

The Renegade Rip

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'Rhinoceros' hits the stage with absurdity

By Amber Hayden
Online Editor

Despite all of the construction going on around the indoor theater, Kim Chin and her theater class managed to put on their production of "Rhinoceros."

The play, which is set during the time of the Nazi invasion into France, shows that instead of standing out and being different, that people were conforming in order to be safe.

In an earlier interview with Chin, she had expressed the hopes of people who came to watch the play, and then they could apply what they saw to their modern day lives.

The play is from theater of the absurd, which consists of mainly 1950s European playwrights. The viewer can take the play in several different ways, but the main theme in Ionesco's play was conformity.

Cody Ferguson Gomez, who plays Berenger, along with Miranda Jordan Chaves, who is Daisy, have come to see those who were in the play with them as family now.

"There is family, and then there is theater family," commented Gomez.

Throughout the play, Gomez's character evolves.

As the three acts are portrayed on stage, the story ends with Gomez's character being a non-conformist and staying true to himself. Meanwhile, the rest of the actors turned into rhinoceroses.

During act three, there is a scene in which Gomez and Chaves kiss, but they both explain it was far from awkward. Right before the play, they had told theater director Kim Chin



Anthony Hernandez as Botard (left), Danny Bennett as Dudard, Cody Ferguson Gomez as Berenger and Sam Molina as Mr. Papillion (right) perform in "Rhinoceros." The play ran from March 11-15 in the indoor theater. It was the first production of this semester.

that they were a couple.

"It was really funny breaking the news to Kim because we didn't let anyone know. Kim had asked how we felt about the scene, and I said actually we're a couple," said Chaves.

"We messed around with her at first, though, saying we don't know and we don't know where the other's mouth has been. But after a couple minutes we told her," Gomez said.

March 11 was the opening night, and an estimated 35 people

came to see the show. The actors hoped that as the weekend came, that more would come to see the performance.

Throughout the play, there are several actors dressed as mimes. They never change into rhinoceroses, but they herd the others once they have conformed.

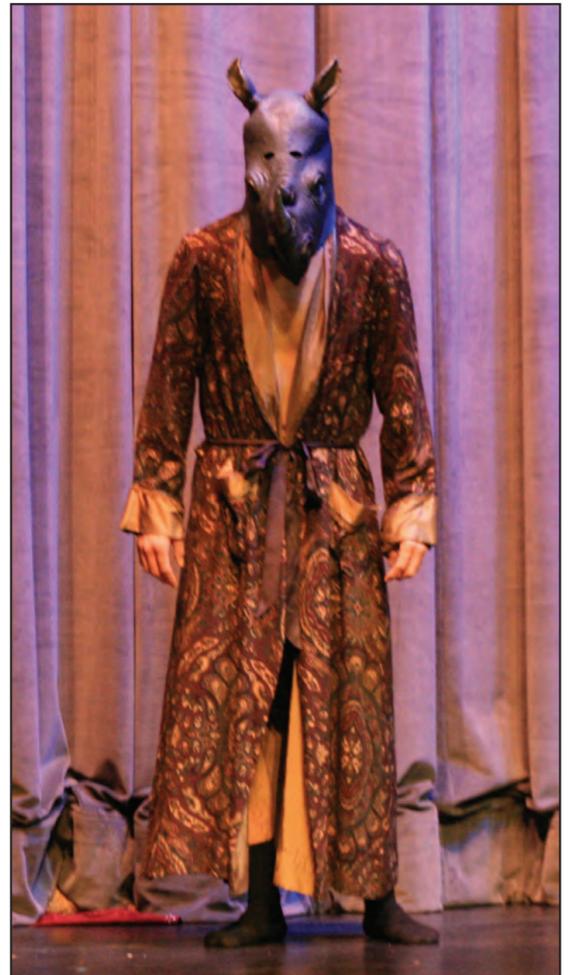
One mime, Sarah Cameron, discussed being part of the team and working together to make it fun and entertaining for people who come out to see the play.

"I feel it's great to be part of

such an awesome cast and crew. We all work off of each other's moves for a well flowing performance," commented Cameron.

With all the lines in the play, the one that Chaves agreed people could relate to is when the lead character, Daisy, says they need to fight for happiness.

