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The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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Voter apathy is high

By Phillip Rodriguez
Reporter

Many students interviewed at Bakersfield College are unaware and uninterested in the elections taking place on Nov. 4. Several students who were asked whether they knew about the event stated that they did not know that it was happening, and of the student body surveyed, interest levels about the elections ranged from slightly interested to completely uninterested in the matter.

"I don't care," said student Samantha Wilber. "I think it's important for people to pay attention, but for people my age it doesn't really matter."

Student Francisco Frausto stated that he felt the elections would affect BC financially, but not that students should necessarily want to vote. "They don't have to be [interested], it's their choice," Frausto said. The California general elections draw closer as the early November voting date has some candidates and activists spreading word for their causes and incumbents. While many local politicians are vying for positions in Congress, the elections will decide the roles of many elected officials throughout California, from governor down through local representatives.

Not every student interviewed felt the same about the opportunity to vote. Student Government President Alex Dominguez said that he felt that the elections affected all residents of Kern County, especially BC students. "In my opinion, everything comes back to affect everyone. Just because I'm not a farmer doesn't mean water isn't a serious issue to me," stated Dominguez, and said that all students need to get involved in voting. "I've always said, you can't complain about the issue if you didn't even go out to vote. If our students want their voices heard, they need to get out and vote, especially on an important election year like this one."

American Sign Language major Donald Reimer Jr. said that he also felt the elections affect students. When asked whether he was interested in the upcoming election, he said that he was, and that other BC students should be interested as well. "I think students should (care), because California is their home, and they should care about what happens in their state," he said.

In addition to local positions that will be filled, there will be members elected to represent the Kern Community College District on the fourth. Debbie Carrothers, a member of Citizens for a Better Bakersfield College, sent out an email on behalf of the organization showing support for former Bakersfield College President Rick Wright and BC alumnus John Alexander. "I would like to ask you to put your trust in Dr. Rick Wright and Dr. John Alexander with your vote on November 4th," read Carrother's email in regard to the candidates. Other candidates include Kyle Carter, Hector Rivera and incumbent John Rodgers.

The last day to register to vote in this election was on Oct. 20, while the last day to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot is Oct. 28, according to the state's official voter guide website. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Nov. 4.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

From left to right: Emily Becerra and Rachel Magnus, with the Bakersfield Museum of Art, are busy imprinting chalk art on The Marketplace's parking lot pavement. Becerra joked that more people were stopping by to play with Magnus' cape-wearing dog, Ourel, rather than stopping by to admire the artist's work.

Vibrant artists showcase at Via Arte

By Elias C. Ahumada
Opinions Editor

The Marketplace was host to dozens of artists, both local and out of town, in this year's Via Arte: Italian Street Painting Festival.

The festival occurred Oct. 11 and 12, and was put together by the Bakersfield Museum of Art. "It's a fundraiser for the organization and it's now in its 16th year," said Vikki Cruz, the museum's executive curator.

The festival provides artists with a square on The Marketplace's parking lot pavement where the artists can put together a piece

using chalk. "All the squares are sponsored by various organizations or individuals, and so it allows for our artists to participate," said Cruz. "It's free for the artist to get involved and the sponsorship pays for their participation."

Square sizes for artists vary from four-by-six squares with the largest square being 12 by 12. This year, the festival had 10 artists from out of the area, including the festival's featured artist.

This year's featured artist rendered the largest piece in Via Arte history with a square measuring 15 by 15 feet.

Julie Kirk-Purcell, from Chino, was this year's featured artist.

Purcell has been doing street paintings for the past 23 years. "I came here a number of years ago and did a painting the first couple of years they had the event," said Purcell. While Purcell has participated in the event before, this was her first time as a featured artist.

"I designed a 3D painting, and the imagery is all from Africa, and I think it is going to be titled something like Dreams of Africa," she said.

Purcell noted that the intent was not for her piece to be a political statement, instead the painting symbolizes the romantic idea of what Africa would be versus what

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Above: BC student Sadhya Singampalli, 18, lays down some chalk at Via Arte in the Marketplace.

Right: Julie Kirk-Purcell, who has been doing street paintings for the past 23 years, is Via Arte's 2014 featured artist. Kirk-Purcell draws the event's largest work of art on Oct. 11, a 15 by 15 ft. piece that features a motif of Africa, according to Kirk-Purcell.



Bakersfield College shut down for more than eight hours

By James Macias
Reporter

The Bakersfield College campus was shut down for more than eight hours Oct. 7 due to a water main breakage. It was the result of the ongoing construction that is rampant all over the BC campus.

Crews from at least three separate contractors on three separate projects were present. They represent administration's interest in addressing three key issues: an outdoor restroom system for the new theater, the new theater itself, and an upgrade for the water and gas pipes.

It was the crew covering the outdoor restrooms that ran into trouble.

"They hit a waterline that was deeper than required by any code and not mapped on any sche-

matic in existence," according to Amber Chiang, public relations director of BC. "What happened last Tuesday was they needed a part that has not been standard for more than 20 years."

That project is still on schedule.

The water and gas pipes of BC's campus are out of date and more than 50 years old, having not been updated or even addressed since the campus's original construction in 1955. Crews are working hard to correct this oversight. "They start early in the morning as many worksites do," Chiang said.

As to the specific case in point, Chiang remarked that, "Closing the campus was not an arbitrary decision. The last time we decided to was July '09, also for a water main breakage. When things like that happen you have to run out for parts. We knew

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ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

Students were asked to leave the library after the campus was closed when a water pipe burst on Oct. 7.

News briefs

The Bakersfield College Student Government Association has positions open for senators and is encouraging students to apply. Any student who would like to serve on their governing body, voice student opinions and host campus events is encouraged to apply to be an SGA Senator. For an application, visit: <https://bcstudentlife.wufoo.com/forms/sga-officer-application>.

The Apocalypse Halloween Truck Festival will be held from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 24 at The Bakersfield Speedway off Chester Avenue. Interactive activities will be offered, such as live zombies, throwing plasma balls, rides with professional drivers, jeep crawls and more. Fees are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. For more information, call (661) 322-5200.

Boo-at-the-Zoo will be held at CALM from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 25-26. Guests of all ages are welcome and are encouraged to wear costumes. Children 12 and under are free with a paying adult. There will be trick-or-treating, decorations, bounce houses and refreshments. For more information, call (661) 872-2256 or visit calmzoo.org.

The Bakersfield 5-kilometer Zombie River Run will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 25 at Sam Lynn Ball Park off Chester Avenue. The cost to run is \$55 for adults and \$35 for children. For more information, call (661) 731-3327.

The 13th annual Bakersfield College Fundraising Tennis Dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Oct. 30 inside the BC cafeteria. The get-together will start at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:45 p.m. Tickets for dinner cost \$40 and raffle and drink tickets will be sold with all proceeds going directly back to the Bakersfield College Tennis Foundation.

The Safe Halloween at the Kern County Museum will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 30-31 where children ages 3-12 can trick-or-treat, enjoy the carnival, bounce houses, slides and pumpkin mazes. There will be a best costume contest open to all ages. Admission is \$10 for all. For more info, call (661) 852-5020.

The Murray Family Farms October Fun Fest will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays until Oct. 31 at the Murray's Family Farm 6700 General Beale Road. General admission costs \$8 and includes pumpkin patch, giant corn maze, hay rides, animal garden, duck races, jumping pillow and more. For more information, call (661) 330-0100.

The classic cult movie "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" will be shown at 11 p.m. Oct. 31 at the Fox Theater located at 2001 H St. Call (661) 324-1369 for details.

The Bakersfield College geology club will hold a bake sale between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Oct. 23 in the Free Speech Area. Proceeds benefit the club.

VP shows support for Renteria

By Elizabeth Fernandez
Editor in Chief

Vice President Joe Biden recently visited Bakersfield and joined congressional candidate Amanda Renteria and state Sen. Alex Padilla on stage during the Rally for the Valley event, to gather democratic candidate support for the upcoming midterm elections.

A line of over 2,000 attendees waited outside of California State University, Bakersfield's Icardo Center Gymnasium on Oct. 7.

Various locals and representatives provided brief speeches in support of the democratic candidates for nearly an hour before the candidates and the vice president finally took stage.

The event marked the vice president's return to the Central Valley in over 40 years.

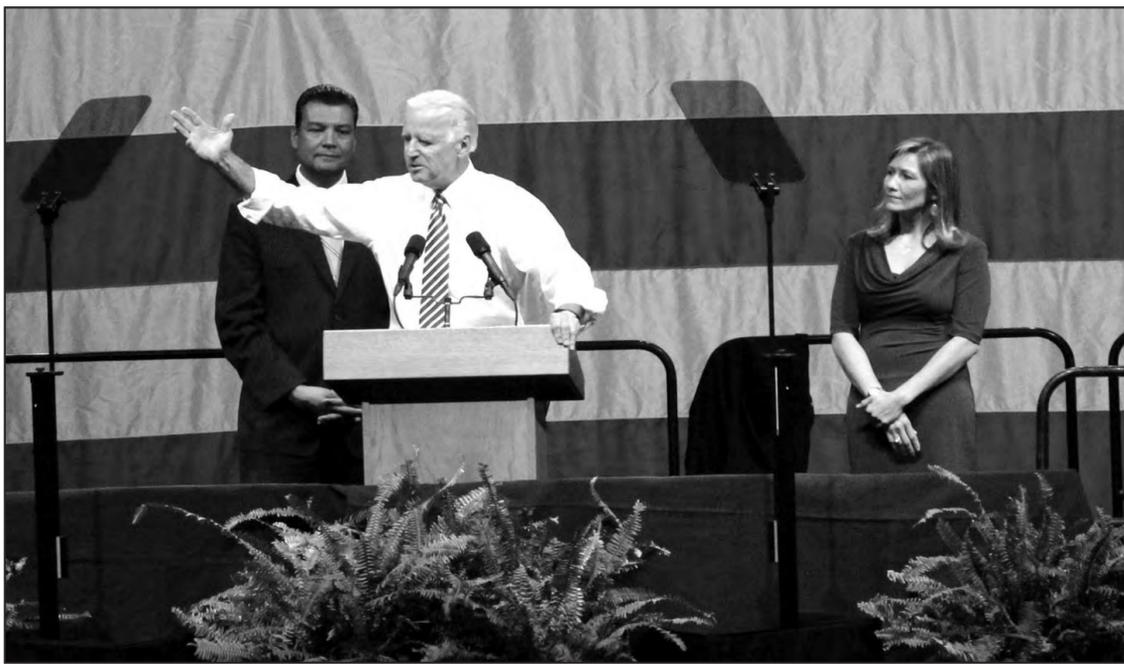
"It's good to be back at the valley. First time I was here, I was a young senator, 1973," said Biden, who addressed citizens' of the valley and its significance. "We understand back at my hometown of Delaware that you provide.

You know if ya'll were a single nation, you would be about the fourth largest agriculture exporter in the world, as a nation."

The upcoming November elections were the focal topics for the candidates.

"You know this better than I do. We've got some problems right now," Renteria said. "We have a water crisis, we have a jobs crisis, we've got education issues, and we got immigration issues."

As a former schoolteacher, Renteria emphasized the importance of the valley's children and



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

Vice President Joe Biden visits the Central Valley for the first time in over 40 years to show support for 21st congressional candidate Amanda Renteria. Biden pressed the importance of voting in the upcoming November elections.

called out to Dream Act students in the audience: "Where are my dreamers?"

Outstretching her hands to them, Renteria asked for their help and said she couldn't do it alone.

"I need you to volunteer. I need you to tell your friends. I need you to have that energy," she said. "And most importantly, I need you to believe in better. I need you to believe that the Central Valley can be better, that our future can be different."

Sen. Padilla, who is running for California's Secretary of

State, affirmed that the elections are ever-more important and come at a time when voter rights are under attack.

"You see what's happened in other states," Padilla said. "In 41 other states, [bills were] introduced that will make it tougher for working men and women to register to vote, to make it harder for working men and women to participate in our democracy. That's just wrong."

Biden also addressed the issue and said states attempting to make it harder for "folks" to vote were doing so to prevent

them from voting against them. "... That's why they're making it harder to vote," he said. "It's kinda pretty simple stuff."

The politicians urged the increasing need for citizens of the valley to vote. "Look folks, this is a really, really big election, and there's a reason for that," said Biden.

The vice president believes that the lack of communication in Washington is affecting the rest of the nation, and said that candidates like Alex Padilla can help fix the problem.

"This is a guy who knows how

to reach out. He knows how to reach out and generate census. He's passed over 80 pieces of legislation. In any legislative body, that's kind of a big deal because you gotta reach out," Biden said.

"And America, right now, the thing is broken in Washington, because people don't know how to reach out.

They don't talk much to each other and as a consequence all of America gets hurt when they don't, but what Alex is gonna do for Sacramento, Amanda is gonna do for Washington."

Ag summit addresses water issues, future

By Alisia Sánchez
Photographer

Led by U.S. Rep. and honorary chairman Kevin McCarthy, Bakersfield College was host to the first annual Kern County Agriculture Summit that took place in the Gil Bishop Gymnasium Oct. 9.

"Since we're in Kern County, why haven't we done this before?" McCarthy reportedly asked of host and Bakersfield College president Sonya Christian when she first proposed the idea of an agriculture summit to him. Thanking those in attendance, which ranged from farmers and growers to students and educators, McCarthy said "The first time is always the hardest."

The all-day summit, which began at 8 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m., was broken up into five separate sessions in which a panel of guest speakers took the time to discuss California agriculture, its trends and difficulties, as well as its future. Special guest speakers included California Farm Bureau president Paul Wenger and California State Senator Jean Fuller, with the top sponsors of the event being Bolthouse, Paramount and Grimmway Farms.

The keynote speaker, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture Karen Ross, emphasized that California remains number one in agriculture. From furnishing vegetables to producing wine, "[California] is increasingly a very important and reliable part of the global food chain," she said.

Still, Ross discussed one of the challenges California faces today: water.

According to Ross, a plan that would help take actions to improve resiliency began last year, long before there was a drought. That plan was the California Water Action Plan. At the time of its introduction, the plan had been well received due to the fact that it reflected the importance of storage. Extensive outreach and workshops were put together as the plan progressed. Among many other things, the plan would attempt to improve the operational efficiency of water projects; it was about securing stable funding and investments in water.

"It was, very importantly, about making sure that all of our communities and all of our citizens have access to clean, safe drinking water," Ross said. "We still have communities that pay for water but cannot drink it."

While working on that plan, Ross and others were forced to deal with the reality of a drought, so the plan was not released until late January of this year.

