

The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Vol. 86 • No. 7

www.therip.com

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

'Rainbow' star lands in Bakersfield

By Alisia Sanchez
Photographer

The product details of LeVar Burton's first children's book, "The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm," suggest that the book is intended for children between the ages of 5 and 7 years old, but when Burton appeared at Barnes & Noble on Nov. 21 to read his book out loud, listeners of all ages were eager to take a look.

Wearing a blue sweater and a pair of blue denim jeans, long-time host of the PBS children's television series "Reading Rainbow," Burton made his way around the circle of children and their parents. He sat down on a brown wooden chair that had been set out for him by Barnes & Noble Community Business Development Manager Cody W. Meek moments before Burton made his initial appearance.

"Hey, ya'll. Who wants to hear a story?" Burton asked those in attendance.

A long "Me!" was heard throughout the store when Burton was interrupted with a surprise. A choir of four appeared to his right. "Butterfly in the sky," they started. Though two words in the song were sung incorrectly, no one took notice, and the crowd first joined The Fat Quarters when in the first verse they sang "A Reading Rainbow."

"You're fantastic," Burton told the choir as soon as they were done.

Addressing the crowd once

more, Burton said, "I see that some of you have copies of 'The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm,' and if you have one, please feel free to follow along."

"I don't," a little boy said in response.

"You can borrow mine," offered 9-year-old Zion Johnson, who wore a pair of soft-pink footed pajamas.

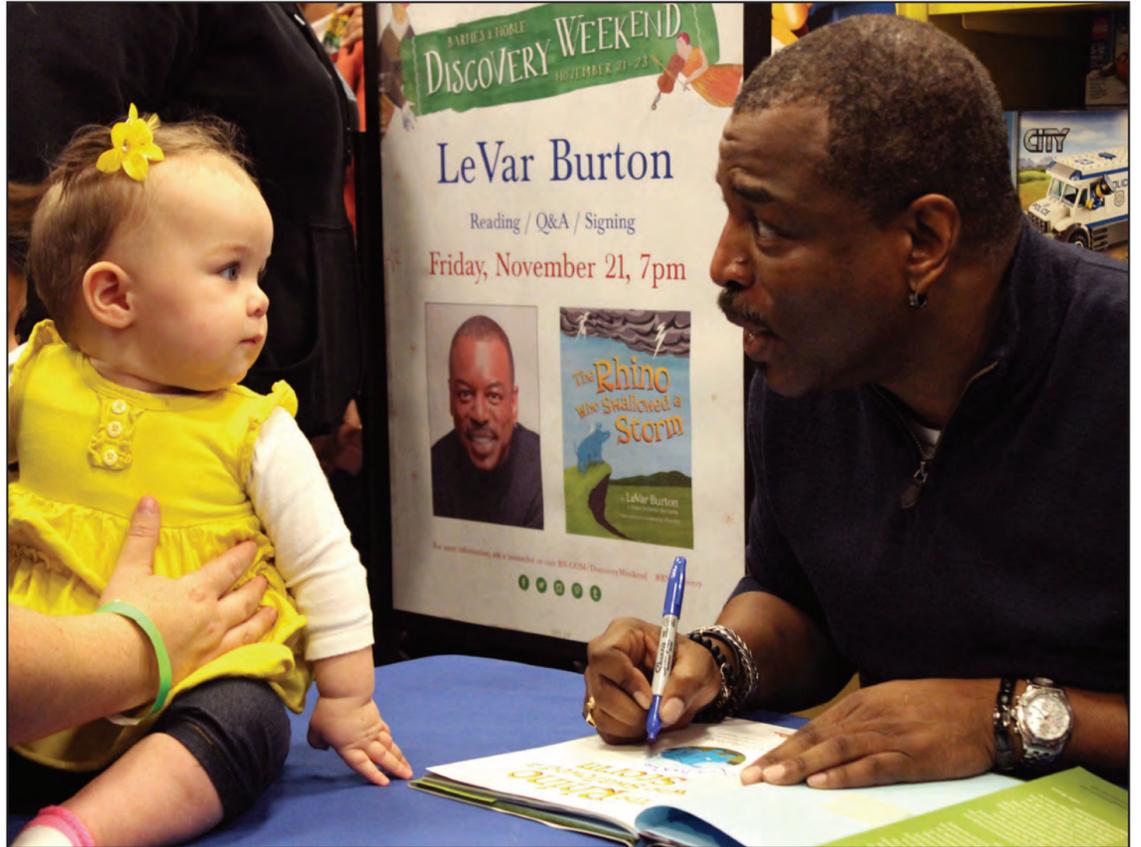
"If you don't have a copy, I'm going to share the pictures with you, OK? All right," Burton assured the boy.

After numerous parents attempted to hush the talkative children, Burton began his reading of the 32-page book he co-wrote with Susan Schaefer Bernardo.

Illustrated by Courtenay Fletcher, Burton kept his word and held the book up to share its pictures. He held the book up to his left and then to his right, and then back again. At times, Burton placed the book away from him and before the audience. Holding it wide open, around the room his arms stretched, making sure not to leave out those whose hands remained empty. The bookstore sold all copies of "The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm" before the event was scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

While reading, Burton's voice was soon accompanied by the audio of a storm, and by the time a couple of pages had been read, a baby in the audience began to cry.

"The baby is sad," said another



Above: 9-month-old Lily Thompson and LeVar Burton share a glance as he signs her copy of his first children's book, "The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm."



Left: Before commencing a short Q&A, many hands rose when LeVar Burton asked those who are fans of "Reading Rainbow," "Star Trek," and "Roots" to identify themselves.

ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

little boy in the audience.

"The baby's very sad," Burton stopped reading and said in acknowledgment. "I think she swallowed a storm, too." The audience laughed and Burton was quick to continue reading.

Word by word, Burton read his

book with much fervor. His tone was engaging and, oftentimes, Burton made eye contact with the children who surrounded him. His voice changed occasionally as a new character in the book was introduced, adding personality to those particular

characters.

The children looked on with much intent, and as Burton turned the page, many children followed along. Sitting quietly beside a cousin and her sister, Johnson stayed in-step with Burton and knew when to turn the

page without looking up at him.

When he finally turned to the book's last page, showing the audience, Burton said about his book, "And, appropriately, it ends with a rainbow." The audience applauded loudly.

Please see BURTON, Page 4



Residents memorialized the 43 students who went missing in Mexico recently by placing a rose next to their pictures after calling out their names on Nov. 12.

VANESSA A. MUNOZ / THE RIP

Protest against Mexican government honors lost

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

A vigil was held on Nov. 20 at the Liberty Bell in downtown Bakersfield to honor 43 male students that went missing in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico.

The vigil was held as part of a larger global protest against the Mexican government, which presumably played a role in abducting the students. The students were en route to a protest held against the Mexican government for discriminatory hiring practices.

"An injustice was done to these students for exercising their civil rights," said Edgardo Soto Vazquez, a Bakersfield college student. "They were taken away and this was

done by a supposedly democratic government."

Vazquez attended the event in solidarity of the students and to raise awareness of the injustice. Protests and vigils were held around the world on Nov. 20, as a Global Day of Action.

"I hope that the vigil will do some good and put pressure on the Mexican government," he said.

The vigil shared the names of all the students who went missing, and each student had a candle placed in front of his picture. The names of the students were read one by one, and a rose was placed next to their picture. Audrey Chavez, the founder and president of Bakersfield's AIDS

Please see MEMORIAL, Page 4

BC Chamber Singers set to perform festive holiday classics for students

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Chamber Singers are hosting A Culinary Christmas Carol on Dec. 6 to raise funds for their upcoming trip to Italy.

The festive event will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m. This is the first year the Chamber Singers will be holding the event. Jennifer Garrett, the Performing Arts professor behind the event, said that they hope to make A Culinary Christmas Carol an annual tradition. The Chamber Singers will perform holiday favorites such as "Jingle Bells," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Silent Night."

The event will include performances from the choir as a whole, but the entertainment will also be

composed of solo, duet and quartet performances. A Culinary Christmas Carol will help the Chamber Singers with their payments for their June 2015 trip to Rome, Florence and Venice.

"The event will not be enough to cover the expenses of the trip as it is quite expensive to travel to Rome," Garrett said. "But it will significantly help everyone make the next payment. Everything helps."

The Chamber Singers is an exclusive group of BC students and alumni. To join the group, individuals must first audition and once chosen are able to perform with the Chamber Singers locally and internationally.

Although A Culinary Christmas Carol will feature numerous student performances, BC faculty and staff will perform as well. John Gerhold, the

performing arts department chair, is one of several faculty members to be performing in A Culinary Christmas Carol. Garrett will be performing as well.

"I will even play my harp for the first time in public," she said.

The event will feature instrumental music along with the other performers. It will be catered by BC's Culinary Arts department. Dinner and dessert will be served at the event. Garrett said she has enjoyed working with the Culinary Arts department to create this event.

"They have been very willing to work with us, and it is wonderful to collaborate with other departments on campus," she said.

Not only will A Culinary Christmas Carol feature live entertainment and food, Garrett said there will

be a silent auction during the event as well. Tickets for the event are \$30 and must be purchased in advance.

"It will be a wonderful evening of yummy food, excellent variety of entertainment, and fun sing-alongs for everyone there," Garrett said.

For those seeking even more Christmas entertainment, there will be a choral concert held on Dec. 5 at 7:10 p.m. downtown at 1705 17th St. The Winter Choral Concert: A History of the Carols will be filled with Christmas carols from around the world and the history of each carol will also be discussed.

Suggested donations for the concert are \$5 for students, faculty and veterans, and \$10 for general admission. After the concert, guests can enjoy a hot chocolate and doughnut fundraiser.

Nursing Club prepares students for future

By Christopher A. Baptiste
Reporter

The president of the Nursing Club, Sherri Morton, said she joined the Bakersfield College nursing program for a very personal reason.

After 30 years of working in a beauty salon, Morton returned to BC to get a nursing degree after she found out her 8-year-old daughter had cancer. Morton's daughter was sick for eight years and passed away at 15 and a half.

"I wanted to do something more substantial with my life," Morton said.

With over 200 members, the desire of the Nursing Club is to be involved with students on campus and to give them an overview, as well as help them find their path in life.

Morton said the club's goal is to "provide education and knowledge about nursing in general, not just our club, but nursing as an art and a science, and to give people an option if that's going to be their life path."

According to Morton, some benefits of being a member of the Nursing Club include having



PHOTOS BY VANESSA MUNOZ / THE RIP

Top: Student enrolled in the nursing program are interested in joining the Nursing Club. Bottom right: Sherri Morton, who has long been in the nursing program at Bakersfield College, is the president of the Nursing Club on campus.

support and being involved in a campus family and with nursing on a state, local, and campus level, as well as providing immunizations and education to fellow students.

"We go to high schools and we talk to people who are not just interested in nursing but EMT, radiology technicians and LVNs, they are a big part of our nursing program, and we just provide services to the community," Morton said.

"We are involved in mental health issues. We are involved in

babies' walks, March of Dimes, Ronald McDonald house and tons of other things in the community.

"It gets everyone involved with being service-oriented to our local community, not just the college."

When asked about the opportunities and places of advancement for nurses, Morton said, "It's endless. The avenues of nursing are endless and the job opportunities are so extensive!"

The program has pre-required

classes that could take up to two years. The actual nursing program is four semesters. The next step is to take the NCLEX Exam, which is the state board exam to become an RN.

"We are probably the number one community college in the state," Morton said.

She estimated that BC's program has a 98 percent passing of the NCLEX Exam and graduation rate.

"It's very high," Morton said. "We have the best staff in the world for nursing."



Transgender awareness in Bakersfield

By Trina Goree
Reporter

The life of BC student Hunter LeBaron was celebrated along with several others in a vigil held Nov. 20 at the newly relocated Gay and Lesbian center in Bakersfield off 18th Street.

Current BC student Rori Meza and others participated in the memorial that shined a light on the hundreds of lives lost this year among the transgendered population.

The event was one in a series held to celebrate transgendered awareness week in Bakersfield. On Nov. 21, the center hosted guest speakers that spoke about the importance of transgendered awareness. On Nov. 22, a discussion was held on being a Trans Ally. The transgendered awareness week concluded with a dance held Nov. 23 at the center.

All events were held at the Gay and Lesbian Center, which made sure to mention the abundance of diversity in events that are held throughout each month for all individuals in the LGBTQ community and allies alike.

Those interested in future events and activities are welcome to pick up monthly calendars at the center and can visit the center's website at info@glcenterbak.org to learn more.

The week long events were the result of a team of transgendered individuals that collaborated in a joint effort to memorialize individuals that are commonly seen as disposable.

The event encourages people to be aware of the struggles and issues transgendered individuals endure, and hear the stories of the trans community to better understand the lives behind the names and dates of lives lost.

