



The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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Thursday, February 20, 2014

Uncertainty surrounds student's death

By Sharida Rejon
Features Editor

"This might seem a bit morbid, but I am curious. So don't be mad that I'm asking. And don't read too much into my question. If someone dies, what happens to their Facebook account?"

This is one of the last posts that Hunter LeBaron, a transgender student at Bakersfield College, published on his personal Facebook account before committing suicide. According to Blake Clendenen and Casey Walker, two of LeBaron's closest friends, he had battled depression for a while, constantly experienced self-harm, and had attempted to take his own life multiple times before.

"He would cut. Not the type of cut that was a cry for attention or to make the emotional pain go away, but he actually cut so that he would lose blood. He would lose a lot of blood," said Walker.

Haunted by that particular Fa-

"I know people say it gets better. I feel like there were signs and I didn't catch on soon enough."

—Blake Clendenen, BC student

cebook post, Clendenen says that there were early signs of LeBaron's suicidal intentions that no one realized soon enough.

"I know people say it gets better. I feel like there were signs and I didn't catch on soon enough," he said. "I feel like he did what he did because of multiple things: stuff that happened when he was a child—he told me he was abused—his family, school, and just everything. It just got to the point where it didn't feel like it would get better," Clendenen said.

According to his friends, one of the factors that might have led

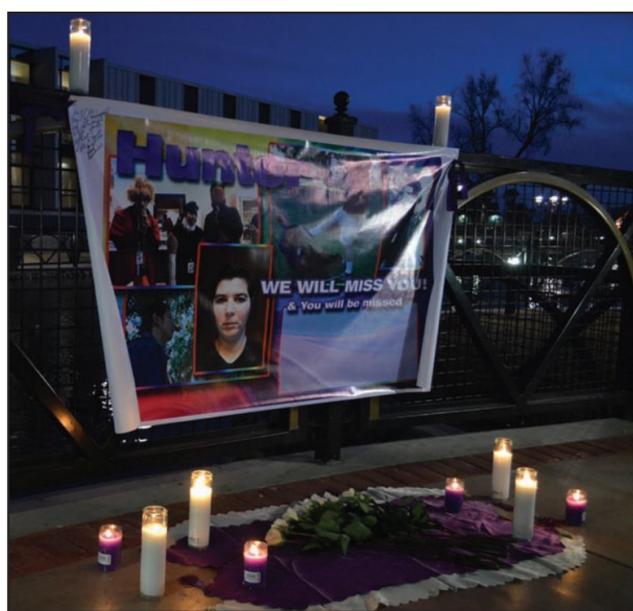
to LeBaron's depression was the negativity that he received from his family during his transition from a woman to a man, which he started a year ago.

Walker said, "He got a lot of negativity, especially from his family. He had to distance himself from his family because they didn't accept him for the transgender male that he was."

"They are the ones in charge of his funeral and they are going to use his former name and gender, which I think is wrong because they should use his legal name. He is legally male and his legal name is Hunter."

According to Clendenen, LeBaron's family's lack of acceptance is still present.

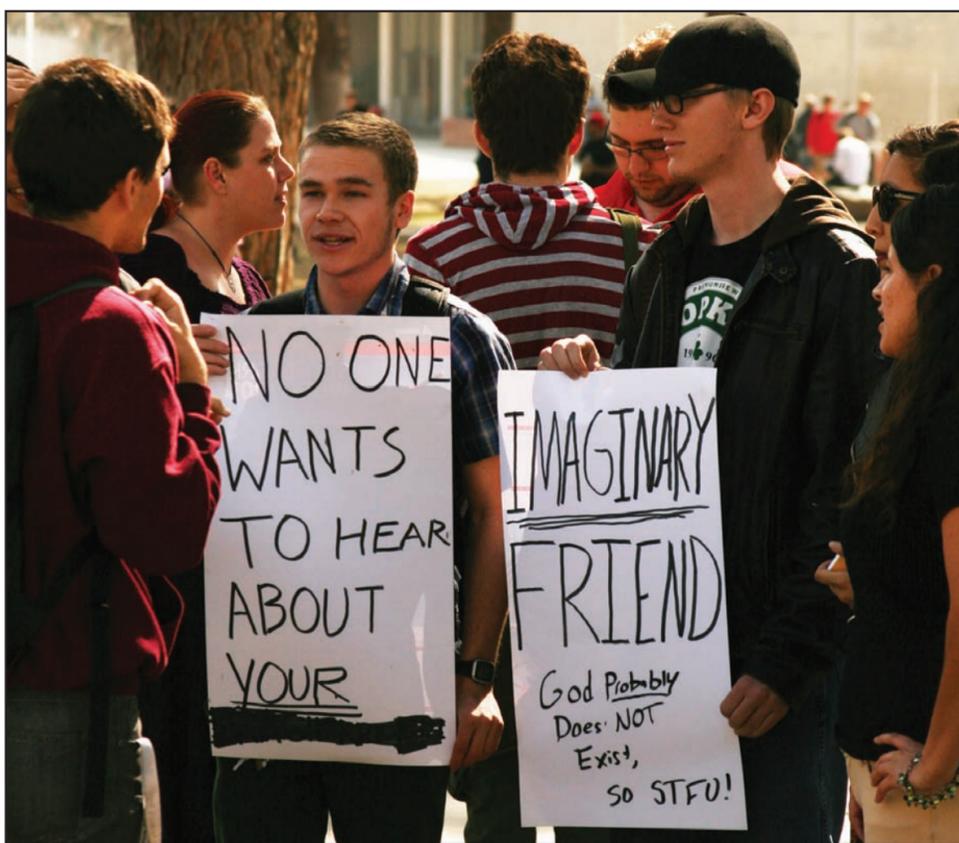
"I'm the one talking to his family," he said. "They made me refer to him as a 'her' and I didn't want to get into a fight with them, but I feel like I disrespected Hunter by saying



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

A candlelight vigil set up around a banner at Mill Creek Park memorializes Bakersfield College student Hunter LeBaron.

Please see SUICIDE, Page 6



RICHARD PETERSON / THE RIP

Students protest Runels' activity on Feb. 12 in the Bakersfield College Free Speech area. Wade Hickey (left) holds his sign while a supporter holds the sign of Garret Gandeis (back to camera).

Students react to current activity of Free Speech area's religious activist

By Robert Mullen
Sports Editor

From day one of this semester, former Bakersfield College student Nathaniel Runels has stood in the campus Free Speech area on Wednesdays and preached his Christian message.

Student reactions have been varied on campus, while the administration has attempted unsuccessfully to remove Runels from campus since the first week of the semester.

Runels said that at first he had no problems with getting access to the Free Speech area.

"The first week I was here, I was fine," he said. "Just as a courtesy, I told them I would be here, and so they told me to sign in and sign my name at the student center."

However, he encountered problems during his second week at school. "They said that I needed to fill out paperwork, and I needed seven days in advance so they denied me to preach."

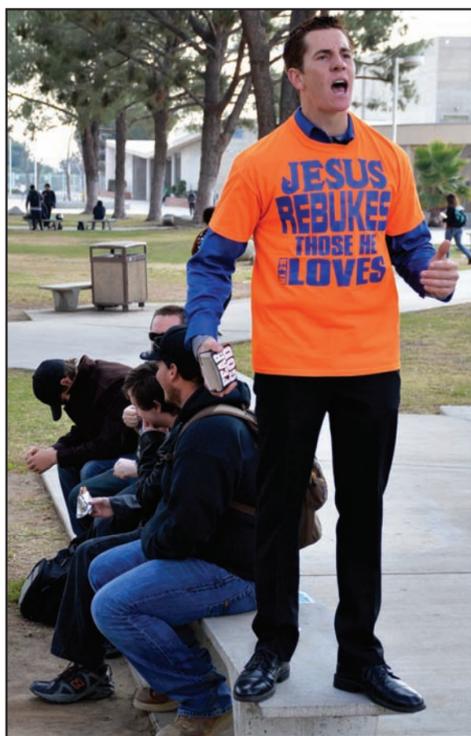
He contacted Public Safety director Chris Counts after that incident.

"He told me I didn't need a permit, but because of complaints, they may have me not here anymore," he said. "When I met up with him I told him, 'Well, I'm just going to preach anyway and [he] would do what he had to do.' So [they] told me that they had called the Bakersfield Police Department on me."

Runels continued to preach in the Free Speech area despite concerns from school administrators.

The situation escalated on Feb. 5.

"Last week when I was here, [Public Safety] ap-



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Runels has preached in BC's Free Speech area every Wednesday since the semester started. Student reactions have recently escalated.

Please see PREACHER, Page 6

Former AD Herb Loken passes away

By Robert Mullen
Sports Editor

Herb Loken, former Bakersfield College athletic director and gymnastics coach, passed away on Feb. 14.

Loken was hired as BC's athletic director in 1968 to replace Gil Bishop who was the AD from 1954-68. Loken was also the gymnastics coach from 1957-70 except during the 1960 season.

Bob Covey, who taught at BC and was the track and field coach from 1963-2005, was office mates with Loken in 1963 and remembers his time with him fondly, especially Loken's quiet sense of humor.

"When we walked in, sometimes he'd be coming from a class and he'd be in his teaching clothes and we'd talk awhile and then someone would have to say 'well Herb, do your trick' and he would grab a wooden chair, put one hand on the top and one hand on the seat and go and do a hand stand."

"He was a good athlete, but a really good person," said Covey. "He was just a charming, charming man."

Ken Schwocho, a BC alumni and president of the BC Alumni association in 1959-60, recalls how he first met Loken in 1959 after coming back to Bakersfield after leaving the Marine Corps.

"I joined the alumni, and he was kind of running the alumni, and what we would do is go out and do our barbecues out by the river. We would give the money to [Herb], whatever we made. The only funny thing that ever happened that I could think of, is one time I told him we had made \$15,000, and I overestimated by about \$10,000," he said.

"The thing about Herb that I can remember was that he never raised his voice, a very gentle person; he was just a very nice person."

Schwocho talked about the last time he saw Loken, during the Nov. 14, 2013 Hall of Fame Dinner at BC.

"He wanted me to introduce Bill Houser and he really wanted me to do it because he really didn't want to do it, he didn't want to have to get up and talk," said Schwocho.

Loken was an award-winning gymnast, and holds places in several halls of fame, including the



Photo courtesy of BC archive
Herb Loken was the athletic director of Bakersfield College from 1968-1983.

Kern County Sports Hall of Fame. Loken was the athletic director at BC for 15 and a half years, adding the extra six months to beat Gil Bishop's record.

He was also a WWII veteran, having served in the 82nd airborne division. He made two combat jumps in France, and fought in the Ardennes forest in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge.