Ross said that one of the most efficient storage systems is the Sierra snowpack, but not having that snowpack has resulted in some harm. An emergency legislation, according to Ross, helped make "400 million dollars available to local irrigation districts and innovative regional water management plans for projects that would help them improve their water use efficiency." Another 800 million dollars were re-purposed to accelerate water recycle projects, and the State Water Resources Control Board passed legislation and regulations. The California Department of Food and Agriculture was also



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross (far right) speaks and answers questions during the first session of the first annual Kern County Agriculture Summit held in the BC gym.

asked to put together a \$10 million program to help improve water use efficiency.

"We can have the best soil in the world. We could be growing the best climate in the world. We still need infrastructure," Ross said. "We have workforce development challenges and we need water. We need the ability to capture water, store water and move water to places of need throughout the year."

U.S. Congressman David Valadao, who spoke in the second session of the summit alongside three other panelists, said that one of the things Washington faces is the solution. "When you talk about the solution, there's a lot of misinformation," Valadao said, also informing those in

attendance that his goal at the summit was to speak about legislation he has introduced.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act, or H.R. 3964, is, according to Valadao, a comprehensive bill that attempts to address issues California faces today in regard to water. "They say 'Water is for fighting and whiskey is for drinking,'" Valadao said. "There is a lot of fighting for water because it is such a limited resource." Valadao brought up issues such as the Big Delta and San Joaquin River settlement, ensuring he will continue to fight and negotiate to get the bill to go forward. "All of us in the valley have agreed that there is one piece of legislation that

will actually help address all the issues around the valley," Valadao said, "because it addresses all different parts of what's going on. Where we are today is making sure that we continue to fight, continue to negotiate." In attendance was John Stovall, water attorney, who found the progress of congressman Valadao's bill and the fact that there may soon be a conclusion to that bill the most interesting aspect of the summit.

"[It] will be a tremendous help for agriculture in Kern County, because it would free up a lot of water that would help farmers and farm workers," Stovall said. "As far as agriculture is concerned, water, I think, is the biggest issue."

New courses and degree program a possibility for Bakersfield College

By Graham C Wheat
Contributing Editor

Bakersfield College may be getting a new section of courses and a new degree program, although nothing is set in stone yet. Recent legislation in Sacramento to offer 4-year baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges is a historic legislation, says a press release from the California Community College Chancellor's office.

Although the push is finally clearing the bureaucratic red tape, the programs aren't up and running just yet. The initiative is to be a pilot program that would establish the services in 15 college districts that would implement said degree path no later than 2017-2018, so don't expect to see the new programs any time in the immediate future. The Legislative Analysts Office will evaluate the pilot program for some years until 2022 to see

the over-arching impacts of the program and end that program the same year unless extended by legislation. California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris said in a statement, "This law will help us to meet California's workforce needs, does not duplicate CSU or UC degree programs, and gives more Californians access to affordable higher education that enable them to obtain well-paying jobs." The Senate Bill, SB 850, would

authorize two-year colleges to offer 4-year courses for the most in-demand careers in the area's workforce. The courses themselves would offer a cheaper alternative to the tuition at a UC or CSU. The chancellor's press release stated that units would only be \$84 more than current unit prices for lower-division courses. At Bakersfield College, it has been articulated that the push for the four-year degree is in the nursing field.

BC public relations director Amber Chiang has expressed that numerous organizations in the health community have shown interest in and that students in the Allied Health programs are interested in the newest courses as well.

So, while there is interest statewide and locally to see the programs come to fruition, they are not up and running yet and no schools have been chosen to reap the benefits of the new bill.

NAMI walk to fight against mental illness

By Christopher A. Baptiste
Reporter

"Every one knows someone with a mental illness," said Erika Dixon, walk manager of this year's NAMI walk that took place Oct. 18 at The Park at Riverwalk.

Those in attendance ranged from individuals with a mental illness and their families to friends and supporters. Students of the Bakersfield College nursing program were also in attendance as volunteers, as well as Kurt Rivera, who spoke about a family member who deals with a mental illness.

Since 1979, National Alliance on Mental Illness, a nationwide organization with affiliates in every state and in more than 1,100 local communities across the country, has become the nation's voice of mental illness.

Board member since 2006 and former president of NAMI Kern, Cindy Gill, who was in attendance is a family-to-family teacher, support group facilitator, peer-to-peer outreach specialist, and a part of the NAMI Connection program.

"I became involved because my son has lived with a brain disorder as well as his grandmother," Gill said.

"It is important to educate the public and bring awareness to the community about what mental illness is and is not."

"The stigma of mental illness causes people to not seek help."

"I am a passionate advocate," she continued, "[and would like to] reduce that stigma and educate people early on so they view mental illness like any other illness."

NAMI Kern, affiliate of NAMI California, is a nonprofit corporation made up of families, friends, professionals, students,

and individuals living with a mental illness.

"One in 10 children and one in four adults are affected with mental illness," said Dixon.

According to NAMI's beliefs, as displayed on pamphlets, "mental illnesses are brain disorders and [people] see the person not the illness."

NAMI would like to "provide support, education and advocacy for people with mental illness, their families and friends."

NAMI has a mission "to promote better quality of care, rights and interests of citizens with mental illness, particularly of those who cannot speak for themselves and advocate for policies at the local, state and national level."

Jessica Christine Talbert, 27, was a first time participant of the NAMI walk. Talbert loves apple pie, basketball, Pete Rose, Derek Jeter, JESUS, and softball. Talbert attended Dickerson State University in North Dakota and carries a stigma around with her.

"My favorite softball catcher is Sahra Jain Webster and basketball player is Cia Hereal," Talbert said.

Both players attended Dickerson with her. "I once tried to kill myself at 23 years old then moved back home where my family saved my life. God loves me," she said.

Even though she is diagnosed with bipolar disorder and schizoaffective disorder, Talbert still kept a big smile.

"I'm Tim Tebow's biggest fan," Talbert said, displaying a deep love for sports and her favorite players.

She then added to her list of loves throwing in Chipper Jones and the Atlanta Braves, Carmelo Anthony, LeBron James and Michael Jordan.

NAMI's Mental Illness fact



PHOTOS BY ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Top: NAMI walk coordinator Erika Dixon hypes up participants before the walk begins around The Park at Riverwalk. Bottom right: Students of the Bakersfield College nursing program volunteer, helping make balloons for participants.

sheet states that "mental illnesses are medical conditions that disrupt a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning. Just as diabetes is a disorder of the pancreas, mental illnesses are medical conditions that often result in a diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life."

Serious illnesses include major depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), panic

disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and borderline personality disorder.

The good news about mental illness is that recovery is possible and all mental illnesses are treatable in some fashion. NAMI can help with any of these concerns and help begin treatment.

If you or anyone you know suffers from a mental illness, you may contact NAMI at (661) 858-3255 via call or text. You may also find them at 5121 Stockdale Highway, Suite 150A.



Local rap artist strives to gain much success

By Elias C. Ahumada
Opinions Editor

His message is peace.

Juan Hernandez, 22, from Delano, is a communications major at Bakersfield College. Some might know Hernandez by his emcee name, JList.

Hernandez plans to transfer to CSUB and pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology in the future.

Hernandez began rapping as a hobby about a year and a half ago and has recently joined a hip-hop group, also from Delano, named Block Style.

"A lot of rappers don't even talk," said Hernandez. Hernandez would like to see more rap artists unified and believes that it is important to have peace not only in music but across the world as well.

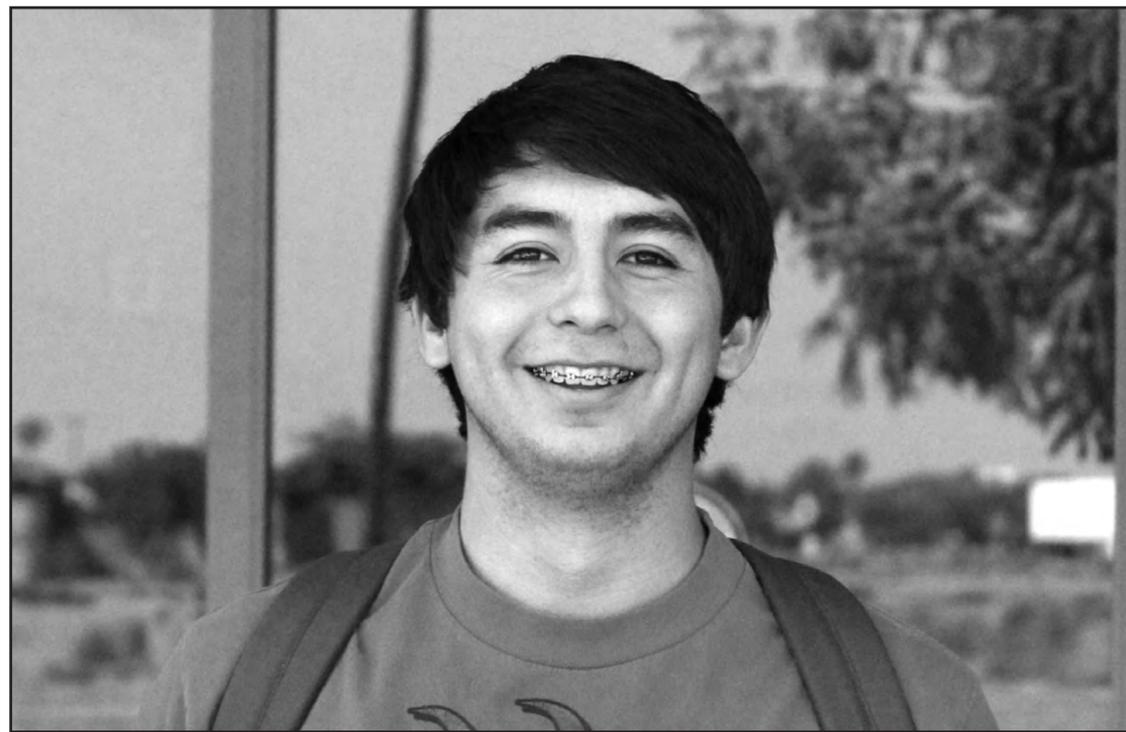
Hernandez mentioned the current situation in the Middle East with the uprising of the ISIS group. His thoughts on ISIS are, "I think it is crazy what's going on."

He also added, "It's a negative thing because of all the killings, all the massacres, so it is a very negative thing."

Hernandez believes that there should not be any U.S. involvement in the Middle East and that those countries should deal with those issues by themselves.

"Why fight when everyone can get along?" he said.

The reason Hernandez is pursuing a degree in psychology is



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Trying to leave his own mark on the local rap and hip-hop community, Juan Hernandez, or JList, plans to make a mixtape and performs in the Visalia and Delano areas. Hernandez hopes to spread his blend of music to Bakersfield.

because he has always been fascinated with trying to understand people and their behaviors.

Hernandez said that he pursued music because he was always good at writing.

"I was just really good at writ-

ing," he said. "The whole microphone thing, I just bought me one, and thought, why not? Let me try it out."

As far as famous hip-hop artists that influenced Hernandez to rap, were Fort Minor from

Linkin Park and Eminem.

He said that after a while he stopped listening to hip-hop and was listening to a lot of punk rock, but Immortal Technique made him go back to listening to rap music.

At the moment JList and the group Block Style have been performing in cities like Porterville and Visalia.

"The Sinister Club in Porterville," said Hernandez, "It's like a biker scene, it's just a bar, they

have a lot of pool tables, couches, and it's pretty cool."

JList and Block Style also perform in places like Visalia. "They have a movement out there, people come all the way from Fresno to perform out here too," he said.

One thing JList hopes for is that more opportunities open up for performances in the Kern County area.

"It would be cool if we spread [the movement] to Bakersfield," said Hernandez.

With his busy schedule, and the need for more money, JList is optimistic that he will release his own solo mixtape in the near future.

"I was planning on coming out with a mixtape, but right now I'm trying to save up money or find a way to burn a lot of CD's," Hernandez said.

For about \$50, JList says he can get a couple hundred printouts of the cover, but he would have to also purchase CD's on top of that.

JList's message to his fans is, "Listen to rap because honestly it's the best art form when it comes to music because it's the most expressive, and carries the best message, and overall it teaches you how to act."

JList's music can be found online on YouTube and the account is under TheJuanh911.

One song that hip-hop fans can find on YouTube is 'Wise Guys' featuring Asil.

Company repurposes military gear; veterans have a range of emotions

By Trina Gore
Reporter

Female veterans on campus had mixed emotions about Sword and Plough, a company specializing in repurposing and recycling military gear.

Although Bakersfield College veterans have no problem with the mission of Sword and Plough, the idea of military gear being sold for financial gain, even though the material used is

a surplus of fabric and material that would otherwise be buried in the ground or incinerated.

Emily and Betsy Nunez are sisters in a military family who have found a purpose in recycling and repurposing military gear into fashionable accessories such as rucksack backpacks, handbags, cufflinks, leather belt, and more, and founded Sword and Plough in 2012.

The sisters work with veterans to create sturdy and appealing products.

The sales of these items help with veterans' issues, such as unemployment.

It also reduces waste and assists with military understanding.

This may be so, but BC veterans would like the option of being able to donate material for this as well.

Tina Mendoza, the educational adviser for veterans mentioned that veterans on campus would like to see the company form a fund, in which a portion of the

proceeds of the sale of Sword and Plough products would go to benefit veterans.

Miles Post, current BC student and veteran, stated, "I do support this." Post liked the fact that the material is being recycled.

Post went on to mention that the products that were being made were fire resistant.

This fact is also mentioned on the Sword and Plough website. The site mentions the bags are made from repurposed military gear, making them not only fire

resistant but water and UV resistant as well.

Veterans aren't the only ones having mixed emotions; BC students feel the same way.

Megan Lonsinger, a BC student and a senator of SGA, feels the purpose is admirable but wants to know more about the funds and whether or not sales of the products are all profit or do any proceeds go toward veterans issues, and if so in what way.

Another BC student, Victoria Vargas, 2012 BC homecoming

queen, thinks it's really cool that two women started a company on their own and believes that to be great for women.

Also Vargas wished the prices of the products were less expensive so she could enjoy the repurposed military products. Vargas was not alone in this sentiment of frugality.

All BC veterans and students that were asked about this and agreed, that the prices should be lower and more reasonable to a budget.

Kern County Stand Down assists veterans

By Alisia Sánchez
Photographer

Alongside more than 60 providers, Kern County Homeless Collaborative member California Veterans Assistance Foundation both honored and helped approximately 508 local veterans acquire needs, services and information they may or may not have been fully aware of at this year's Kern County Stand Down.

The event, which has taken place locally every second Thursday of October since 2011, took place Oct. 9 at Stramler Park.

"Stand Down is truly a testament of how Kern County views its veterans," said president and CEO of CVAFA Deborah Johnson. "It's Kern County's event for veterans."