The team members are Nicole Dandy, Dean Welliver, Chel Faul, and Jaerde Kamavoha, each self-identifying in a way that is best for them.

Meza, outside of being a BC student, is also the founder and creator of the Trans Awareness - Bakersfield CA Facebook page.

Meza currently identifies as gender-neutral, but said with future surgery,



PHOTOS BY VANESSA MUNOZ / THE RIP

Top (from left to right): Daniel Landeros, Rori Meza, Dean Welliver, and Chel Levaeux organized Trans-week. Bottom: Names and faces of those who lost their lives are displayed at the Gay and Lesbian Center.

Meza will identify as male.

"This town is not open-minded toward the transgendered community," stated Meza.

Another reason for Meza's activism came out of an act of transgender bias, when Meza and a former girlfriend, whom is a trans woman, were mugged.

The then-girlfriend of Meza took the blunt of the attack. The two survived the ordeal.

"We had the potential to die," emphasized Meza. Meza is no longer in the relationship, but shares the experience to help end the stigma and taboo notions that plagues the community.

"Society, in general, thinks it is all sexual. It's not," Meza said, speaking of a common misconception that transgendered relationships are a sexual fetish.

While sex is a natural aspect in most adult intimate relationships, this is not always the case. Most often, other aspects in all relationships hold more importance; generally this is the con-



sensus.

"We didn't see sex. We were together six years and did not have sex, and were demi-sexual throughout the relationship," Meza said.

Meza's Facebook page is one outlet that is used to spread transgendered awareness consistently throughout the year, and a vital tool for other transgen-

dered individuals in the community.

Welliver and Meza were among the thousands in attendance in this year's Trans March earlier this year in San Francisco.

The Trans March is an annual event that celebrates the lives, accomplishments, and leaders in the trans awareness movement.

Library holds local events

By Darlene Mangrum
Reporter

The Kern County Library has much to offer the community every month and their "Events Calendar" is completely full with events.

"I really enjoy working the library and helping others to discover how wonderful the library is," said Beale Memorial librarian Omar Hollingsworth, who has worked at the branch for two years.

Hollingsworth mentioned programs that he felt were more important to know, such as the math clinic, held every Wednesday by math instructors from local colleges. Students with difficult math assignments can make appointments during these sessions to attain the free tutoring.

Hollingsworth also mentioned computer coaches who work one-on-one with people to enhance their computer skills. The coaches are usually retired teachers and instructors looking to help. "Each of these programs are free to the public," Hollingsworth said. "So what does a person have to lose?"

He said obtaining a library card is a process that takes less than five minutes. "Just fill out [an application] form and bring a copy of an ID to my desk and I will get that done for you," Hollingsworth said.

The libraries around Kern County each offer a variety of tutoring services, teen activities and children's programs such as the 1-2-3 Play With Me Parent/Child Workshop, LEGO Club and Barks & Books, a session where children can read to therapy dogs.

Schedules and more information are available online at www.kerncountylibrary.org, or you can stay connected through Facebook, Google, YouTube, Twitter, and Pinterest.

BC's International Student Organization presents culture in 40 minutes

By Vanessa A. Munoz
Photographer

Bakersfield College's International Student Organization presented Around the World on Nov. 20. The presentation was a brief 40 minutes of knowledge and education of different cultures in different countries by members of the International Student Organization.

Some of the members of the International Student Organization dressed in their country's most traditional attire, presented a PowerPoint slide show, showed their country's landscape through use of pictures, spoke some of their homeland's native language, and described the beliefs, religion, and culture of their respective countries.

The presentation was received

by a fully packed classroom as students piled into the east forum on the BC campus. Members of the audience listened intently.

Shohreh Rahman, the International students counselor at BC, stated how Bakersfield College has always had an International Student Organization, dating back to the 1980s, but has only lately been active in activities and starting a student club to represent all of the varied student body that make up the organization.

The benefits of the International Club help bring in students from out of the United States. This group gives them an opportunity to experience life in America, while still giving those students the openness to share their culture and knowledge of their country with others.



VANESSA MUNOZ / THE RIP

Members of the International Student Organization attend a PowerPoint presentation from students demonstrating the aspects of their respective cultures.

Personal safety device geared for women

By Elizabeth Fernandez
Editor in Chief

A new product aimed at empowering and ensuring women's safety has debuted this fall, SIREN, a small alarm built with "patent-pending technology" that is cleverly concealed in the form of a women's trendy piece of jewelry.

The invention was initially conceived after SIREN's Founder and CEO, Kat Alexander, experienced a confrontation with a strange man on her college campus who forced himself on her

path and refused to let her pass him. Alexander was left with fear for the possibilities of how the situation could have escalated.

"We're very aware of the high numbers of sexual assaults on college campuses all over the country—it's not only awful, it's unacceptable!" said Pam Manela, a publicist for the company.

Alexander then worked with her father Howard Alexander, a seasoned technology developer of over 50 years with complimentary experiences ranging from computer to security and audio markets. Together they set out to

design a safety device practical enough for everyday usage and accessibility, unlike a container of Mace or pepper spray.

SIREN's protection comes in the form of a ring designed to blend "seamlessly" into a women's ordinary wardrobe and lifestyle. The product's website dubbed it, "The most important piece of jewelry you'll ever own."

The wearer, presumably a woman, activates the alarm by turning the top of the ring, featuring a large gemstone, counterclockwise by 60 degrees.

The acoustic design enables the wearer to safely wield the ring and target it toward an assailant, and within 1.2 seconds the ring's alarm will emit a high-pitched frequency at 110dB, the equivalent to blasting a jackhammer in someone's ear. According to the company, the technology SIREN features have never before been applied to safety in this nature. Its duration is not specified for wearer safety.

Although the product's effectiveness is restricted to attackers within a range of 36 inches, or three feet, Alexander is confident

in the product's impact.

"With Siren, we wanted to create a resource that empowers women—a beautiful piece of jewelry that offers some peace of mind," she said. "SIREN provides women with a stylish, reliable and safe alternative to conventional defense methods."

"SIREN jewelry empowers women by providing them with the critical seconds needed to startle, overwhelm and deter an assailant, potentially preventing the escalation of an attack," said the press release for the product in October. "SIREN offers a

unique protective advantage to women by being hidden in plain sight and instantly accessible during an emergency."

The product is manufactured in an American ISO-certified facility, to help ensure effectiveness and reliability, according to SIREN. It is water and heat/humidity-resistant. The ring is available in either 14k yellow gold or sterling silver in six different designs and colors. They are set to run at \$249, but there was a pre-order price of \$199, for more information visit SIREN technologies at SIRENring.com.



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ/ THE RIP

Nick Fequiere (left), is the co-founder of Time x Space, and Elijah-Ray Cardenas models the brand's clothing.

New clothing line fueled by creative local students

By Brooke Howard
Reporter

A local clothing brand with an artistic vision is set to release an online store in weeks, and the fuel behind it: two college students Nick Fequiere and Jon Bradford.

"We came up with the idea to do something different because we'd go shopping and see these clothing brands that all looked the same to us," Fequiere said.

That's when Bradford and Fequiere decided to take things into their own hands and create Time x Space (pronounced Time and Space).

"A year and a half ago it started as something just for fun," Fequiere said. "I don't think we would have ever thought to take it as serious as we do now, but it turned into that."

Many people have come together to help the brand out.

"It's not just us, we are working with a good friend of mine, Eli, and his sister Taylor. They are the ones who have been modeling for us," Fequiere said. "We've also connected with

people from Australia who do designs for us."

A local designer, Cameron Werner, also came through to help the brand get started. Werner designed their pocket watch logo, which accurately depicts the name Time x Space. "A big thank you to Cameron Werner. He has done so much to help us and the brand," Fequiere said.

As far as the designs creative process, Fequiere states it's like creating any type of art.

"We want people to do what they want creatively with our designs. I just tell them 'I want you to bring us your own designs and what you like.'"

"I wish I could say [our designs] are a brilliant stroke of inspiration or something like that, but it's really not. It's sitting down and writing everything that comes to mind and getting all the ideas out, good or bad because even a bad idea can lead to something good later," Fequiere stated.

As far as getting into big-name stores, Time x Space is based out of California, but they want to branch out all over.

"I want to get it as big as possible, as a movement. Art is really important, and I want to promote that," Fequiere said.

Their vision is to have a website that promotes art as well as their clothing. "We want to show drawing, painting, photography, dance, music and writing."

Time x Spaces' website will have a section dedicated to online galleries full of various types of art to promote their message that art is important.

"And our target market is people just like us. Males and females, early to mid twenties, but what we want for Time x Space, is to not limit it to any certain demographic," Fequiere said.

Right now they are marketing through Instagram and taking orders via email at Timexspace@gmail.com.

The brand will be using Square Space to sell their items. The price range will be within \$18-20 and will be available online by the New Year. To see their product photo shoots and apparel design, visit @timexspaceclothing on Instagram.

Don't oppress the tattoos

By James Macias
Reporter

His tattoos start on the back of his fingers and stretch their way across his hands then wrap themselves around his arms in a flamboyant ascent to his shoulders where they seem to retreat for a moment and finally return on his neck.

His tattoos almost seem to have a separate life from him, which would upstage most people, but when Billy Roach begins to assert his own energy his presence seems to expand and fill the room. His passion and conviction are tangible in every syllable. His words drip sincerity all over, while his eyes corner yours as he speaks.

"I want to help people who don't have the means to stand up for themselves" said Roach, 26, of Bakersfield, who graduated from North High in 2006, and went on to attend UC Santa Barbara.

His crusade began when Hall Ambulance recently invited him to test and interview for their accredited EMT academy but was refused an interview.

"I was interested in changing fields so I just took the steps... So I applied online and got an email back. They invited me to come take the test," he said.

When he arrived he is adamant that he took the time to read all of their materiel regarding any restrictions they might have for personal appearance, and finding nothing about tattoos chose to seek out a manager. He proceeded to show the official his actual tattoos with the pointed question: is testing for a job at your company a waste of my time?

"Don't worry about that, take the test, if you pass, your guaranteed an interview," was the answer given, according to Roach.

Hall Ambulance failed to call him the next day, as was the understanding they had dictated.

After two more days, Roach took the initiative to call them, and was told:

"Congratulations Mr. Roach you passed the test, however I am sorry to inform you that we cannot hire you at this time because of your tattoos."

When Roach suggested that he would like to contest or complain about this decision based on the fact that he felt he had been misled into wasting his time, he said he was summarily blown off

and ignored by the entire corporation.

Roach became outraged and has sounded a call to arms against civil injustice.

"It's about protecting our rights," he said. "If I lived in another country this would be whatever it is but since I do live in America and I do have the right to speak up I feel like if I don't use it I am disrespecting my own country. It's a patriotic responsibility. A duty. I understand duty because my family is a military family and I grew up with service in my life," he said.

"I just want it to be known that we shouldn't be discriminated against based solely on our tattoos, I did some research and found out that this is happening to people everywhere. People with degrees and who are well qualified to do the job (that they are applying for) and because [the potential employer] doesn't like a tattoo that [the prospective employee] has, they don't get the job, and people label you too. Do you know people are always stopping me on the streets' to tell me, they know my kids are going to Hell. Even little old ladies! I think someone

should say that our laws haven't caught up with our times, what ever happened to not judging a book by its cover—or a person by their skin?"

He believes that segregating a person because they have tattoos is a form of racial profiling and every bit as serious.

Roach says he has wanted to help people his whole life.

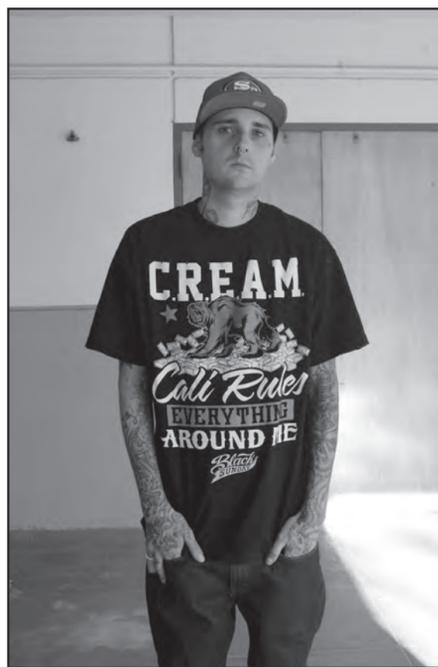
Roach attended UC Santa Barbara where he earned an associates degree in criminal justice. Pursuing dreams of a law enforcement career, he would later attend the University of Phoenix and earn a bachelor's in Criminal Justice Administration and Management.

He eventually took the Bakersfield Police Department entrance test and passed it, only to be found ineligible during the physical examination which noted an untreated hernia.