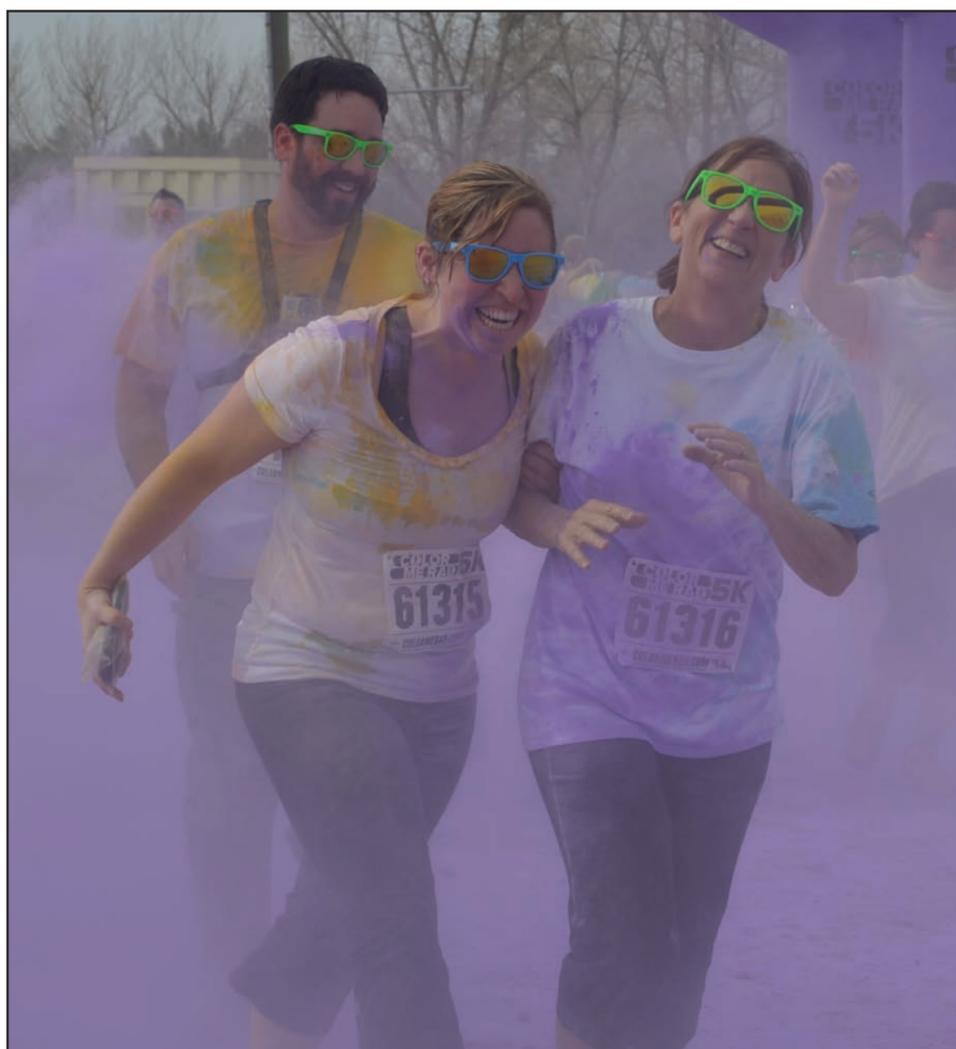
In a small biography of Loken written by Covey, Loken talks about his service in the war. "I crawled forward so someone could possibly use my bazooka against the halftrack. When I reached Second Squad, their bazooka was frozen, so they told me to keep on moving forward toward the target. When I was about 300 yards from the [German halftrack], I wired the bazooka to fire," he then told his buddy to get ready to bug out as the Germans would know their position after he fired. "I attempted to fire, but it failed. I wired it again and fired, rolled over in the snow and my buddy and I retreated."

Loken would learn he had destroyed the halftrack and killed the Germans inside. He was awarded the Bronze Star after refusing the more prestigious Silver Star.

"I'm certain that Bakersfield College, with its wonderful support from the community, provided opportunities for staff members unparalleled in other institutions. My forty plus years on staff and as Executive Secretary of the BC Alumni Association has been a wonderful experience," Loken once wrote in a letter.



BERNIE REJON / THE RIP



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

Jairo Duenas participates at the annual Color Me Rad event.

Runners celebrate as they pass through one of the five color stations at the Color Me Rad event.

Runners get colorful for a good cause

By Amber Hayden
Photographer

Several signs around the Kern County Fairgrounds read, "Get rad or dye trying," and that's what approximately 1,000 participants did on Feb. 15 at the Color Me Rad 5K, with tons of colored dust already floating through the air before the run began.

Runners showed up in multi-colored shirts, tutus and sunglasses to run for the Ronald McDonald House charity. With ages ranging from young children to the elderly, the excitement could be heard as they cheered as each wave started.

From small packs of the colored powder to fire extinguishers filled with all different colors, there was no getting away from the dust as the wind kicked it around. Two young children could be seen chasing each other with a small pack throwing it at each other as their mom stood back taking photos of the pair of them.

As the announcer readied each wave with a countdown to start, there was music that played and more cheering from runners. He told them, "Don't try hard, have fun," and would wave them on to start running.

Elaine Reyes was there to run with her kids.

"It is something fun to do with the kids," she said and added, "They like the dress up and the pictures part of it."

So that all the runners could all get covered in the colors, they started making smaller waves because of all of the participants. One runner Sam Creech, a manager for Rite Aid, said, "We come out for the colors and to get dirty, but also for the charity." Her group in agreement said that the charity is a good cause, but the big excitement is getting dirty.

Some of the runners who were part of bigger groups had opted to name their teams. Such names that could be seen were 'Tuff Cookies,' 'Mellow Yellow,' and 'Halos,' whose runners were also seen wearing little halos on their heads.

Jennifer Leisten, who was there with her daughters, said she was looking forward to the run even with just the three of them. Her oldest daughter, when asked if she was looking forward to being able to get dirty and not have mom get mad, just smiled and nodded. Her younger daughter just watched as the colors flew through the air.

As runners ran through different colored tunnels, they were covered in whatever color the tunnel happened to be.

If you didn't register before the race, it was OK, as there was a booth set up for new registration. When you did, there were color packs in the packets received by the runners. The ages of runners varied from young children around the ages of two, to mid-60s.



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

Members of the "Kitty Kat Brigade" team cheer as they get near the finish line at the annual Color Me Rad event in Bakersfield.

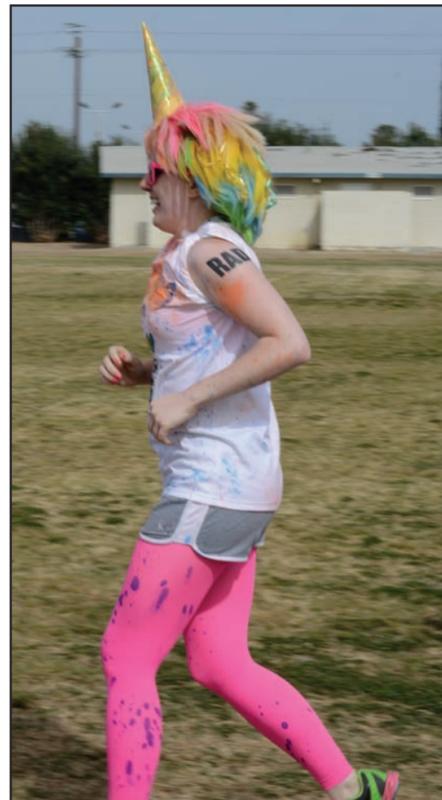


SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

ONLINE
For video highlights
from Color Me Rad,
go to
www.therip.com

Left: Gabriela Castro runs to the finish line at Bakersfield's Color Me Rad event as friends and family cheer her on from the sidelines.

Right: Alison Martin runs wearing a unicorn costume at the Color Me Rad 5k event benefiting the Ronald McDonald House. This is the second year she has participated in the annual event.



BERNIE REJON / THE RIP

Events Calendar

Thursday, Feb. 20

“First Generation” movie showing. Bakersfield College, Forum West. 1 p.m. Free admission. For more information: Janet Thomas (661)395-4231 or janthoma@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Friday, Feb. 21

Bakersfield Nar-Anon annual convention. Nar-Anon is a 12-step program for friends and family affected by someone else’s addiction to alcohol or other drugs. Bakersfield Marriott Hotel, 801 Truxtun Ave. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free registration. For more information: Robert Perrine (949)212-8487 or Robert@robertperrine.com or www.nar-anon.org.

Saturday, Feb. 22

Bakersfield Nar-Anon annual convention. Nar-Anon is a 12-step program for friends and family affected by someone else’s addiction to alcohol or other drugs. Bakersfield Marriott Hotel, 801 Truxtun Ave. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free registration. For more information: Robert Perrine (949)212-8487 or Robert@robertperrine.com or www.nar-anon.org.

Sunday, Feb. 23

Bakersfield Nar-Anon annual convention. Nar-Anon is a 12-step program for friends and family affected by someone else’s addiction to alcohol or other drugs. Bakersfield Marriott Hotel, 801 Truxtun Ave. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free registration. For more information: Robert Perrine (949)212-8487 or Robert@robertperrine.com or www.nar-anon.org.

Monday, Feb. 24

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

Tuesday, Feb. 25

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

Financial Aid Awareness Week kickoff. Bakersfield College Campus Center. 9:15 a.m. Sign up for “Smart Borrowing” workshop through InsideBC at Inside.BakersfieldCollege.edu. For more information: BakersfieldCollege.edu/finaid.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

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

Financial Aid Awareness Week. “Achieve the Dream” workshop. Sign up through InsideBC at Inside.BakersfieldCollege.edu. For more information: BakersfieldCollege.edu/finaid.

Thursday, Feb. 27

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

Financial Aid Awareness Week. Financial aid programs workshop. Sign up through InsideBC at Inside.BakersfieldCollege.edu. For more information: BakersfieldCollege.edu/finaid.

Friday, Feb. 28

Black Gold Productions Melodrama “When in Rome...” Woman’s Club of Bakersfield, 2030 18th st. 7 p.m. Dinner/show: \$20 to benefit the Kern County Cancer Fund. For tickets or more information: Mike Handren (661)330-0423 or www.BGP-plays.com.

“Sunset Boulevard” Stars Dinner Theater. 1931 Chester Ave. 7:30 p.m. Adults dinner/show: \$54-\$60, show only: \$38. Students dinner/show: \$39, show only: \$23. For reservations or for more information: (661)325-6100.

Saturday, March 1

Black Gold Productions Melodrama “When in Rome...” Woman’s Club of Bakersfield, 2030 18th st. 7 p.m. Dinner/show: \$20 to benefit the Kern County Cancer Fund. For tickets or more information: Mike Handren (661)330-0423 or www.BGP-plays.com.

“Sunset Boulevard” Stars Dinner Theater. 1931 Chester Ave. 7:30 p.m. Adults dinner/show: \$54-\$60, show only: \$38. Students dinner/show: \$39, show only: \$23. For reservations or for more information: (661)325-6100.

“Picnic” The Empty Space, 706 Oak st. 8 p.m. Suggested donation: \$15, \$10 students and seniors. For reservations or for more information: (661)327-7529.

“Love” The Empty Space, 706 Oak st. 11 p.m. Suggested donation: \$15, \$10 students and seniors. For more reservations or for more information: (661)327-7529.

“The Legend of the Wasco Kid” Gaslight Melodrama Theatre & Music Hall, 12748 Jomani Dr. 7 p.m. Admission fee: \$23. For reservations or for more information: (661) 587-3377.

Haslam talks about a classic Steinbeck novel

By Robert Mullen
Sports Editor

The Norman Levan Center for the Humanities hosted award-winning author and Bakersfield native Gerald Haslam on Feb. 5, as the first part of a series of discussions and events in honor of the 75th anniversary of the publishing of “The Grapes of Wrath.” Haslam was at the center for a discussion about the novel, the migration, and John Steinbeck’s work and influence.

Between 60 and 70 people attended the 10 a.m. event, which started with an introduction of the speaker. Haslam then started off by dispelling some myths about the Dust Bowl and the novel, common knowledge that “isn’t actually knowledge, just common,” and then went into detail about the work itself and the author’s influence during that period.

Haslam noted that Steinbeck was the first person to really bring attention to the Dust Bowl issues of the Midwest and California to the nation as a whole.

“What [Steinbeck] really did was make people aware of it. That in the long run was good for the valley and good for California,” he said.

Haslam believes that Steinbeck was the key shaper of much of the public’s perception of those events, then and even to this day.

“I think that how we feel about the valley and how we feel about the migration, particularly here in Kern County, and particularly my generation and older, is very much shaped by John Steinbeck,” he said. “We may be defensive, we may be celebratory, but it’s shaped by what he did.”

While not many people may have the same reaction to “The Grapes of Wrath,” as a Kern County native, Haslam notes that Steinbeck’s novel is “read all over the world by people who don’t have any idea of the economics of Kern County or Salinas,” and believes that part of the reason



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Gerald Haslam visits the Levan Center on campus to discuss “The Grapes of Wrath” during the celebration of its 75th anniversary.

that the novel was so successful is because of its rather simple theme.