Students and instructors from Lyle's Colleges of Beauty were present to provide free haircuts to veterans, and the American Legion Post 26 helped provide clothing. Community donations contributed to the event as well.

"When we put out publicly 'We need donations of clothing,' it's amazing," Johnson said. "The community comes together, and they drop off bags and bags of clothes at our office. All of that gets sorted, resized. It gets brought out to the park, and veterans can come in and take advantage of it, and we're also able to give out clothing to their dependents as well."

Information on housing and employment was also provided at Stand Down, including veterans' services. Clinica Sierra Vista and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center provided flu shots and many veterans were able to enroll in health care and benefits.

According to Johnson, however, the event's biggest draw remains the Veterans Court, which helps veterans with traffic tickets, misdemeanors and fines in Kern County. A total of 66 veterans pre-registered this year to meet before a judge in a full courtroom that is run and provided at the event. "[Veterans] will get those fines reduced or taken away for community service because we know that veterans, that they are low income," Johnson said. "Everything can hinge on a simple traffic fine or a traffic ticket, so [Veterans Court] is our number one draw."

The event's committee had over 10 agencies that allowed their staff to volunteer. As a part of their rotation, students of the Bakersfield College nursing pro-



PHOTOS BY ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Jesse Bracamonte, quartermaster of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1468, stands before and looks at the information provided at the VFW Post 7216 booth, where veterans are informed of privileges they may or may not be entitled to at the Kern County Stand Down on Oct. 9 at Stramler Park.

gram were also in attendance as volunteers, wearing red scrubs and doing a variety of tasks that ranged from registering veterans to helping give out free pairs of socks.

Not only was Johnson in attendance to help answer questions and provide guidance to service providers, volunteers and veterans, but also to place focus on women veterans. A booth that was specifically set up for them at Stand Down attempted to find out what their needs in the community are. A veteran herself, Johnson said women veterans do not wear the hat or the T-shirt that depicts their service, and the only way she was able to identify women veterans at the event was by the red wristband that was given to them to wear upon registration.

"A lot of women do not identify themselves as a veteran because society kind of says 'Well, if you're a veteran, you've had to have served in combat or you've

served in war.' That is not the true definition of a veteran," Johnson said. "It's any man or woman who have served in the act of military service, so it doesn't matter what branch of service. When they served, that they've completed their enlistment in the act of military service, they are a veteran regardless of gender."

Out of the 508 veterans that attended, 31 of them were women. According to Johnson, "11 men were at imminent risk of homelessness, 43 men and eight women were unstably housing, and 35 men and three women identified as being homeless."

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7216 attended the event with the intent of assisting homeless veterans. Larry Romo, Korean War veteran and honor guard member of the VFW Post 7216, helped inform veterans that they are eligible to be buried at no cost at the national cemetery, provided they received an honorable discharge.

"These guys that are here today, every one of them are heroes," Romo said. "So we're here to help them and let them know what privileges they have, and to us, it's great to be here."

Among those in attendance, was Adolfo Alfonso Chavez, a disabled veteran who served the Marine Corps for two years and the Army for eight. "I'm not going to say I'm struggling," Chavez said.

"I'm living my life to the fullest, the best I can. I'm not giving up, and I'm not going to sit here and cry about it."

Chavez has attended Stand Downs in the past but a move to Sacramento may keep him from attending future ones. "The Stand Down means a lot to all these veterans," he said. "There's certain things that we might need, or like I'm going to need. I'm moving up to Sacramento. I'm gonna live over there now, and I'm going to miss Bakersfield and these Stand Downs."



Larry Romo, member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7216, attended this year's Stand Down to inform veterans about eligibility to be buried at the national cemetery.

Volkslauf: Obstacle run for a purpose

By Brooke Howard
Reporter

In 1997, a group of Marines designed a 10-kilometer run that would challenge and motivate participants by incorporating the traditional Marine mud obstacle course. Today, thousands of runners in Bakersfield alone team up and take over the course.

Many runners, volunteers, and Marines were present at this year's event Oct. 11 across from Meadows Field Airport.

Race director Denise Haynes commented on the motivation of the event. "The motivation behind our efforts is twofold: to be able to give generously to several local sharable organizations, and to provide you, the zealous warriors, with an experience that will give you countless good stories and endless bragging rights."

All the proceeds of the Volkslauf run go to charities like the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Bakersfield Ronald McDonald house, Toys for Tots, Feed the Less Fortunate, Society for Disabled Children, and Boy Scouts.

The vigorous course itself held many challenges but as many know, Kern County is in a serious drought.

"The unprecedented drought besieging California this year has brought a significant change to the course dynamics," Haynes said. "With this event consisting of many mud-based obstacles, tarps were used at the bottom of the mud pits and the main water obstacle was taken out completely."

An event volunteer said that



BROOKE HOWARD / THE RIP

Participants run during the Bakersfield Volkslauf 2014 course on the morning of Oct. 11. Proceeds will benefit varying local and national nonprofit organizations, such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

organizers tried to think of everything to make the event fun and water-efficient.

Many Marines came from all over the country to participate in the Bakersfield Volkslauf and even held pull-up contests to give out T-shirts and water bottles.

One Marine helping with the pull-up contest was

Sgt. Eleaza Zamano. "I've been in the Marine Corps nine years, and it is a life-changing experience and I wouldn't be the person I am today without it," Zamano said. "This is a really nice motivating event that really focuses on teamwork. I really love this run."

A kids' course was also

incorporated with The Young Marines, a youth group focused on drug reduction and healthy fit lifestyles, in charge of helping other children through the obstacles.

Executive Officer John Gonzales said, "This 501 nonprofit organization, going on its 56th year, takes

elementary to high school aged kids and teaches them hard work and good life skills."

With a good cause and even better turnout, many people left tired, muddy and with smiles on their faces. To register for next year's Bakersfield Volkslauf visit volkslauf.com

October fun in Fireside Room

By Darlene Mangrum
Reporter

If you are trying to find something fun to do for Halloween, you can always join the party in the Fireside Room hosted by Intervarsity.

Intervarsity is a Christian-based club that hosts prayer meetings and Bible studies on campus all semester long. The president of the club, Patricia Watt, is inviting Bakersfield College faculty and students to an 'Open Mic-Talent Night' in the Fireside Room on Thursday Oct. 30, from 7-8:30 p.m.

There will be free food, a talent show, a raffle, and a costume contest. Organizers said no full-faced masks will be allowed due to campus security issues. They asked that attendees keep costumes appropriate for all ages. Costumes are encouraged, but not required, and there will be prizes for various costume categories. Prizes have not been decided yet, but they will be festive and related to the October holiday.

According to Watt, "This is an opportunity to engage students in a friendly, open, safe, and fun environment on campus to celebrate the October holiday." Watt also said, "It is also a chance to interest students in our club, showing them that being a Christian does not mean that you have to be boring or unable to hang out with friends of all faiths and backgrounds."

Watt also mentioned, "If anyone is interested, we are in need of performers who will share their talents through singing, playing an instrument, giving a speech, acting out a short skit, reading poetry, dancing, or whatever other talent the student or faculty wants to gift the audience with."

Performance spots are 5-10 minutes long and need to be reserved by Oct. 23. Those interested in performing can contact the club president, Patricia Watt, at (661) 440-0901 or patrina.watt1400@email.bakersfieldcollege.edu, or contact Jill Vande Zande at (231) 855-2808 or jill.vandezande@intervarsity.org.

Activists speak at BC

By Phillip Rodriguez
Reporter

English Professor Elizabeth Rodacker had two speakers talk to her English class for Multilingual Students on the morning of Oct. 8.

The speakers were brought in to Rodacker's class to speak on the subject of racism and the civil rights movement of the 20th century, which was a main topic in the book the class had been assigned, titled "March: Book One."

This book is the first installment in a trilogy of graphic novels written by John Lewis and illustrated by Nate Powell.

The first speaker to arrive was the president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Bakersfield branch, Patrick Jackson. Presented beforehand with questions written by the class, Jackson stated that he was happy to be speaking on this occasion. He said that the NAACP is still working and fighting for rights like earlier civil rights groups, and certain events have caused specific social issues to "come full circle," a phrase he repeated throughout the class session.

When asked about the roots of the original civil rights movements, Jackson said, "[African-Americans] felt wronged a majority of the time."

He stated that many African-Americans felt they were not being treated equally, even going so far as saying that people of their

color were considered "one-third human."

Jackson said that this was a main contributing factor for the push toward the civil rights movement.

The second speaker in the class, 78-year-old Mary Dulan, agreed with Jackson, and described an incident that occurred when she was a student at the University of Oklahoma in which an African-American man, who was attempting to attain a doctorate, was not treated equally.

In addition to being made to sit outside while the rest of his class were taught, the man had to be roped off from the rest of the students during times in which he was allowed in the classrooms.

However, when asked whether she thought she had hardships as an African-American, Dulan continued, "[My family] never had a hardship, because my mother had a job and all my sisters helped our mother."

She added that every member of her family had a specialty with which they contributed to their brothers and sisters.

Near the end of the discussion, Jackson stated that education is important.

"If you don't know your history, you'll be doomed to repeat it," he said.

"If you don't stay educated and learn, things will come back."

Dulan agreed, addressing the entire class and said, "You're not going to be slaves because you will all be educated."



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Playwright Jessica Atkinson, 21, and president of the Theater Club, Blake Clendenen, 23, hold auditions for the club.

Theatre Club returns with new festival

By Trina Goree
Reporter

Attention all Bakersfield College students: the Theatre Club is back. The Theatre Club has been in existence since 2004, according to Blake Clendenen, current Theatre Club president, although it was shut down in the past semesters due to a lack of members and involvement.

The Theatre Club resurrection was due to Clendenen and BC professor Kimberley Chin. Also, the refurbishing of the theaters brought a new wave of students interested in joining the club.

The freshly restarted Theatre Club has a new cabinet, which consists of Clendenen, vice president Henley Pearson, secretary

Monique Hanson-Garcia, and treasurer Kaylee Underwood. Chin is the club's adviser.

Clendenen noted the goal of the club: "To have outreach and support for anyone who wants to learn about art and acting through the means of improv and theater games and stage direction and acting in general," he said. The club currently consists of 15-16 members, all of whom are BC students.

When asked about upcoming events, Clendenen mentioned a festival in November. It will be known as the Bakersfield College Theatre Club Second One Act Festival, taking place Nov. 19 thru 21. The festival will start at 7 p.m. and go until 8:30 p.m. The festival will take place at the Black Box Theatre in the

SPARC building, with free admissions, though the Theatre Club is asking for suggested donations of \$5.

There will be six plays shown each night. They are "Family: The Proposal," written and directed by Reginald Autwell, "Out of the Closet" and "Into the Fire co-written by Clendenen and Jess Akinson and directed by Clendenen, "Trouble in Eden," written and directed by Clendenen, "Da Artist House," written by Chin and directed by Clendenen, and "Laboring Storm and Echoes in the Night," written and directed by Jess Akinson. The Theatre Club will also be fundraising at the Kern Shakespeare Festival, selling concessions. The festival continues until Oct. 26 at the

outdoor theater.

Club meetings are the first and third Thursdays of the month, with make-up dates on Mondays of every month (a total of four make-up meetings). The club can be found on Facebook by searching for BC Theatre Club.

In the semester to come, spring 2015, the Bakersfield College Third One Act Festival will take place around March, according to Clendenen. The Theatre Club will be taking submissions of plays from new playwrights who want to act or direct during the winter break. Anyone interested in joining, auditioning, submitting acts, or general information can reach the Clendenen by email at midori122407@outlook.com.

Homecoming pride marches on

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

This semester, with the theme of "Frame the Moment: #The BC Selfie," the tradition of Homecoming is back with new ways for Bakersfield College students to celebrate their Renegade pride and to remember the importance of community on campus.

Although a couple of the Homecoming festivities have passed, it's not too late to join the celebration. For those Renegades with hidden talents, the BC Got Talent competition will be held Oct. 22. Students will perform a four-minute presentation with a chance to win \$75. Winning this competition will help teams earn points for a larger team competition that will be held for the first time this year.

"I'm really excited about BC Got Talent," said Jimmy Moran, current Student Government Association vice president.

For those Renegades who do not wish to perform live, there are plenty of other ways to exhibit Renegade Pride. Members of the BC community can earn a ticket voucher to BC's Homecoming game Oct. 25 by donating five items to The Renegade Pantry. Donations include non-perishable food items and clothing. Monetary donations are also accepted. All donations must be received by noon Oct. 24. Renegades can drop off their donations to the Office of Student Life, Campus Center, Room 4.

"Any proceeds will help The Renegade Pantry," Moran said. "It's a positive outcome either way."

Nicky Damania, director of student life, hopes to see the BC community help one another through the drive.

"Sometimes students need some extra assistance," Damania said.

"The philosophy behind Renegades Care is to reveal community awareness and to see students helping students."

Another way to show school spirit is by uploading a 15-second YouTube video to a personal account and sending it to studentlife@bakersfieldcollege.edu before 5 p.m. on Oct. 23. The

contestant who submits the winning video will receive \$50 and points for their team. Using YouTube is a new way for Renegades to show their spirit via social media. Moran said he's excited for the addition.

"This is something new that we just implemented this year," he said. "It's awesome to see how creative people can get."

Homecoming Activities will end on Oct. 25 with the Homecoming Football game. BC will play against Cerritos College. On this night, winners of the team competition and the Homecoming Court will be announced.

The court is comprised of four students. Moran, who was Homecoming King last year, recalls his experience earning the achievement.

"Winning was phenomenal. It touched my heart," he said.

"I didn't win in high school so it felt good that I was nominated and I won it in college. College is awesome."



PHOTOS BY VANESSA MUNOZ / THE RIP

Top: Some students know who Lokie is and have often spotted her around campus sitting shotgun in the back of her handler's, Denise Holms, bicycle. Bottom right: Denise Holms is enjoying lunch in the Campus Center with Lokie.

How to recognize a certified service dog at BC

By Vanessa Munoz
Photographer

Bakersfield College has seen an increase in enrollments of students with disabilities who use service dogs, many of which have been spotted around campus.

These service dogs and service dogs in training are certified and trained through the Americans with Disabilities Act and have the right to be on campus, however, there has been some confusion when it comes to the difference between a service dog and an emotional support dog.

Terri Goldstein, who is the director of Disabled Students Programs and Services, wants the students and faculty to know the difference when it comes to these service animals. A service dog and a service dog in training are trained to guide a blind person, aid a person who cannot hear, or act as an alarm to a person for many different reasons.

An emotional support dog is not certified through the Americans with Disabilities Act, they are not trained, and they are not allowed on the campus here at Bakersfield College.

An emotional support dog is just a companion to help a person who feels they have an emotional imbalance that they cannot control.