Today he is a substance abuse counselor technician with West-care a treatment center here in Bakersfield where he handles things like group meetings and Urinalysis (UA) testing and is a valued member of the staff.

"I am not a bad person, I've done everything I'm supposed to do," said Roach.

"I'm a graduate, I hold two degrees I own my home I have no criminal history at all and I support my family. I work my ass off to support my family and I pay my taxes. I just want the same opportunity as everyone else."



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ/ THE RIP

Billy Roach, 26, feels discriminated against because of his choice of body art.

BC Theatre Club holds One Act Festival in new Black Box Theater

By Darlene Mangrum
Reporter

Bakersfield College's Black Box Theater hosted three nights of "One-Act-Plays," presented by the BC Theatre Club, Nov. 19-21.

Improvisation at the beginning of the evening kept the audience laughing. Audience members wrote scenes on cards and then picked another at random for the performers to act out. After that there was also a game called "Freeze" where two to three performers acted out a scene, but thanks to the audience member's ability to freeze that scene, they would then be replaced by different performers that would automatically change the scene's direction.

The main show consisted of four "One-Act-Plays", written by different members of the Theatre Club. The first play, "Family: The Proposal," was written and directed by Reginald Autwell. The second play, "The Laboring Storm," was written and directed



ALISIA SANCHEZ/ THE RIP

From left to right: Blake Clendenen, Domingo Ramirez, Marina Martinez, and Cody Ferguson.

by Jessica Atkinson, the third play, "Out of the Closet and Into the Fire," was written and directed by Blake Clendenen & Jessica Atkinson, the next and final play was written and directed by Atkinson as well.

Vivian Deidda and her two daughters, Arisa Maray and Alarisa, all said they really enjoyed the show. The two sisters

liked the improv part of the show and the first play, but their mom enjoyed the second show the best. When asked what they liked about the show they replied, "It was really funny and kept us laughing."

The event marked the Theatre Club's first show since its resurrection on campus this Fall 2014 semester.

Complete Your Degree or Credential at University of La Verne's Bakersfield Campus

Available Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

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

* Also available Online

** Also available at Delano & Taft locations

Attend an Information Session
Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM



Jennifer Salas
MBA '09
J.P. Morgan Chase

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

Kern County Regional Campus
1201 24th Street, Suite D-200
Bakersfield, CA 93301

BC art professors display work at LA gallery

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

Three Bakersfield College professors currently have their art on display at the South Bay Contemporary Gallery located in Rolling Hills Estates in Southern California.

Emily Maddigan, Armando Rubio and David M. Koeth have their art featured in the exhibit "Fresh."

The exhibit curator was Mat Gleason, a Los Angeles art critic, and features 97 artists from around the country. Koeth, the art department chair at BC, said he was honored to be a part of the exhibit and meet with others in the art community.

"Juried exhibitions are a good way to meet artists, curators, and art collectors," he said. "It's all part of the life of a visual artist. We make art, then seek to show the work to an audience."

The professors entered the exhibit separately. Armando Rubio, an adjunct faculty member, said he almost forgot to enter in the exhibit but was reminded by Koeth. He was glad to show some

of his new work to the public.

"The number one rule in the art world is to always work and always show," Rubio said. "It keeps you relevant in the bigger conversation of art."

The professors were chosen out of 300 artists. Koeth said he was happy to work with Gleason because he is very well known and respected in the Los Angeles art community. Koeth entered three paintings from a series he's working on titled "The Drought Series." Gleason chose to use the painting titled "Drought number 2."

"The non-representational painting was made using mixed media and water with a very specific process. The series is a commentary about the current drought in California," Koeth said.

Rubio said he entered three abstract paintings that were done using acrylic paint. He said a major theme in his work is the human's relationship with his constantly changing environment.

"I sometimes paint a fractured background with human signi-



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

One of the Bakersfield College art professors featured in the South Bay Contemporary Gallery, Armando Rubio, left, interacts with an art student Samuel Moncada during class.

fiers in the foreground," he said. "This effect creates a separation or sometimes a harmony between the human and its environment." Rubio said, he enjoys show-

ing his art and meeting with his friends who critically analyze his art and the work of others. He said he is also grateful for the community support he receives

as an artist. The works of Koeth, Rubio and Maddigan can be seen in the contemporary "Fresh" exhibit until Dec. 28.

News Briefs

Bakersfield College has hired four new members to head the Administrative Transition Team (BCATT).

Janet Fulks, a veteran teacher of 20 years at BC, is now the Interim Dean of Student Success and Pre-collegiate.

Odella Johnson, an Academic Development teacher working at BC for nearly 20 years, is the Interim Director of Equity and Inclusion. Diane Baeza, a former director of over 30 sites in the health care field across two countries, is the Interim Assistant Director of Equity and Inclusion.

Veronica Lucas, a former student development teacher at Bakersfield College, and counselor who has worked in Arvin, McFarland and all three of the Delano high schools, is now the Interim Student Success Program Manager, Rural Initiatives.

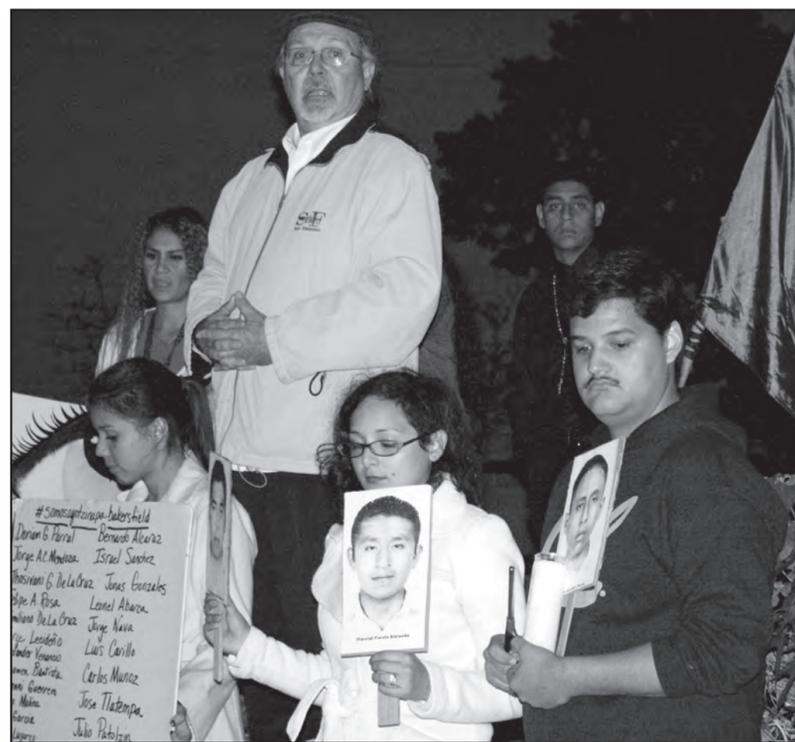
The BC Public Relations Director, Amber Chiang, released all information provided on Dec. 1.

The last week of CAS Workshops for this year will be Dec. 3, from 2-3 p.m. in Library 147. Completely free, drop-ins welcomed. Workshops will provide verification of attendance slips and any required materials. The topics of organization and test taking will be covered in this last session.

The Winter Choral Concert, "A History of the Carols," will be Dec. 5 at First Presbyterian Church downtown beginning at 7:30 p.m. with a pre-concert presentation at 7:10. Concert donations are recommended at \$5 for students, veterans and faculty, and \$10 for general admission. A doughnut and hot chocolate fundraiser will be held afterwards.

The MESA Program at Bakersfield College in Collaboration with the USDA Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program is hosting a HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) Information Session on Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Science & Engineering Building, Room 51.

The HNIP assists students by placing them in corporate and government internships across the country. These internships are closely related to the student's academic background and career goals. The program provides airfare, housing arrangements, and a weekly stipend of \$470 to \$570. Applications for the Summer 2015 program are currently being accepted. All students interested in obtaining information regarding the HNIP should attend the meeting.



VANESSA A. MUNOZ / THE RIP

Gonzalo Santos, center, a sociology professor at California State University, Bakersfield, spoke at the event and encouraged American intervention in Mexico.

MEMORIAL: Community gathers and shows respect for the abducted Mexican students

Continued from Page 1

Project, attended the event and handed out the roses that were placed next to the students' pictures. She felt it was important to attend the vigil because the mass kidnapping symbolized a government injustice.

"People look to their government for care and protection," she said. "This issue is important because we deal with issues here in our country. Look at situations like Ferguson, where someone is killed but there are so many other options."

Chavez said that the mass kidnapping is a humanitarian issue and it is important to build a system of care and compassion. The kidnapping should elicit a public outcry and people need to demand answers from the government, she said.

After a speech by Gonzalo Santos, a professor of sociology at California State University Bakersfield, individuals were encouraged to

share their feelings on the kidnapping.

Vazquez said it was important to participate because of his close ties to Mexico. He was born in Mexico and lived there for eight years before moving to the United States. Vazquez learned about the vigil because he is a member of BC's Spanish club.

Several different organizations attended the vigil to stand in solidarity with the victims of the kidnapping.

Representatives from different organizations attended the vigil and included individuals from United Farm Workers, the Dolores Huerta Foundation and Bakersfield's AIDS Project.

Chavez was excited to see representatives from different groups join together in solidarity.

"We are a big human family and we have to be there for each other," she said. "We should be compassionate, vocal and organized to send a strong message of standing together."

ASL program asks for equal treatment

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

Some members of the Bakersfield College community feel there is stigma associated with using American Sign Language on campus. Tom Moran, the foreign language department chair at Bakersfield College, hopes to educate the BC community about various misconceptions relating to the deaf community.

"Some misconceptions of ASL include it is not a bona fide language, it is a simplified form of English, or that primates can use it to communicate," he said. "I think that sometimes people rely on these misconceptions to underestimate or even discriminate against deaf people."

Moran said that he would like for the BC community to learn more about deaf culture to ensure that everyone is treated equally. He said it is important to treat deaf individuals as a minority group. Although BC continues to grow its provisions for deaf students, Moran said that was not always the case.

"In 2002, BC was a very different environment. It was not deaf-friendly and the other ASL instructors were all hearing," he said.

Moran said thanks to new administration, BC's deaf-friendly culture is growing. Currently, there are more deaf instructors of ASL than hearing and they play an important role in the ASL program at BC.

"I think the college has made tremendous, positive progress in working with deaf students," he said. "I urge BC and the people who comprise this great institution to continue to do so by learning more about deaf people and their language."

Moran began learning more about deaf culture in 1980 so he could be closer to his older sister, who is deaf. He said he was happy to learn ASL because it provided him with fluency in a second language, allowed him to connect with his sister and helped him meet his wife who is deaf.

"ASL has enriched my life immeasurably for the past 25 years," he said.

ASL is used in the United States and certain parts of Canada. The language is descended from French sign language. If an individual is communicating with a deaf person with an interpreter, it is important for the hearing individual to look at the deaf person while communicating to ensure the deaf person is not ignored. Moran said that even if people do not know ASL, they should not be deterred from communicating with deaf people. He said it's important to be patient, gesture, draw, or point. Speak at a normal pace, avoid yelling and exaggerating mouth movements.

"Most deaf people are remarkable communicators with great proficiency—and patience—in dealing with hearing people, something they've done daily throughout their lives," he said.

BURTON: His new children's book brings famous "Reading Rainbow" host to Bakersfield

Continued from Page 1

But the event didn't end with the book. "So, we promised to do a little Q&A," Burton said. "We'll answer a few questions, and then we'll sign books. And, before I go any further, I just want to thank you all for coming out. I really appreciate it. How many people here grew up on Reading Rainbow?"

Hands rose at the far back, as the adults stood behind the gathered children. They cheered and smiled big in response.

"How many of you have children now?" Many of the same hands rose again.

"Star Trek!" was heard from an individual.

"How many of you are Star Trek fans?" Burton asked. The audience grew loud.

"Where my Roots people at?" he asked, finally, causing those fans to be the loudest.

"Geordi La Forge!" someone yelled.

Burton then turned to a boy who sat before him, and addressing the boy's question, Burton began the Q&A.

When a young girl asked what inspired Burton

to write his book, Burton said, "I wanted to write a book that could give kids and their families an opportunity to talk about feelings that are sometimes scary, and so, 'The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm' is that book for me.

"I had a friend who's not here anymore," Burton said. "His name was Fred Rogers. We called him Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Rogers, for people in my generation, was a man who really did a great job of talking to kids about things. So, I was inspired by my friend Fred Rogers, who is no longer here to write a book that he would have written if he had still been around."

Neon green wristbands were given to those who purchased a copy of the book prior to the event. After the Q&A, a long line formed and wrapped along the aisles of the bookstore, and Burton signed the sold copies of his book, smiling and thanking, once more, old and new fans alike for being in attendance.