“The characters [in the novel] survive by letting go of their individualism and caring for one another, and that’s really the message that one gets.”

Haslam became interested in Steinbeck’s work after first reading “The Grapes of Wrath.”

“It was about areas that I knew something about; when you’re working off Comanche road, you’re four miles from the Weedpatch camp.” He started writing while in high school and continued while in the army.

“I started writing for the newspaper at Garces,” he said. “I was writing sports. I wrote about teams that I played in, and I was always better as a writer than I was on the team. Even when I was in the army I wrote for the divisional newspaper after I got out of basic training.”

Haslam combined his love of writing with his interest in Steinbeck and the Central Valley to earn his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at San Francisco State University in

1963 and 1965.

Jack Hernandez, the director of the Levan Center, was pleased with the turnout. Most of the audience members were from the community rather than BC students.

“This was a nice comfortable group, but if I had had a couple of classes of students come we would have been totally booked,” Hernandez said. “We started planning last fall and we set up a whole series.”

Haslam’s appearance was the first part of the series. Author Rock Wartzman will talk about the banning of “The Grapes of Wrath” in Kern County on Feb. 27, followed by a panel of BC professors talking about the history and economic impact of the Dust Bowl migration on March 25.

Haslam was born in Bakersfield and raised in Oildale; he attended Garces Memorial High School and graduated in 1955. He attended Bakersfield College from ’55-’56 before joining the army. While he regularly visits old friends in Bakersfield, Haslam now lives with his wife in Penngrove, Calif.

BC proudly introduces students to a new program called ‘Habits of Mind’

By Myrissa Johns
News Editor

A major initiative by Bakersfield College faculty and staff, called “Habits of Mind,” started at the beginning of the spring semester and is becoming a big part of many professors’ goals, which students might have noticed by the new link connected with some of the syllabi.

Habits of Mind is about giving students the tools and resources they need to help them achieve success.

“I am more excited about this than I have been about things in BC for a long, long time,” Dean of Instruction Bonnie Suderman said. “This really gives students the resources and skills they need to be successful on their own. These are skills that when you talk to employers, they’re also looking for the same thing.”

Associate professor of history Erin Miller, a key player in the initiative, said she believes that an important part of Habits of Mind is that it is offering students a sense of empowerment and control, which will lead to success.

“I think that Habits of Mind empowers students to overcome the challenges they face in school and in life so they can go on to live their dreams,” Miller said.

“The real theory behind Habits of Mind is that it’s not an absence of obstacles that determines whether you succeed or not, it’s whether you choose to submit to them,” she said, explaining that there are many students who face obstacles and that’s not something that any of the professors or other faculty or staff can change, but they can teach them the skills and make them aware of the habits that can help them overcome the obstacles. Planning for Habits of Mind started at the end of May 2013, after Suderman and a team of BC faculty and staff went to explore what other schools were doing with similar programs in greater detail. She explained that once she heard about similar programs and started

asking around, it turned out that a lot of people from other departments had already been wanting to start such a program.

Miller explained that at the time that the program started becoming a discussion, a lot of faculty and staff were talking about Jaime Escalante, the instructor that the movie “Stand and Deliver” is based on.

Miller said the fact that he was able to motivate his students, who suffered a major skill deficit, and give them the tools they needed to succeed, inspired her and her colleagues and made them question what he did that they could try.

“So what Jaime Escalante says is, A, you have to have a relationship with your students. B, you have to have high expectations of them. C, you have to give them the tools to achieve those expectations, and you have to expect hard work from them,” Miller said. “You have to treat them with respect.”

“We don’t raise student success by lowering our standard, we raise student success by having a relationship with them, and if you ask students who their favorite professors are, it’s going to be the ones that they believe care about students and are invested.”

According to Miller, there are many ideas and tools that are going to be accessible to students, but since it is such a massive program, it will be rolling out little by little. However, many tools are already being made available through classes and on the website and app.

“Let’s face it, overcoming bad habits takes a lot of work, adopting good, new habits takes a lot of work,” she said. “So we want to give students the opportunity in the classroom, with their advisers, and all around campus to just constantly create patterns of habits that are going to let them succeed.”

The Habits of Mind team is aiming to get students’ attention and appeal to as many different kinds of people as possible through banners, student testimonials, T-shirts,

buttons, a website, an app, and other methods. According to Miller, the marketing is aimed to create a dialogue between students and faculty, to get them questioning.

Miller used the buttons as an example, explaining that the team has created buttons with “funny slogans that don’t really make sense” so that students will ask, “What does ‘do you SW/OT’ mean?” for example. Then the faculty or staff would explain that it means, “Do you study without texting?” Are you focused?

Another slogan that has been adopted by Habits of Mind and can be found on its website is, “It’s POSSIBLE at Bakersfield College,” which is an acronym meaning Persist, Organize, Strive for Success, Stay Involved, Innovate, Be Focused, Learn for Life, and Emphasize Integrity. BC Student Government Association has been “instrumental in planning,” according to Miller, who said that it was a big part of the idea for the app and “POSSIBLE” slogan, among other things. SGA and some of the Habits of Mind team members’ classes have been a big part of student feedback, as the team aims to have the program fit closely with student needs.

Although the Habits of Mind initiative is a major time commitment, the work put forth by the team is completely voluntary, according to Suderman. Miller explained that she feels that a major reason why she, and many of her colleagues, are so willing to give so much of their free time is because, prior to the initiative, they externally focused what they could change to create student success, always focusing on how they could restructure their classes in order to promote success. Habits of Mind has given them a way to give students the skills to succeed, without lowering standards.

According to Miller, the initiative is also helping faculty and staff to be better, as they want to be positive role models and exemplify the habits they aim to instill in their students.

Golden Empire ready for next step

By Rigoberto Lopez
Photographer

With a donation of 64 brass instruments and members attempting to reach fundraising goals, the Bakersfield College drumline has evolved into the Golden Empire Drum and Bugle Corps.

The group, with Tim Heasley as corp director, would like to earn membership into Drum Corps International, known as DCI. The BC drumline, formed in 2009, officially became a drum and bugle corps this semester. An anonymous donation to the BC Foundation provided the brass instruments, and members have to meet fundraising goals of \$11,000 to cover costs, such as food, charter buses, and travel, of attending shows on the road.

Because they're a new drum corps, the BC group is still in the process of being evaluated by DCI. DCI will determine which competitions they can be in and whether or not they can compete in them.

The Golden Empire is still scheduled to go to eight competitions this year, starting with June 20 in Clovis and July 13 in Bellflower. The rest of the dates are still to be determined until DCI can finish its evaluation. Heasley said that, at this point, none of these competitions are out of state; the main focus is to have a small tour that is manageable. Within the next five to six years down the road, the Golden Empire would like to travel out of state.

DCI is similar to marching band, but it is more of a club sport version of marching band. There are a few key differences when it comes to DCI, such as no woodwinds, only



RIGOBERTO LOPEZ / THE RIP

Members of the Golden Empire warm up before rehearsing their repertoire for their upcoming competition scheduled for June 20.

brass, percussion, and color guard. The competitions occur during the summer rather than the fall like in marching band.

BC's corps consists of members who are high school freshmen to age 22. Their goal is to increase membership to have enough people to play the 64 brass instruments. They currently have 45 brass players.

The group practices once a month, which is referred to as camp weekends, that involves Friday night, all day Saturday, and part of Sunday.

There are six blocks of rehearsals that are three hours long.

They plan to have this every year and also spread the word out to high school students as well as people who want to better their music skills.

The process to be in the program was to pre-register on its website, which is geperformingarts.org. They also held auditions during December and are still holding auditions for people who are still interested.

According to Heasley, the expecta-

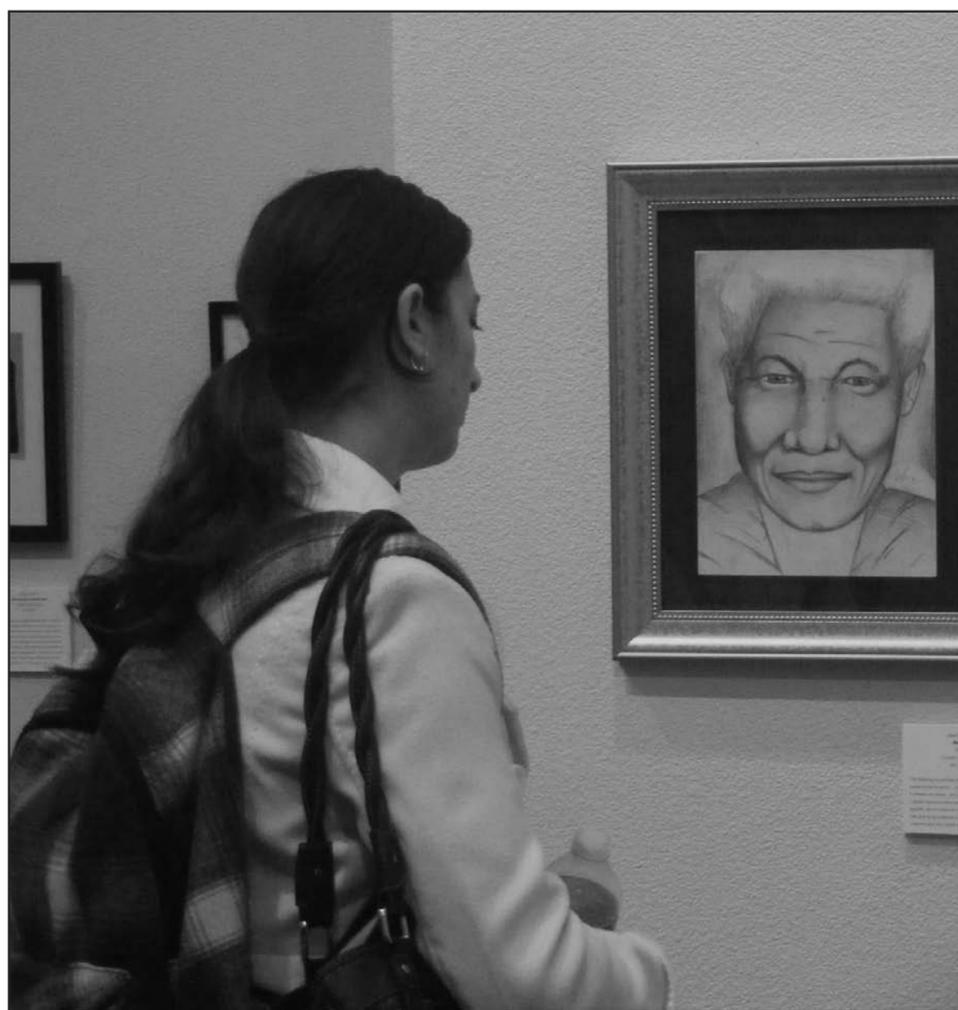
tion out of the students is for one to get better at their instruments but also to develop skills that are applicable to other things. Responsibilities, communication, discipline, and good moral skills are lessons that the members get out of this, he said.

To help make this possible, there are about 20 people involved. They've come from teachers in the Kern High School District, students who are studying music at Cal State and people who have been in other drum and bugle corps.



RIGOBERTO LOPEZ / THE RIP

Tim Heasley, the director of BC's Golden Empire Brass and Bugle Corps.



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Bakersfield College student Kelsey Coffman reflects on a pencil drawing titled "Mandela."

Panorama Invitational shows off students' work

By Amber Hayden
Photographer

The Panorama Invitational opened Feb. 5 to show the art works of high school juniors and seniors from Bakersfield. The show, located in the Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery in the BC library, will run from Feb. 5-26.

According to Margaret Nowling, the gallery director, this was the first gallery showing for the students in a professional space. The exposure that it gives to them allows them to see what their peers are doing from around all the schools and gain inspiration in what they see.

Some mediums used included oil, acrylic, ink and graphite. One artist even used pieces of cardboard to create the piece. Some of the observers were overheard expressing how well done the pieces were for being high school students.

