torres holds the No. 1 ranking in the shot put for the Western State Conference.

Torres has been a major point scorer for the women's track and field team in the shot put, discus throw and hammer throw.

"It's great to know that my technique and my strength is just coming into play, and that I can just do my job and get points for my team," Torres said. "It's just really rewarding to get a good mark."

The BC women's team has been strong all season. Torres said she has great respect for her team-

mates.

"It's great because it shows that more girls are getting into track and field and they are starting to do really well in their events," she said. "It's just awesome because we have some top girls in our league."

Torres has been participating in track and field for many years, starting in the fifth grade. "You have to know what you want, and just go for it and put everything into it," she said.

Her advice for those younger girls that are first starting out is to, "find what you are good at. Really focus and just know what you want to do with it."

Torres has said that even from a younger age she was very tuned

into what she wanted and hoped to accomplish.

"When I was younger, I knew I wanted to continue with track and field all the way up through college," she said.

Torres is a positive role model for the younger girls that want to participate in track and field, where Torres felt growing up, the sport was more male dominated. It's quite a change of the tide, with Torres and the women of the Bakersfield College track and field team leading their team toward success.

"To actually be in the Olympics, or even just to compete in the Olympic trial would be great," Torres said.

Softball brings the momentum into the second round of conference play

By Robert Mullen
Sports Editor

The Bakersfield College softball team has moved to 4-6 in conference play to tie for fourth in the conference after winning three of the last five games played.

The most recent game on March 27 saw an 8-5 home victory over Glendale College.

BC took an early lead in the second inning with two runs, and held it with a run in the third and two more in the fifth to stay ahead. Glendale managed to tie it up to 5-5 in the seventh inning, but the Renegades scored three runs to end the game. Alex Avilla had a homerun and three RBI, while Brooke Quiddam and Marisela Gonzales each had two.

March 25 was a doubleheader against LA Valley College. BC won the first game 14-9, but lost the second 4-12. The game remained largely close throughout, with both

LA Valley and BC exchanging one run leads until BC fell behind 4-6 in the fourth. LA Valley sealed the game in the fifth, scoring six runs.

BC had two games on March 23, an early 9-8 win over Santa Barbara before Cerritos College knocked them out 6-12 in the afternoon.

Brenna Vasquez had a home run and three RBI against Santa Barbara, and Avilla added another two. Erin Huckaby and Gonzales each contributed one.

As part of that same series BC played Riverside College and Saddleback College on March 22. Against Riverside, BC took a 1-7 loss and against Saddleback a 4-13 loss.

BC suffered three more losses before the 22-23 series. A 2-13 loss against LA Valley on March 20, and a 3-16 and 7-15 doubleheader loss to College of the Canyons on March 18.

BC is midway through conference play, and will restart their cycle

against their conference opponents.

Co-head coach Ryane Peterson is still hopeful for coming out of conference play strong.

"I'm just excited for [the girls] to get through the second round. Our conference is so open, we're tied for fourth, but teams are tied for first and second, so this conference is anyone's game right now," said Peterson.

"If we can get some good wins and let everybody else beat up on each other at this point, then we can have a good standing."

"We just need to keep chipping away at people, and playing the way we know how to play and not caring about if we won or lost during the first part of the conference."

BC will host a doubleheader against Antelope Valley College on April 1 before traveling to Citrus College on April 3, then they will be back home for another doubleheader against Santa Monica College on April 8.



AMBER HAYDEN/THE RIP

Brooke Quiddam pitches against Riverside College on March 22.

Soccer club suffers an 8-1 loss against CSU Northridge after bye week

By Elias C. Ahumada
Reporter

After a long bye, the Bakersfield College men's soccer club returned to the field on March 22 at Bakersfield College, where they hosted division rival CSU Northridge and suffered an 8-1 loss.

The Renegades played a very physical first half, keeping it close

throughout with a potent defense that kept Northridge from overwhelming them with goals, and an offense capable of scoring, but the second half was a completely different game.

The Renegades fell into a 3-1 hole about three minutes in to the second half, but Finch denied that it was this deficit that caused the lack of energy in the second half.

"I told the guys at halftime that even if we tie it [2-2] or go down [3-1] we still need to have a good effort on the field," Head Coach Justin Finch said.

"After going down 3-1, the players on the field and the players on the bench that were substituted in gave a lackluster effort. That's why we had a good talk at the end of the game."