The next play that will take place in the SPARC indoor theater will be Mother Courage and her Children by Bertolt Brecht and directed by Randy Messick. This play will run April 21 - 25.



Ryan Lee, who portrays Jean onstage, represents conformity as he turns into a rhinoceros in the play.



Sarah Cameron plays a mime in "Rhinoceros." Cameron entertains the audience before the play started on March 11. She enjoys working as a team with the rest of the cast.

Construction continues for elevator at BC

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

Construction around the Student Services building at Bakersfield College is under way and should be completed by August of 2015.

The construction taking place near the SS building is a district-run project to install an elevator for the exterior of the SS building, according to Craig Rouse, the manager of Maintenance and Operations for BC.

Recent construction around campus was primarily for the campus-run project of working on the water and gas lines at BC. Rouse said that the water line project is complete, but the installation of an elevator at the SS building is important.

"When we built the Performing Arts building, the state of California said an elevator was needed to complete the project," Rouse said.

Although the elevator will be attached to the SS building, the renovation of the Performing Arts building could not be officially approved without an elevator, and now Rouse believes the campus will be in a better situation once the new elevator is complete.

Currently, the project is still in the demolition phase. The sidewalk must first be demolished so that a pit for the elevator can be put in.

Although the project is being managed from the district rather than on campus, Rouse said that it is important for Maintenance and Operations to work efficiently with the district.



MARIA MAYA / THE RIP

Construction near the Student Services building has areas blocked off. The sidewalk is demolished in order to place an elevator pit next to the SS building. Students face limited accessibility near Student Services during this semester.

At one point, the project did not have proper signage and barricades blocking off construction, and this created a hazard to the BC community.

"Students were walking right into the construction area while workers were excavating," Rouse said.

Although the project was missing tape and wasn't up to the standards of BC, Maintenance and Operations employees were quick to fix the problem and hope to be diligent in making the project successful with the district.

"If there are any disruptions on campus because of project plans, contractors come on site and we are given a week's notice to work

with Amber Chiang," Rouse said.

The elevator project is a major team effort as Maintenance and Operations works with the district contractors and BC's public relations to ensure that updates on construction and campus accessibility are made available to students, faculty and staff of BC, according to Rouse.

Along with the elevator construction, another project that has been ongoing is the PA building bathroom project.

Rouse said that this project should be completed by the end of March. He said that more projects will begin in the summer of this year.

Current construction is being paid for by the 2002 measure G bond, a state-funded program.

Artist visits BC to discuss new artwork

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Reporter

Artist and art professor at University of Alaska, Tom Chung, gave a lecture showing and explaining his works March 11 at Bakersfield College. The next day he put his works of art, titled "Drapetomania," in the Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery.

"Drapetomania" is a selection of large monochromatic acrylic paintings on large canvases that have been framed with branches of trees and twine. Chung's work illustrates the recent time he has spent in Alaska, most of the pieces contain Chung in them and he says that since he is in the art it's like he is giving a performance for you each time you look at a piece.

"I am looking at you and for you," said Chung.

This is the first time Chung has done a whole selection in just black and gray.

All of the pieces for "Drape-

tomania" were all made within about the last six months.

"I usually work really fast because I get bored really easy," said Chung.

The largest piece in the gallery is called "I Really Caribou You." Next to the painting is a quote under the title of the painting that read, "I was driving in my 26-year-old jeep the first time I saw a moose. I thought it was a bronze statue, and then it looked at me."

"Drapetomania" will be up in the gallery until April 8.

"Basically, you're watching me descend into madness in Alaska," said Chung.

During the lecture on March 11, Chung showed and spoke about most of his works from when he was studying at San Francisco Art Institute, to when he was a student at Yale School of Art, to works from when he lived in Hawaii and now while living in Alaska.

A lot of Chung's early work that he presented was Please see ARTIST, Page 5

Virtual Reality



PHOTO BY IAN HAMILTON

Rip reporter Tyler Goucher tries on the Oculus Rift Development Kit 2 Virtual Reality goggles to experience an alternate reality. As he puts on the goggles he travels to a computer-simulated environment that blows his mind.

The story: former BC student shows off virtual world

By Tyler Goucher
Reporter

Imagine the world you live in is replaced with an alternate reality. One where anything is possible and nothing is as it seems.