"I really liked the charcoal, oh, and the pink sphynx cat," said Kelsey Coffman, a BC student.

Elaine Bae, a Liberty High artist, said, "It's all positive vibes and very exhilarating."

She said she is very proud of herself for coming this far. Although, she did explain that despite her love of art, she wishes to study other ar-



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Elaine Bae, a Liberty High student, stands with her artwork titled "The Chalice, the Mirror, and the Bangles."

eas, such as psychology.

Bae also added with a quiet laugh, "I've been drawing since I was little and my mom would tell me to put away my papers for drawing because it got in the way of my homework."

For her art piece titled "The Chalice, The Mirror, and The Bangles," she opted to use charcoal as her medium. The invitational is a yearly event that invites all of the local high schools to attend, but not all of them do because of busy schedules. The gallery is open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 6:00 pm



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M.E.Ch.A's Valentine's day dance



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Students dance during the "Baile De Amor 4 Amistad" event, which was put on by M.E.Ch.A on Feb. 13. The dance took place in the Fireside room to celebrate Valentine's Day.

SGA hosts Student Resource Fair

By Elizabeth Fernandez
Reporter

The Student Government Association proudly presented the newly renamed Student Success Resource Fair on Feb. 11, where departments and instructors set up tables to readily inform students of the many programs and resources available to them at Bakersfield College.

Antonio Alfara, from the career development workforce preparation department, said he wanted students simply to, “have understanding [that] services are here to help them be successful” and that it is important they take advantage.

There appeared to be a heavy

turnout to the event as SGA officers handed out free T-shirts and breakfast burritos to students who earned signatures from a minimum of eight tables, which gave each representative a chance to talk about their services before signing the sheet off.

“Students might have just come in for the free T-shirts, but they’ll leave with so much other resources,” said SGA Vice President Edwin Borbon.

For example, one BC student, Marcus Mercado, a vocational nursing major, was simply walking past when he noticed the fair and heard there was “free stuff.”

Mercado, however, was pleasantly surprised after walking into

the event and noticing all of the booths. “I don’t really know where to choose from...I want to know what they all do for others now.”

Choosing to stop by the Allied Health booth first, as it is pertinent to his major, Mercado met up with Gabriele Martin, a nursing instructor on campus.

“A lot of students have the idea of a medical degree, but might not have, or know, the right path; they need clarity and information,” said Martin. She then added that informing students about her program is what encourages her to be a part of the resource fair.

Tom Moran, department chair for foreign language, said, “It’s a chal-

lenge to reach 16,000 to 17,000 students, [but] it’s important that they are given a better understanding of their options for graduating and transferring.

“We’re giving them the tools they need.”

Although counselors and advisers are on-hand at the student services building, many students, like Mercado, really benefit from the Student Success Resource Fair experience.

He even admitted, “I don’t pay much attention to what’s going on [at school] besides my classes.”

Mercado directed specific questions to the Allied Health department staff and found out that he was

taking the wrong classes. They also gave him further advice to better his application for the program.

After the resource fair he said, “I got what I needed—and food and a T-shirt!”

He felt that SGA had done a good job of hosting the event and said he would not only be coming back, but also would recommend it to friends and fellow students.

“Phenomenal! Better than imagined,” said Borbon when asked how he felt the fair was doing. And added, “we want to encourage students to take advantage of all these resources that are offered. It’s a part of their student fee, so why not get the most of it?”



RICHARD PETERSON / THE RIP

A Kern County deputy watches over Matthew Reed on Feb. 15 after a motorcycle accident that happened on highway 178 in Kern Canyon.

Motorcycle accident on 178



MYRISSA JOHNS / THE RIP

Lucy Hale performs a song from her first album titled “Road Between.” Hale will be performing at the Grand Ole Opry on Feb. 21.

Lucy Hale performs at the Buck Owens’ Crystal Palace

By Myrissa Johns
News Editor

Some lucky contest winners were able to enjoy an exclusive meet and greet with Lucy Hale at the KUZZ Listener Show, which was held at Buck Owens’ Crystal Palace on Feb. 12.

Hale, an actress/vocalist well-known for her role as Aria in ABC Family’s hit show “Pretty Little Liars,” signed personalized autographs for the contest winners and also posed for photos with each winner prior to the concert. Contest winners Jackie and Natalia Luna, it had not been clear to them that they would be meeting Hale, as they were told that it was a “chance” at a meet and greet.

“I told my mom that I was cold, but I was shivering because I was so excited,” said 11-year-old Natalia. “I haven’t had a meet and greet before.”

Her mother, Jackie, 33, said, “I’m just tickled pink, I’m so excited.

“That was my first time getting to meet somebody famous also, so I’m glad I got to experience it with my kid.”

Jackie explained that she felt that the

opportunity of meeting Hale with her daughter made the experience even more special.

There was an opportunity to reserve seats for the listener show, which were all reserved in no more than 90 minutes according to a KUZZ employee. However, the meet and greet opportunity was only for the contest winners.

“As soon as we walked out, there were people just looking at us, they were wondering how we got to do that,” Jackie said.

“It was pretty special. It’s awesome that [KUZZ] did that for us.”

Along with the tickets to the listener show and experience of meeting Hale, the contest winners were also provided a free chicken and wild rice dinner. Jackie said the chicken was her favorite part, explaining that it had good flavor.

Jackie, who is an avid KUZZ listener, explained that although she has won several contests through the radio station, the listener show with Hale was definitely her favorite. She said that the KUZZ staff that was present at the show made her feel very welcome and the surprises made for a special evening.

BC student employees’ hours face possible cut

By Elizabeth Fernandez
Reporter

The Kern Community College District Board of Trustees held a meeting on Feb. 6, in which Shelby Sward, acting president of the Student Government Association, filled out a request to speak and address a revision that the district is considering making to the current student worker hour policy.

The item, however, had been pulled off of the agenda during the board’s closed session, according to Sward.

“All I could do was go up there and thank them,” she said.

Sward had originally had a speech prepared in which she would offer SGA’s proposal for a compromise on student worker hours.

As of now KCCD’s policy is that they may not exceed 19 hours during a school week, unless there is a “designated” recess such as winter, spring or summer break.

The revision that the council is currently considering would eliminate the ability for student employees to work more than 19 hours, even dur-

ing the designated times of exception.

Obama’s recent healthcare reform dictates employers are required to provide health insurance for employees working more than 32 hours per week. If the school doesn’t place a cap on hours, it could be held subject to the policy.

“They don’t want to be fined, so they’d rather just limit [hours],” Sward added.

Bakersfield College President Sonya Christian had also been present to the same board meeting in which the revision was to be discussed.

Christian added that the reason the board had removed the item was to further investigate and consider SGA’s proposal of reaching a compromise, and not because they had reached a conclusion.

She also said that the good consultation process shows off the way different groups—such as SGA in this case—can really place a constraint and change the way a decision is made by the chancellor and the board.

As far as the SGA’s proposal goes, its ideal number would be 25 hours. It would not supersede the federal limit nor curtail student worker paychecks as badly.

Where preparing to return
to the workforce balances with
“I have two young kids.”



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PREACHER: activist versus activists

Continued from Page 1

proached me and he told me that he called the BPD and that they were going to come and that I was trespassing, and he threatened to arrest me. I said, 'Well, you can't threaten to arrest me because that's against the law, and I have video of you doing it', and after I said that, he said OK and never came back."

Sgt. Joe Grubbs, BPD's public information officer, confirmed that the BPD did receive a "peace disturbance" call from the BC campus on Feb. 5 and did dispatch an officer to the scene, although the officer arrived after Runels had already left the Free Speech area.

On that date, several clubs were also utilizing the Free Speech area: the Agriculture club, MEChA, the Gay Straight Alliance, and the American Sign Language club.

"It's a little bit distracting, and it makes it kind of awkward for us to be out here. We're trying to just ignore it, but at the same time we're trying to make ourselves feel comfortable so we're making jokes," said GSA Treasurer Alex Delgado. "We know he's trying to be respectful of us; I can hear him avoiding some terms that he used last time he was here."

M.E.Ch.A Vice President Sarah Chavez echoed that sentiment. Chavez said that her club is open to all people's beliefs but was slightly upset that Runels was preaching right behind her club's table. "The fact that [Runels] is interrupting us means we can't really speak to whoever is coming up to our table. It's kind of hard, we're trying to talk and we can't."

ASL club president Lei Lani said that Runels is distracting to both her and to students coming up to the club's table, but she believes he has a right to be there. "I mean it is the Free Speech area, he has his rights to speak what he wants."

Ag club President Bryce Stevenson said: "Personally I do not have a problem with his campaign as long as he has got the proper documentation just as all the other clubs out here have. The yelling is a bit of a distraction, is a lot of a distraction, a lot of people who have come up to the [Ag club] have mentioned something about it being a distraction. I am all for people expressing their opinions, that is what this country was founded upon, so I cannot argue with what he is doing as long as he has the proper documentation."

Not all students have found Runels' approach annoying. Education major Annie Harraka was actually drawn to him because of his style and message.

"I noticed how he was screaming out like how the disciples did, and I just thought it was so interesting," she said. Harraka continued to say that her mother had recently passed, which she said caused her to move



RIGOBERTO LOPEZ / THE RIP

Nathaniel Runels preaches about his religious beliefs in the BC free-speech area while other students protest about his activities.

BC free-speech policy

The policy of Bakersfield College is that students, community members, or organizations that would like to use the Free Speech area are required to fill out a permit for the use of the area, located in Campus Center 4.

Amber Chiang, BC's director of marketing and public relations, commented on Runels' activity. "It's a violation of campus policy," which is why Public Safety asked Runels to leave.

Public Safety cannot remove a person from the BC campus and must contact the Bakersfield Police Department in order to do so.

"The best that [Public Safety] can do is to detain [Runels] and ask him to leave. [Security has] done that, they've exercised what

is within their right," she said.

Chiang also said that even with a permit, BC Public Safety may still ask someone to leave the campus. "They are there to maintain safety and order on campus, and in this case there is some concern about order," she said.

According to Chiang, the largest problem with Runels at BC is the distraction he's causing.

"There are people here who are in place to make sure that the campus is protected, that the students are protected and that we are providing, what we call a distraction free environment," she said. "At this point this individual is representing a major distraction for our students."

"away from God for a while."

"I love that he's doing that, I love it," Harraka said. "I think that students need to hear that, because some campuses don't allow people to do that. I wish there were more people doing that."

Harraka said that many other students seemed to be less accepting of Runels than she was. "I don't want to judge anyone, but I think that they should have open minds and at least listen to it and get to know it a little bit," she said.

Geology major Sam Johnson snapped a picture of Runels for a

friend and agreed that Runels was "distracting." "It's more of a spectacle than anything else," he said.

Runels knows that student reactions to his actions have been mixed. "Some people agree, some people disagree, but all in all I think it has been good because everyone's been able to hear."

He feels like he is accomplishing his goals out here, regardless of some of the negative reactions he has received.

"I have heard of several people who have given their lives to the Lord since I've been out here, he

said.

On Feb. 12, there was a more direct response to Runels from the student body as computer science major Wade Hickey and industrial drawing major Garret Gandeis stood across from Runels holding up signs that expressed opposing views.

"I'm addressing that he's kind of a big annoyance to everyone here. [He's] intrusive, and a sign isn't intrusive," said Hickey.

Gandeis elaborated on that point, saying, "We're just tired of having to deal with people who are making very loud and intrusive noises that are out of place in education. So we're trying to show him that you can get a point across without being noisy and without offending people. You can close your eyes to a sign, but you can't close your ears."

Runels believes that what he is doing is the right thing, and he takes it very seriously. "I'm out here preaching because I believe that there are many people living in sin, and the Bible says we all have sinned and the only way to be saved is to repent of our sin and put out trust in Jesus Christ. I don't want anyone to perish, just like God doesn't want anyone to perish."

Runels states that he is nondenominational though he attends Cavalry church where he is employed. "I am on staff at the church of Calvary chapel. I'm specially paid full time

to go out and preach."