After a costly penalty committed by a Renegade player, Northridge quickly scored its third goal of the game, and from there on the Renegades quickly lost all chance at securing a victory.

Finch said that a lack of team effort was a major factor in the second half. "Players were starting to become individuals and over dribble in spots that you don't even need to

Swimming takes first and second Roundup

By Daniel Ojeda
and Elias C. Ahumada
Reporter

The Bakersfield College swim teams competed in their third Western State Conference meet of the season.

The men's swim team finished in first place with 148 points, just ahead of second place finisher Ventura College.

Andrew Hargis took first place in the men's 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:59.55. Hargis also managed to take first in the 200-yard breast swim.

In the 400-yard free relay Hargis, along with Chance Marchini, Spencer Kerwin and Casey Moehnke, finished in first with a time of 3.19.30.

The women's swim team finished in second place out of the four teams with a score of 151, with LA Valley College taking first.

In the women's 200-yard free, Shelby Bayne took first place with a time of 2:02.53. Bayne also finished first in the 100-yard free with a time of 55.33.

Clarissa Gardella managed to take first in the 50-yard free with a time of 25.80.

In the 200-yard individual medley, Elizabeth Hargis took first with a time of 2.22.89 and Alexis Zimmerman took first in the 100-yard breast swim with a time of 1.13.39.

All four swimmers were part of the 200-yard medley relay team that finished in first place with a time of 1:57.52.

Swim's next meet is April 17 at LA Valley College.

Tennis

The Bakersfield College men's tennis team played against Ventura College on March 25 and lost their match 6-3.

BC's No. 2 player Vitor Ikoda won his match 6-4, 6-1. BC's No. 1 player Tim Roe lost his match 6-1, 6-4.

In doubles play, BC's No. 2 team of Samuel Ramirez and Jesse Fonseca won their match 8-3.

The Renegades next match will be on the road in Ventura for the Western State Conference tournament from April 5-6.

BC baseball haunted by six losses in a row

By Daniel Ojeda
Reporter

Renegade baseball started conference play by winning four of the first six games, but have been in freefall ever since.

Seven straight losses have left the team searching for a way to save the season and get back on track. After being as close as third place in the division the Renegades now sit tied for fifth place with a 4-8 conference record and an overall record of 8-16.

March 18

The Bakersfield College men's baseball team was routed 16-7 against College of the Canyons.

The Renegades fell behind by five runs early in the game before putting up their first run of the game.

In the third, Kaidan Meadows would double leading off the inning and came around to score on Jake Verdugo's single. In the fourth, after singles by Cole Hallum and Erik Williams, Zach Tanner followed with a single of his own to drive in BC's second run of the game. In the fifth, Rolando Martinez would double to right scoring Meadows from second.

BC managed to score runs in three straight innings to get the game close at 5-3 before Canyons blew the game open by scoring three runs in the fifth and eight runs in the sixth to put the game out of reach.

BC scored two more runs in the seventh on RBI singles by both Jared Solf and Martinez. In the ninth, a bases-loaded walk to Williams scored a run and a single by Tanner scored the last of BC's runs.

Meadows finished the game with three hits and also scored three of BC's runs. Tanner and Martinez each finished with two hits and two RBI.

March 20

BC dropped its second straight game losing to LA Valley by a score of 9-6.

LA Valley scored two runs in the first to take an early lead before BC came back to score five in the third.

Leadoff hitter Rolando Martinez was hit by a pitch to start the inning and Eddie Torres then followed with a single. With one out, Erik Williams followed with a double scoring both runners and tying the game at two. After a single by Zach Tanner, Junior Felix would follow with an RBI single of his own giving BC its first lead at 3-2. Then Kaidan Meadows smacked a two run double giving BC 5 runs in the inning.

The lead wouldn't last as LA Valley scored four runs in the fourth and two in the sixth sending BC to another loss.

Williams led BC with two hits and three RBI. Jake Verdugo and Felix each finished with two hits. Meadows finished with a double and two RBI.

March 22

The Renegades continued their losing ways as they were rocked by LA Valley 18-5.

The scoring came in bunches against the BC pitching staff as LA Valley managed to score five in the second, six in the third, four in the fifth and three in the seventh.

BC was down 15-0 before finally

scoring their first runs of the game in the sixth inning.

After singles by Junior Felix and Kaidan Meadows, Jake Verdugo would double to drive in BC's first run. Rolando Martinez would then follow with an RBI ground out giving BC its second run.