The next reading of "The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm" is scheduled for Dec. 20 at the Barnes & Noble at Media City Center in Burbank.



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Longtime host for a PBS children's television series LeVar Burton reads his first children's book, "The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm," to children sitting around him.

Staff Editorial

Family is the key here

While the weather isn't all that cold outside, it is winter. All the trappings of the end of year preparations and celebrations are quickly becoming commonplace. Whatever your denomination, or prescription of faith, Christmas is just a fact of life in December. The familial festivities are inescapable even if you choose not to celebrate any holidays, for religious reasons or otherwise. No matter your feelings toward the holiday, one thing must be critically examined and resolved.

The holiday season has been absorbed by our materialistic nature and it is creating a new type of holiday.

A new consumer coma is quickly replacing what was once meant to symbolize goodwill and reciprocal peace. Those of you who deride the holidays altogether are not insulated from this new brand of Yuletide joy.

We are all participating in, and perpetuating, this new form of decorating. Instead of adorning the mantle with handmade stockings, our goal is to hang our flat screens that were purchased at rock-bottom prices.

More important than reminiscing with family is the recitation of shopping lists that have now become the tinsel on our trees. The hot cocoa you are sipping with friends isn't nearly as important as the picture you just posted to Instagram with your iPhone 6 of said cocoa.

What is worse, this replacement holiday is slipping in right under our noses, with barely a nod from our collective minds. And we are welcoming it.

Take a look at what transpired over the Thanksgiving holiday. Black Friday turned into sales on the feasting day itself. They weren't even "Black Friday sales," but rather "Thursday at 5 p.m. sales."

In order to alleviate our own guilt about shopping on a day that is supposed to be reserved for family, corporations have removed the holiday part of the equation altogether.

We all know the images of tents parked outside their favorite box store, like Wal-Mart or Best Buy. Some people camped out for weeks in advance for the cheap TV's and electronics bundles.

Think of the absurdity of that situation.

People are willing to neglect or forgo their family and responsibilities, granted probably in a team and taking shifts, for a TV. These prices are all contrived to begin with; if companies wanted to sell cheaper TV's, they could.

The fervor that is created with all this push for holiday deals and consumer-spending power is only feeding this virus that leads right up to Christmas. While we thinly veil our want for some new gadget in good cheer and holiday bunting, the consumerism machine rolls right along.

Giving gifts of heart and hand are gratifying, that is understood. From now on, let us examine what those hands pick, and truly where the heart lies when compelled to charity.

Those who create luxury items and commodities in this world will always foster consumerism.

If this consumer coma continues, however, the gifts of caring and goodwill are going to be much harder to muster, and the only entities that will foster their proliferation are you and I.

Shooting near BC sparks debate

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

On the evening of Nov. 13, a high-speed chase led to the death of Ramiro James Villegas, a 22-year old man, stunning the East Bakersfield community.

Only a five minute drive from Bakersfield College, or 15 minute walk, Bakersfield police shot Villegas after he refused a routine traffic stop.

The details are uncertain, with discrepancies similar to playing telephone with a hundred people.

The only people that know exactly what happened are the officers in pursuit of Villegas and the suspect himself.

The facts are unknown to anyone except the witnesses who were on the scene of the incident, undisputable by the man killed.

With tons of eyes watching, the parking lots of Del Taco and Starbucks, just off of Mt. Vernon Street, became the impromptu ground zero for containment.

Witnesses were detained for an hour or longer. Each license plate, driver and passenger was photographed by BPD.

This is an obvious scare tactic, if I ever have seen one, to make the witnesses afraid to report the facts, if they had seen the police officers kill intentionally.

Because of fear and intimidation, there is no certainty that the truth will ever be brought to light.

Highway 178 was evacuated, and drivers were forced out through the Beale Avenue exit, so BPD could search for a weapon that officers never found.

No weapon was discovered on Villegas' body, either.

This young man was reportedly shot three times by overzeal-

ous officers who ignored their own procedures and clearly committed overkill.

After the chase, there were four officers on the scene. Only one fired his taser instead of his handgun.

In this day and age, police officers have the aid of taser guns, nightsticks, beanbag guns, pepper spray, and the Billy club.

The handgun should be the last resort to subdue a violent perpetrator who has brandished a visible weapon.

The three men who took Villegas' life are officers we do not need on the force.

It is the gangbanger mentality that has spread through the lines of honor, reminiscent of the thousands of cases, like the Ferguson trial, where police

have resorted to street justice.

The mentality of officers like these is a slippery slope to a police state, which results in officers shooting first and asking questions later.

Procedures are designed to protect the officers that serve the community.

When Villegas ran from the police he didn't run from his American citizenship, he still had the right to a trial.

Villegas, and the thousands of others killed at the hands of police officers who are never punished, is demolishing what few rights we have left.

The reprimand of anyone who takes another's life should not be prejudiced by what side of the badge they are on.

These times call for equality on all sides of the law.

Cooler heads must prevail amongst those of us who remain standing in light of these transgressions against the community.

By Elizabeth Fernandez
Editor in Chief

OK, let's get one thing straight. When it comes to the topic of police brutality there is no pro and no con. It's a matter that shouldn't exist in our society. I was asked whether I believed in the Bakersfield Department of Police's current case of cops bad, and my answer is "No."

Footage from other places exposed, like the mother eye severely

women deal with on a daily basis, and the citizens they end up protecting are claiming they have issues.

I interviewed the officer for a little while, and I asked what the most horrific scene they'd ever arrived on was.

The officer became visibly uncomfortable and quiet before disclosing what had occurred in our town two days prior.

A child under foster care, between 6 and 7 years old, had been bound and gagged to a chair while her guardians abused and starved her for days. And although the officer was uncertain, it was also possible the child had or was suffering from cancer.

Forgive the officer who witnessed this scene for not placing handcuffs on the recently mentioned gang member's wrists more delicately, or for not speaking a little kinder to the man who beat his wife,

or for not having a little more patience with the rude woman who refused to turn down the music for her

23-year-old's house party, complete with drunken minors stumbling out and complaining neighbors making 911 calls as often as they could.

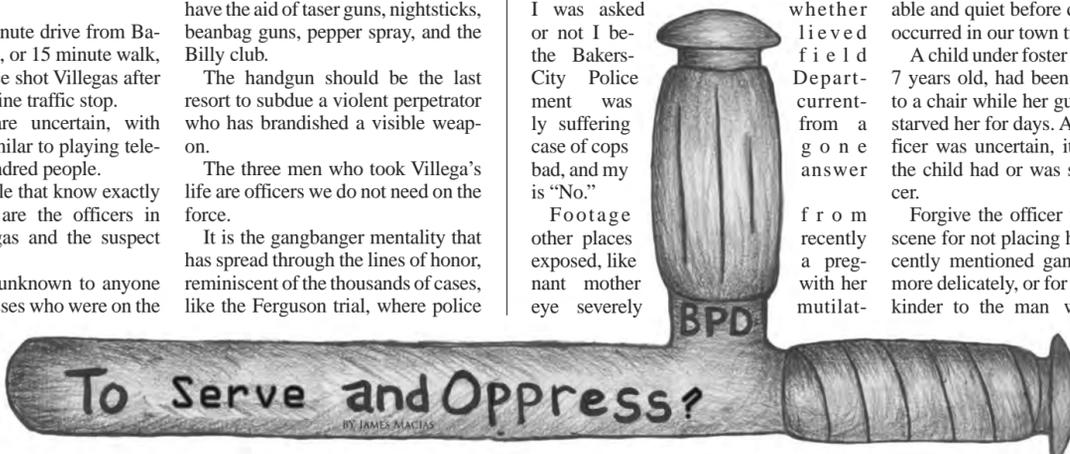
The recent altercation between BPD and a civilian which resulted in a fatal shooting is indeed deplorable, but I'd like to ask all of my online friends and acquaintances posting hateful and judgmental verdicts on the officer's guilt, how many of them were actually witnesses to the event as it unfolded.

"Details are uncertain," even witnesses who were actually on the scene have conflicting accounts.

This should be an indicator as to just what type of confusion swirls around any type of police case.

The toxicity that is produced by people when something like this happens doesn't help either.

I don't think officers would be willing to risk their entire careers for the sake of street justice, especially with the events currently unfolding all around our country.



CON

PRO

Many steps to finding the meaning of life and its rewards

By James Macias
Reporter

I am going to tell you the meaning of life. I bet you are thinking that no one can know that, or else that it is subjective and indefinable in any kind of broad or generalized sense. This is not the case.

It is actually pretty easy to figure out what the meaning of life is and how it affects you.

Let me explain.

The first thing human beings experience is pain. As we are born, we discover a number of different kinds of pain. This is why we cry out as soon as we breathe. Pain is something that we continue to experience for the rest of our lives, and the methods we will later use to cope with it are some of the most definitive elements of human character. Some people can tolerate massive amounts of it while others will go to any length to avoid it.

As we begin to develop our relationship with pain, we discover fear. Fear is what we feel knowing that we will be in pain, and it is also our default response to the unknown.

Mostly, at this point a child is concerned with eating, and as their mother or caregiver begins to feed and nurture this new person, he or she begins to experience love. At this point, pain, fear and love are all we know, and as love is the only thing that makes us feel good

(a novelty, as it were), we thrive on it and begin to grow and expand our consciousness.

After a while, we discover faith. This moment in a child's development never goes unnoticed or unappreciated by its parents, because this is the point at which we begin to sleep through the night, content in our newfound faith that when we wake up, our parents will be there to feed and tend to us.

It also marks the beginning of our recognition of the fact that we are separate and distinct entities with our own faculties. Faith gives us a basis for trust, loyalty, honor and even spirituality, although I think religion has really stolen the rights to this word unfairly. Religious faith is arguably the least useful form of the virtue because it asks us to draw illogical conclusions about questions that ultimately don't have answers.

An infant's faith is unwavering and profoundly complete. It becomes an avenue through which we begin to discover and explore a much larger world including language and cognition.

As time passes, we start to learn from watching our parents and experimenting on our own until one day, usually during toddler-hood, we realize that "no" is a word that we too can use to assert our own will.

This pivotal moment in human development begins our lifelong struggle with the single most definitive

aspect of humanity. Choice. No other animal on earth understands this concept, as far as we have been able to tell. Choice quite literally means the difference between a lemming as he falls to his death and a photographer back on top of the cliff

who is morbidly documenting the whole debacle.

So choice leads to self-awareness or what philosophers have called sentience. This is where things start to get complex, because the soup of thought, that pain, fear, love, faith and choice conspire to create is the breeding ground of individuality.

This represents another uniquely human condition and the one that we will spend the rest of our lives wrestling with the most.

At some point during our early struggles with individuality, we begin to become aware of the much larger world, or what many people call pop culture. This is how a lot of these aforementioned attributes begin to get names and definitions within our own minds. It really screws things up or at least our perception of them.

For example, we already know what love is and exactly how to express it until pop culture tells us that we are lonely and in need of romance to make ourselves complete.

It is also now that we are told that our problems are in fact not the result of cause and effect, but because our faith in God is not strong enough, and we forget the faith we had in ourselves and our parents in pursuit of some kind of intangible power that is said to have the remarkable ability to save us from ourselves.

At this stage, most children

become obsessed with fitting in and conformity. Popularity becomes the young person's highest priority and tramples all over choice by telling us what kind of clothes to wear, what sports we should like, what music to listen to and, usually, that we are ugly and stupid as well.

This is because conformity and mediocrity are themselves stupid and ugly concepts and most people know this deep down inside without ever being told.

Finally, as we grow up, we find ourselves more and more tending toward our own ideas and our own answers, and this leads almost invariably to our discovery of passion.

Not passion in a sexual sense per se, but the fact that there are some things we find to be profoundly important and deeply meaningful on a very personal level and in our own way.

Are you ready? Here comes the part you have been waiting for.

So as the list of our passions begins to grow, we come into our own as human beings, and believe it or not, it is therein that lies the meaning of life.

Each of us will always feel like the meaning of our lives is unique to us and a wholly subjective matter, but in reality, we are all defined by our individuality.

It is our individuality that dictates our passions, which are the meaning of our lives.