Cal State Bakersfield also has had visits from Runels. "I was there for the week they started classes, and every Thursday," he said.

Irma Cervantes, CSUB's public affairs coordinator, stated that CSUB does not have a policy requiring any student to fill out paperwork to use that campus's Free Speech area.

If further issues arise, Runels says that he is not worried and has taken preemptive action to keep himself safe.

"I am familiar with my rights, and I actually have an attorney that helps with free speech and preachers and whatnot, and I'm aware that this is a public campus so you don't need to sign anything. So I chose not to sign anything because of the restrictions it had," he said.

"I'm legally safe currently. If someone did arrest me, they'd arrest me under false pretenses. That's why I have the video camera out there so everything will be on camera. I'm recording myself when I'm preaching."

Runels said he'll continue to preach at BC and CSUB regardless of any trouble he gets into.

"As long as I'm able to be out here to preach I'm fine with that, and if someone wants to restrict those rights, I am willing to just go with them and keep coming back," he said.

SUICIDE: Bakersfield College and community active in preventing future suicides

Suicide awareness help

For Safe Space training or information about the program: 661.395.4051 or email sgaactl@bakersfieldcollege.edu

To make an appointment for counseling at the Student Health and Wellness Center: (661)395-4336 or visit Campus Center 3.

For information or to reserve a spot for the "Question, Persuade, and Refer" training session: Lorre Webb (661) 436-6000.

Kern County Mental Health Hotline: 1-800-991-5272.

National Alliance on Mental Illness: (800) 950-NAMI

Mary K. Shell Mental Health Center: (800) 991-5272

The Trevor Project: 1-866-488-7386 or go to thetrevorproject.org

Lifeguard Workshop presented by The Trevor Project: March 1, 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Larry

E. Reider Education Center, 2000 K St. For more information: Tammy (661) 431-3671.

Continued from Page 1

'her' and using his former name."

According to Clendenen, the family felt that LeBaron was "born Angelina, she died Angelina. She has always been female no matter what."

Clendenen said that this is not the first time that he has found out about a suicide due to lack of acceptance toward the victim. He also stated that although there are several support groups, part of the problem is that transgender individuals are often being under-represented.

"Hunter didn't need to take that step because I feel like he did have

support systems like friends, [Gay Straight Association], and LGBTQ support groups," he said. "But there definitely needs to be more advertising for these groups."

Walker said that LeBaron's motives for suicide were numerous.

"I feel like it was multiple things, that's how it is for a lot of people when they consider suicide. It's not just one thing, it's a whole bunch of things going on in their lives," Walker said.

However, there are resources one can go to when being hit with negative thoughts or depression.

BC offers the Safe Space program, created by SGA, in an effort

to provide a place where members of the LGBTQ community and their allies are heard and understood, and most of all, feel safe. Any individuals, whether they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or straight, can go to any faculty member with a Safe Space flag on their door.

In addition, BC also offers a Student Health and Wellness Center for all students where they can receive counseling, get referred to the community to get more resources, and even get prescribed drug therapies if needed. The Student Health and Wellness Program at BC will also offer a "Question, Persuade, and Refer" training session on April 2 at 10 a.m. According to Lorre

Webb, the social work intern at the BC Student Health and Wellness Center, this training session will target the issue of suicide prevention and will teach attendees the early signs of depression and how to properly handle these situations.

"I encourage that anybody who thinks a friend has a problem, to let them know about our services or even walk them over here, because being proactive and asking the questions, and not being afraid is the biggest thing to prevent it," said Webb. "Sometimes we are taught that we don't talk about those things, but there's stuff we need to talk about."

In addition to the resources on campus, there are several support

systems in the community such as the Kern County Mental Health Hotline, National Alliance on Mental Illness, suicide prevention classes at the Mary K. Shell Mental Health Center, and The Trevor Project, which will present a "Lifeguard Workshop" on March 1 in Bakersfield.

"There are all types of resources out there, you are not alone," said Clendenen. "There's people out there just like you who feel like they have no one, but in reality you do. You just need to go out and search for them. If you take that time then you'll feel better because you'll be surrounded by people who care and you'll feel safe."



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

Friends of suicide victim Hunter LeBaron and members of the LGBTQ community gather at Mill Creek park for a candlelight vigil on Jan. 31 to remember and celebrate LeBaron's life.

Staff Editorial

New cards a waste of time and money

U.S. Bank is now responsible for all financial aid disbursements, and they also control our Bakersfield College identification cards. As students, we should be concerned that the card, known as the OneCard, holds all of our private BC information.

Upon receiving your card in the mail, which took way too long, you register it online and decide whether you want the basic account – that is good just to get your financial aid disbursement – or the deluxe account, which gives you access to numerous other features, such as getting money transferred in from a third party or having direct deposit set up with your work in order to have your paychecks sent directly to the account.

There was no need to offer two options on the card. It was a no-brainer to get the deluxe account because it doesn't cost more than the basic and offers the other features.

Seriously, the only good thing about this card is the logo that SGA picked for the background.

U.S. Bank is just a glorified Western Union. Most transactions are done online and most locations barely have any workers at them.

The OneCard is both your student ID and your debit card. On the back of the card are two stripes, one for college transactions like printing in the library and the other stripe is for normal everyday transactions. This can be confusing and raises questions of security.

Before, when we had the Kern Schools card, it was a Visa. Now, the new card is a MasterCard. Some people feel Visa is accepted in more places than MasterCard, and might not like the change.

The fastest way of getting your financial aid is using this card. You can also get it deposited to any bank account of your choice and even still receive a paper check. These last two options are not as quick, but are offered. Most students don't want to wait a week or two to finally get their financial aid in the mail or transferred to the bank account of their choice.

That's a good thing about the card, but most students opened a Kern Schools account to get financial aid when they first started at BC. Most of those students have kept their Kern Schools account, but with the OneCard, have had to open an account with U.S. Bank, also, something not everybody wanted to do.

The cards have no photos on them and that could lead to problems down the road. Having a picture on the card provides a sense of security because it at least would be clear whom the card belonged to.

The numbers and name on the card aren't embossed. They are just printed on there so after a while of taking the card in and out of your wallet, it is going to rub off. It took two times taking it out from my wallet for the debit logo to start rubbing off and chipping. That's unacceptable.

Replacement cards are \$5 if you get it at a U.S. Bank location or \$15 if you get it directly from the school. Most students would opt for the \$5 method – but there aren't many U.S. Bank locations in town, so they might pay more just to get the card quicker.

I can understand wanting to have one card for everything, but this is not the way to do it. BC needs to open its ears and listen to the students because faculty, staff and administration aren't the ones using these cards.

Entertainment, take two

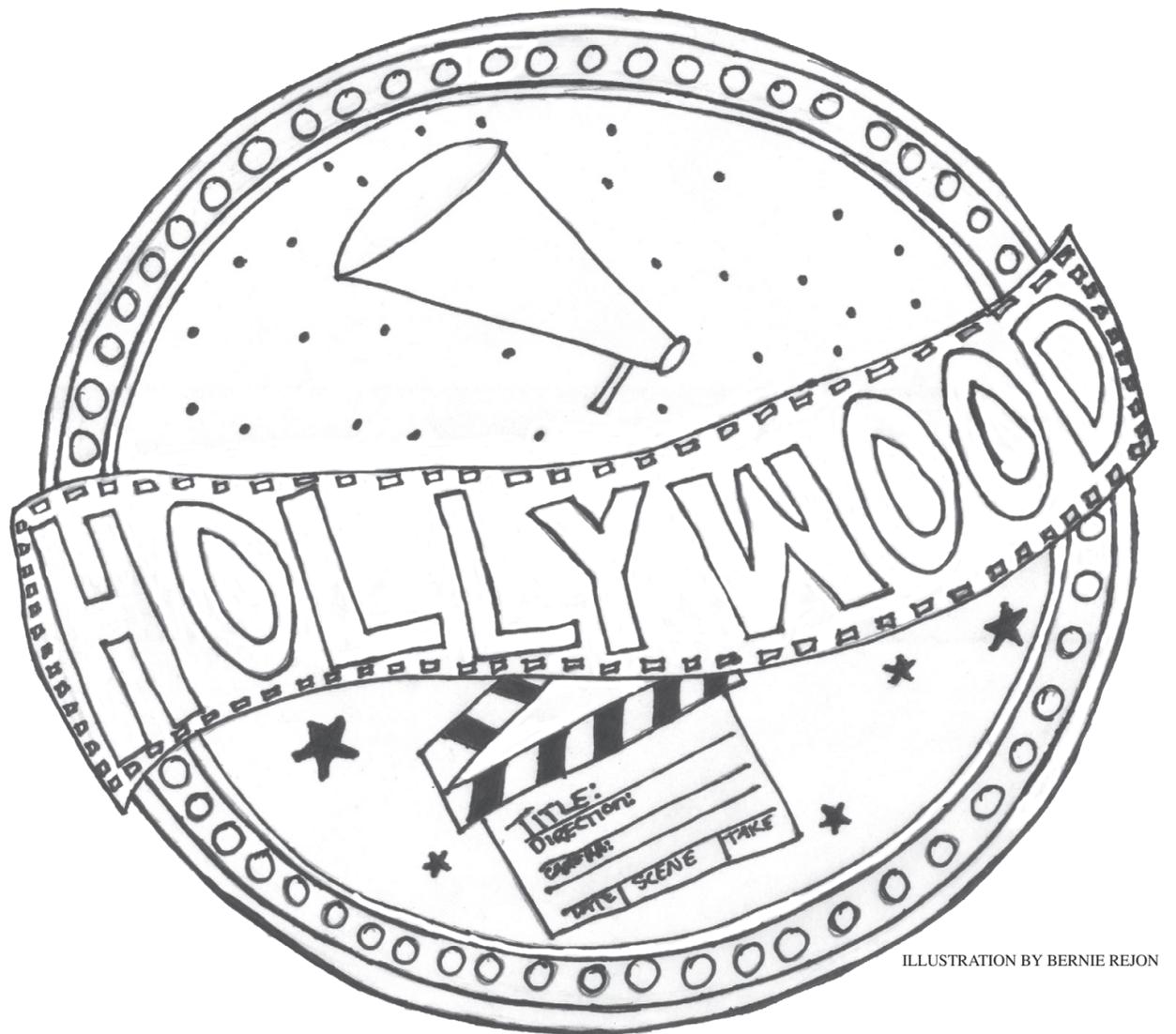


ILLUSTRATION BY BERNIE REJON

Special effects and new movies just get better

By Elias C. Ahumada
Reporter

"Say hello to my little friend," as Al Pacino said in the classic film "Scarface." This quote has been very popular among movie fans for more than 31 years since its release in 1983.

The film, which turned out to be an instant classic, was written and directed very well. There have been many other classic films, such as "Jaws," "E.T.," "Goodfellas," and "Pulp Fiction," just to name a few.

PRO

Whatever the genre preference is, most

classic films seem to come from an older generation and passed down to the current generation, correct? Well, that is not necessarily the case.

Even some of the newer films that have been generated, for instance the Spider-Man films starring Tobey Maguire have been remade after being out for only 12 years.

Hollywood has done an amazing job in remaking the series "The Amazing Spider-Man," starring not only a new cast, but adding new story lines too.

Unlike the Tobey Maguire series, Hollywood decided to go into more detailed direction with the film by screening a younger Peter Parker and going into more detail about him growing up as a kid, which turns out to be a very well-written film.

It's not just the great film writing that Hollywood has kept going, it is also the wonderful picture and sound quality. All the new and high-speed technology coming out has made it easy for Hollywood

to put together high-quality films. Sure, some of these films are pricey to put together, but it is well worth it.

War scenes, for instance, look more realistic. Super heroes are no longer running around in cheap costumes doing cheesy stunts, and the fiction cities they are defending don't look as phony as some of us are accustomed to seeing. These same super heroes are now in sleek costumes doing cool stunts, that look real, and the cities look more bona fide.