What was once considered to be science fiction when we were younger is now becoming a true possibility, if not a probability.

Virtual Reality, or VR, is a computer-simulated environment created by computer programs and presented on digital displays. The main goal of VR is to create life-like experiences by incorporating user interaction, immersion, and presence into the content so that one day, we are able to do just

compatible with their own products.

Much like there have been videogame console wars in the past, this will be the first type of war for VR equipment since the mid '90s.

Even outside of the professional world of VR, many individuals have become hardcore VR enthusiasts.

Ian Hamilton, former Bakersfield College student and journalist by trade, is a VR enthusiast who has been following this movement for sometime. Hamilton got interested a while back when he was a technology reporter for the Orange County Register and was introduced to the Oculus Rift development kit by a friend.

After having a first-hand experience with the prototype headset, he was turned on to purchase his own development kit, which fueled his newly found interest in VR.

Since his purchase of the Oculus Rift development kit 2, he has started a blog dedicated to VR news and updates, and has even started to develop his own VR content.

Now many people believe that VR is going to change the world forever, and that may very well be true, however there is a lot to consider.

"It's hard to gauge how quickly VR will become influential," Hamilton said. "Society will be fundamentally different when space doesn't separate us, and you can go to any world you can imagine."

There is also much to be said about the effects it will have on the human mind and whether or not it could potentially have negative effects on our mental health.

"It's not going to be for everyone," he said. "I'd think people who don't have a solid grip on what's real to begin with and those who don't like this world anyway, might have



TYLER GOUCHER / THE RIP

Ian Hamilton is giving a demonstration of the Oculus Rift Development Kit 2 Virtual Reality goggles in gaming.

problems handling alternate realities too."

It may never get to that point unless the experience becomes fully immersive and as of now, there is a lot that stops it from being just that.

Where the Oculus Rift relies heavily on head tracking to give the user that feeling of immersion, it still hasn't gotten to the point of incorporating full body sensors to capture movements of the arms and legs.

Some of Rift's competitors including Microsoft's HoloLens and Google's Magic Leap, which are also still in development, are focusing on a different type of technology to pierce through the world of VR.

Augmented reality takes a real-world environment and augments it by using computer-generated sensory input, such as audio or video.

Since this technology isn't replacing the real world with a fake one, it won't rely on sensors to track body movement for a virtual character.

It will instead allow the user to experience the augmented reality, while still being able to see their bodies and interact with the environment in real time.

When the time comes for consumers to choose a product, there will be a lot of variety in the type of VR headsets that will be available.

"There are mobile VR setups like Gear VR and Google Cardboard, desktop VR systems like Vive and Rift, as well as console VR like the Morpheus," said Hamilton.

What consumers should keep in mind, is whether or not how powerful the device is, will outweigh the price and mobility of the unit.

"Desktop VR is where all the excitement is right now because of the powerful sense of presence that can be produced using the highest end graphics cards inside desktop gaming PCs." He said.

"Mobile VR is so much more convenient though, because it's less expensive, wireless and

you can get into bed or get on a plane to use it. But because mobile VR relies on a fully functioning cell phone, there are weight and heat limits to how powerful it can be."

There is so much potential for this technology in more than just gaming and entertainment.

Hamilton explained, "Education could be enormous. Every person could learn any subject from the best teachers in the world."

Facebook even plans on taking social networking to the next level with the Oculus Rift. In the future, we may experience Facebook in a completely different way.

"Social VR would be even bigger," Hamilton said. "You could meet with anyone you want, to do anything you want, anytime you want."

At the end of the day, though, this is all speculation. All of these companies have now, are beta versions of what will hopefully be everything they aim to be, revolutionary. "The next five years are going to be about improving software and hardware so prices come down for consumers, while the capabilities improve, to bring more of who you are, into VR," said Hamilton.

If VR enthusiasts like Hamilton are interested in experiencing what these headsets have to offer in their early stages, development kits and beta versions are available. However, the consumer versions of these products will be vastly different in quality, appearance, and content.

"The devices out now are not ready for consumers yet. Wait for the consumer version unless you want to invest a fair amount of money and time to learn how to make VR experiences yourself with the tools that are available," Hamilton explains.