The Renegade Rip

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor in Chief.....Elizabeth Fernandez
Opinions Editor.....Elias C. Ahumada
Sports Editor Daniel Ojeda
Contributing editors: Graham C Wheat,
Kennedy Thomas

STAFF

Reporters/photographers: Mohamed Bafakih, Christopher A. Baptiste, Elizabeth Castillo, Trina Goree, Monique Hansen-Garcia, Brooke Howard, Vanessa A. Munoz, James Macias, Darla Mangrum, Phillip Rodriguez, Alisia Sanchez

Adviser.....Danny Edwards

Write The Rip

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

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

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

How to reach us

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



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

First place in 2011, third place in 2013 for CNPA General Excellence

The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes, printed by Reed Print in Bakersfield, and circulated on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper is published under the auspices of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, but sole responsibility for its content rests with student editors. The Rip is a member of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

Game Review

'Warlords' brings old school feel for gamers

By Brooke Howard
Reporter

At BlizzCon 2013, Chris Metzen, senior vice president at Blizzard, thrilled the World of Warcraft community with the announcement of the fifth expansion pack, Warlords of Draenor, which would take place in an alternate timeline and provide many players the nostalgia of the old Warcraft gameplay.

With the expansion pack release at midnight Nov. 13, just a couple days after BlizzCon 2014, your character takes a quest that propels you into an alternate version of Draenor, the Orc home world.

Players last saw Draenor, or what was left of it, in the 2006 expansion pack, The Burning Crusade, where it was blasted into fragments and renamed The Outland.

In the new parallel timeline, the old Draenor is still intact, and populated with legendary Warcraft heroes, such as Gul'dan, Durotan and Archmage Khadgar. You'll fight alongside them as you unfold a phenomenal story line involving the Iron Horde, a united Orc army that threatens to take over Draenor and beyond.

With the build up of excitement and attendance at BlizzCon 2014, Midnight rolled around, and of course, every player in North America pulled an all-nighter. The lag was terrible, a million people trying to test out these new features all at once overloaded the game and many were kicked off the server multiple times.

Luckily, I knew peak work hours and logged on at the perfect moment to experience less of that.

Two glorious hours of gameplay later that morning and I was hooked.



FROM BLIZZPLANET.COM

A statue of a Grom Hellscream, an Orc leader, stands prominently at Gamescon 2014.

Russell Brower, who scored the new expansion pack, had me stopped in the middle of a battle just to listen to his wicked and beautiful melody coming out of my headphones.

Visuals and music in World of Warcraft have always been a top priority, but I commend Blizzard for their attention to detail in this world of Draenor. From the trees to the beasts and new armor, you hardly feel like you went back in time.

One major area of importance in the visuals of

this expansion pack are the new character models. Some races of the Alliance, which include Humans, Dwarfs, Night Elfs, Gnomes and Draenei all got a makeover along with the Horde races of Orcs, Undead, Tauren, Trolls and soon the Blood Elfs. The new character models have more defined muscle tone, tendons, teeth, eyes and hair.

If the graphics of your character don't excite you, the new level cap of 100 will. For many avid gamers, level 90 has been beside your character's

name for years. Within hours of release, we already had level 100 players. This allowed them access to the new raids, Player Vs. Player gear, and areas of Draenor unavailable to anyone under 100.

One feature that is available after just a couple initial quests is the Garrison. In Draenor each player gets their own fortress, called a Garrison, which they can personalize by building barracks to recruit warriors, a town hall to send your forces out on missions, a tailoring emporium, a mine, and much more.

The Garrisons are the best touch in my opinion. The Role-Playing community was having a heyday with this one thing they proclaimed World of Warcraft was missing—personalized homes or areas to call their own. This new feature could have been touchy, but it ended up being liked by all. Especially the Non-RP-ers, who thought it would be too nerdy or make the game like "The Sims" to have our own Role-Playing areas. (You're playing World of Warcraft, don't talk about things getting too nerdy.)

Your Garrison is the stronghold of Frostfire Ridge on the planet of Draenor, and many of your quests will start and end there.

A great new feature is the flexible and easy to follow questing system. To go through the story line, which will explain the Lore of Draenor, you must quest and help the heroes defeat the Iron Horde in multiple battles and missions.

The experience differs depending on whether you are Alliance or Horde, and as an avid Horde player I can say I'm thrilled with every new feature given to me in this expansion pack.

★★★★★

Movie Review

Newest 'Hunger Games' capitalizes on set-up of past story lines

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

From the moment Katniss Everdeen appears on screen, until the moment the movie abruptly ends, every piece of the movie is like reading Suzanne Collins' book. The way I pictured Cressida was true, the way I thought the now distraught Effie would look and feel, all the way to the feeling of the lump in my throat when Katniss ran for her sister while the District was under bombing. I wanted to cry when Katniss returns home in this third of four installments of the Hunger Games Trilogy. The movies stay true to her storyline in the books, because Collins also writes the script. For anyone that read the series long before the movies came out, you either hate or love what producers Nina Ja-

cobson and Jon Kilik have done to the books.

I love the new Katniss, she is strong, figuring out that not only are the bad people trying to manipulate her, but the good are too. Haymitch is sober, Peta was held captive, and Katniss needs to lead the rebels in order to save him. Here, in Mockingjay, Gale plays a much bigger part than in the first two movies, his character blossoms by the third installment of the novels. The love triangle of Katniss, Peta, and Gale is still present, as we see that Finnick has become important to Katniss too. Katniss, her mother and sister, all share a room in their new place, District 13.

It is a cold, monotonous place, where no color or any pleasure is to be had.

There, in District 13, we discover that there was drinking wa-



GOOGLE IMAGES

ter, food, and everything that the other district had been in need of, including a bomb shelter, and most importantly, a bomb. The district is built underground, and

in many ways, paints the picture for the mental prison Katniss is now captive of, juxtaposing the desire for the nature she yearns for. Katniss remains a naturalist at heart, missing the comfort of the trees and the forest where she loves to hunt.

If you haven't seen the movie, I am being as vague as possible. I'll leave you to wonder where the movie would cut into two, which had me on the seat of my chair -- pins and needles -- in anticipation for the curtain to close. The last 15 to 20 minutes are so intense. All I can say is that I absolutely loved it.

Mockingjay has much more depth, which stirs feelings of empathy, and then you are smacked with action packed screen warfare of good versus evil in the concept of the future.

From the hovercrafts, to the

battleships, and the weapons in between, Mockingjay slashes through your imagination, led by the unthinkable: A female; a heroin, who isn't saving the day, but instead adding fuel to the burning flame she lit in the arena in the second movie, "Catching Fire."

Mockingjays are the mockingbirds and blue jays that reproduced outside of the capitol's rule, which Katniss encapsulates. In the police state capitol, Peta is used to sending messages to counter the rebels, but nothing can stop the fire that Katniss keeps burning.

There are moments of heart-touching, human-interest scenes, with tons of secondary messages that correlate to the present day of warfare and police states.

With the capitol representing the politics of present-day is-

sues, the discrimination of people based on territory is explored in the inner battle of it. Katniss only decides to play the game of being the District 13's puppet with specific instruction that Johanna Mason, Annie Cresta and Peta Mellark are rescued from the capitol's prison.

There are many other spoiler alerts, like the former game maker Plutarch Havensbee playing the new game of rebels versus the Capitol.

For the most part, I will allow you the chance to find out all the great turns and twists of events, especially if you still won't read the novels.

I not only suggest that you go and see this wonderful series of films, but most definitely pick up the novels if you enjoy a good read.

★★★★★

No excuse for abuse on the BC campus: Students need to report incidents

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Domestic violence and rape of college students cannot go unreported. Too often, issues that happen at school, or even at home, go without ever being acknowledged. Statistics would have you believe that one in four female college students will be a victim of a rape or domestic violence incident.

Some groups organize the information in order to educate the population, but what they cannot account for are the unreported crimes. Another important statistic is the crimes against males.

Yes, I did say male victims. Males can also become rape and domestic victims, too.

Gender is not a factor; it's just that men tend to not report the incident in higher numbers than the female counterpart. In societal views, women are coddled and supported when they are victims of such atrocities, whereas men are made fun of or not taken as seriously.

Domestic violence today is a different kind of violence compared to that of older generations.

The relationships may be between a man and man, two women, and the acceptance of the combativeness may be more of societies way of coping with the way that homosexuality and gender bias stereotypes are being broken.

If you see a man hit a woman, your reaction is different than you would have for someone of the same sex assaulting another. When it's the same sex, do we just feel that the playing field is even, and

therefore are we justifying abuse?

In my personal opinion, domestic violence may be any form of hate, and we need to love one another more, or learn to love one another in healthy ways.

When the arguments turn into abuse, reporting may feel hard to do, or the person will feel alone in the situation. It's a lot harder allowing a person to constantly hurt you than it is to report the incident or to seek help.

Rape is so commonplace in society as we know it, comics make jokes, cartoons portray it as a funny adjective, and CSI shows would have you think that the case is so easy to solve that it can be handled in a matter of hours, or days.

We see rape called many things, like date rape, or drunken sex, and so we also justify the actions of others by looking away from a perpetrator to look at the victim as the one who brought the rape upon themselves. The reason we look past rape as an issue to be addressed is because of the backlash of those who use the word rape to get out of situations that they may feel embarrassed to cop to.

But, with all of the grandeur, the word rape can hold life lasting effects, even more so than that of domestic violence.

Not reporting the incident can lead to another person experiencing the same thing you may have, or even worse, it may give the perpetrator confidence to act out on other evil things that go through his or her mind.

I had a friend that last spring was stalked by another student who she did not know. The perpetra-

tor decided one day to physically pick up my friend, invading her personal space, and then smacked her on her butt before he ran away. This was on the Bakersfield Campus campus, his family was well known, and there had been previous complaints before.

No other student ever pushed the issue of reporting this perpetrator who touched people inappropriately, either out of fear of the family, or thinking that the situation wasn't serious enough to follow through with.

So this student remained on campus, allowed to roam the campus freely, because of the fear that others had in reporting the crime. Never let fear hold you back from reporting something as silly as it may seem to you. Talk to someone.

Sometimes it is hard to stand up for yourself, but you should. BC offers counseling, which can aid in the aftermath of a rape or domestic violence incident.

Kern County and National Crisis services and hotlines are available to help those in need of guidance in what steps to take.

There is someone out there who may have been through the same thing.

Maybe you think you aren't strong enough, but if you are still alive, there is still hope. Report the crimes that people perpetrate on you, and never allow fear to reign in your life.

The more you allow someone to help you through incidents, the easier it will be to tell your story. You never know who you may help by standing up for yourself.

Music Review

Back again: New Eminem album hits the high notes

By Phillip Rodriguez
Reporter

Guess who's back, back again? The Real Slim Shady, Eminem, released his newest compilation album Nov. 24, and per his reputation, he does not disappoint.

With a burst of rhyme-packed words in the eponymously named first track, "Shady XV", Eminem plays with rhyme schemes, and the listeners head, while simultaneously joking about his past to the sound of a sampled guitar riff. The rest of the masterpiece is unleashed with such artists as the Slaughterhouse crew, Yelawolf, Skylar Grey and even a return by D12. On every track, each member of Shady's clan puts in equal work, one-upping each other on every verse. No one goes soft on these tracks; even the weaker members of Slaughterhouse out-rhyme and clean out any opponents from the modern industry who pose a threat. Kxng Crooked proves that he can hold his weight against Royce da 5'9" and Eminem on "Psychopath Killer." In their own right, the Slaughterhouse crew makes their own motions on the album. On "Y'all Ready Know," all four members pop off with classic 90's New York style rhyme schemes, and the beloved vinyl scratch everyone has come to love.

For those Em fans who crave the emotional heat packed in such classics as "Kim" and "Spacebound," the king of modern Hip Hop throws in a couple of deep tracks such as "Die Alone," a concentrated yet mature look at his past relationships and their failures. As usual, Shady brings his A-game when it comes to

shock, making multiple references directly regarding the suicide of Robin Williams, as well as name-dropping him twice along with Muhammad Ali. In the same song ("Vegas", for all you curious people), slim drops the now infamous "rape line" involving Iggy Azalea.

Unfortunately, the weak link in the chain on this album falls on the part of Yelawolf, who, on top of spitting out short verses in an unimpressive fashion, drops in the obligatory comparison between himself and Eminem, even going so far as to compare the two of them to God and Jesus. If you're a die-hard Yelawolf fan, go ahead and check out his verses on the album, otherwise, steer clear of them.

Among the typical themes you would expect in an Eminem song -- the story of an underdog, the pain of fame, jokes about drugs and prostitutes -- the album provides a variety of sounds.

Fans of Eminem trying his pipes out at singing will be thrilled to hear him perform a duet with Skylar Grey. Finally, and possibly the most interesting part of the album, is the release of a previously trashed version of "Lose yourself", which claims its' own sound and different verses, whilst also sounding hauntingly similar to the original that made Eminem who he is today.

Overall, the ShadyXV does not hold back. Easily topping the trap and club music being mass-produced in this era, the record is worth a listen. There's enough rhyming and speed for the MMLP2 fan, enough curse words and obscenities for the "Infinite" and "Slim Shady" LP fan, and enough jokes and comedy for everyone in between. Check it out.