In the seventh, BC would add on three more runs. Felix and Meadows each had RBI singles and Colton Blankenship an RBI groundout.

Meadows would finish with a team high three hits and Jared Solf chipped in with two hits. Felix, Verdugo and Rolando Martinez each contributed with RBIs.

The 18 runs allowed by the BC pitching staff was a season high.

March 25

The losses keep piling up as BC dropped its fourth straight game losing to Citrus College 6-3.

Once again BC fell behind early as Citrus scored two runs in the first to take the lead.

BC managed to score in the first on an RBI single by Roland Martinez. Citrus added single runs in the second, fifth, seventh and eighth to push the lead to 6-1.

BC scored its final two runs in eighth but had a chance for more as they left two runners on.

With runners on second and third, pinch hitter Austin Tijerina singled driving in a run. Cole Hallum then followed with an RBI groundout. The Renegades had runners on first and second after a walk to Jake Verdugo, but the Renegades could not come through with the clutch hit.

Eddie Torres finished the game with three hits and a walk. Martinez finished with two hits and an RBI. Cole Hallum and Austin Tijerina each had a hit and an RBI apiece.

March 27

BC's freefall continues as they lost to Citrus College 5-4.

It was the same story as the Renegades fell behind early to Citrus before charging in at the end and falling just short.

Citrus pitcher Nicholas Sergi was on point as he held the Renegades to a single run through six innings. Austin Tijerina scored BC's run on an RBI double by Cole Hallum.

In the seventh BC was finally able to break through against Citrus pitcher Sergi. Following a walk to Colton Blankenship and a single to Zach Tanner, Junior Felix then belted a three run homerun. But BC wouldn't score again as the Citrus College bullpen would hold BC scoreless for the rest of the game preserving the win.

Tijerina finished the game with two hits and Hallum had an RBI to go along with two hits. Felix finished the game with three RBIs along with his first home run of the season.

March 29

The Renegades were handed a season high sixth straight loss, falling against LA Mission 7-2.

The offense for BC couldn't find it's footing as the Renegades were down 7-0 before scoring twice in the eighth inning. Rolando Martinez had one of BC's RBI on a sacrifice fly while the other run was scored on an error by the third basemen.

With the loss, the Renegades sit in fifth place in the division behind first place LA Valley.



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Allan Winans pitches against LA Mission College on March 29.



RIGOBERTO LOPEZ / THE RIP

Pitcher and outfielder Cole Hallum prepares to swing against West LA College on March 15.

Cole Hallum plays a crucial role on the mound and in the field

By Daniel Ojeda
Reporter

The Bakersfield College baseball team isn't enjoying the same early success as it did last season, but star player Cole Hallum knows that entering a crucial stretch in the schedule, the Renegades still have an opportunity to get back to their winning ways.

"Times like these is why you play the game, to find out what you're made of," said Hallum.

Hallum has been one of the bright spots for the struggling Renegades this season. He is a dual threat helping to keep BC in games with both his arm and his bat. Hallum leads the team in innings pitched and strikeouts and is also tied for the team lead in wins. On offense, Hallum is one of just three Renegades batting above .300 and is tied for second on the team in RBIs.

At the midpoint of the season, Hallum has put up good numbers on both sides of the ball but he would rather see the team be successful than just his individual success.

"I don't see individual success,

doesn't matter how successful I am, if we lose I'm mad," Hallum said. "You play to win, that's how I was raised, and that's how we go about the game here at BC."

Playing two different positions, such as pitcher and outfield, in baseball is something that many players can't do and finding someone that can succeed at both is even harder.

You are required to be proficient at both positions while making sure that either of those positions doesn't start to suffer because of the other.

Hallum believes the mental aspect of being a dual threat is harder than physically having to be ready for both positions.

"Mentally it's pretty tough because the mindsets of both positions are two different ways to go about the game," Hallum said. "Physically we can all put the work in to get what we need."

But once it's game day, Hallum switches gears.

"I get ready to go. I get a bunch of energy going and I'm ready to get out there and compete," he said.

Hallum is entering his sopho-

more season on the BC baseball team and will transfer to Campbell University in North Carolina come August. He was signed to play both right field and pitcher. "It's a good fit for me and I liked everything that they stood for," Hallum said about his visit to the university.

Once at Campbell, Hallum is ready and excited to face the higher level of competition that he will see when that baseball season starts.

"I'm ready, that's why you play. There's only one way to find out."