Goldstein stats that anyone can go online and register their pet as an emotional support dog, but aside from housing rights.

This does not entitle them or their pet to any of the rights that a service dog would have.

Regular dogs are not allowed on campus either.

Bakersfield College does welcome service dogs but does not condone regular housedogs on campus.

Service dogs are hard to recognize but most wear a vest or a square blue tag that says Kern County service dog on it, but they do not have to.

Goldstein mentions one noticeable fact, "when it comes to service dogs and service dogs in training they are highly trained to obey their handler and are house broken".

If you see a dog that is being wild and is not trained then you have the right to ask the handler if their dog is a service dog for a disability and what training does the dog have.

If for any reason you feel that



a dog is not a service dog, or if you know for a fact that it is not, then you can get a hold of campus police as this is breaking the student code of conduct. If there are any questions or concerns about the service animals or their usage on campus, Terri Goldstein, whose office is located in Student Services building just northeast of the administration building, can assist anyone who is willing to register their service animal with them.

Outdoor theater re-opens after two-year hiatus



VANESSA MUNOZ / THE RIP

The outdoor theater finally showcases its first performances and reopens to audience after approximately two years of reconstruction on Oct. 16. The first performances consisted of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, directed by Randall Messick, and *MacBeth*, directed by Kevin and Kody Ganger. Remaining dates are scheduled for 8 p.m., Oct. 22 and 24.



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

From left to right: Nadya Khazneh, 19, and Joy Kamal, 19, are BC students that participated in this year's Via Arte. They decided to draw a piece for fun and good times, said Kamal.

VIA ARTE: Local art on display at The Marketplace

Continued from Page 1

everything that is out in the media with all the political problems and most notably the health issues.

"So it is just based on a lot of that imagery of what people think Africa would be like, and it's got a lot of animals in it, and one of the tribeswoman is in it," stated Purcell.

The reason behind the piece becoming the largest in Via Arte history is because of the painting's unique 3D outline.

Among the other visiting artists was Melissa De La Cruz from San Luis Obispo. This was De La Cruz's second time working with chalk art, but "as far as involved with the art community, maybe 15 or 20 years and that can be a combination of multimedia pieces, photography, paintings, sculptures, and that's a combination of differ-

ent things over an array of time," added De La Cruz.

Delacruz has a high interest in street art like graffiti and says that she is inspired by yards that she sees now. "It seems like there is a revitalization in graffiti," said De La Cruz.

Local artists at Via Arte included students from high schools in the Bakersfield area. Matthew Medina, 17, and Jocelyn Cuevas, 15, from Golden Valley High School competed in their school's art contest and their victory led them to a spot in Via Arte.

Children were also welcomed to the event. Vicky Teel, Bakersfield, took her grandkids, who are twins, Kaliyah and Kayle Elcano, 5, and the children shared a square. Via Arte had art opportunities for all ages to attend or compete in.

Some of the awards at the event

included Best in Festival Square and the winner was square number 51.

Another award winning square was square number 77, Julio Jimenez, and he won Best Visiting Artist Square.

Out of the schools competing, Stockdale High School won for Best Overall School Award. Stockdale won for squares #111 and #114.

This year was the first time in Via Arte history that the event had a People's Choice Award.

The winning square was square #57. Artists' Darla Kendrick, Jenn Williams, and Vanessa Boel rendered that square.

The People's Choice Award is awarded to artists that are based on the votes from the general public.

The voters get the chance to vote at the event site.

Early alert program works to improve student performance

By Vanessa Munoz
Photographer

New programs have been developed recently at Bakersfield College, but one program has been brought back by the administration with hopes for better results: the early alert program.

The Student Success Intervention Initiative was once a program here at BC but had been closed some years back due to budget cuts.

This program, which has been practiced at other colleges in California, was brought back to BC by President Sonya Christian, Vice President of student affairs Zav Dadabhoj, and other faculty administrators.

Currently, counselor Grace Commiso is running the program. This early alert program is not to be confused with the emergency alert emails that are sent out to all students. Commiso explains that essentially this new initiative is to alert students early in the semester that they need to get additional help in a certain class.

"That's why it's called early alert, so students can have that intervention early on in the semester in order for them to be more successful," she said.

She did explain how Dadabhoj and the faculty that helped bring this program to BC felt this new initiative would help bridge the gap in communication, so students who are having difficulty and need to get assistance can get the help they need early in the semester.

Even though this program may just be getting reintroduced back onto the BC campus, this semester, the initiative has been a work in progress for faculty members and administrators at Bakersfield College for some time now.

It is the student's instructor who acknowledges the trouble the student is having and goes into this program to create an intervention for that student. The instructor can email a Student Success notification that will inform the student how they feel the student can utilize certain programs that are available to help benefit them in that course, with specifics on what type of program it is and where they can locate these services on campus.

Commiso has received emails in response from students who have said if this type of program had been available years ago they would not have dropped out of college the first time and

would probably have been finished with school earlier.

Dadabhoj did state how this program was once used here at BC for years but was not as efficient as it is now.

He claims that with technology being more advanced now then it was some years ago, this program can have more promise and positive results this year, since the program will now be sent out through email and not manually.

Commiso wants students to know that these notifications are not being sent to students to make them think they are in trouble.

It is only to inform the students they need help in a certain course, and there is help on campus for them.

These notifications will be sent out through email via your Bakersfield College email address that every student has. There are alternate ways of communication for a follow-up if students fail to respond.

With students unaware of the many different programs that are available to them at BC, the Student Success Intervention will bring attention to services that are there and have always been there for students to use who are in need of help.

WATER: Water-line damage shuts down BC



IMAGE PROVIDED BY BC PUBLIC RELATIONS

A broken water-line led to a campus-wide shutdown while repairs were finished.

Continued from Page 1

the repairs would not be done in an hour. An hour is what we've set as the maximum amount of time the campus can be without water due in part to our child development center. How are you going to tell a 4-year-old they can't go potty?"

Chiang reiterated a message that the BC ad-

ministration has been trying to convey to students throughout the construction process.

"Stop being stupid," she said, referring to the habit many students have of walking around with their heads in their smartphones or mp3 players and their earplugs in.

"It is so dangerous not to be aware of your surroundings," Chiang said.

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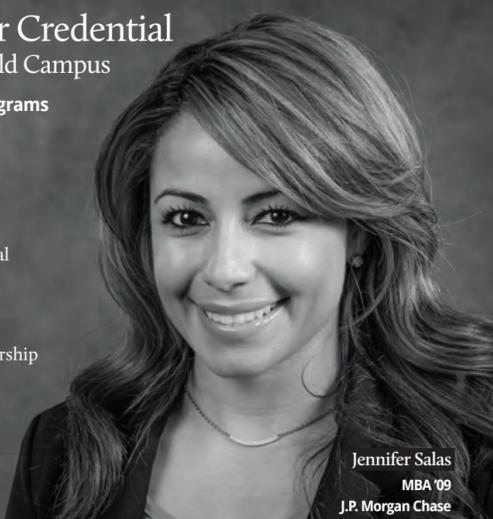
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Staff Editorial

Campus water main issues effect on students

The issue of construction will not be separated from the daily routine of students, and it is becoming a nuisance to everyone who inevitably encounters it.

The initial push to replace the water and gas lines on campus that began mid-April 2014 have now impacted the daily routine of scholars so much that it is a detriment to the learning environment.

While one portion or another of the campus has been closed off for much of the semester making it difficult and crowded while walking to classes, the construction is now impeding on the daily lives of students when the hasty manner of construction makes mistakes. It is understandable that the replacing of decades old pipes at Bakersfield College, are foremost agendas to those making the "big" decisions. However, there are some issues that present themselves when examining this push for updated infrastructure.

BC is a very old campus. Since the move from downtown Bakersfield, which completed in 1956, BC has been located on Panorama Dr. and University Way. It was completed with the latest 1950's technology. And little has changed since then to be quite frank. Asbestos was still being removed from the Humanities building up to two years ago. The refurbishing and abatement projects at BC have been happening for quite some time. Everyone who makes decisions about the campus knows this place is old; the pipes are not a new issue. Or rather, they should not be.

This sudden push to update the campus must be examined from a different standpoint.

The subject of the old pipes was known for sometime and is just now being taken care of because BC apparently had more important things to do.

Negatively impacting the lives of students, who already have so much to overcome, in a hurried effort to get up to code is unacceptable. What makes it more egregious is that those efforts, which should have been foremost, are put on the back burner.

Celebrating 100 years as a community college is a grand affair and infrastructure can wait.

Winning, and ungraciously losing, a state football title is more important than clean, running water.

Red, White, and Wine, the yearly administration mixer, is paramount to heated classes.

Building a brand new multi-million dollar theater is more important than assuring that 60-year-old pipes do not randomly burst while a student is indisposed in the restroom.

The point is, that issue should have been taken care of much sooner; arguably the administration would much rather focus their efforts growing BC's prestige and culture, which is fine if the entire school isn't being closed down from a broken water main in a rush to keep your government funding intact.

Most of the students love the heritage of their college, and that is a good thing for a school to encourage and facilitate. Yet, in that quest for glory they have lost sight of what creates and fosters all those kudos and smiling student faces.

A functioning, uninterrupted process of learning and academic growth is what is most important to this campus.

It is high time those in administration realized this and put their grandiose aside, and cater to the side of students' needs first. Without a continued positive student experience, the campus will continue to be broken and no amount of swift construction will be able to rebuild it.

Differing views: anarchy and society

Time to take a free market approach to free a society

We need stucture within a society to maintain quality

By Phillip Rodriguez
Reporter

By James Macias
Reporter

With local elections arriving, the overall consensus among American citizens is that the government is either up to no good or good for nothing, a variety of solutions have been created via the think-tank that is the mainstream culture. Aside from the red-and-blue battle that wages on between the GOP and Democratic Party, fringe groups have been amassed to take more specific, and what some may consider, more extreme stances. While the Tea Party movement and Occupy groups across the country set up specialized efforts to create ripples in the governmental water, I find that there is a different approach to take.

The form of, or lack thereof, government I am writing about might sound shocking if not thoroughly explained.

Anarchy, but more specifically Anarcho-Capitalism, is a free-market approach to a naturally free society. Though many of us have seen this ideal demonized, belittled and made to seem like a joke, I believe that there is some validity to this kind of civilization.

First, I would like to make it clear that Anarchy does not describe a community or society free of rules, but rather a society that is free of rulers.

For many Americans and groups of people, not only in the United States, there seems to be a reduction of responsibility. The nuclear family has been broken down, and the government, though considered 'diverse', has been corporatized and overcomplicated to ensure its own protection over the people.

In an initially well-intentioned gesture to help the needy, the government has overstretched its boundaries and given a loophole for the lazy to stay unmotivated, and the ignorant to stay ignorant.

Anarchy, though not a miracle cure to save the world from degradation, would promote independence by forcing the intentionally lazy to adapt or become extinct, while it would also simultaneously increase the well-being and happiness of people who are already self-motivated.

Privatization of the police as well as many of the other government controlled jobs that have become necessary in today's culture would become a competitive business, to provide each individual with the best product possible in an attempt to get their business. Money would be privatized to certain areas (as I will mention in a moment), and, working alongside the private businesses in each community, would help control inflation as well as other negative aspects of a large financial entity.

While crime wouldn't screech to a halt, individuals would have to arm themselves and form small communities unique to that area's beliefs and ideals, creating a sort of 'wolf-pack' that would defend people from hostile attacks. This sort of agreement was the initial foundation of the USA, while we were still in colonies and the concept of Federalism was still feasible. In this way, any type of person could live their own life how they decided, as long as they would be part of a group or could deal with the reprisals of said decisions.

Though it could be very possible that these makeshift colonies would become larger, eventually creating a new nation, this solution is temporary, and would give humanity a fresh start. The government will never be able to truly and absolutely control everything, be it speech, safety, or thought. While this does not directly call for Anarchy, once combined with the effort to become more responsible and content at the same time, it is the only true existence a rational person could attest to.

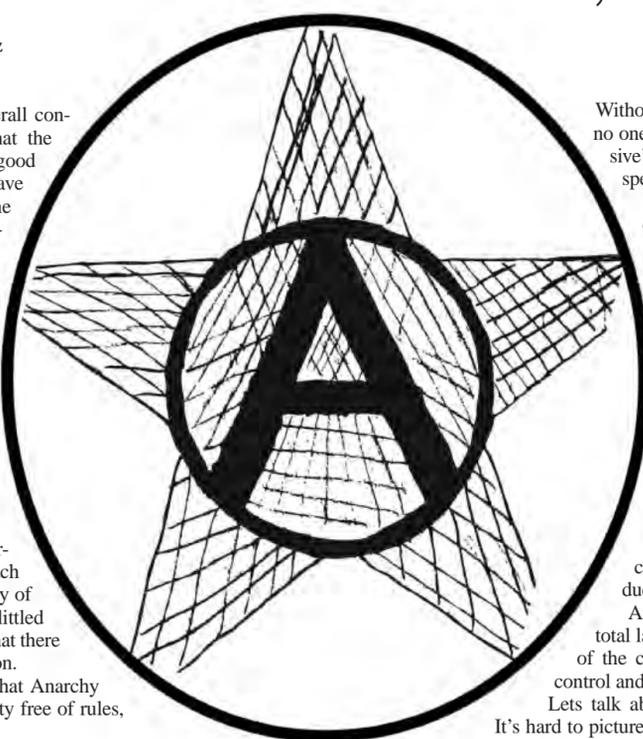


ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES MACIAS / THE RIP

Without some degree of social order there would be no one left to complain about the so-called 'oppressive' systems that keep us alive and taught us to speak in the first place.

As Karl Marx wrote, "Free development of each is the condition for the free development of all." The father of modern socialism would have us believe that a system can be enacted to provide a perfect utopian state to the workers while simultaneously eliminating the 1% whom Marx famously labeled 'the bourgeoisie.' This segment of our population evidently has the will and the means to run/rule our world any way they see fit seemingly with or without our knowledge and consent.

Some have complained that his methods are too simplified or blunt, effectively driving the individual into obscurity in favor of the greater good, institutionalizing ideas like conformity and insignificance in favor of production and fair play.

Anarchy in terms of complete lawlessness and total lack of any central authority is more the dream of the criminal element that would rather have less control and less establishment for obvious reasons.

Lets talk about human social structure or 'the system'.

It's hard to picture a day without your smart phone or a Sunday drive without a paved road. I'm talking about infrastructure, both social and technological. The result of the hard work and foresight of the men and women who came before us and left behind these institutions, interstates and icons we use to define our culture. Clearly, a byproduct of the human social structure is a reliable infrastructure.

Men and women are deeply flawed creatures themselves, and not always reliable in their sense of moral dedication or social responsibility. That is to say as individuals we don't care that much about each other or our affect on the larger social animal. I know no one wants to think that, but there it is.