★★★★☆



GOOGLE IMAGES

BC men's basketball wins 2 in own tourney

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

Bakersfield College's men's basketball team finally made its home debut in the annual Thanksgiving Tournament, where the Renegades went 2-1 for the weekend and put their early season success to the test against pre-season, top-ranked and current sixth-ranked Merritt College.

Prior to the tournament, BC made a quick trip up Highway 99 to visit West Hills Coalinga on Nov. 21 – a team that came off a near-upset overtime win against current seventh-ranked Fresno City College.

Bakersfield jumped out to a 40-28 first half lead and never looked back. BC nearly took twice as many shots (30-for-68), as opposed to West Hill's (20-for-37) in the game, but an 18-point and nine-rebound performance by swingman Deandre Dickson, on a consistent 9-of-15 shooting, kept Bakersfield in front, despite Dickson being in foul trouble.

Sophomores Alex Daniels and Isaiah Rogers also broke out for the Renegades. Daniels finished with 13 points and six rebounds, while Rogers added 11 points to go along with five steals.

The reserves also came up big for BC as the bench outscored the Falcons' 26-17. Queens native Jameik Riviere added energy for Bakersfield with 11 points and six assists, and C.J. Johnson made his return to the 559 with eight points. Isaiah Bryant also hit two big triples off the bench.

"We took care of the ball and, for the most part, defended pretty well," said head coach Rich Hughes following the 73-63 win over West Hills. "We're getting better."

The following week, with a four-game winning streak intact, Bakersfield (4-1) hosted "predetermined games," as Hughes called it over Thanksgiving weekend. Along with Bakersfield College in Pool A, was Fullerton College and LA Pierce College. In Pool B: Barstow, Merritt, and Porterville College.

The Renegades took the court first on the first day of the tournament on Nov. 28 vs. Barstow – a team desperately looking for their first win.

BC shot 50 percent from the field in the first half and went into the locker room up 35-29. Although Bakersfield managed to turn the game into a double-digit lead early in the second half, Barstow rallied back. Behind Daylin Billingsley's 15 points and 11 rebounds, the Vikings managed to cut it to a two possession game with just over a minute to go in regulation as BC led 71-65.

Barstow inched closer as John Howard was fouled on a three-point attempt by Daniels, following a pair of split free throws by Riviere and Johnson. Howard, however, missed two out of three free throws which made it 73-66.

Another pair of split free throws by Johnson – who was battling an ankle injury – sealed the deal for the Renegades, as they went on to beat Barstow with a final score of 74-68, increasing their win streak to four games and a 4-1 record.

Dickson led all scorers with 24 points to go with 11 rebounds.

The following day, the Renegades faced the Merritt Thunderbirds, which came fresh off a victory the previous night to Fullerton, 76-66.

"It's a pretty good mark to see where we [Bakersfield] are, as far as other teams in the state," said Hughes.

When asked if this was the biggest challenge up to this point, Hughes replied, "Yes, definitely... definitely the toughest team to play up to this point."

Merritt's starters were held in check, but three Thunderbird bench players were in double figures (L. Smith, 12, T. King, 12, J. Carlton, 10) to help lead the T-Birds to a 71-62 victory over BC – ending their four-game winning streak.

"Turnovers. Turnovers... we let Merritt slip away," said Daniels following his eight point and eight rebound performance.

It was a tough night offensively for the Renegades' top producer and the state's top rebounder, Dickson, as he shot just four out of 16 from the field. Dickson still managed to finish with his fifth double-double of the season (12 points, 14 rebounds) and four blocks despite a cold shooting night.

Riviere, also another major producer, shot well but committed nine of the team's 22 turnovers creating more T-Birds scoring opportunities.

D.J. Wooley tied Riviere in bench scoring with 10 points, a season high for Wooley.

In the final game of the three-day tournament, Bakersfield faced Central Valley foe Porterville.

Both teams split two games coming in, but only one came out with a winning record – and that was Bakersfield in a nail-biter.

Despite shooting eight out of 33 in the first half, BC created fouls and put Porterville in the double bonus situation with 4:50 to go and converted on 13 out of 18 free throw attempts.

Bakersfield also forced 12 turnovers, in large part due to full-court trapping and pressing. BC and Porterville however ended the half all notted up at 30 apiece.

The Pirates changed things up five minutes into the second period as they went to a 1-3-1 zone defensively.

"We knew that they were going to do it," said Hughes. "They run a couple different types of zones, so we [coaches] told our team just be prepared for different ones."

Late in the game, things got interesting. Back-to-back three-pointers by David Wilson made it 63-54 Renegades, with just over four minutes to go, but Porterville was put in the double-bonus with 3:34 remaining.

Both teams shared free throws of their own, but the Pirates, getting the better half, were able to cut the lead down to just one, 67-66 with 1:45 in regulation.

Johnson and Daniels both made crucial free throws for BC, and the defense kept Porterville in check in the end to help, holding off the Pirates from any possible upset as the Renegades grasped onto a two-point victory, 68-66.

Riviere tallied a team-high 18 points off the bench and the Bakersfield defense forced 30 Pirate turnovers.

BC, now 5-2 on the season, is fairly pleased with their performance midway through the pre-season.

"We can be one of the best teams," said second-year guard Isaiah Rogers. "We just got to be on the same page everyday and no let-downs."

Before BC opens up conference play at home vs. LA Valley on Jan. 7 at 5 p.m., they will travel to Skyline (San Bruno) in a three-day tournament from Dec. 12 through 14 followed by an exhibition game at LA Pierce, and wrap it up at Allan Hancock (Santa Maria) from Dec. 28 through 30.

Women's basketball starts 5-0

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Bakersfield College women's basketball team claimed a 77-44 victory over Taft College at home on Nov. 22 in the Gil Bishop Sports Center.

BC beat Taft for the second time this season and kept its five-game winning streak alive.

"I'm really pleased by what we have done so far, our conference is going to be so much more competitive than our schedule right now," said head coach Paula Dahl.

The team hasn't gone undefeated in over a decade, and this is the best start to a season that Dahl has had since coaching at BC.

"I love being undefeated, I love the fact that we are undefeated, we haven't had this type of start for a long time," said the coach, "The reality is that we got a lot of work to do, I'm not letting up at all. If you saw our practice yesterday, you would have thought we were 0-5."

The team, once again, reached into the depth of its bench, with Alyssa Garcia having a 20-point game from the reserves. Garcia's point total was a personal high and a team-high in the game.

"We really wanted to see her come back from being sick," Dahl said of Garcia. "One of my favorite moments was when a [Taft] kid was bullying her, and she just drilled a three right in her face, it was unbelievable. Just to see the team's excitement, it was really fun."

Garcia went 4-for-5 on three-pointers and 4-for-4 from the free-throw line.

"Our teamwork is really showing in our defense. Against [this team] we hadn't scored in 11:29, but [Taft] only had six points. Our defense completely locked them down, to only 15 points in the first half. We made so much happen because of our defense," said Dahl.

Nakiah Page scored 18 points and had seven rebounds, five steals and two blocks.

"Points are points, we still need to get more rebounds out of Nakiah, she should be scoring, but it has to be the complete game and the complete development of the game, and that's one of the things we are working with all of our players," Dahl said of Page



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Alyssa Garcia (4) goes for a steal against Taft.

and what player's points mean to her.

At 6-feet tall, Page has been dominating her opponents.

"We have been really working with Nakiah to face up in the second half," Dahl said. "She did, and that's when her points started coming. Nakiah is wonderful to have on the team, we will just keep working on her total game for stats in all the categories"

McKaiela Tyler contributed with nine points, a team-leading eight rebounds, and played a tough defensive game.

"We are one of the top in the state for steals, I think we are ranked third, third for blocked shots, fifth for points that we hold people down to, fifth for low shooting percentages," said Dahl in appreciation of all the hard work that the players are exhibiting in defense, as well as making offensive strides.

Alex Green had her highest scoring game of the season, going off for eight points. Green also chipped in seven rebounds, five steals, and two blocks.

When asked how she felt about the outstanding game her reserves are playing, Dahl said, "You are only as strong as your weakest player, and the fact that we can be so competitive in practice is what makes us competitive in games. This is the first time I have been able to have each player play in every game."

BC will travel to Santa Ana to compete in the Santa Ana Tournament, with the times to be announced, on the weekend of Dec. 4 through 6. On Dec. 18, the Renegades will head back to BC to play Santa Ana in the BC gym at 6 p.m.

The team will travel to El Cajon to play Grossmont on the last weekend of the year, Dec. 28 through 30. The times of the weekend tournament are still to be posted.

AVAILABLE NOW

Transfer to Success Scholarship

Up to \$5,000 Award

Automatically Awarded to Qualified Students

Transfer Friendly

Year-Round Enrollment



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

A Private Nonprofit University
Serving the Public Good™

Call Today • (661) 864-2360

nu.edu/transfer

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements and be formally accepted to National University. Funds paid in accordance to the scholarship terms. Some restrictions may apply.

© 2014 National University, 1394

Renegade baseball looks for strong start as season nears

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

It has been 20 years since the arrival of Bakersfield College's head baseball coach, Tim Painton.

Looking back, Painton reflected on his family, saying he decided to continue residing in Bakersfield instead of possibly going back to coaching at the upper level, as he did for 10 years as an assistant with Fresno State.

"When I came to Bakersfield College, initially my thought was I would be here for a couple years and bounce back out to that level, but more than anything else, family decisions were more important than baseball decisions," said Painton.

Under Painton, the Renegade baseball program has reached the playoffs eight times, advanced to the Super Regionals three times, and even hosted the Regionals in 2006 – a first in the school's long history – all while moving 90-percent of his players to the next level, both four-year programs and MLB affiliations.

With a young, athletic team with depth in the dugout for the upcoming season, Painton and players are looking forward to taking the field.

"Our freshman position players may be the best recruiting class of freshman I've ever had," he said.

"I think we're going to be an extremely and very, very good defensive ball club."

For a couple of sophomores, they've built their expectations high after many of them got to start last season due to lack of depth.

Second-baseman Kyle Speaks mentioned, "I definitely think we have a lot of room for improvement. We didn't have the greatest season up to our standards I guess you could say, but it starts with the leadership role down to working on the little things."

BC finished 14-22 overall and 9-12 in conference (Western State – South) but six sophomores managed to find a home playing at the four-year level.

"This year we all have the same mindset, which is winning, and there's nothing else besides," said sophomore pitcher Allan Winans.

With many returners from last year's cast, and freshmen ready to compete for playing time, it'll be interesting to see how the Renegades baseball club will stack up against opponents – particularly with conference rivals Canyons (11), LA Mission (14), and Glendale (17) – teams that received votes in the ccaasports.org pre-season top 20 baseball polls.

Bakersfield College baseball won't open up their season until Jan. 29 vs. El Camino College at Gerry Collis Field, but expect big things from an across-the-board talented team this season in Painton's 20th season.

Wrestling team grapples way to second

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

"The Brawl" became a ball for Bakersfield College wrestling, as they took second overall and placed 8-of-10 guys in a round-robin tournament hosted by East L.A. on Saturday Nov. 23 in their last showcase before the Southern Regionals and State Championships.

Along with the host, Bakersfield joined Cuesta once again, losing to the Cougars by just two points – who took first with 12 placers – followed by BC (second), Rio Hondo (third), East L.A. yet again (fourth), Dixie State of Utah (fifth – NCWA club team), and USC (sixth – NCWA club team).

"We needed some matches,"

said head coach Brett Clark. "We had those two weeks off [previous to The Brawl] where we didn't do any tournaments and it was good for us."

Here is a brief recap of how each wrestler fared in their weight class and what is forthcoming:

125 – No participant for the Renegades in this division. Freshman Marco Velasquez is still nursing a right ankle sprain, but will be good to go for the Southern Regional Championships on Dec. 6.

133 – Arik Onsurez started off strong in his first match leading 5-0 at one point, however allowed seven straight points to his opponent which led to a 7-5 loss. "It was just a bad match for him," said Clark. However, On-

surez managed to finish in 3rd place.

141 – An unsteady weight division most of the season for the Renegades, Gustavo Velasquez has been filling in. Velasquez went 0-2 for the day, yet showed some improvement in his second match.

149 – With Greg Pagela out indefinitely (meniscus), Brandon Silva has been getting the call. Silva in his first match lost to the eventual 3rd place winner but wrestled better afterwards according to Clark – despite not placing.

157 – Vincent Gomez once again remained undefeated as he did in the South East Athletic Conference Dual Tournament held on Nov. 15.

California's eighth-ranked

at 157 per caccwrestling.com, Gomez swept through his first opponent and followed it with two straight pins – one in the semifinals, and the other in the finals against Daylon Walker of Dixie State walking away with the tournament title.

165 – No participant for the Renegades in this division.

174 – Cesar Luna made his return after missing the SEAC tournament and made his presence felt.