"The Dark Knight" is a good example as to why Hollywood hasn't lost its touch in producing great movies. The special effects are astonishing, but it's the characters that are really mind-boggling. The way the joker was portrayed in the film was genius and gave life to the film, setting the bar high for former and future movie villains.

The romantics can still enjoy some good films, too. For those that loved "Pretty Woman," now you have "Titanic." Maybe not the same scenario, but wealthy Rose Bukater falls in love with her poverty-stricken Jack Dawson in a love story for the ages.

For those who enjoy comedy, you have your Superbads, Anchormans, and Hangovers. Hollywood has had a good sense of humor lately and thankfully has shared it with movie watchers everywhere.

No matter how many times some have said that Hollywood has lost its touch, or that movies aren't the same anymore, Hollywood responds with a couple of classics.

Sean Penn said it best in "Gangster Squad," saying, "Here comes Santa Claus," in which Hollywood has been Santa Claus and it has been Christmas Day year-round, with us moviegoers being the joyous kids waiting to open gifts every time a movie gem is delivered.

Originality might be lacking in newer films

By Sharida Rejon
Features Editor

First of all, I must say that I am an avid film fanatic. However, I have not been very pleased with most of the choices that Hollywood has made when it comes to movies. With the exception of a few, the majority of the films that have been released have been either a remake of an older movie, or an adaptation of a book or novel.

Whatever happened to original storylines? It seems that lately, all of the screenwriters have run out of ideas. From "Transformers," to "RoboCop," to "The Lego Movie," all Hollywood has been doing is regurgitating ideas from decades ago.

Also, they have been releasing remakes of hit movies from years ago and have tried, in their opinion, to make them "better."

Take the movie "Hairspray," for example.

"Hairspray," the film responsible for Ricki Lake's stardom, was released in 1988 and was successful among audiences. Then in 2002, "Hairspray" was turned into a Broadway musical, winning several Tony awards and successfully expanding the original story's audience. Following the success of the Broadway production, Hollywood decided to combine the best of both worlds and make a film based on the musical based on the original 1988 movie.

In an attempt to recreate their success, the casting director chose Nikki Blonsky, a newcomer, just like Ricki Lake was in the original film. Another perfect example of Hollywood trying to recreate past successes was the remake of the popular film "Footloose," which

revolved around a town where dancing and music were banned, and a high school boy trying to change those laws.

"Footloose" was another hit back in the '80s, and recently, a remake was released. Some of the original scenes from the original movie were deleted, and Kenny Wormald, a professional dancer, was cast to play the lead role to make it "better." Although I enjoyed both Blonsky's and Wormald's performances, I would have loved to see these two new actors star in an original film, instead of seeing them

CON

trying to imitate the actors who played their characters before them.

In addition to taking ideas from old concepts, Hollywood has been filled with book and novel adaptations. The worst part of this concept is, because of the full details that are given in the book, the films usually fall short on these details, resulting in a flop.

Every time the trailer of a romance movie catches my attention, I become disappointed when I realize that it is an adaptation of a Nicholas Sparks novel.

When film studios do try to give us "original ideas," it almost always results in stereotypical storylines, where the ending is predictable and completely unoriginal. Although the cinematography has greatly improved and is fairly good, screenwriters need to start finding inspiration to come up with fresh, new ideas in order to release films that are enjoyable to everybody.

The Renegade Rip

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Movie Review

Old RoboCop vs. New RoboCop OmniCorp satisfies moviegoers

By Daniel Ojeda
Reporter

The original RoboCop, released in 1987, wowed moviegoers with its state-of-the-art special effects and hardcore violence all wrapped around a thrilling tale of a police officer who is killed in the line of duty and reborn as part man, part machine, all cop. So when trailers of the RoboCop reboot began appearing on TV, I asked myself the same question many fans of the original did, why reboot such a classic?

Early trailers of RoboCop hinted of a movie filled with action, just enough of Samuel L. Jackson and also featured a classic line from the original, "Dead or alive you're coming with me." All that was enough to know that I had to watch this movie.

The RoboCop reboot takes place in 2028, when robotic foot soldiers have become a fundamental part of U.S. foreign policy patrolling war-

torn states in the name of freedom. But a Senate bill in the U.S. prevents those same drones from patrolling streets in America because politicians fear robots gaining authority over people. OmniCorp, the world's leading robot defense company, realizes that Americans want a figure they can rally behind that pledges to "put a man inside a machine."

Alex Murphy is that guy, an honest cop and family man whose body is badly injured in the early proceeding paving the way for RoboCop. In jet-black body armor, RoboCop is an immediate hit with the public, saving lives, cutting crime, delivering swift and efficient justice.

But where the original movie merely touched on the moral issues of turning man into machine and focused more on RoboCop cleaning up the streets of Detroit, this remake is preoccupied with it. A great deal of the movie is spent by Murphy trying to find his place in the world while OmniCorp tries to

control him.

RoboCop is billed as an action movie, but at times it feels like a philosophy lesson. It seems to focus more on drama than action, which gives the movie an underwhelming feeling and just seems to coast along ending with whimper rather than a bang.

Despite this, action scenes look amazing with modern effects allowing RoboCop to move quicker, jump higher and punch harder than ever before. There is also a spectacular robot rumble where the camera is constantly in motion while our hero battles against super aggressive robotic foot soldiers, infusing the scene with energy that the movie should of had. But these action scenes are few and far between.

There are also some very effective nods to the original RoboCop, from the music to the taser gun emerging from his leg. Samuel Jackson also provides a bit of comedic relief playing a motor mouth news host



IMAGE PROVIDED BY GOOGLE

delivering angry monologues that are pro robot and anti-freedom.

But despite the feeling that the movie seemed like a missed opportunity, there's no denying that what's there is enjoyable. RoboCop isn't a rehashed waste of time.

Some good performances, great visuals, and a hero that's easy to get behind, RoboCop was definitely entertaining. Too bad it could've been much more.

★★★★☆

Food Review

Easy, but luxurious dining

Trina Goree
Reporter

Viva... comida Mexicana! Mexican cuisine has long been a favorite of mine. There is a saying in the

Mexican culture, "que rico," which roughly translates to "how delicious."

This statement could not be truer in regard to the food I encountered at Chips & Salsa Mexican Grill, located at 4761 Planz Road, in the southwest area. The restaurant opens at 10:30 a.m. daily.

Chips & Salsa has all the traditional dishes that one would expect, but the way the eatery operates is uniquely it's own. Chips & Salsa offers the luxury of dining in and offers the convenience of a drive-thru, which has a weather protection portion at the food hand-off area.

A first of mine that I experienced at Chips & Salsa was a flauta, meaning flute. It is a rolled flour tortilla, deep-fried and filled with your choice of meats. On this occasion, I opted for beef. According to the menu, a flauta cost \$2.95. I decided to order a combo that included three flautas, rice, beans, and a side of guacamole and sour cream. The three-item flauta combo costs \$8.95. There is also a one or two item version available.

I highly recommend going and making flautas part of your order.

Another delicious treat is their fish tacos. I ordered two and could have easily eaten another order of two. The tacos are made by topping



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Chips & Salsa, located on the southwest side of Bakersfield, offers a variety of Mexican cuisine.

two corn tortillas, with a big chunk of sea bass fish, cabbage, salsa, and a unique sauce that compliments the fish. The fish tacos, as well as, the shrimp tacos cost \$3.50.

I also ordered their chips and salsa, which was a visual treat that I found unique. Instead of the traditional monotone chip, these were bright and mixed with green and red colored chips. For those over 21, I thoroughly enjoyed the beer and wine portion of the menu, my favorite, wine, is sold by the glass, at

\$3.50. Beer is sold by the bottle, domestic goes for \$3.50 and imported will run you \$3.95.

Chips and Salsa also does a Sunday Brunch, which starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. The Sunday Brunch buffet offers 10 items, desserts, and much more. The adult buffet is \$9.95 and kids eat for \$5.95.

I found that not only was the food physically satisfying, but visually as well. That is a rare idly in the fast-paced world we live in.

Chips & Salsa is another new hot

spot for me, and I encourage all to visit. The eatery is very inviting and the people are engaging in every sense. Even as you walk up to the restaurant you hear the sounds of Mexican music, which transported me, if only for a moment, to the beaches of Mexico, visited some time ago. This is where a favorite eatery of mine is located and Chips and Salsa can hold its own in regard to the cuisine.

★★★★★

Breakfast should not be just for breakfast

By Bertin Rodriguez
Editor in Chief

Breakfast is supposedly the most important meal of day, so why don't all fast-food establishments serve it all day long?

All fast-food establishments should serve breakfast all day, so that we can eat what we want, when we want, and they can just rake in the money.

Jack in the Box is the only establishment, out of the big fast-food chains, that serves breakfast all day long. Sonic also serves it all day, but we all know that nobody really goes there to eat, they just go for the drinks and desserts, no matter how many funny commercials they make.

Places like McDonalds and Burger King need to join in on this trend of serving breakfast all day. How can I "have it my way" if you don't serve it all day, Burger King?

At the McDonalds locations with 24-hour drive-thrus, they start serving a limited breakfast menu after midnight. That's a step in the right direction, but sometimes at 3 p.m. I feel like having an Egg McMuffin and hash browns.

Del Taco also starts serving breakfast after midnight but it does its full menu until 11 a.m., instead of a limited one like McDonalds.

Taco Bell also serves breakfast now but it also stops at 11 a.m. The problem with its hours is that it doesn't open until 8 or 9 a.m. Taco Bell's breakfast is like an exclusive club in their mind, someplace that everybody wants to go to, but nobody want to dance in.

Even Subway serves breakfast now and despite ending at 11 a.m. most of the time it has left over eggs and egg whites, so if you asked for it, an employee will serve you a breakfast sandwich at anytime of the day.

Carls Jr., which besides being a God amongst the national fast-food chains, is also the grand puba of breakfasts. Their menu is incredible before 10:30 a.m.

If they're already making biscuits from scratch, cooking eggs and bacon, why can't they just extend their hours? Why can't I get reheated bacon and egg biscuit. It's mealism, plain as day.

Breakfast lovers join in the fight against fast-food chains around the world that don't serve "the most important meal of the day" all day, because I am tired of not being able to have breakfast whenever I please.

App Review

SWEET 16's app for songwriters

By Elias C. Ahumada
Reporter

SWEET 16's for songwriters is the first mobile app that caters to hip-hop and R&B artists. After a recent review, I have found that the songwriting app, which is available on Google Play and Amazon, is one of a kind.

Raphael Cohen, owner and lead developer of Red LaGoon Studios, has emphasized, "The app is updated regularly," and "is currently running on version 2.8.5."

SWEET 16's popularity is growing in the U.S. among hip-hop and R&B artists with hundreds of downloads monthly, but the most impressive part has been the 16's ability to garner worldwide attention. Artists from countries in Europe, Africa, and South America are now downloading SWEET 16's

as well. One feature contributing to their global awareness is SWEET 16's urban dictionary, which stores thousands of words, both slang and professional.

When asked what inspired him to develop SWEET 16's, Cohen said, "I was in a recording studio with my boys and watched them as they wrote their songs on their Blackberrys and other smart phones.

"I realized there wasn't really a professional songwriting application that allowed artists to structure and organize songs."

One cool new feature offered by SWEET 16's is the full-screen view. This allows the songwriter to have complete control of their lyrics by eliminating any unwanted buttons on the main screen.

"It's a very simple function, but a very popular one," added Cohen. He has implemented the Sprint LG

"double tap" functionality, in which a lot of fast options can be opened up by double tapping the screen, eliminating several button touches in the process.

So, what can hip-hop artists gain from SWEET 16's? "It's not just rappers and R&B artists that can save, organize and share their lyrics," stated Cohen. "All artists from rock 'n' roll, punk, spoken word, or some other form of poetry, if you're a songwriter. I think you can have fun with SWEET 16's and organize your work simultaneously."