We get away with this kind of irresponsible disregard today because of a massive and complex system of reinforced, interconnected infrastructure that is in place and working hard for us every day, and has been since before it was of concern to us. (Before we were born).

This convenient fact makes it easy for kids to sit back, throw on some Suicidal Tendencies, and have a Pepsi while complaining that, "The man is --insert today's drama here--!"

I wonder if there were no supermarkets at all because the farms had been burned to the ground by roving bands of nomads for the fourth year running, would people be less likely to villainize the government, and talk instead about how much they love America.

The real sticking point is that while you may or may not be equipped to survive in a world without Walgreen's the truth is you would not want to and you know it.

We may not always like the way that our system treats us but regardless we are mortally dependent upon it.

Suggesting otherwise is absurd. Like asserting that fish only stay underwater because no other environment is immediately available or convenient. Every fish I have ever pulled out of water has died in seconds with obvious pain and distress.

PRO

CON

The hurt and heartbreak sports fans endure

By Daniel Ojeda
Sports Editor

All year long you're strung along, everyday reminded about the promises made to you and the thought of a perfect ending that awaits. Then one day, it's all over. Walls come crashing down and slowly you begin to fill with anger, all those hopes dashed along with the false promises that weren't kept. Over the next few days you start to piece yourself back together until you can finally move on. No, I'm not talking about a relationship with a significant other; I'm talking about the feeling that sports fans feel every single year when our hearts are ripped out by our sports teams.

Every year, it is the same, we are promised a championship and every day we are reminded that anything short of that is failure. Every week, players talk about team chemistry and how this current team has a dif-

ferent feel than others before.

Over the course of a season your anticipation builds as win after win keeps piling in. Toward the end of the season your team takes over first place and you start to believe that maybe the players and owners were right. The playoffs begin and your team advances past the first round, then an old nemesis is waiting in the wings.

You've been promised that this year is different, though. That the past doesn't matter, all that matters is now.

Then it happens, despite all of the promises and optimism, your team still manages to find a way to lose and gets eliminated again. Our hearts are ripped out and stomped on as the opposing team celebrates and showers themselves with champagne while your team slowly retreats back to the clubhouse. Then it begins again, players and anyone associated with the team start to spew out the same promises that next year will be

different and that fans will finally get that ring that they've been waiting for. I am a huge sports fanatic and no team has crushed my heart more than the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The last two seasons the Dodgers have been eliminated by the St. Louis Cardinals, not only eliminated but ousted in a soul and heart crushing manner. I understand fully that teams aren't going to win a championship every year but sports fans know that throughout the season you see plays and games that give you a feeling that this is the year.

The Dodgers had that look these last two years but standing in their way was a goliath. For some reason when the Dodgers play the Cardinals they forget how good they actually are. Their ace pitcher, who had a record-setting season and blew teams away with ease, had trouble making it out of the 6th inning and the Dodgers lost both of their games, de-

spite only losing three games with him pitching in them all season.

To make matters worse, the Giants have won two World Series in the last four years and are currently working on a third this season. The Giants, with a clearly inferior team and a team payroll of almost \$93,000,000 less than the Dodgers, are still in the playoffs.

Why bring up the Giants? The Giants are the nemesis, the team Dodger fans hate and one of the only teams that we root against every single season. Despite the Dodgers unlimited resources and MLB leading payroll, the Giants have celebrated more championships these last couple of years than the Dodgers have in three decades and seem to be heading toward what we Dodgers fans fear the worst, a dynasty.

Giants fans have had their promises fulfilled, and they've received that ring that the rest of us are still waiting for. But

there's always next year. That's what you always hear when your team is eliminated, but when your team's championship drought is up to 26 years, that's the last thing you want to hear. I'm not expecting a championship every single year, but I want to experience what other fans already have.

I want to see a great season culminate in a championship where players thank the fans and say that this season was all for us.

I want to see our players jumping up and down like kids, not multimillion-dollar players, and I want to see them showering themselves with champagne after finally winning a World Series.

The baseball season is over for me now, and now I root against the Giants.

Slowly I'll piece myself back together, unless the Giants manage to win a third championship in five years. Then it's back to heartache and denial.



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

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The Renegade Rip

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Errors in handling Ebola at Texas hospital

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

The death of Liberian national Thomas Eric Duncan and the infection of American nurse Nina Pham at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital could have been avoided if so many human errors were not committed by the Dallas-based hospital.

Duncan, the Liberian who was visiting family in Dallas, went to the hospital on Sept. 25. This fact is the first sign the Dallas hospital exhibited human error.

At first, hospital officials stated his preliminary visit to the ER was on Sept. 26, and then the date changed to the evening prior. Shouldn't medical records properly state when this patient

first visited the hospital? This lack of knowledge shows how easy it is for avoidable cracks in a system to occur.

Then, on his first visit, Duncan was given multiple tests for his fever and abdomen pain (basic blood work, appendicitis and stroke to name a few) but then sent home with antibiotics. A nurse asked if Duncan had a travel history and he honestly told her he had flown from Liberia yet this valuable knowledge was not "fully communicated."

This shows another flaw in the hospital's process. I would hope that information regarding a sick individual who travelled from a lethal-virus hot zone would be "fully communicated."

After his initial visit, Duncan

was sent home and was then admitted to the hospital three days later.

That three-day period was probably the difference between him surviving this terrible virus or tragically dying. If the hospital had properly communicated during his first visit, not only could it have been possible for Duncan to survive, he might not have infected an American nurse.

The example of Nina Pham shows further mistakes the hospital made. An apparent "breach in protocol" has been the reason cited for Pham developing the virus. This reason is worrisome. Following proper procedural guidelines that the Center for Disease Control has recommended should be taken very se-

riously and in no way deviated. Although the specific "breach in protocol" has yet to be identified, it's troublesome to know that further cracks in the hospital's system are the cause of another Ebola patient.

I feel it is important to recount the mistakes that this hospital made because it reveals a very terrifying truth. A hospital located in a prosperous, first-class country, and in a major metropolitan area within this country could not effectively treat one Ebola patient. How are several poverty-stricken countries with no access to appropriate health-care supposed to properly treat thousands of Ebola patients and overcome this frightening epidemic?

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital serves as a paradigm for a larger issue. There are so many variables that occur when treating an Ebola patient—including human error—leaving a huge window for Ebola to continue its spread. Perhaps the Dallas-based hospital was understaffed that first night Duncan visited the ER. If so, this is another example of how this isolated incident in the U.S. relates to the bigger problem in West Africa. Health workers are continuing to quit or are contracting the virus themselves in West Africa.

Although Duncan was the first patient diagnosed with Ebola on American soil, the likelihood of a major outbreak in the U.S. is small. The Duncan case should

not elicit fear among Americans, it should be seen as a measure of comparison as to how easy it is for this virus to be treated improperly. While the CDC is making steps to ensure Ebola is treated correctly in the U.S., it is important to realize that the major problem is still in West Africa. Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia need more help to fight this virus.

Ebola is not a one-time disaster like an earthquake or hurricane; it's an ongoing epidemic that continues to see thousands of new cases each week.

While many variables remain uncertain when it comes to the Ebola virus, one truth is obvious: this epidemic will not end soon enough.

Game Review

NBA 2K15: Video game makes a roar

By Isaiah Bryson
Reporter

NBA 2K15 returns as the undisputed champion of basketball video games with some improvements to the MyCareer mode and great visuals.

At the start of the game, gamers will notice right away the stunning graphics. The player animations are the best to date in 2K15. NBA pregame rituals are one of the most popular commodities of the NBA and this game doesn't disappoint from Tim Duncan hugging the ball to Dwyane Wade doing pull-ups on the rim. It almost seems like you're watching a game on TV instead of playing one.

The TV broadcast-style presentation is almost exactly the same on 2K15 as it was from last year's installment. A new addition to 2K15 is the inclusion of Ernie Johnson and Shaquille O'Neal as the pregame co-hosts while the game is loading.

Gamers will notice that nothing much from the presentation point has changed except for some updates from the off-season, such as LeBron returning to Cleveland. One glaring mistake that players will notice right away is that Steve Kerr, who is now the head coach of the Golden State Warriors, is also used in voice commentary on the game. While playing with the Warriors it gets awkward hearing Kerr doing play-by-play commentary

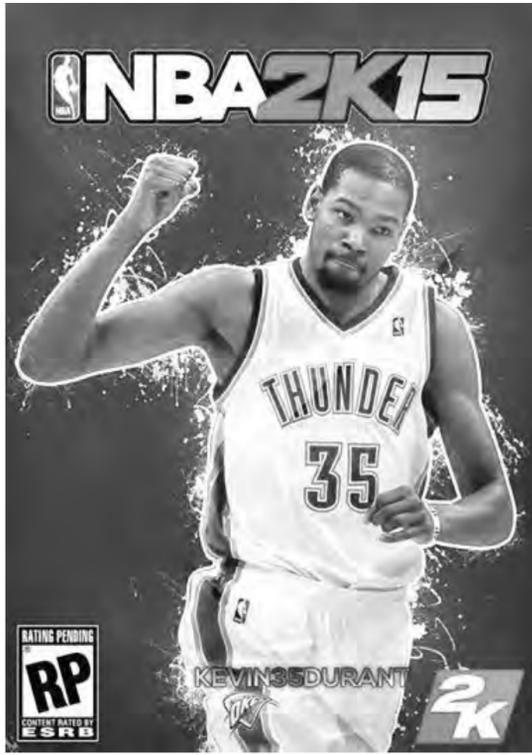
while also coaching on the sidelines. Would have been nice to get a new voice to pair with the legendary Marv Albert.

On the court, there are only slight adjustments to 2K15. Running the pick-and-roll is now easier than ever to get a good shot on offense. Changes to the defensive AI are noticeably different, making great defensive players such as Serge Ibaka and Joakim Noah that much better on 2K15. The shot meter makes it easier to correct mistimed jump shots midgame without the agony of going 2-20 with Kevin Durant.

One of the most disappointing features of NBA 2K15 is the failed attention to the online franchise mode. Where 2K15 missed on the online franchise, they made up for in the game's most popular game mode, MyCareer.

The story mode has been completely revamped in almost every way possible. This year's installment has players going undrafted, rather than being a top draft pick. Players will have to earn their way onto a roster and upgrading your MyPlayer takes much less work than previous years. Instead of adding points to each attribute, skill sets are now grouped into categories such as defense and athleticism.

A new feature to this year's MyCareer is the veteran teammate that takes your player under his wing. 2K Sports got a real



GOOGLE IMAGES

NBA player from each team to actually speak for their game character such as Steph Curry for the Warriors and Demarcus Cousins for the Kings. The additions of the players' actual voices makes the MyCareer mode that much sweeter to play.

2K15 also uses the PlayStation Camera or Xbox One Kinect to digitally map your face onto your MyPlayer, with results that are more likely to confuse your face with a zombie from The Walking Dead. Where the MyCareer Mode succeeds, the facial recognition is one of the new features

that they definitely missed the mark. The online aspect of NBA 2K15 has not been resolved at all. The new MyPark mode, where you take your MyPlayer onto the blacktop, is not even playable at times as the lag made it annoyingly difficult to play defense.

The 2K Sports franchise continues to hold the title of being the best basketball video game experience. The improvements to the MyCareer mode and stunning visuals make NBA 2K15 a must buy this fall as we get closer and closer to NBA opening night.

★★★★☆

It's a sadder day for Saturday CW cartoons

By Graham C Wheat
Contributing Editor

The last vestiges of what it once meant to be a kid have forever faded into the ether, and it is a shift in the way our society thinks and acts.

The sole-remaining block of broadcast Saturday morning cartoons has been pulled from the television lineup to never be resurrected again.

The last piece of what childhood once meant was airing faithfully on The CW with shows like Dragon Ball Z Kai, Yu-Gi-Oh, Sonic X, and some other popular franchises in that young demographic during their Vexal times lot.

While the cartoons of generations past you might know aren't present on broadcast television any longer, there was still the concreteness of that lounging morning. It was still cartoons on Saturday, and that meant something.

While you might not have known, or even cared for, the programs that The CW chose to air during the most recent iteration of the fabled time slot doesn't matter. It is the death of certain values and experiences that are wholly American.

My childhood weekends, and many other people's younger-self to be sure, we catered to the day. Early weekend mornings started with Pokémon and Power Rangers while inhaling a few bowls of sugary goodness. It signified the beginning of something glorious that might happen. The day would be rife with promise, cereal-fueled make believe, and crammed with supplemented

imagination. For generations, this was the case. Whether it was Super Friends for the real oldsters or He-Man and Transformers for the now 30-somethings, nearly every child in America started their Saturday this way.

It was even a rite of passage in my family for the older sibling to hand down the wisdom that was held in their generation's cartoons. I knew about Hee-Haw and The Cousin Herb Show only because my father chose to tolerate the cartoons I liked, and felt the need to inform me of his Saturday rite of passage.

Truly it has been a rite of passage for so many people who have grown up in this country. To some it must seem trivial; after all, it's just a block of programming that was geared toward kids of the timeframe.

However, it is a telling sign the world around us is indeed changing. That one of the last connections to generations past, an activity that was shared through decades of age gaps, is now and forever lost.

With all the need for instant gratification that has strangled our culture, there are still cartoons and kid's shows at the touch of a button; while appointment viewing hasn't been viable in a long time, Saturday still held a special place.

Are we really saying that whimsy and fantasy is only available to those who have the means to procure it through cable television or Netflix? While it may be inconsequential to a lot of you, examine what it means in the broader spectrum of what path we are traveling and taking our youth on as well.

Music Review

The Game shows he's still the best in the west

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

The Southern California rap scene has found its life and catapulted over the past couple of years with the likes of YG, Kendrick Lamar, Problem, Nipsey Hussle, Dom Kennedy, Schoolboy Q, and Sage the Gemini.

For over 10 years strong, and counting, the entire West Coast rap game has been on the back of veteran Compton rapper Jayceon Taylor, better known as The Game. Under the wing of West Coast rap legend Dr. Dre, The Game debuted his first studio album, The Documentary, on Jan. 18, 2005, which is arguably on the list of top five best rap albums of the 2000s.

Before the sequel to that album, The Documentary II (set to release on the 10th anniversary of the first Documentary - Jan. 18, 2015), The Game gave us a little appetizer before the entrée.

On Oct. 14, he dropped Blood Moon: Year of the Wolf. Now, before I get into the track list details, lets give a little appreciation to the album cover first and foremost.

Ruben "WestSide" Ramos, a fellow Kern County resident, just destroyed the Fan Appreciation Album Artwork Design Contest for The Game's cover.

After a 16-hour hand-drawn session, Ramos submitted his art and was crowned the winner.