More information and news on VR can be found at Ian Hamilton's blog <http://ianhamilton.net> or by simply searching for Virtual Reality on Google.

The experience: replacing your world in a second

By Tyler Goucher
Reporter

Everything is black. There is little noise, except for the communication going on between the man in the room and myself. As the view in front of me brightens, I start to see what could only be described as a three-dimensional menu, almost like an Xbox dashboard. Everything I look at pops out at me. I start to turn my head to look around, and to my surprise, I am completely surrounded by this visual experience. I tell myself, 'so this is what virtual reality is like'.

The feeling is indescribable, yet I want nothing more than to describe to you how this experience completely blew my mind.

After exploring the menus for a few minutes, I was instructed on how to use the touch-pad on the side of the Samsung Gear headset, to choose the content I wanted to check out.

The first app I chose was called the Oculus Cinema.

The screen goes black for a few moments and then slowly fades into a virtual representation of a giant movie theater lobby. In the center of the lobby, it gives me a choice of choosing the movie I want to watch and in which theater I want to watch it in.

I choose by simply looking at the title of the movie I want and tapping the touchpad on the headset. Once the decision is made, you are transported to an empty movie theater.

Once I took a minute to look around, I had this strong sense of presence. For a moment, I really felt as if I was actually inside a movie theater, waiting for the movie to start, wondering why there was no one watching the movie except me.

Of course this feeling fades as you look up and are given the option to play the movie. The best part about the Oculus Cinema app is the ability for the user to upload any movie, or video file for that matter, into the app to experience on the big screen.

After having some fun with the Oculus Cinema, my next journey took me to Iceland, as I soared over the lush scenery in a helicopter in one of the Samsung Gear's 3D videos. Although there were a few moments I experienced a little bit of dizziness, the beautiful imagery compelled me to continue on.

The sheer magnitude of how big this could be in the tourism industry was beyond anything I ever expected. No longer will people be forced to spend thousands of dollars on expensive trips across the world, just to experience something we should all have the opportunity to experience.

When I was finished messing around with the Samsung Gear, which is the mobile VR headset created by Oculus, I was asked to put on the big boy headset, the Oculus Rift.

Being that this headset was powered by a gaming pc with an \$800 graphics card, I was expecting the experience to surpass everything I had just gone through with the Samsung Gear.

The first app I was shown was a space exploration game called Titans of Space.

I look down, and I am in some type of a pod, floating in the middle of the solar system. There are controls and buttons

in front of me that light up when I look at them and give me a sense that I am actually in control of where I get to go.

As the game starts, it takes you from planet to planet and shows you a larger-than-life representation of what each of them look like, along with a description of the planet, with fun facts and interesting insights.

This is going to be huge for education and space enthusiasts. Imagine learning about space in a virtual environment that allows you to actually see what you are reading about, rather than relying on outdated textbooks and boring lectures.

After conquering space, I was interested in how horror games would be experienced in VR. I was then launched into a horrifying game called Dreadhalls.

I open my eyes to a dark, underground-animated maze, lit only by a lamp that my character is holding. I look down and see a map that only shows where I have been, which at this point, is nowhere. Now being that this game actually requires you to move, I was handed an Xbox controller so that I was able to walk around in this maze. As I started to get the hang of the controls and the disorienting feeling of being able to look around in 360 degrees while controlling the camera at the same time, I started to really get into the experience.

As I walk down the halls trying to find my way out, I start noticing shadows in the distance of random horrifying characters. When you are spotted by one of these characters, the music picks up and pretty much forces you to run away and try to find a way out before you are caught and the game ends.

I must admit, my heart was beating pretty fast in this game. My anxiety usually doesn't get to me when I play horror games, but something about being virtually "inside" this game, made it that much more realistic and unnerving.

The last experience I had was probably the most immersive one of them all. As part of a marketing ploy for the new upcoming Divergent movie sequel, Insurgent, some VR developers created a 3D VR experience unlike anything I had experienced yet.

In Insurgent: Shatter Reality, you become a character in the movie.

When the app started, I opened my eyes to Kate Winslet's character, speaking to me in a lab, explaining to me about being divergent. As the dialogue continued, I looked down to see my arms and legs, strapped in a chair. This was really crazy to me.