The inApp media player allows artists to compose songs while listening to instrumentals. "They don't have to keep going in and out of the app to switch instrumentals," he said.

The instrumentals are also set up in a looped manner that permits the artist to get in their zone when they

are writing lyrics.

The sleek auto-scroll feature allows the songwriter to go thumbless when reading their lyrics. Set the beats per minute and the text will scroll down in a karaoke-like pattern.

Got twitter or any social media site? You're in luck, the songwriters' lyrics and versus can be shared on any social media platform that's installed on their device.

"This is the best songwriters' app on the market," as quoted by Maria Romero, aka Lady Mcee, a recent 16's user. The mobile app seems to be satisfying plenty of songwriters from California to Texas, and the U.S. to Europe. SWEET 16's seems to get the job done for songwriters on the go. Shout out to north Philly for the incomparable mobile app.

★★★★★



RIGOBERTO LOPEZ / THE RIP

Nine schools competed in the mens 800 meter dash during the meet. Bakersfield College's Jonathan Salinas took 15th in that race with a time of 2:07.42.

BC hosts a major track and field meet

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's track and field team placed fourth out of nine teams during the Battle of Regions that took place Feb. 14 at Memorial Stadium.

The event had nine schools and more than 100 participants. The women's team, behind several strong efforts, scored 90 points. The men, with a young, inexperienced team, scored 22 points and finished ninth.

Coach Pam Kelley said that, even with the inexperience, she is excited about the team and noted that the women finished very well. She pointed out the first-place finish of Moriah Millwee in the steeplechase in 13:12.51. Teammate Paola Silvestre took second in 13:50.68. Jessica Campbell placed third in the 800 at 2:24.61.

Natalie O'Dwyer placed first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.80 and second in the 200 in 25.79. Jade Gridiron took third in the 100 with a time of 12.67, and Reshana Watson took fourth in 12.94. The women's 400 relay team placed first with a time of 49.66.

BC's Alicia Torres had a strong showing in the field events with a second in the shot put at 11.97 meters, seventh in the discus throw at 33.35 meters, and eighth in the hammer throw at 32.13 meters.

For the men, Jose Leandro tied for first with a 3.8-meter height in the pole vault -- the only male Renegade to win an event.

Deion Loudon took fourth overall in the 400 hurdles and ninth overall in the men's 100 at 11.38. Teammate Al Green, placed fourth in the triple jump and ninth in the long jump. The track teams will travel to a Western State Conference Relays event in Ventura on Feb. 21.



RIGOBERTO LOPEZ / THE RIP

Bakersfield College's Jose Leandro clears 3.8 meters (approximately 12 1/2 feet) to tie for first in the men's pole vault.

Modesto tournament kicks off BC's men's tennis season while women wait to begin the season

By Robert Mullen
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College men's tennis started its season with a tournament at Modesto Junior College on Feb. 14 and 15.

Number one player Vitor Ikeda was knocked out in the first match, as was the number two player Tim Roe, and number five Luckian Campos.

Sammy Ramirez, at number three, won his first two matches, and number six, Jimmy Moran won his first match.

In doubles all three teams won their first matches but lost in the second round.

On Feb. 18 BC hosted Glendale College and lost the dual 6-3.

Roe, Ramirez, and Campos won their single match, but

none of the Renegades won in the doubles.

Due to eligibility issues the women have not been able to play any of their season games but are slated to play at home on Feb. 20 against Antelope Valley College.

The men are slated to play their next match against LA Pierce College at BC on Feb. 25.

New club hopes to bring men's soccer back to Bakersfield College

By Daniel Ojeda
Reporter

Bakersfield College hasn't had a men's soccer team in over 10 years. But the start of the new semester also brings with it the start of something else, BC's new men's soccer club.

After submitting the required paperwork last semester, Raul Carrillo and Saul Ortega, BC students who helped start the club, believe the new club is ready to begin fresh this year and start off strong.

"We know there is amazing talent here and unfortunately you can only get so far because there's no opportunity. That's what we're trying to do, not only for us, but for future athletes as well," said Carrillo.

With only fliers and word of mouth, over 60 players showed up to a recent try-out. Enthusiasm for the soccer club is high and both players are just trying to show the school that soccer is important and that it can make a difference in the community.

Ortega has already received calls from several players from different high schools around Bakersfield about the soccer club and what they need in order to join once they attend BC.

"A lot of people call me, like players from Centennial and Stockdale that are about to graduate asking how do I get in the program," he said.

In order to join, players have to be enrolled at BC and be taking a minimum of six units for the semester, they are also looking for athletes that love the sport and are ready to take soccer to a new level competitively.

Practices are held three times a week in two locations, Monday practices are at the BC soccer field and on Tuesday and Wednesday they are held at Garden Park located near South Laurel Glen.

The head coach for the soccer club is former CSUB player Justin Finch, who is currently playing for the Fresno Fuego in the Player Development League, and they are also being advised by the women's soccer coach Scott Dameron.

The soccer club will also be a traveling team that will compete with other soccer clubs from different colleges.

Despite this being the first year, expectations are still high. "No excuses, it's college level. You're not learning the sport, you already know it, so you have to bring the A game," Carrillo said.

Roles are still being decided on the team and roster cuts are being made to bring the roster down to its final size. The soccer club is also trying to raise money and find a sponsor because in order to compete and pull this type of club off it costs money to travel to these other places.

Both Carrillo and Ortega agree that the future goals of the club is to one day become the official soccer team for BC.

"One step at a time, we want the big picture but it's going to take time. That it's going to happen absolutely, we believe it's going to happen and only get better."

The club's first game is February 23 at 1 p.m. against the CSUSB Coyote soccer club at the women's soccer field.

For any questions about tryouts, fundraising or sponsorship opportunities, contact Saul Ortega at 661-808-7239

BC hosts Central Californian Olympic swim meet



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

BC hosted the Central Californian junior Olympics from Feb. 14-16. 36 swim clubs brought 936 competitors from as far away as Redding, Arizona and Nevada.



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Head coach Paula Dahl talks with her team during the Feb. 15 game against Glendale College. BC beat Glendale 68-54.

Women beat Glendale with one game left

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Nakia Page scored 21 points and had 10 rebounds to lead the Bakersfield College women's basketball team to a 68-54 victory over Glendale in a Western State Conference South game Feb. 15.

Despite foul issues for both teams, the Renegades powered through and never trailed Glendale, starting with a 7-1 lead early on. Going into the half, BC led 35-28.

Along with Page's 21 points, BC's Claesey Tarver had 16 points and five rebounds, and Leigha Moland had 16 points and six rebounds. Some serious adjustments were made in the "lineup and full-court press," according to coach Paula Dahl.

Dahl was extremely pleased with her team, mentioning that this win was one she really wanted. When asked how it felt to beat a team like Glendale, Dahl responded, "Awesome," and had a grin to prove it. Glendale's record dropped to 6-4 in conference and 15-11 overall.

With just one game left in the season, BC stands 6-5 in conference and 11-14 overall. The Renegades travel to Antelope Valley on Feb. 22

for the season's last game.

BC's Linda Ramos played a strong game against Glendale, but not before fouling out with seven minutes left, finishing with four points and two rebounds. Coming off the bench, Roosebrooke Hunt had six points, in addition to the team's high in rebounding with 15.

BC outrebounded Glendale 66-49. BC shot 36.4 percent to Glendale's 21.6.

And the Renegades took a 23-point lead two minutes into the second half.

BC's Giselle Flores, in her last season, had 10 rebounds.

Glendale's Elise Mejia gave the Renegades most of their trouble with 12 points and five rebounds. The press and 2-3 defense could not contain her, which is why Dahl could be heard from the stands, singling out Mejia throughout the game.

When the Renegades changed to man-to-man coverage, the defense was able to slow the ball as Dahl had hoped. Most of the second half points for Glendale came from its foul shots.

Glendale's Gabriela Beltran was pivotal, finishing with 17 points and 12 rebounds. And Samantha



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Forward Nakia Page (24) goes up with the ball against Glendale defender Mary Karapetyan (3). Page scored 21 points during the game, nearly a third of BC's points, and collected 10 rebounds.

Pyros of Glendale finished with an 11-point game and nine rebounds. But Glendale's top scorers had trouble with the man-to-man defense employed by BC.

When asked about foul trouble that BC had, Dahl said they "about killed us," but with trepidation, "Serious adjustments to counter were necessary. We just needed to slow the ball down."

With the season almost over, red-shirt Paige Robinson said she has high hopes for next year.

"I can't wait to play," she said. "I know that the team has been through a lot. I look forward to next season, where I will be a factor."

"Look out for us [next season]. This year, injuries and youthfulness has contributed to a complicated season, but I couldn't be more

proud of the ladies."

Julia Delarosa and Mackenzie Odle both sat out with different injuries.

Their return is anticipated. Especially, since both girls have been on the team since 2012-2013 seasons, offering a more experienced approach on the game.

Feb. 22 will be BC's last game against Antelope Valley College.

BC slips to 3-6 after last string of away games

By Daniel Ojeda
Reporter

Bakersfield College's baseball returned from a lengthy stretch of five road games to beat Cerro Coso College 10-4 on Feb. 18. BC's pitching was the workhorse of the game, giving up no runs until the sixth inning and had nine strikeouts in total. BC improved to 3-6 after losing four of the 11 five away games.

February 4
BC fell against Merced 1-0. The lone run for Merced was unearned and came in the fifth after an error led to the runner reaching base. A second error allowed the winning run to score later in the inning.

BC pitcher JJ Santa Cruz took the loss despite pitching seven solid innings. The Ren-

egades only managed to get four hits.

The tying and winning runs were on base for the Renegades in the top of the ninth with no outs. But BC couldn't sacrifice the runners over and the next two batters flew out and grounded out to leave the runners stranded on base.

February 7
The Renegades dropped their fourth straight game, 7-6 after College of Marin rallied to score four runs in the top of the eighth inning. The tying and winning runs were both unearned after two BC errors.

Pitcher Cole Hallum threw seven innings allowing three runs while striking out five. Hallum also contributed with the bat adding two hits and driving in two runs.

Kaidan Meadows added three hits and an

RBI with Rolando Martinez adding two hits and an RBI.

February 8
BC dropped its fifth straight game, losing to Reedley 3-1. The Renegades were held to three hits for the day and scored their only run in the fifth inning.

Losing pitcher Allan Winans pitched seven innings with five strikeouts. Zach Tanner had a double for the Renegades with Rolando Martinez and Kyle Speaks also contributing a hit apiece.

Except for the first game, the Renegades have had at least two errors or more in every game this season.

February 8
The Renegades ended a five-game losing streak by beating Hartnell College 7-4. No

box score was available.

February 11
The Renegades dropped to 2-6 after losing to Allan Hancock 5-1 in a non-conference game. BC was limited to just three hits and their lone run was unearned.

BC scored its one run in the ninth inning after pinch hitter Matt Lemon doubled, then reached third on an error and scored on Jared Solf's groundout. Kaidan Meadows hit a double and Rolando Martinez had a single.

The winning pitcher for Hancock was Nathan Thompson. He tossed eight shutout innings while only allowing two hits and upping his record to 3-0.

Baseball will have three away games at Golden West College on Feb. 20-21 before returning home to play LA Valley on March 4.

Close losses haunt BC before home tourney

By Robert Mullen
Sports Editor

Bakersfield College softball has moved into the third week of its season, dropping from 1-3 to 2-5.

During a doubleheader in Visalia on Feb. 13, BC suffered two close losses. The first game was a 3-2 loss against Cosumnes River. Morgan Peterson had one hit and two RBIs. "We had a pretty good game against Cosumnes River, which is a pretty good team every year," said co-head coach Keith Drewry. "It was 2-2 for the longest time, actually it was 0-0 until the sixth [inning]."

In the sixth inning both teams had two runs, but Cosumnes River made their final run in the bottom of the seventh.