The Game wrote after announcing the winner on Insta-



GOOGLE IMAGES

gram, "In the end; it was the concept (the world sees me as a big bad wolf, but to my daughter [Cali Lynn] I'm just dad and her every wish in life is my command), simplicity, white background, and Documentary style font had me sold."

So as I'm sitting in the BC library where the Wi-Fi strength is superb, I hopped onto iTunes and downloaded the number one Hip-Hop/Rap album prior to my 1 p.m. class.

After listening to the first song "Bigger Than Me," I automatically knew The Game is still the best rapper in the west coast. "Who needs Hulk Hogan when you got Sting? Less than five albums, Kiss the Ring. California throne and I'm the King." After hearing those lyrics, I couldn't help but to give him the crown.

It wasn't the prettiest Tuesday in the South Central Valley so I couldn't

ride with the top down (sunroof and windows) in my 2002 Toyota Solara bumping the rest of his album, but I could definitely imagine South Central L.A. doing so - perhaps in their '64 Impalas and low-riders. Nevertheless, I'm excited for the early success of this highly anticipated album.

Blood Moon had several big-time features including the best of the best in the industry; French Montana, Yo Gotti, 2 Chainz, Chris Brown, T.I., Young Jeezy, Tyga, Too Short and up-and-coming phenom, Bobby Shmurda to point out -- and even Soulja Boy!

Bet he couldn't "tell me" how great the potential of this album could have been. With such a great supporting cast to go along with The Game, I was ultimately surprised at the outcome of their product. Many of the songs including the features didn't justify the greatness of these guys. The Game pointed out that the world sees him as a "big bad wolf" and clearly his lyrics set the record straight.

With The Game's vulgarity and lack of productivity from some of his features, I saw it more mixtape-worthy rather than album but I fairly enjoyed it.

"The Purge" is a song that stood out to me and showed the grown side of him, which I had hoped to see more of, but I expect to see a lot, more of that on The Documentary II.

★★★★☆

Plenty to choose from, even for grownups, for Halloween

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Halloween lands on a Friday, making it perfect for the college student to enjoy sweets of all kinds, and not just candy. When you think of Halloween, you think of children trick-or-treating, candies, and scary or creepy stuff.

Ghosts, witches, black cats, and goblins aside, the Bakersfield nightlife will be extremely active this year. Among the events, Bakersfield College will be holding its Open Mic Talent Night on Oct. 30. The Interservice Christian Fellowship USA will be hosting the BC event 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in BC's Fireside room, adjacent to the cafeteria.

I love the holiday. I usually get in the mood with baking sweets and watching Halloween-themed or scary movies. One of my favorite movies, "Hocus Pocus," will be shown on Oct. 24 at the Kern County Museum. My other favorites include the entire "Halloween" series, "Nightmare Before Christmas," the entire "Saw" series, and "Casper."

I will also enjoy the yearly Halloween ComicFest on Oct. 25. There will be three locations holding the event and the event includes a free comic book for attending. I will visit Leeters in the East Hills Mall at 3000 Mall View Road, Suite 1079.

The day of Halloween, I am most excited to attend the property-wide event at The Padre Hotel.

The Halloween event will have a circus-theme, amply titled "Circus of Souls," and will have plenty to see and do.

There will be music in both the Prospect Lounge and the Brimstone room. There will be burlesque performances, tarot card readings, magic, a contortionist, and a freak show.

The presale tickets run \$30, while the price at the door will be \$40.

Outside of the events of Halloween that interest me, I have compiled a few events that are reasonably priced to match the college student budget.

If you have children or want to spend the holiday with family, there are numerous free events, both in the Bakersfield areas and around Kern County.

Remember, first and foremost, whatever you will be partaking in, stay sober or plan for a designated driver if you want to drink.

Even one drink may impair your motor skills, and some of the biggest tragedies during Halloween are the alcohol-related accidents or deaths.

If you know that you tend to drive after even one drink, save yourself the hassle and call a cab.

Altogether, Halloween doesn't have to be just for the kiddies, BC students and adults alike can have a blast.

Especially true is all of the fun people can enjoy, especially with the holiday landing on a Friday.

Football team trying to keep momentum

By Daniel Ojeda
Sports Editor

The Bakersfield College football team has its first winning streak of the season after reeling off two consecutive wins.

The Renegades beat Citrus College with the score of 17-14 in a close defensive game on Oct. 11 before coming back to win a shootout against Moorpark College 50-47 on Oct. 18.

The shootout against Moorpark saw both teams score 50 points in just the fourth quarter with the Renegades pulling out a last second victory, scoring the winning touchdown just as time wound down.

Despite holding Citrus to under 300 total yards the previous week, the BC defense wasn't able to stop the offensive attack of Moorpark.

But the Renegade offense was able to bail them out by driving down the field time after time

giving BC its first winning streak this season.

"We felt like we had been moving the ball and it was only a matter of if we could protect and find the right guy to get the ball to. Thankfully, we did that enough," said head coach Jeff Chudy.

With more than half of the season in the books, the football team finally looks to have what they have been missing all season long: momentum.

BC looked to have the game against Moorpark won when Parker Campbell kicked a 24-yard field goal that gave the Renegades a 43-40 lead with only 1:39 left to play.

But on the ensuing kick, the Moorpark kick returner slipped past the BC special teams and returned the kick 94 yards, giving Moorpark a 47-43 lead with only 1:20 left.

With all three timeouts remaining, BC quarterback Tarek Yaeg-

gi took the field with a chance to win the game.

Yaeggi drove the Renegade offense downfield before hitting wide receiver Derrick Vickers on the game-winning touchdown with only 15 seconds left on the clock, sending BC to its second consecutive victory.

On the play, Vickers caught the ball short of the end zone at about the 5-yard line but would not be stopped, managing to escape a tackle before running into the end zone with the winning touchdown.

"He tried to grab my leg but I broke off and just kept going. I just spun off of him," said Vickers.

Vickers had a monster game, finishing with 116 receiving yards on six catches while also hauling in a season high four touchdowns. The wide receiver also had 69 rushing yards on 16 carries.

Despite the special teams giv-

ing up what looked like a heart-breaking touchdown, there was no doubt in Vickers' mind that BC would win the game.

"We had the fight and the intensity. I knew we were going to march down the field," said Vickers.

When you add in the 99 receiving yards and touchdown from the previous game against Citrus, it looks as if Vickers is heating up at just the right time for the Renegades.

Not to be outperformed, BC quarterback Yaeggi threw for 350 yards and five touchdowns while driving the Renegade offense down the field time after time.

On the game winning drive, Yaeggi never hesitated. He completed six straight passes before finding Vickers for the winning score. Not bad after being held to only 104 passing yards and two interceptions the previous week.

Running back Xavier Williams helped move the offense along finishing with a game high 112 rushing yards on 16 carries. Williams improved on an already impressive game from the previous week where he finished with 95 yards on 20 carries.

Along with Vickers, Marquise Johnson helped spread the field, finishing the game against Moorpark with a game high 156 receiving yards on 10 catches.

BC's comeback and the stellar performance's came only two weeks after the Renegades lost what was a gut-wrenching game against College of the Canyons. A touchdown as time expired sent BC to its third straight loss, but the team never gave up or stopped competing.

"These last games were a testimony to these guys hanging in there. It was a game of big plays. We just happened to make more and it was our night tonight.

We made one more play than

they did," said Chudy.

With momentum building and players starting to perform, the Renegades have a chance to even their record and extend the winning streak to three by beating Cerritos College on Oct. 25.

In a season filled with its share of lowlights, stinging losses and surprising comebacks, the Renegades still have an opportunity to make some noise in division play and even finish with a winning record within the division.

All of this despite BC running into some rough patches this season, although excitement has been a constant throughout the up-and-down season and that's something that isn't lost on Chudy.

"It's unbelievable. Thirty years of coaching at this level and I have seen two things I thought I would never see.

With what happened two weeks ago and then us returning the favor," said Chudy.

Cesar Luna an inspiration at home, leader among team

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

"He's my Hercules, my hero, my everything. That's how I define him."

These are the words of 184-pounder Bakersfield College wrestler Cesar Luna's mother, Lisa Rodriguez, after she saw her son take a rare loss against the state's eighth ranked wrestler, Cuesta College's Jeff Sanchez, here at the Gil Bishop Gymnasium on Oct. 10.

One of the most popular Greek mythology heroes, Hercules, who was known for his exceptional strength and courageous acts, may be the best personified example in regards to Luna.

Before Luna partook in one of the most complete strenuous and courageous forms of services, the United States Marine Corps Reserve boot camp—which began exactly a year ago from today and lasted until April 2014—he previously experienced both physical and psychological obstacles which have shaped him to the young man he is today on and off the wrestling mat.

The second eldest of eight children (six girls and two boys), raised by a single mother, Luna faced several responsibilities and challenges early on, becoming the rock of the household.

"He takes it like he needs to do everything. He has always wanted to take the role of being the man of the house, and we have to respect him for that," Rodriguez said.

Despite being born and raised in Bakersfield, Luna was called upon by his father—who had not been in his life often—to come to Delano where he lived during the summer of 2007 throughout junior high, and that's where wrestling for Luna was discovered.

"There was no football or any other sport I was interested in so

I decided to try wrestling. It was five of us on the team and I ended up going to state," Luna said.

Although Luna went 0-2 in state, that time period at Almond Tree Middle School is when Luna discovered his potential with wrestling.

"I had strength, but no technique. When I went up against guys at state with technique, it made me realize I needed to work on it," Luna added.

After departing Delano, Luna came back to Bakersfield to re-join with his family and attended West High School where he starred in wrestling and football as well for four years.

With wrestling, his junior year was a huge statement for him where he made it past Valley unseeded at 160 pounds and turned the switch quickly.

"During Valley, I lost my first match and came back through consolation and won my next seven and placed third," Luna said. "It was probably my favorite wrestling moment, since that was the farthest I had ever made it."

Unfortunately, however, Luna went 0-3 in Masters but was one win away from state.

Luna wasn't able to bounce back his senior year and get the ending he worked so hard for.

"Although I was ranked first in league, second in valley and 13th in state for my weight class, I ended up being one pound short prior to state and wasn't able to qualify," Luna said.

Nevertheless, Luna also took on football, which was quite a success for him.

"We [West] had a pretty bad offense, but a good defense," Luna chuckled.

Luna rounded out his football-playing career with a Hometown Sports All-Star award, team MVP, and was an All-League player at the running back and linebacker position.

"I just always wanted to see what could be the next thing I can physically take on," Luna said.

So one day Luna decided to take on diving after that devastating wrestling season during the spring of 2012.

"He came home and said he wanted to try diving because that's all there is, and then I have to go to an award [ceremony] because he placed fifth for the first time [in the Valley]," his mother said.

After high school, Luna realized the importance of his family and making sure to be there for all of them every step of the way, particularly on the emotional and supportive side.

"I matured a lot after high school," Luna said. "My relationship with my mother has grown so much over time to where she's like my best friend now, and it gave me more of an understanding of what life gives you."

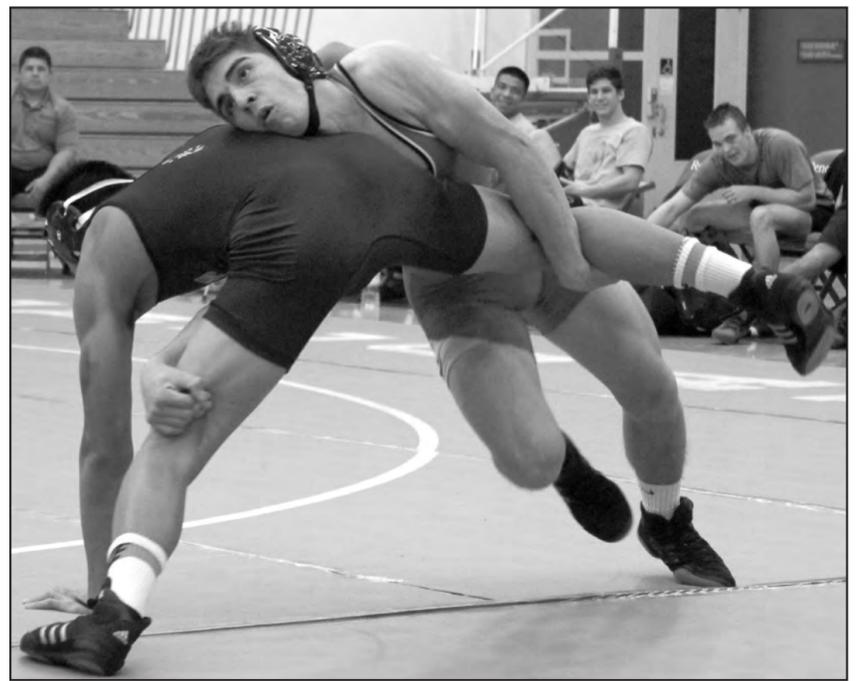
"It's hectic having almost all girls in the household, but I try to show them that home is where it all begins.

Everything I do and love, I do it 100 percent and I want them to do the same with whatever it is they do and show respect and responsibility."

"My sister just got a big fat tuba and I asked her 'Are you going to learn it?' and she's like, 'Yeah,' so I tell her 'You better,'" Luna emphasized.

After Luna wrestled his freshman year at BC, he took the next year off to decide what could be the next thing for him, and that was when the United States Marine Corps Reserve came into play.

"Everyone has a back-up plan," Luna said. "I remember telling myself 'If I didn't have sports, what else would I do?' And so, I chose reserve so I can continue wrestling and pursue getting a degree. It seemed pretty cool to



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Cesar Luna goes for a takedown against his Cuesta College opponent Jeff Sanchez.

have the reserve as a background foundation."

Luna is hoping to get his bachelor's degree in business, but that may change.

During his time at the Marine Corps Reserve Depot in San Diego, Luna learned a lot. "This is the world's best Marine Corps," he said. "It taught me not to be 'nasty' as they would call it, and most of all, it taught me to be a better man."

There were times as well when Luna wished he could be back at home, though.

"Since we were stationed next to the airport, I would always see planes fly over almost every hour and just wished I could be up there," Luna recalled.

All in all, Luna's experience over the six month period at boot camp helped him transition back into the sport that he couldn't see himself walk away from.

"It was easy to transition physically from wrestling to the Marines because what we do in the wrestling room in two hours is about what we do on the base spread out into 24 hours," Luna said.

Psychologically speaking, however, the mental aspect of the two helped him adapt to take on a leadership role as a sophomore for the wrestling team.

"We're all coming together now," Luna said. "I don't like thinking of myself as a leader. When we run the track and I finish first and can get a break from it, I refuse because I want to be there for my guys."

If it's cutting weight, for instance, we all are designated to do so as a team for one another."