It really felt as if I was there, being talked to by these characters. It was awesome. Confusing. Horrifying.

I won't spoil the experience, but I will say that there was times where my brain actually made me feel some of the physical reactions to what I was going through. This in itself made the Insurgent app the most memorable experience I had.

All in all, my first experience with these new VR headsets won't be my last. I highly suggest anyone with the time, money and interest, to get your hands on one of these prototype headsets, so that you too, can have your mind blown.

A touch of faith and comedy

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Reporter

Left-winged Roy Zimmerman came to downtown Bakersfield's Metro Galleries to entertain a crowd with his new show called The Faucet's on Fire with satirical songs and commentary about politics, racism, war, marriage, and much more.

Zimmerman explained, how even though he is left-winged, people who don't agree with what he is saying or singing still come up after his show and comment that they still laughed and thought it was funny.

Zimmerman has gained many friends through his satire, even among the secular crowd.

The event was sponsored by Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

"Creation 101" has made me some friends among the secular people," said Zimmerman.

"Creation 101" is a song about how some schools wanted to teach about God creating the world and wanted to teach it as a science.

Some lyrics from "Creation 101" are, "because when this semester is through it's straight A's for students who shun evolution, the kids get such an education when they shun the heretical theory of the development of life on earth over millions of years by means of spontaneous genetic mutation."

Zimmerman explained that there are dangers in satire.

"You can listen to satire and think it's real," said Zimmerman and used Merle Haggard's song "Okie from Muskogee" as an example and said that it was mostly just tongue and cheek but people still believed it was true.

He also mentioned how people thought that Stephen Colbert was also telling full truths and that is not the case.

Zimmerman explained how there is a fine line with satire, you can offend people and can provoke too much.

"You can go too far...I'm not trying to offend anybody, but I'm trying to tell you how I feel," said Zimmerman.

When asked what he gets out of writing and singing these satirical songs, Zimmerman stated, "It's like testifying for me...what I get out of it is identity."

Zimmerman, 57, is from San Francisco and started writing songs in high school.

Zimmerman said that when he first started writing songs it wasn't completely intentional that they were funny; they just came out that way.

He gave an example of writing a song about the day when Ms. Hemphill's wig flew off at school.

He thought it was pretty funny and so did his classmates.

Some of Zimmerman's influences are Tom Lehrer, Phil Ochs and Merle Haggard, "Country stuff I like," said Zimmerman.

Zimmerman has had the opportunity to share stages with other comedians and satirists such as Ellen DeGeneres, Bill Maher, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin.

Zimmerman has toured doing shows and events all over the nation but Zimmerman said he likes to search for where progressive people are, he calls these places "blue dots."

"The most progressive people in the least progressive places," said Zimmerman.

Kathleen Rush, a mathematics professor for Bakersfield College, is one of the people responsible for getting Zimmerman to Bakersfield.

Rush first met Zimmerman at a house party in Tehachapi and thought Zimmerman needed to be brought to Bakersfield.



PHOTOS BY MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP

The audience applauds Zimmerman after performing a song at the Metro Galleries in downtown Bakersfield.



Zimmerman holds a chord while he sings satirical lyrics and points at the audience on March 5. The musician performed his new album, "The Faucet's on Fire."

"He's so funny; I have to bring him to Bakersfield," said Rush.

This was Zimmerman's second time visiting Bakersfield since the first time he came to perform in 2013.

Even though fliers were posted up around Bakersfield College campus, not very many students showed up to the event.

"We wish more students came out to the show," said Rush.

Afterward, Rush shared her thoughts about the show.

"I enjoyed it...It was a breath

of fresh air," said Rush.

Pat Evans, an audience member of the event, also shared his thoughts on Zimmerman after the event. "I thought it was fabulous...he's a modern day Woody Guthrie," said Evans. Even though Zimmerman's lyrics are targeted toward an older crowd, Zimmerman has recently come out with a kids' album called "The Sandman Never Sleeps." To find out more about Zimmerman, go to his website at www.royzimmerman.com.

Students are recognizing how important it is to donate blood



RHIANNON STROBERG / THE RIP

Houchin Community Blood Bank nurse Patti Grimes assists BC student Rogelio Silva at the BC blood drive.