Just like every other athlete at the college level, Hallum has had thoughts of playing beyond college ball but he still manages to find a way to keep a level head about his education as well.

"Have to take it one step at a time, school is essential, that's your ticket. If baseball works out then it works out, if not then I'll have other things to fall back on."

But before he leaves in August, Hallum has a few things to take care of with his current baseball team first.

"We are going to take care of the task at hand, then work and get things back on track."

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SPOTLIGHT

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The Renegade Rip | www.therip.com

Wednesday, April 2, 2014



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

Members of the Imagine Ballet Company perform their finale, "Sounds Like Bakersfield," a tribute to country artist and Bakersfield native Buck Owens. The company celebrated its 20th anniversary with "Imagine That!," a birthday-themed show that included various styles of dances. The show took place on March 22.

Imagine celebrates anniversary

By Sharida Rejon
Features Editor

Dance performances, cake, and country music were all a part of the 20th anniversary celebration for Imagine Ballet Company, a pre-professional ballet company in Kern County.

The celebration took place on March 22, in which the company offered a birthday themed show titled "Imagine That!" which incorporated a variety of dances including classical pointe ballet, contemporary pointe ballet, upbeat flat dances, and even square and line dancing.

The finale of the show was a tribute to Buck Owens, where a multimedia piece with footage of the singer and country stars talking about Owens and his influence was shown in between choreographed pieces with the dancers.

"We thought it would be great to honor Bakersfield on our 20 years of being here, so we did the tribute to Buck Owens," said Christine Whitaker, the vice president on the board at Imagine Ballet Company. "People think traditionally of ballet as only classical music, but there's a lot of contemporary and classical that you can put into other kinds of music," she said.

"I think it has been great to teach the kids about their heritage because they're learning more about Bakersfield and what we have to offer," she said. "They are also learning about the rich culture that Buck Owens brought to Bakersfield and continues to bring through his music," said Whitaker.

Two of the pieces that were performed during the show, "Hear Within" and "Watershed," will also be performed at the annual Regional Dance America festival in Spokane, Wash., in early May.

"There is an emerging choreography program in Regional Dance America, where they try to help choreographers who are just getting started," said Kristen McLaughlin, artistic director of Imagine Ballet Company. "One of our choreographers, Kelly St. Pierre, is still a dancer herself, but she is starting to explore her own choreography, so we had her create a piece for our company and it got chosen to go to the festival. It was one of 10 dance pieces chosen out of 25 that were shown."

Performing at the prestigious Regional Dance America festival is only one of the several opportunities that Imagine Ballet Company provides for its dancers.

"IBC was a vision of a group of people back in 1993 who thought that the caliber of dance in Bakersfield was such that it could support a ballet company that would help foster the dance in Bakersfield that would give its members opportunities to pursue goals and careers in dance," said McLaughlin.

"Working with the dancers is the best part," she said.

"They are so joyful and they have such a passion for dance that they have a goal for their future in dance and I really get inspired by finding ways to help them get where they want to go."

Whitaker also explained how Imagine Ballet Company benefits its dancers.

"IBC gives kids the opportunity to participate in the arts, and we as a foundation through the support of Kern Arts community and private patrons, try to provide an avenue for these kids to be able to not only have pre-professional experience but also through Regional Dance America, where we also provide a place for them to go where they can be exposed to national ballet companies, perform in front of them, and potentially get scholarships to these companies," said Whitaker.

"We've had many alumni who have gone on to dancing professionally, be in music videos, they are running other art studios, they're perpetuating art so it's like a paying it forward," she said.

Lindsay Monroe, a 12-year-old member of the junior Imagine Ballet Company, believes that the organization will help her achieve her ultimate goals in the dance industry.

"I'd like to become a professional ballerina," said Monroe. "My ultimate goal is definitely becoming a professional dancer because I love dance and the company really helps me work with other people in the dance world and advances me in dance."

Amy Cox, a high school junior who is a member of the senior Imagine Ballet Company, also believes that it will help her with her future plans.