Luna is currently ranked seventh in the state and nearly knocked off the number one guy in the state recently at the Modesto Tournament on Oct. 11.

The importance of Luna's family drives him to his success and his mom expects that from him.

"We've been through so much but what he does here (on the wrestling mat) is what's going to lead him to his future career, like his strength for instance," Rodriguez said.

Luna's younger sister, the third eldest of 8, Paulina Luna, was also able to express her thoughts

on her big brother.

"He's a role model. If he sees any of us down, he always brings us up.

The house isn't the same without him around," Paulina mentioned.

Luckily for them, after Luna completes his education here at BC, he plans to stay close to home and hopefully attend CSUB to further his education and wrestle for the Roadrunners while still being involved with the Marines for the next five years down in Pasadena.

"I want to still be involved with wrestling, whether it's coaching part-time or full-time. If that doesn't work out, I would like to be an officer in the Marine Corps," Luna said.

Without wrestling, Luna would already know what could possibly be next.

"I'm thinking crossfit, maybe," Luna chuckled.

Luna would be the first in his family to hold a degree, which to his mother and siblings sets a perfect example of how expectations can lead to success, regardless of how high they are.

Wrestlers prepare for tournaments

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

With the state's fourth ranked team in town for a dual against eighth ranked Bakersfield College on Oct. 10, the Renegades came in with their usual line-up in an attempt to pull an upset over the Cuesta College Cougars.

125-pound BC freshman Marco Velasquez, ranked seventh according to caccwrestling.com, sent out a quick statement to Cuesta with an early unanimous victory over Nick Miller.

Despite Velasquez setting the tone, the Renegades dropped the next six matches. 149-pounder Greg Pagela hung in with the state's second best 141-pounder who moved up to 149 for the event and was given a run for his ranking by Pagela.

Vincent Gomez, currently ranked fourth in the state at 157

pounds, started off slow against Cuesta's Johnny Cellas but picked it up despite taking a 3-1 loss.

197-pounder Jack Murphy ended the drought for the Renegades.

The state's best at 197, the match started slow for Murphy who went up against the Cougars' Jack Robinett. Murphy earned the victory to keep his season rolling.

With only Velasquez and Murphy prevailing, Cuesta rolled on to a 33-9 victory over BC.

"Some teams do very well in duals, while others do well in tournaments. I don't know—maybe we're just not a dual team, but rather a tournament," Clark said afterwards.

The following day, the Renegades went up to Modesto to test their tournament-savviness, where they went in and proved

themselves after just finishing up a matchup hours before.

With five placers total for BC, Velasquez continued his hot streak winning first place of the entire tournament and won the Outstanding Wrestler award in the lightweight division while Murphy also took first but lost a coin-flip because of split voting and lost the Outstanding Wrestler award in the heavyweight division. The three other wrestlers who ranked in were: Pagela (149lbs., 6th), Luna (174lbs., 3rd), and Jacob Hall (285lbs., 4th).

"We did a great job of bouncing back from the previous night," recalled grappling expert Joe Espejo.

The most recent tournament, the South Dual Tournament, showcased this past weekend didn't have the usual lineup however for the Renegades.



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Marco Velasquez, left, goes for a pin against his Cuesta College opponent Nick Miller.

Three key guys: Greg Pagela (knee, eye), Cesar Luna (Marine Corps), and Jack Murphy (soreness) didn't compete, but that didn't stop the rest of the crew from impressing.

Freshmen Velasquez (125) and Gomez (157) went 3-0 for some key individual victories, but the Renegades went 0-3 as

a whole losing to West Hills and Rio Hondo.

"These guys are studs. They're turning the corner and wrestling extremely well at the right time," co-head coach Marcos Austin said.

Focusing on this weekend's Meat Head Movers Tournament at Cuesta College in San Luis

Obispo on Oct. 25, the Renegades wrestling team is excited to regain some confidence back. In its 10th annual year, the Meat Head Movers Tournament is one of the biggest and most profound Junior College Wrestling Tournaments in California with double-digit number of schools participating in it.

Juan Calderon trying to leave mark at BC

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Bakersfield College men's cross-country runner Juan Calderon stays humble while remaining one of the fastest runners on the team.

At age 22, Calderon carries himself with poise and the optimism of trying to put his hometown Arvin on the map.

Calderon has participated in cross-country and track and field for BC, remaining the top runner for the men's cross-country team for the 2014 season.

Since his first place win at the Bakersfield Invitational, on Sept. 26, Calderon has steadily improved his times.

"I have cut a lot of time off my run, and it's steadily improving," said Calderon.

Inspiring his family, Calderon has even encouraged his younger sister to participate in cross-country at Arvin High School.

While Calderon has been running since his sophomore year at Arvin High, he became the first

student in 20 years to place first in the high school league in both track and field and cross-country. Calderon won first in the 4x4 relays, the 800m relays and the 1600m races. For the cross-country, Calderon placed first in the 5k. "It was insane to be first there, and so I had more experience with staying humble," Calderon said about the first-place win.

Calderon attributes his success at BC to his family's constant encouragement and the inspirational leadership from head coach Dave Frickel.

"Coach has taught me to be mentally strong," Calderon said of Frickel. Along with his admiration of his coach, Calderon said Frickel is "great" and "like a dad, firm, but also cares a lot about his team," Calderon said, "Coach really treats us like family."

Calderon also said, "I think that a strong team and team support helps a lot with getting past mental blocks."

While asked what a mental



VANESSA MUNOZ / THE RIP

Juan Calderon remains top cross-country runner at BC.

block can be, Calderon chuckled and replied, "Everything. You have to focus on your breathing and forget about everything. It's just you and the run. The mental block is anything that can distract your focus from the run."

Calderon said, "The most important part of running any race

in cross-country is the downhill. It's in the downhill of a run that I use my momentum to push myself with a burst of explosive energy. I use the downhill to speed up."

When Calderon contemplates his last five years of running, he also attributes some of his suc-

cess to close friend Alex Gonzalez, also one of his fiercest competitors. "He is like a brother," Calderon said.

"We knew each other competitively and always ran against each other in high school. Having Alex as a teammate has encouraged me to push myself even harder."

Noting that both he and Gonzalez are from Arvin, he said, "I want the younger generations to be inspired that not only I can be good in sports or I am not the only one that can run fast."

Calderon continued, "We have a lot of talent in Kern County that goes unnoticed or unappreciated because there isn't anyone guiding the athletes to believe in themselves. I love that the people of Arvin recognize me and my accomplishments, and are, hopefully, inspired to create their own accomplishments."

Majoring in Industrial Engineering, Calderon doesn't dispute that he may want to eventually coach.

"I would love to return to

Arvin High as a coach, one day. I want to be known for something great, and it's my opinion that coaches are the most inspirational people."

His advice for anyone running or participating in sports is "get out there."

Calderon also said, "Don't let anyone or anything intimidate you."

Stealing Frickel's favorite quote, Calderon wraps up by saying, "no one ever said it was going to be easy."

Despite how effortless Calderon may make a four-mile run appear, the level of endurance is apparent. Calderon will be sure to leave his mark on BC.

"I want everyone to look up to me for the positive things I am doing in my life. I have seen a lot of people go down wrong paths, and my younger siblings reminded me I could not afford to do the same. When people talk about me, I want my two little sisters and little brother to be able to say, 'That's my brother.' That's what really matters."

Volleyball team looking to heat up



VANESSA MUNOZ / THE RIP

The volleyball team huddles together during a game on Oct. 17 against Citrus College. The Renegades would go on to win the match by a score of 3-1, giving BC a two-game win streak on the season. Next up for BC is Canyons on Oct. 22.

Cross-country coach retiring after 10 years

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Bakersfield College cross-country coach Dave Frickel is set to retire, with his last semester to be in spring of 2015.

Frickel has taught at Bakersfield College for 10 years, along with being the coach for both the cross-country and track and field teams.

He started his career in 1977, after graduating from Boise State in Idaho, with a history degree, sociology degree, and master's in physical education.

Frickel started his teaching at the high school level, after a 10-year run with sponsorship from Nike and Adidas.

"I feel like I am just at the peak of my career, and want to retire at a high point. I have been in the business of track and field and cross-country running for many years, [I] started in 1977 with my professional career, and it's just time to move on," said Frickel.

Frickel is retiring with a group of cross-country runners that admire him.

BC's top runner Juan Calderon will have good memories of Frickel.

"I really have learned a lot from coach. I have had some of my favorite memories being part of the BC team," Calderon said.

Jessica Campbell, one of the women's team cross-country runners, said of Frickel, "He is an amazing person, who always gives you the best advice and encourages you every step."

Frickel wants to inspire his students and said, "I hope that all of the athletes I have worked with can be impressed upon to remember that they are first students. That's what I want to be my legacy that I leave behind. Athletes typically think being an athlete is most important, but the success in education is what matters the most."

Frickel also teaches physical education courses like the shape up class and stresses the importance of staying active.

He thinks that his current team of cross country is a "great group of young people, wonderful in their work ethics and attitudes." Frickel is extremely proud of the accomplishments that the team makes, as little or big as they may be.

"I hope that all of them rise up to the challenge and have their best race of the season," said Frickel when asked what aspirations he has for the team for preliminaries.

With the cross-country team to participate in the prelims on Oct. 24 the BC team is expected to do very well, amid injuries to both Calderon and Campbell.

"There are injuries that will hinder the team, as a whole, but hopefully the individual runners will excel," said Frickel.

When asked what Frickel



VANESSA MUNOZ / THE RIP

Dave Frickel, who is retiring in 2015, has been an inspiration to students.

has instilled in his runners, he mentions the ability to move past the mental block that can come with competition, "Having been around in the sport for a long time, I think that sometimes I can share some life experiences, and things I have picked up over the years. I think for a lot of it, and especially for people in athletics; I think if you enjoy it... you are going to be better at it. People put too much stress on themselves. You have to look beyond the stress."

"The training is a lot harder than the racing. No one ever gets to see the hard work you put into it. They judge you on race day," said Frickel, "if you are trained well, it will all come together. Just enjoy it. If you look forward to it, then you will excel at it."

When asked what will Frickel plan on doing next, he says that taking a break from it all is what he most looks forward to. "I have taught tens of thousands of students and touched many lives. It's been an experience I wouldn't trade for anything. But, for now, just to sit back and relax is the plan. Take it easy."

"It's been a great career, it's been a lot of fun," said Frickel regarding his overall thoughts on the experiences he has had at BC.

"The game has changed so much from when I entered into competitive running to now. In the 70s, we were the billboards, we were the advertisements. Nowadays, the runners are more focused on the run, and the sport has evolved to a massive force," said Frickel.

Frickel offered a philosophy for students.

"Always be the best person you can be. Remember you are a student athlete, student first, then athlete. If you remember that, there isn't anything that can stop you from achieving your goals. Student life matters the most while in college, and the decisions you make at this level count for the future you, and where you are headed."



VANESSA MUNOZ / THE RIP

Leah Theroux has the 15th-best time on the SBCC course.

BC runner moves into 15th on list, team places third

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

Bakersfield College cross-country runner Leah Theroux moved into 15th place all-time at Santa Barbara City College's historic cross-country beach course.

Theroux finished with a time of 20:37, making herself the only runner from BC on the list.

The all-time record dates back to 2009, with the top 25 runners listed.

Yesenia Silva, from College of the Sequoias, broke the previously held record of 19:54, which was set by Grace Graham-Zomudio in 2012. Silva finished the SBCC meet with a time of 18:50.

The BC women's cross-coun-

try team finished third overall at the SBCC cross-country meet, held on Oct. 10 at the Leadbetter Beach and Shoreline Park. It was an early meet, held at 10:30 a.m., where Theroux placed eighth out of 86 runners. Theroux averaged a time of 7:15.7 per mile.

Yareli Ocampo and Emily Freeman placed in 18th and 19th place, respectively; only two seconds apart from one another.

Ocampo finished with a time of 21:48.08 and Freeman finished with the time of 21:51.12.

The BC women's team would have nine runners place, seven of which were in the top 50.

Richard Timmermans, of the BC men's team, placed 30th with the time of 23:28.81. Four of BC's runners were in the top 50.

Team prepares for new season

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's basketball team is ready and anxious to start playing. The team had a grueling summer of conditioning and is still practicing hard in preparation for the new season and the team's opener, which will be hosted at Bakersfield College. The first matchup for Coach Paula Dahl and the BC women's team will be against Santa Barbara at 3 p.m. on Nov. 1 in the Gil Bishop Gymnasium.

"This year's team is one of the most unique teams I have ever coached," said Dahl when asked what her views on the team as a whole are. "The team is really going to run how I want it to run, and our defense is going to be lock-down. The women are really easy to coach and make it very easy to give directions to."

The team roster consists of Alex Green, Emily Esnoz, Ally Garcia, Claesey Tarver, Khiylah Dean, Marissa Jones, Haley Plaza, Rosebrooke Hunt, Yoemma Esparza, Melissa Duggins, Nakia Page, Mac Kaiela Tyler, Julia DeLaRosa; and redshirted players, Alexis Bryant and Ashley Hooper.

"The tenacity that the players have and desire to play as a team is impressive," said Dahl.

The coaching staff consists of Dahl and her two assistants, Jill Adams and Autumn Nichols. "I feel really blessed to have my coaching staff and the team that I have," said Dahl.

Returning players, like Page, are a force to be reckoned with. Page finished the 2013-14 season with impressive stats including being named the Western State Conference Player of the Week in week four.

Also returning, are Hunt, DeLaRosa, Tarver and Dean. "We have got an outstanding sophomore class and the biggest thing that we have is two point guards that we didn't have last year," Dahl said.

"We have some great kids that really take leadership on the floor and take control of it. Having the ability to get the ball into our post, really get the ball up the floor, and their work ethic is just fantastic. They are really great leaders and that's what makes the difference. You got to have people that will take control on the floor."