The second game was ended early because

of time, and was a 10-8 loss against College of the Sequoias. Here, Alex Avila had three runs, and Bailey Graham had one run and three RBIs.

BC played two games on Feb. 14 as part of a three-team series. BC lost 21-0 against Rancho Santiago but came back in the afternoon to beat Taft College 13-10. Graham had two hits, two runs, and two RBIs, Maddie Arambula had two hits and one run, and Erin Huckaby, returning after her injury two weeks ago, had three hits, two runs, and two RBIs.

Even with those losses, Drewry is looking forward to the first BC Classic on Feb. 22-23.

"It's going to be a tough weekend. This is the weekend where a lot of the teams from the south come to look at the field."



RIGOBERTO LOPEZ / THE RIP

Erin Huckaby (12) hits the ball while Alex Avila (3) waits her turn during the Feb. 14 series against Rancho Santiago and Taft College.

Playoff berth doubtful after Glendale loss

By Elias C. Ahumada
Reporter

As the season comes to an end for the Bakersfield College men's basketball team, there is reason to be optimistic about the team moving forward. "We are a young team so this season we suffered a couple of loses, but I think everyone is improving, so we can expect a really good future for this team," says Renegade forward Paul Lafayette.

There is much to consider after the Renegades struggled all season to be consistent sitting at .500 with a 13-13 overall record and 3-8 in the Western State Conference South.

Was it the youth and inexperience that cost the Renegades a chance at a playoff berth? After beginning the season strong going 7-3 in the first 10 games, the Renegades have lost seven of their last 10 games and will most likely miss the playoffs.

With just one game remaining on the schedule and a young core of players being pushed to the limits by coach Rich Hughes on the sidelines, there is reason to believe that these Renegades will use this season not only as motivation, but also as a learning experience moving forward.

The team has fought hard all season, fought together, and fought for one another never giving up on themselves or their teammates.

The evidence was exposed in the Renegades home finale against Glendale College, a game in which the Renegades were overpowered in a loss by a final score of 83-50. Sure, the score indicates otherwise, but it wasn't the score that caught the attention of basketball fans. It was the way that these Renegades lost that gave Renegade basketball fans hope.

The game looked over after

Hughes stopped the clock with a 20-second timeout with 15:33 to play in the first half after the Renegades found themselves in a 12-2 hole. The Renegades responded with a quick stop and transition basket.

It was an uphill battle the rest of the night, but the Renegades never gave up. It was obvious that Glendale was much bigger inside controlling the paint and outrebounding BC 41-27, but the Renegades never gave up, they kept getting up and working hard.

The game had a boxing championship fight feel to it at the half with Alex Daniels laying on the floor with under 58 seconds left after a dunk attempt went wrong, Enoilio Silfa sitting on the bench with an ice pack on his right eye trying to keep the swelling down after an apparent elbow to the face by Glendale big man Gor Plavchyan earlier in the half, and you can't forget Paul Lafayette battling three Vaqueros for a loose ball and ending up on the ground holding on to his left elbow.

Silfa also picked up a technical foul in the second half as things got heated between him and Plavchyan.

There was a fight in these Renegades that they will carry with them into the next game and into the next season that gives hope of a bright future.

Lawrence Moore ended the game as the leading scorer for the Renegades and the only player in double figures for the Renegades with 13 points on 6-of-11 shooting. Corey Mitchell and Davonte Cleveland both contributed nine points for the Renegades.

The Renegades will finish the season with a road game against Antelope Valley College on Feb. 22.



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Gaurd Isaiah Cooper (22) goes up for the basket during BC's home game against Glendale College. Despite a valiant effort, BC could not make up the deficit earned in the first half.

French exchange student enjoys his time with BC

By Elias C. Ahumada
Reporter

For foreign exchange student athlete Paul Lecurieux-Lafayette, life has been a bit challenging coming to America.

"I just came here by myself and I knew nobody here," said Lecurieux-Lafayette. "The first day I came here I didn't know where I was about to stay so I had to find a place to stay, but the coaches helped me with that."

Lecurieux-Lafayette was born in Paris, France, but says, "I was born in Paris, and right now I am living with my dad in south of France in a city called Marseille."

Lecurieux-Lafayette has been a student at Bakersfield College for six months now and is an engineer major. He also plays forward for the BC men's basketball team.

Lecurieux-Lafayette added that he has also found his classes to be challenging.

"I remember the classes were also difficult because of the language," he said.

As far as the game of basketball goes, Lecurieux-Lafayette also played the game while living in France. Lecurieux-Lafayette played for the French club team, the Antibes Sharks.

"I was playing in the French championship for about four years right now and it is different in France because you are not playing for your school, but you are playing for a club."

Lecurieux-Lafayette's transition to the game in America has also been a bit of an uphill battle. "Sometimes [it's hard] for me to

adapt to the game. First because the language is different, but my teammates and coaches help me a lot with that."

Besides the language barrier there's also a certain way that Americans play the game of basketball that is different from the way the game is played in Europe.

"The game here is based more on athletic skill. Players are faster and stronger here," he said.

For European players this can cause some friction because Europeans play a more fundamental and team-styled game.

Lecurieux-Lafayette commented on his time playing for the Renegades.

"Oh, I like it a lot because I think it's great to be able to play for your school, for your college," he said. "That's something I never did, and I feel like there is a lot of support here. I am proud to be here at BC!"

On Feb. 15 in a home game loss against Glendale College, Lecurieux-Lafayette logged in 15 minutes for the Renegades, contributing two points on 1-of-3 shooting, he grabbed three rebounds and blocked three shots.

Lecurieux-Lafayette has averaging 1.1 points per game, 1.7 rebounds per game, has a field goal percentage of 58.8 and is shooting 50 percent from the free-throw line.

Being his first season at BC he says he takes it as an adaptation and he also feels that he has given it his all.

He believes that the future is bright for the Renegades considering that they are still a young team and he sees improvement in everyone.



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Paul Lecurieux-Lafayette prepares a pass during the Feb. 15 game against Glendale College. It is his first year in America.

Swimming takes several wins during first meet

By Daniel Ojeda
Reporter

Bakersfield College had their first meet in Ventura on Feb. 15.

Andrew Hargis placed first at the WSC Pentathlon on Saturday in Ventura.

The BC swimmer finished the five events with a combined time of 4:30.79. Hargis had the fastest times in the men's 100 Yard Breast, 100 Yard Fly and the 100 Yard IM.

In the other two events, Hargis placed second in the 100 Yard Back and third in the 100 Yard Free.

Overall, the BC men's swim team had six swimmers finish in the top 25 with Chance Marchini placing sixth at 4:56.40, Spencer Kerwin placing 11th at 4:59.83, AJ Spiller placing 17th with 5:10.76, Michael Fink placing 23rd at 5:17.19 and Conner Hicks placing 25th with 5:20.49.

The women's swim team had Elizabeth Hargis as the highest placer finishing in third place with a time of 5:32.55. Right behind her with a time of 5:35.85 was Shelby Bayne, good for fourth place in the pentathlon.

Two more BC swimmers finished in the top 10 with Clarissa Gardella finishing at 5:41.25 for sixth and Alexis Zimmerman finishing at 5:46.10 for 10th place. Two other swimmers finished in the top 25 including, Ashley Foster at 5:55.14 for 17th and Heather Bryan at 6:01.02 which was good enough for 24th.

The swim team will have their next meet will be against Mt. San Antonio College on Feb. 21-22.



RICHARD PETERSON / THE RIP

The confederates have a shoot-out with each other to entertain the crowd at the Whiskey Flat Cowboy Encampment on Feb. 15. Some of these soldiers are regulars.



RICHARD PETERSON / THE RIP

These women show off their period clothing in the parade.



RICHARD PETERSON / THE RIP

The Rock Bottom Boys make an appearance and play different styles of music to the visitors.

Weekend of re-enactments brings crowds

By Myrissa Johns
News Editor

Kernville attracted big crowds for its annual Presidents Day weekend festival, Whiskey Flat Days.

Whiskey Flat Days is a festival in which Kernville reverts back to its old name, "Whiskey Flat" and re-enacts the way that its forefathers lived back in the Wild West.

The festival, which took place Feb. 14-17, had a wide array of events over the course of the weekend, including a parade, melodramas, re-enactments, a carnival, live concert performances by bands The Rock Bottom Boys and Allasso, a rodeo, and even frog jumping contests.

On Feb. 15, the "first heat" of the frog jumping contest began and it was very popular with the crowds. There was even a betting station set up for people to wager on frogs. The crowd went wild after the second race, when the underdog—or underfrog—won with 5-1 odds.

Charlie Busch, a Whiskey Flat Days committee member who also takes part in the melodrama, said all profits from the wagers on the frogs go toward funding Whiskey Flat Days. Those who won their wager were given "frog bucks," which are redeemable at any of the merchant stores, according to Busch.

The frog jumping was also a huge hit with children, who were allowed to catch the frogs after each race.

"We haven't lost a frog yet," Busch joked.

Mike Breckenridge, one of the many re-enactors, could be seen hanging out with his horse outside of the Kernville Saloon. Although Breckenridge said it was his first time taking part in Whiskey Flat Days, it is something that he wishes to continue. He traveled from his home in San Diego for the weekend in order to be involved with the event.

Whiskey Flat Days is one of the most popular festivals in Southern California, attracting more than 45,000 people over the Presidents Day weekend.



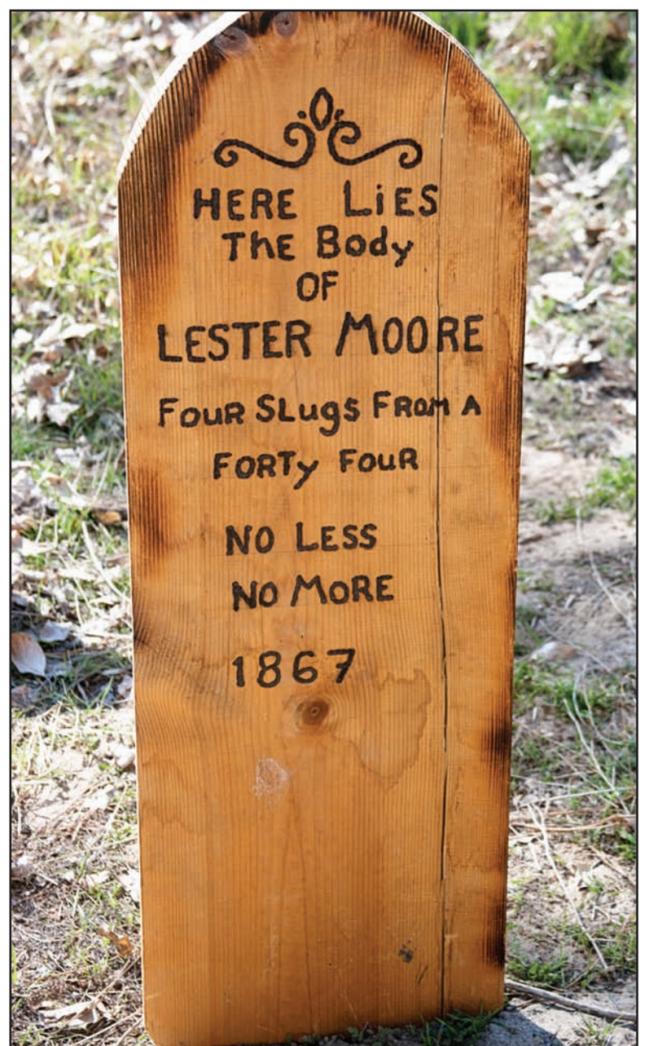
RICHARD PETERSON / THE RIP

The Confederates shoot off their guns as they ride through town. They are wearing period accurate uniforms and equipment.



RICHARD PETERSON / THE RIP

Whiskey Flat Encampment embodies ways of The Wild West.



RICHARD PETERSON / THE RIP

One of the entries for the epitaph competition sits on Boothill.



RICHARD PETERSON / THE RIP

Some contestants line up for the period-wear competition, being judged for costume authenticity.