By Rhiannon Stroberg
Reporter

The Houchin Community Blood Bank raised pulses on the Bakersfield College campus for the annual Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive.

With the Houchin Community Blood Bank buses parked in front of the Campus Center on March 11 and 12, hundreds of students donated their blood in support of the much-needed blood types O positive, O negative, AB positive, and AB negative. Nursing student Jennifer Edwards, 27, stated that this was her first time donating blood at BC. "I'm O negative, and being O negative means that people with that specific blood type are

the only people who can donate to newborn babies," Edwards said, "I love knowing that my blood could save someone's little miracle."

SGA member Clayton Fowler stated that SGA's involvement regarding the blood drive was to support the recruitment of the BC community to donate blood. "We try to get more involvement from the student body to give blood."

SGA member Kyle Mann said, "We also used the event to hand out information on upcoming events at BC, as well as to get student feedback for the smoking petition we've been passing around." The blood drive collected 228 units of blood and registered 318 donors.

New benefit that rocks the house on cancer

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

Too Tired To Be Inspired, a team for Relay for Life, helped put on a popular fundraising event, in Bakersfield, otherwise known as Rock for a Cure.

Hosted at Rockwell's Trout's Blackboard Stages on Sunday March 15, the event was created as part of an ongoing effort to raise money for Relay for Life's cause.

Relay for Life has been instrumental in fundraising for cancer research, which is shown by their dedication to these events.

Dolores Rouanzoin has been the team captain of Too Inspired to be Tired for four years now.

"I lost my grandma 8 years ago and music made me deal with it better," said Rouanzoin.

This is the first year the team has done the Rock for a Cure and Sunday's event was the third event, with a fourth being held again at Rockwell's Trout's

Blackboard Stages on Sunday, April 12 at 11 a.m. She is hoping for her team to raise \$10,000.

Starting at noon, eighteen bands, including Blackwater Soul, The Aviators, Lions Named Leo, Mudfish, Western Medicine, Lyza Jane and Syster D took the stage in half-hour increments playing a variety of music such as Classic Rock, Country, R&B, Funk, Jazz, and Heavy Metal.

BC student Anthony Rodriguez, 26, a kinesiology major, played drums in the Stanley J. Tucker band.

He spent all day at the event. "I get in a different world when I am on the stage," said Rodriguez.

When asked if he enjoyed himself, he said, "Of Course!"

"There is no reason to stand down when we have examples of this unity as that which makes us stronger as we stand together," said Thomas Rockwell, owner of Trout's.

Donations of \$10 were taken



PHOTOS BY RHIANNON STROBERG / THE RIP

Dawn Kimmit-Chaney, from cover band Syster -D, performing "Barracuda" at Rockwell's Trouts Blackboard Stages during the Rock for a Cure benefit.

at the door as a cover charge. There were also donation buckets on the stage.

Some people were dropping \$10 and \$20 bills in for song requests. Each band donated their time onstage.

By 8 p.m. the audience had



Western Medicine band members Scott Bjork, Grant Burich, and Emile Antonell performing at Rockwell's Trouts Blackboard Stages for donations during the Rock for a Cure benefit.

slimmed down, but according to Debbie Bohan, of B*Scene Event Photography, it was quite busy earlier in the day.

Relay for Life will be held May 2 and 3 at 9 a.m. at the Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street in Bakersfield.

Get up & Go

March 18

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshops. "Organize" @ 3-4 p.m. Instructor E. Miller. Located at SS building room 151.

March 19

March Renegade Pantry Distribution @ 9 a.m.-noon at the Renegade Pantry window.

National University Recruitment @ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Across from the Fireside Room.

Women's History Month Keynote Presentation @ 1-2 p.m. at the SE building in room 53. Taylor Herren will speak on the importance of women scientist and their role on campus and sciences.

Elementary Education Degree Informational @ 4-5:45 p.m. in the Forum building in room 101. The session will go over the new elementary education program that will replace the Liberal Studies program here at BC.

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshops. "Learn for life" @ 2-3 p.m. Instructor R. Vickrey. Located at SS building in room 151.

March 20

Spring Choral Concert (Finding Joy in The Journey) @ 7:30 p.m. located at the SPaRC building at the Indoor Theater. Tickets: \$5 students, faculty, staff, military, seniors and \$10 general public.