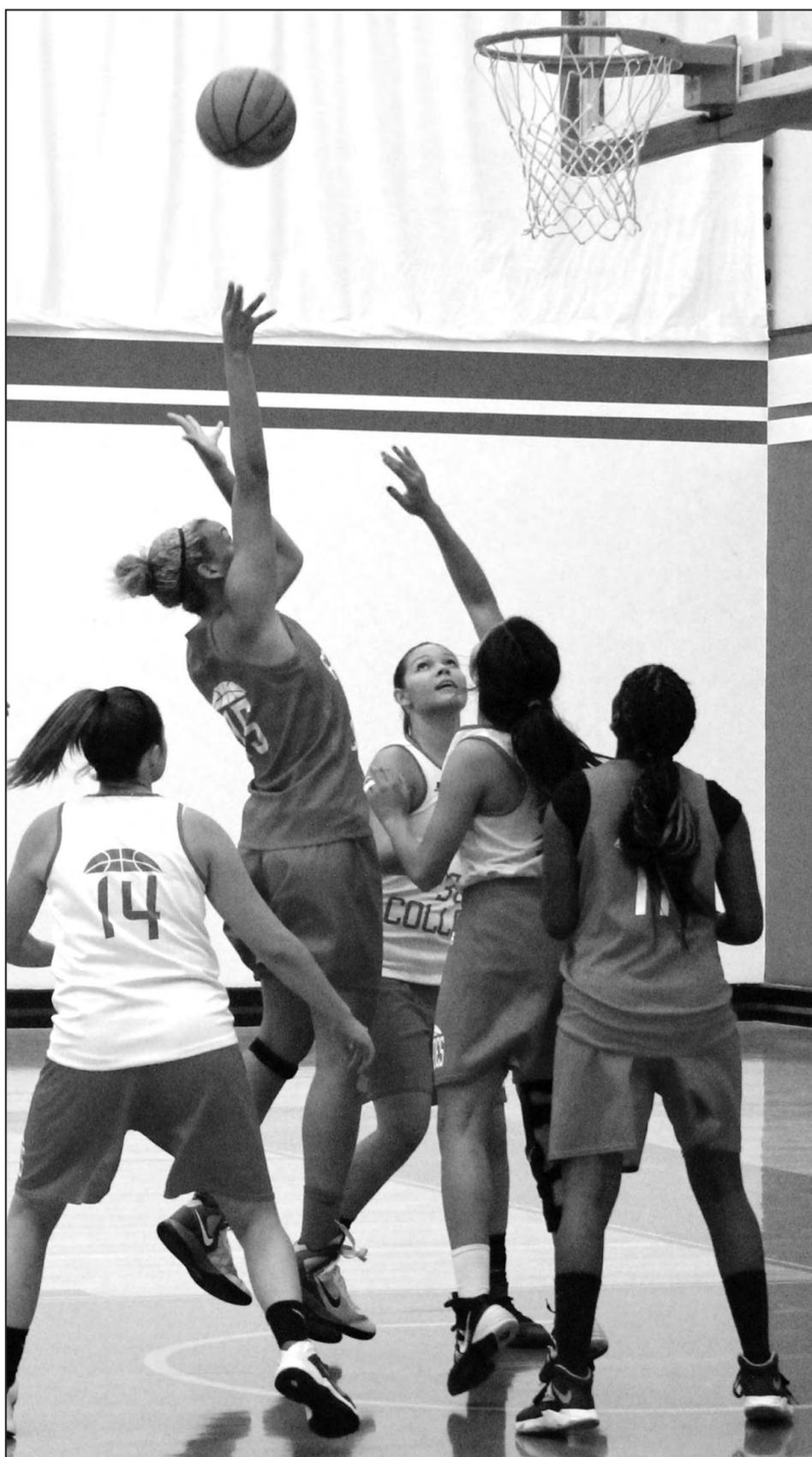
The goal for the team, along with to be the best in the Western State Conference, is to "run," as Dahl said, "We want to run, run, run, and run some more. We want to make people's lives miserable with our defense."

Last season, the team finished third in the WSC, with the record 7-5 and finished 14-13 overall, which left the team very close to making the play-offs.

The level of competitiveness is outrageous, especially in the WSC, and as Dahl said, she doesn't want to underestimate anyone. "Our conference is extremely competitive, and so we won't overlook anyone," Dahl said.

"We need to acknowledge the good things people do," Dahl said while explaining her coach ethics and general guidelines for life. "That's the goal. That's the goal in my health class and everything that I do. People need to recognize that relationships are the most important thing that we have, and we need to stop taking it for granted and really appreciate the people we work with."

The first game will be followed by the BC Cross-over Tournament that will be held in the Gil Bishop Gymnasium on Nov. 7-8. BC vs. Taft game will start at noon Nov. 7 followed by Reedley vs. Rio Hondo at 2 p.m. On Nov. 8 at 3 p.m. will be Taft vs. Rio Hondo, and the closing game of the tournament will be BC vs. Reedley at 5 p.m.



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Rosebrooke Hunt (15) goes up for a shot as defenders crash the boards during a practice game at BC.



GRAHAM C WHEAT / THE RIP

BC's Kevin Hernandez dribbles the ball as a defender from UC Irvine looks on during a scrimmage game at the Bakersfield College soccer fields.

BC men's soccer club forced to forfeit game

By Elias C. Ahumada
Opinions Editor

Bakersfield College men's soccer club was scheduled to host a game at the BC soccer fields Oct. 18 versus UC Irvine, but because of miscommunications with the referees, which contributed to a no-show by the refs, the match was forfeited by BC men's soccer club.

The match was set to start at 1 p.m. but when it was noticed that the referees

would not show up both teams decided to play a 45-minute scrimmage game.

The scrimmage game ended with BC losing 1-0.

The BC men's soccer club is sitting in last place of the Cal Central 2nd Division at 0-3.

Aaron Morgan, defender for BC said, "From what I saw, our game has gotten a little better...but there are mistakes in the backfield that caused us the game."

This is an adjustment that Morgan and

his teammates hope to improve on moving forward.

Morgan also noted that many of the changes that have been made from last year's roster and coaching changes have had a lot to do with the recent struggles. However, he feels that he and his teammates are optimistic moving forward. "We've been playing better than what we have been showing lately," said Morgan. With one game remaining on the schedule against Pepperdine University,

the club will have to play without current head coach Pete Fox.

"He dropped the bomb on us and told us he has a brain tumor," Morgan said. Coach Fox went in to surgery Oct. 20 and is scheduled to miss the rest of the season.

The BC men's soccer club's final game against Pepperdine University is scheduled to be played on Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. on the road at a location yet to be determined.

BC soccer struggles, drops three straight

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

Following two straight draws, one on the road against West LA and the other at home vs. Antelope Valley to open up October, the Renegades women's soccer team (5-1-3, 1-0-2 conference) wanted to continue to up the tempo heading into more crucial conference games.

In their sight was College of the Canyons here at the BC Sports Complex on Oct. 10, a team with an identical record. However, there was nothing identical about the performance and outcome of the game.

The Cougars of COC jumped out to an early 3-0 lead over the Renegades in the first 21 minutes and had no plans of looking behind.

Eight minutes later, COC's Jennifer Mendez chipped in another goal adding to the onslaught.

Despite BC's early struggles, the girls found a way to get something going right before half.

Victoria Pyle was tripped and fouled in the penalty box and gave Cassandra Boyer a much-needed penalty kick opportunity to cut the deficit to three goals going into the half.

Entering the second half, BC goalkeeper Sidney Garcia had some key blocks to prevent COC from scoring, but Cougars forwards continued gaining ground and added on three more goals to finish off the game (two by Jennifer Brown). The Cougars finished the rout with a 7-1 victory, giving the Renegades their first conference loss.

"We just played really poorly. We have to win balls and I think we're reacting to much," head coach Scott Dameron explained.

Conference play didn't get much easier as the tests got harder. Back on the road again, BC was ready to avenge the loss from the previous week with games at Citrus (6-5) and Santa Monica (10-1-1). The struggles, however, continued.

An early afternoon game in Glendora against the Owls of Citrus on Oct. 14, Citrus' Cindy Ramirez racked in two goals in the first 15 minutes giving the Owls an early 2-0 lead.

Ramirez continued to key in as she assisted on a goal to teammate Amber Mace at the 33-minute mark for the 3-0 lead by halftime.

Cassandra Lopez (BC) scored her second conference goal of the season in the 64th minute to trim the lead, but with little time and another goal added by Natalie Ponce (Citrus) in the 83rd minute, the Owls cruised to a 4-1 win.

BC faced their last road test before a three-game home stand against a dominant Santa Monica club. Outside of their one loss, Santa Monica has been riding a 10-game win streak prior to the meeting vs. BC.

Despite a pretty slow start on both ends in the first half, Santa Monica managed to get one goal in at the 24th minute by Cheyenne De Los Rios.

In the second half, Alyssa Ortega of Santa Monica turned the table around.

A 13-minute stretch between the 73rd and 86th minute, Ortega found a groove and completed a hat trick for the Corsairs who wound up shutting out the Renegades, 4-0.

Over this three-game stretch against three of the conference's best, the Renegades (5-4-3, before Tuesday's match) have allowed 15 goals while only accounting for two, but the team is ready to move beyond that and prepare for these next couple games at home.

"We haven't been at home much so the girls are looking forward for the support coming up," Dameron said.

BC has two more home games coming up vs. Glendale College on Oct. 24 and West LA on Oct. 28.

Inspiring BC student plays in rock band

By James Macias
Reporter

Anthony Rodriguez, 26, a student at Bakersfield College, is an outspoken and irascible soul with a 24-karat heart of gold.

He is a musician and plays the drums in the Stanley J Tucker Band, a successful hard rock group that recently played Jerry's Pizza to an enthusiastic crowd.

Rodriguez plans to become a physical therapist or football coach.

Oh, yeah, he has also been blind since birth and has no concept of what colors are or the difference between light and darkness.

He prefers to be addressed as Anthony (A-rod by his closest friends) and is proud of his independence, typified by the fact that he never asks anyone for help.

Rodriguez was born three months premature with detached retinas and has always been blind.

He said his grandmother provided the support he needed from the time he was born.

"My real mother just wasn't around," Rodriguez said, although he said his biological mother makes up for this absence today, and Rodriguez lives with her.

His grandmother "kept him alive" and said he was "her world," taking him everywhere with her from the time he was very small.

"My grandma was like an angel on my shoulder," he said. Having been involved in music since the age of 7, he experimented with the harmonica and the accordion before settling on

"We either bitch and moan or we get up and kick [life] in the ass. So put on your pads and let's go! Tackle each day like a defensive lineman."

—Anthony Rodriguez, BC student

the drums at age 12. "I've risen from Spanish rap all the way to American rock and roll. I picked up the drums when I was 12, and I guess it just happened rhythmically from there."

As he grew up, he learned how to get around from an instructor who took him into the streets during his lessons.

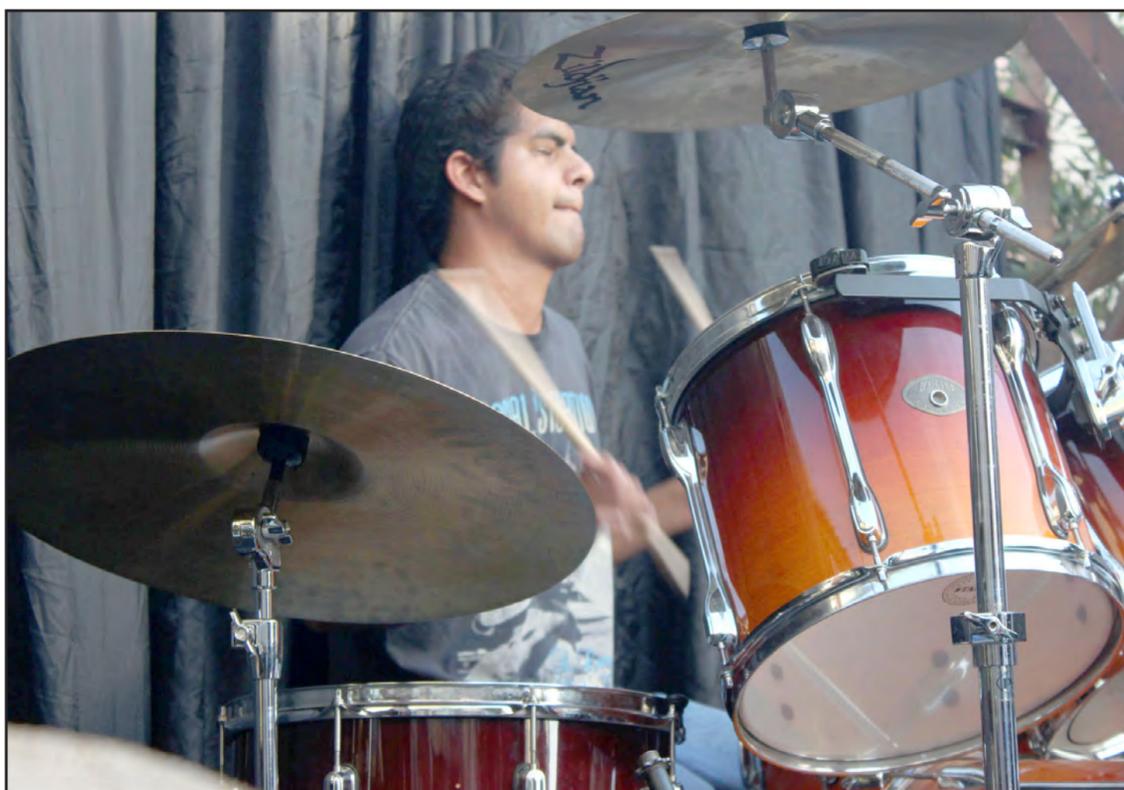
"Thus, you would be out in the streets of your neighborhood, but I also think playing with my cousins helped a lot," he said.

Of his senses and uncanny awareness, he said, "It's not that my senses are sharper than other people, but the way that I have learned to use them. Noise pollution can really throw me off at times."

He has the kind of presence that puts one at ease. One does not feel like he is reading something into every word one has to say.

Rodriguez is often found hanging around the rock in the middle of the Free Speech area. He is a graduate of Ridgeview High class of 2007 and is currently studying kinesiology.

"Coaching football would be awesome," he said of his dreams



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

BC student Anthotho Rodriguez plays the drums during a professional show downtown for the second time in his life.

for the future.

He lists his favorite bands as AC/DC, Def Leppard, U2 and Guns N' Roses, among others.

He is currently pursuing a master's degree in kinesiology and is hopeful that he will be able to attend UCLA, saying that CSUB would only be his "last resort."

"It would be nice to go away to college," he said. L.A. is his personal preference of where he would like to go.

"I went there for six months as part of a program and I loved it," he said. "Santa Monica, Venice, were great and there was so much more for me to do. Bakersfield is just not working out for me."

With everything he's accomplished and gone through in his life, Rodriguez summed up his basic philosophy: "We either bitch and moan or we get up and kick [life] in the ass. So put on your pads and let's go! Tackle each day like a defensive lineman."

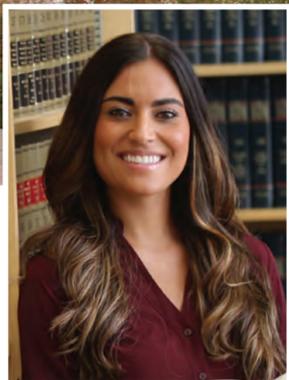


ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

Audience approach and compliment Anthony Rodriguez (centered left) after watching him play the drums, he expresses to them the intensity he feels once he's done performing.



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