Luna reached the finals and jumped in front 3-1 with four seconds left in the second period, but wasn't able to finish it off as his opponent rallied back to win the title.

184 – Two wrestlers displayed their talents at 184 for BC. Jacob Heinsohn finished in 4th place

with two consecutive losses to the same challenger, as Michael Avila reached the finals and slipped away from Rio Hondo's Anthony Martinez.

197 – Well, Jack Murphy was Jack Murphy. However, BC's Christian Espinoza joined his teammate Murphy in the finals – perhaps due in large part to Cuesta's decision to not bring the state's third best at 197, Clayton Hartwell – as well as limited opponents.

Murphy pinned Espinoza and continues to stay at the top of the leaderboard as number one for his respective weight division setting up some interesting showdowns as certain schools and individuals will be looking to end his hot run on Dec. 6.

285 – Jacob Hall unfortunately

wasn't able to win it all at "The Brawl" as he was knocked off by a smaller, but more tactical Dixie State opponent in the semifinals. Nevertheless, Hall is currently ranked fifth in the state for all heavyweights.

Moving forward, Clark is quite confident with his group of guys and the big tasks ahead. "It'll all depend on how we do in regionals," Clark said.

"I think we have the potential to probably have six guys that could probably place in the state."

Renegade wrestling will be heading into the Southern Regional Championships down in Cerritos as the 10th-ranked team in the state – one week before the CCCAA State Championships in San Luis Obispo on Dec. 11-13.

Volleyball team finishes 'successful' season

By Daniel Ojeda
Sports Editor

The volleyball team ended the season with a victory over Glendale College on Nov. 19, the Renegades finished the season with a 6-6 record in division play and with an overall record of 10-14.

Before the win, head coach Carl Ferreira had a special ceremony for his sophomore players.

On a team predominately full of freshman, sophomores Brenda Contreras, Tyler Herring and Kourtney Grantz were recognized for the hard work and internal leadership they showed throughout the season.

The win left BC with an even record in the conference, but the Renegades missed out on the playoffs after qualifying for the regionals last season.

Finishing with a record under .500 and missing the playoffs might be considered a disappointment, but not to coach Ferreira.

"My job is to create a culture that's laced with morals and values, you got to believe. We create the culture that no one player is better than another. If you go through a season with no conflict but there's still gratitude and appreciation, that's success."

Ferreira understands that his team's success might be judged by wins and losses, but wants to teach his players that losing doesn't mean you weren't successful.

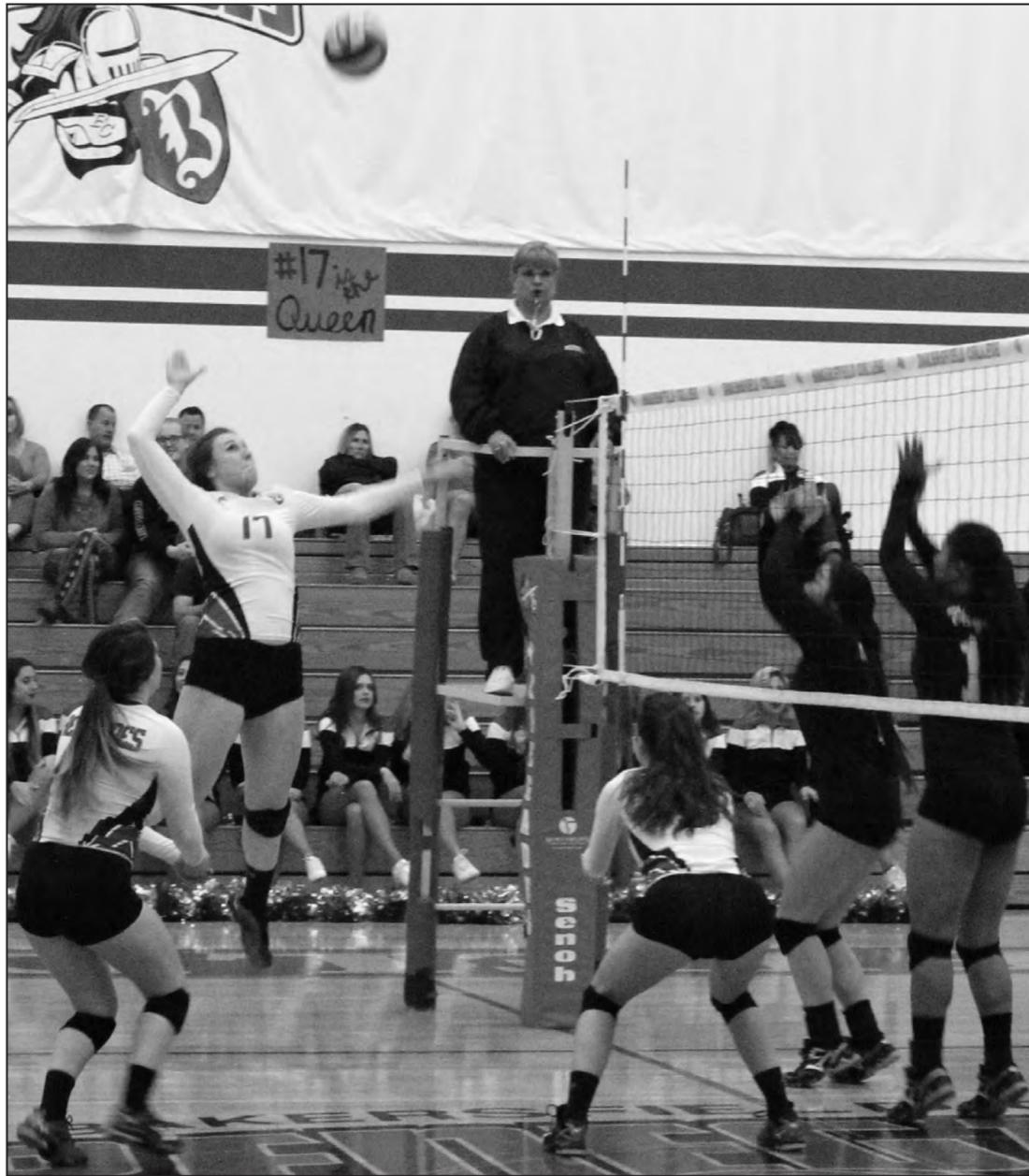
"As a competitor, do I wish that we won more? Absolutely, you don't do everything that we do and feel great about being second. You celebrate your wins and learn from losses, don't finger point," said Ferreira.

Usually, you have the returning players helping to teach the freshman, but when you have such an inverted scale, it takes longer to tip that scale in the right direction.

With a team of 11 freshmen, the Renegades were slow to start before picking up the pace late in the season and winning six of the last 10 games.

It took some time for the young team to buy into each other, and as the season progressed the players started to buy into the team philosophy more and more.

Practices for the volleyball team have remained the same throughout the season, whether it was back in August, or up until



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Kourtney Grantz (17) sets up for a spike against Glendale College on Nov. 19. The Renegades would go on to win 3-0.

the last couple of practices before the season finished.

After the match just before practice, everyone gives their opinion about the game. During this time, there is no winning or losing, just the time to learn. Players learn what needs to be done better, and that is where the practice starts and the work begins.

Ferreira has also had to learn as the years have gone by, he has gone from having a "my way or the highway" type of attitude, to

valuing his athletes.

Transitioning to that type of teaching method isn't as simple when you were raised and coached by the same "my way or the highway" method as he was.

The tools Ferreira has learned have helped him learn a better way of teaching the athletes of this current generation.

"These athletes want to be valued. They want to know that my participation in this activity has meaning, and that's all they

want. I want them to be great, and I don't want them to be average. I want them to separate themselves as far away from average as possible," Ferreira said.

The returning players to the team next season will be ready to help Ferreira teach the incoming freshman the "team first" philosophy.

Kayla Romero, Jade Delgadillo, Lorena Ramirez and Stephanie Lugo are just some of the sophomore players that

Ferreira will look to provide the internal leadership, just like Grantz and Herring this year.

With the experience coming back next season, a return to BC's winning ways shouldn't be far off either.

The sports world might judge Ferreira's success by wins and losses, but the student athletes that leave his volleyball program leave understanding the value of teamwork and how to truly appreciate their teammates.

BC women finish in 11th place

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's cross country team placed 11th out of the 27 teams that participated in the California Community College State Championships held Nov. 22 at Woodward Park in Fresno.

Mt. SAC took the first place win with a team time of 1:33:30 in the women's 5k run. Mt. SAC had the team total of 78 points. Canyons, took second with the total team time of 1:34:44, giving the team 104 points. In third place, Glendale had the time of 1:34:24 and a team score of 109 points.

Aminat Olowora, of Southwestern, won first place individually in the women's 5k races, with the time of 16:59.7.

Yesenia Silva of Sequoias placed second, with the time of 17:33.8.

With the time of 17:57.8, Laura Aceves of East LA, placed third.

In comparison, BC women placed 11th with 355 team points. The total team time 1:40:04 averaged to an even 20:00.

"With five of the runners freshmen, and five sophomores, I am excited to see our freshmen lead the team so well," said Coach Dave Frickel of the women's team.

BC's Jessica Campbell placed 38th out of 197 runners. She had a time of 19:15.8 and an average of 6:25.3 per mile.

"My thoughts are really positive," said Campbell. "I was worried that I wouldn't perform as well due to my injury, but I did a lot better than I had expected."

BC's Leah Theroux finished 72nd with a time of 19:57.0, averaging 6:39.0 per mile. Freshman Emily Freeman placed 91st in her first state meet appearance.

Campbell was proud of the women's strength as a team. "Overall, the girls did great and we finished ninth of the Southern Californian teams. Even though I wasn't able to run all the races, I feel that the women did a good job to represent us all."

With the time of 20:16.7, Paola Silvestre, a sophomore, placed 95th, and BC teammate Yareli Ocampo came in 100th place with the time of 20:20.05.

BC's Juan Calderon and Richard Timmermans qualified as individuals for the men's 4-mile race.

Calderon placed 76th ranking with a time of 21:43.0 and an average of 5:25.8 per mile. The race had 213 finishers.

"I think I did good, compared to the first race of the year, I did really good. I felt really good to take another 30 seconds off the time," said Calderon.

When asked how the freshman, Timmermans did, Calderon said, "He kept pushing me so I had to push even harder, you know?"

Timmermans, a freshman who had a very impressive season, ended it by placing 142nd in a time of 22:26.7.

Taylor named new AD

By Daniel Ojeda
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College's search for a new athletic director is finally over.

Sandi Taylor had the interim tag removed from her title and becomes BC's newest athletic director.

The search for an athletic director began earlier this year during the summer and included interviews by a screening committee made up of coaches and

staff.

There were three finalists for the position, along with Taylor, Jason Herbers and Richard Speas were also interviewed for the position.

An open forum was also held to provide an opportunity for feedback, questions and for each candidate to provide an overview of their experience.

Taylor was selected because as BC President Sonya Christian said, "Sandi has displayed strong skills in leadership, compliance,

and student success during her year as interim Director of Athletics, and has worked diligently to bring Bakersfield College's Athletics Department through a difficult time."