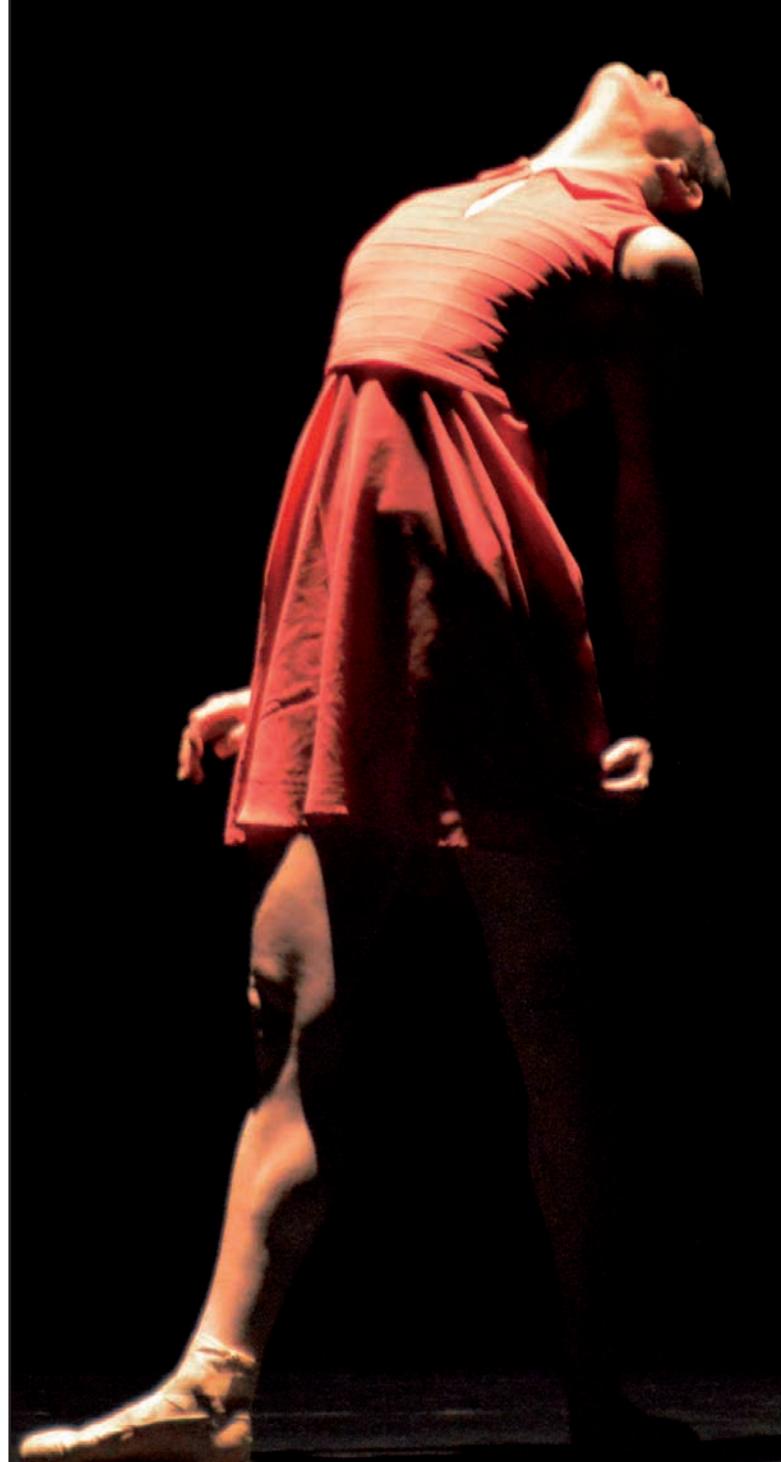
"I want to continue to dance in college and double major in dance and something in the medical field," she said. "IBC gives me so many opportunities, especially through Regional Dance America, where it lets colleges see who you are instead of going to a general audition where you are just a number on a piece of paper. It lets them know who you are first."

In addition to helping its dancers, Imagine Ballet Company also benefits the community.

"IBC is also able to give back to the community through teaching community classes and doing community performances to inspire children to think outside the box, to think about the arts, to be creative," said McLaughlin.

"Our vision is to provide a forum of dance so that the kids can participate in the arts, but also so that we can provide arts for the community, which are being cut out in education left and right," said Whitaker.

"The arts do things for our culture and for our students that are immeasurable," she said. "IBC provides an art experience, an entertainment experience, that a lot of people drive to places like L.A. to see. We have talent like that in Bakersfield."



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Samantha Palmer performs "In Our Clothes," one of the dance pieces that were performed in "Imagine That!" on March 22.



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Imagine Ballet Company members Kimberly Marquez, Jordyn Frapwell and Olivia Davis perform a small group dance during the company's 20th anniversary show. The senior company along with select members of the junior company will also be performing at Regional Dance America in Spokane, Wash., in early May.