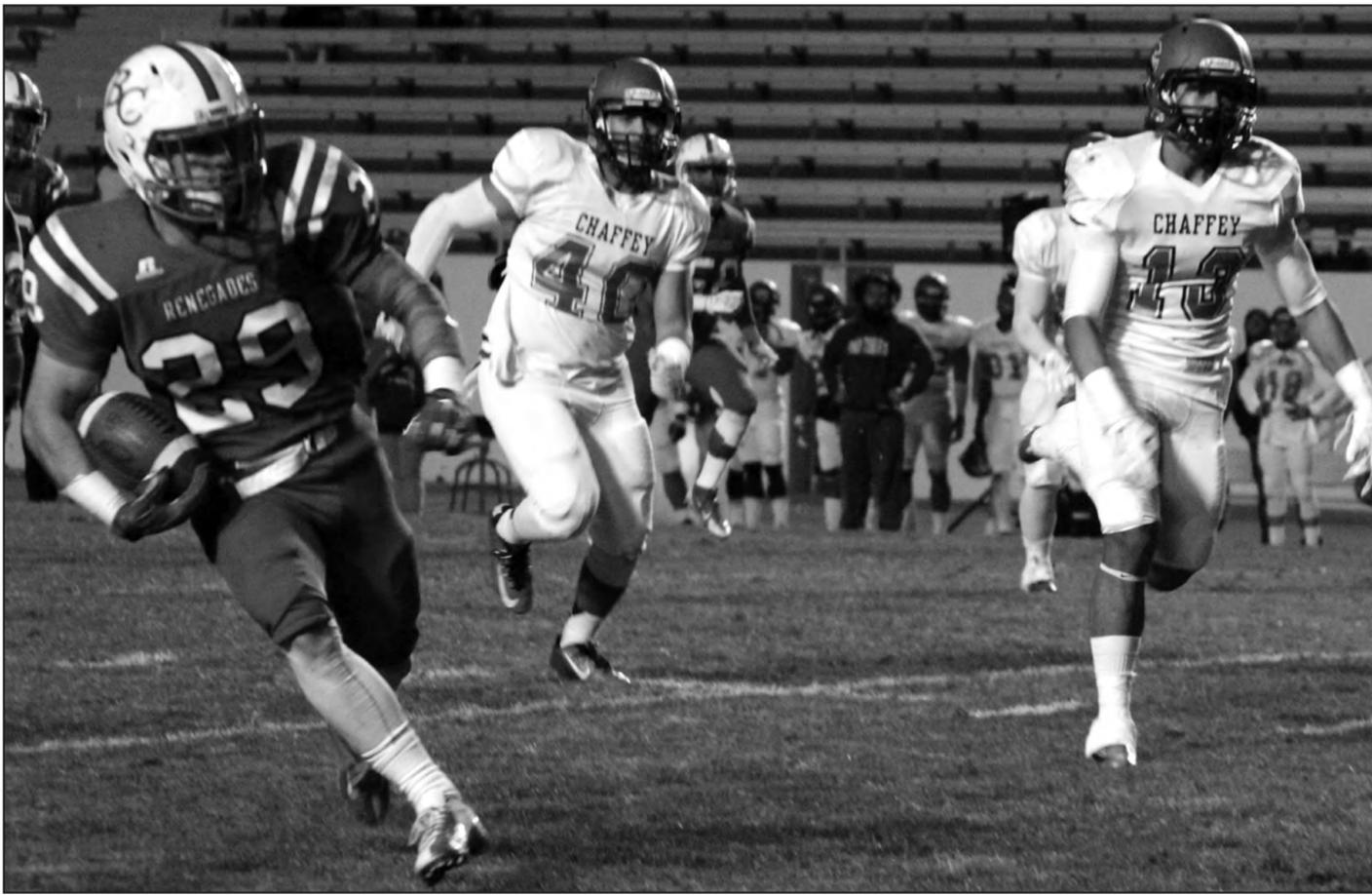
Taylor has worked at BC for over 25 years and was the head coach of the softball team for 24 years. She reached a milestone in the spring of 2013 when she was able to notch her 500th victory.

Taylor officially started in the role of athletic director as of Dec. 1.



COURTESY OF BC ATHLETICS / THE RIP

BC kicks way past Chaffey for the win



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

BC defensive back Dominic Frasch (29) runs downfield after BC's fake punt. Frasch would go on to score, sealing the victory for the Renegades 23-10.

Football ends season on six-game winning streak

By Daniel Ojeda
Sports Editor

With the bowl win over Chaffey College, the Renegades finished the season on a six game winning streak and with a record of 7-4.

The bowl win, along with the seven victories, were feats that were unimaginable early in the season as the Renegades got off to a slow start and were relegated to the bottom of the division.

The season got off to a bruising start as the Renegades opened with a blowout loss at home against powerhouse Riverside. The loss was one of the most lopsided in school history.

BC would also lose starting running back Curtis McGregor for the season during the game.

That opening game gave a glimpse of the struggles the Renegades would face early on before flipping the switch and turning the season around.

BC would bottom out against College of the Canyons on Oct. 4, losing 38-35 at home and leaving the Renegades with a record of 1-4. The defense was consistently having trouble keeping opponents off the board while

struggling to work together as they allowed the opponent to score 31 points or more in three of BC's first four losses.

BC would reel off back to back road wins against Citrus College and Moorpark, which gave the Renegades their first winning streak of the season and a defense that had struggled early on, was finally making crucial stops that allowed BC to build momentum during the game and as the season went on.

The win against Moorpark was a standout game for the Renegades. The defense struggled to contain the Moorpark offense but did not break down giving the BC offense enough of a chance to earn a hard fought victory. Renegades quarterback Tarek Yaeggi and wide receiver Derrick Vickers also had standout games with Yaeggi throwing for a season high five touchdowns and passing for 350 yards while Vickers had 116 receiving yards to go along with a season high five receiving touchdowns and over 60 rushing yards.

The momentum that the BC defense had during the game would stay with the team the rest of the season as the Renegades



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

The BC defense tries to sack Chaffey quarterback Levi Plante (10) deep in the endzone.

held its remaining opponents to an average of 15 points a game.

With the defense avoiding the miscues that plagued the team earlier in the season, the offense was able to fire on all cylinders as BC added wins over Cerritos College and Pasadena City College.

Running backs Triton Douglas and Xavier Williams helped stabilize the running game for BC, and, at times, seemed to carry multiple defenders several yards while running for a first down. Marquise Johnson was another weapon at the wide receiver po-

sition and was a perfect complement to Vickers while tight end Khalin Smith gave Yaeggi another set of reliable hands to throw to.

With the winning streak up to four, the Renegades faced a first place Ventura College team with a chance to earn a bowl game. BC would go on to win the game after a back and forth battle, then would go on to beat Chaffey College in the Clifford & Bradford Insurance Western Bowl. This left BC with a six game winning streak and capped a surprising finish for the Renegades.

Freshman quarterback Yaeggi became the fifth player in Renegades history to pass for over 2,000 yards finishing with 2,033 and 18 passing touchdowns.

Williams finished the season leading the team in rushing yards with 687 while Douglas added 556 rushing yards and 6 touchdowns.

Three different receivers finished with over 400 receiving yards. Johnson led the way with 855 and six touchdowns, Vickers added 609 yards and 10 touchdowns and Smith had 471 to go with four touchdowns.

BC special teams help carry to win

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

Special teams is truly a specialty.

In Bakersfield College's last game of the season at the prestigious Memorial Stadium on Nov. 22 – where attendance nearly averaged a state-leading 3,000 per game and totaled over 16,000 for the season – a special ending for a special fan base and the sophomores in their season finale was undoubtedly deserving.

With a Clifford & Bradford Insurance Western Bowl Championship on the line, visiting Chaffey (6-4) came into the day winning four of its last five, and the one loss coming against national powerhouse Riverside.

Bakersfield (6-4) also entered the game seeming indomitable winners of their last five.

With identical records, the outcome of the game was nothing short of even, due in large part to the Renegades' special teams' performance, which led the way in a 23-10 victory over the Panthers.

"What can you say about special teams?" Coach Jeff Chudy said postgame. "Sometimes, you know, you just take for granted how special [those] special teams really are, and it's something that we've always prided ourselves on."

Sophomore kicker Parker Campbell single-handedly, or perhaps single-leggedly, outscored Chaffey, converting on all five of his field-goal attempts.

"That was a personal best for me. I'm just happy that I got the chances and my team helped me out, definitely with the defense," said Campbell after the game with an Offensive Player of the Game plaque in hand.

Punter Dayton Diorio also played a huge role as he controlled Chaffey's field position, forcing the Panthers to start their drive inside the 15-yard line six times over the course of the game, and setting up the Renegades defense to eliminate scoring drives.

Diorio even helped sell a fake trick punt on a 4th and 4 which led to a 59-yard touchdown run by Frasch to make it a three-possession lead early in the fourth, followed by a 43-yard punt shortly after that pinned the defense inside the five that would eventually lead to a Darren Adjei fumble recovery.

Both freshmen, Diorio and Frasch wound up winning individual awards, as Diorio was presented with the Defensive Player of the Game award and Frasch with the MVP award. "I think I made an impact this game and I just tried to do that the whole season and good things paid off!" Frasch said.

Softball team readies for start of season

By Daniel Ojeda
Sports Editor

With the softball season fast approaching, the BC softball team is looking to rebound from a disastrous 2013 season that saw the Renegades finish with an overall record of 7-31.

The Renegades lost 12 of the first 13 games to start the season and would never recover, finishing sixth in the division.

But the start of the new season wipes the slate clean and gives the Renegades a chance at a fresh start. It also gives new head coach and former standout player Christie Hill a chance to leave her mark on the team and help guide BC back to the playoffs. Hill might be the most qualified coach the softball team has had in years. Hill was a four-time all-conference player at Cal State Bakersfield and holds multiple career and single-season records.

The new season has BC opening on the road and the former BC and CSUB standout understands the importance of

starting the season off on the right foot.

"The team struggled at the beginning of last season and we have to just be able to play successfully on the road," said Hill.

With a new coach, there can sometimes be a learning period between the players, or the players can be hesitant about being able to trust their new coach.

Luckily, Hill hasn't encountered that problem with her current group of softball players. "They're buying into my system. The hesitation has gone away and the trust factor is now there. That makes it much easier," she said.

With a freshman dominated roster last season, the team might not have had the leadership or vocal leader that was needed during the rough patches throughout the season. This season Hill is looking at some of the returning sophomores to provide some of the leadership that was lacking for the Renegades.

Alex Avila is one of the returning sophomores and will hold down center field.

Last season Avila finished with the highest batting average on the team hitting .396. She has been picked to anchor the hardest position in the outfield, center field, while also helping the freshman get ready for the rigors of college ball.

Vanessa Moralez will return as the starting catcher. She finished tied for first on the team with six home runs and is someone who isn't hesitant about being a vocal leader.

Hill and the team are both focused on trying to improve in all aspects of the game.

They have been conditioning two days a week while also working on their fielding. These winter practices help the team build some chemistry and give the players an idea on what their roles will be once the season starts.

But there is one thing that Hill notices about this group of players compared to last season.

"I have a bunch of players

that are here for the team, not themselves; they want to help each other. It's awesome," said Hill.

Hill has a modest goal of finishing better than last season and finishing with a record of at least .500.

But she does have some higher expectations such as winning a conference title and qualifying for the state tournament.

With less than two months to go before BC's first pitch against Fresno City College, the Renegades have plenty of time to settle position battles and figure out who's hitting where.

But for Hill, one thing is for sure, she's excited to be back in Bakersfield.

"It's home," she said. "I was born and raised in Delano. I'm really excited to be back where I played and was just excited to be back here."

The softball team will open the new season on the road against Fresno City College on Jan. 29 before facing Taft College at home on Jan. 30.



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Former star player Christie Hill is the new softball head coach.

Mentalist offers hypnotic experience at BC

By Phillip Rodriguez
Reporter

Self-proclaimed mentalist-hypnotist Rich Aimes appeared and performed for students in the Panorama Grill's cafeteria Nov. 19.

The show, advertised as "A Mentalist Show: MindSurfin," was conducted on a stage set up by Aimes and his wife/partner, Marielle Aimes, in association with Bakersfield College, the Student Government Association and the Kern Valley Card organization.

Aimes began the show saying, "You're going to see some interesting stuff today." The performer also stated that he is a "board certified mentalist and hypnotist" practicing and originating from Las Vegas.

Aimes invited students from the audience to participate during the show on stage. "Mentalism is simply the transfer of thoughts," Aimes said to the audience. And after correctly completing tricks, which consisted of purportedly reading students' thoughts and having a blindfolded Aimes correctly guess what students had drawn,

Aimes then began his hypnosis.

Aimes went on to explain that hypnotism could be used to help students and people in general become more successful in their lives. According to the hypnotist, as in the case of college students, this includes helping learners focus easier and get higher grades.

The hypnotism session consisted of Aimes having the students in the cafeteria close their eyes and follow him in thought patterns while practicing deep breathing exercises. After a few minutes of a mantra, Aimes allowed the students involved to open their eyes and told them, "At the very least, you'll feel as if you just woke up from a deep sleep."

Aimes has been working as a hypnotist for 10 years, and claims that his clients and his business have been "very successful."

"I only do it because it is positive," he added. "It helps people."

After visiting the college, Aimes stated that he would be continuing across the country, first to Ridgecrest, then to Texas and even Pennsylvania.



PHOTOS BY ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Mentalist Rich Aimes (left), with his eyes taped closed, guesses what student Daniel Salazar drew.

Right: Students volunteer to be hypnotized by mentalist Rich Aimes so that they can be free of their test anxiety. The Mentalist Show, presented by hypnosis entertainment duo, Rich and Marielle Aimes, was held in the cafeteria Nov. 19.



Left: Mentalist Rich Aimes tries to guess what's on Yarely Pena's mind after he asks her to think of a singer. He later guesses Elvis and Pena let the audience know that Aimes guessed correctly.



The hypnotist entertains students during their lunch hour at BC.

TRANSFER NOW

At Fresno Pacific University, your success is our priority

- Get the classes you need to graduate on time
- An affordable, quality education
- Small classes with professors who really care
- Over 97% of students receive financial aid



Empowering leaders. Transforming lives.

Fresno Main Campus | Bakersfield Center

fresno.edu/transfer