March 21

Citizen's Climate Lobby (Volunteer Training and Orientation Workshop) @ 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. located at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2216 17th st. Learn how to build a relationship with your government and with the media.

Renowned comedian Jo Koy will be performing at the Fox Theater @ 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale for \$40.

March 23

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshops. "Preventing Plagiarism" @ noon-1 p.m. Instructor T. Meier. Located in SS building in room 151.

March 24

STEM Series presents renowned meteorite man Geoff Notkin will speaking @ 12:15-1 p.m. located at the Fireside room. Founder of Aerolite Meteorites and host of Meteorite Men on the science channel.

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshops. "Writing a Strong Thesis Statement" @ noon-1 p.m. Instructor S. Abbassi. Located in SS building in room 151.

March 25

CSEA Scholarship Bake Sale fundraiser @ 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. located at Campus Center Foyer.

Presidents Scholars Reception @ 5:30 p.m. located at Performing Arts Center Indoor Theater. Eligible High school students and parents are welcome to the event. For registration go online to BC's events calendar, go to event and click on hyperlink.

St. John's College will be having a lecture @ 7-9 p.m. located at the Levan Center Lecture.

March 26

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshops. "Meet the Metric System" @ 2-3 p.m. Instructor J. Pierce. Located at SS building in room 151.

March 27

Peace Concert, free, music and poetry celebrating lives of Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Dalai Lama. @ 7 p.m., 3819 River Blvd., Bakersfield. Related events March 28 (10 a.m.) and March 29 (4 p.m.) at Center for Spiritual Living, 222 Eureka St.

March 28

Ramon Ayala y sus Bravos Del Norte will be performing at the Fox Theater @ 8 p.m. Tickets: \$41-87.

March 30-April 3

Spring break at Bakersfield College. Take a week off from classes and return April 6.

April 1

Varekai Cirque du Soleil at Rabobank Arena, April 1-5. Tickets at cirquedusoleil.com

BC finally has a new computer science club

By Tyler Goucher
Reporter

Drum roll please... Bakersfield College finally has a computer science club. Headed by computer enthusiast Chad Hidalgo, Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is a new club that started in November 2014 and was officially recognized by SGA in January 2015.

Being that there has been no computer science club prior, AI is a huge step forward for the department.

"We are hoping for the club to be a place for faculty and students to merge and create wonderment," said Hidalgo. "The goal is to inspire students to be on a quest for intelligence."

With only 11 active members,

the club has already been involved in technology events on campus such as the Technology Conference that was hosted at the BC indoor theater on Feb. 5.

If you plan on attending this year's Garden Fest on April 18, AI will have a booth set up with the old school video game, Duck Hunt, to promote the club.

Also, if you're interested in joining, one of the fun things that goes on during their bi-weekly meetings is a coding challenge. The challenge is open to both current members and first time attendees and promotes the exercise of dissecting code and learning what could be done to make it better and more efficient.

"These challenges are a learning opportunity for all of us," said Hidalgo.

At this time, the club is in the process of raising \$5,000 for a local scholarship that will be available for students to apply for by either writing an essay regarding the emergence of technology in education or helping to write a code for a program that the club adviser will help choose. This could be a great opportunity for any student who is a computer science major with an interest in technology.

As to why the club was named Artificial Intelligence, Hidalgo had this to say. "The name was created to poke fun at ourselves. Everything we learn at some point is artificial after all."

The AI club meets on the first and third Friday of every month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Business building in room B11.



VANESSA A. MUNOZ / THE RIP

Planetarium director Nick Strobel faces financial troubles with the BC planetarium. Maintenance of the video equipment is difficult because of low funds.

Planetarium in need

By Vanessa A. Munoz
Opinions Editor

Decade after decade, the William M. Thomas Planetarium at Bakersfield College has produced some of the best shows, but in order for the planetarium to keep improving and updating their equipment, they need donations.

Director of the planetarium Nick Strobel, an instructor of Earth Science and Astronomy at BC, helps to put all the planetarium shows together.

The STEM program, which is the program the planetarium is part of, has to specifically receive donations in order for the shows to keep improving.

Strobel not only directs the shows, but he organizes them by being a volunteer for the planetarium.

Strobel said that all proceeds produced by ticket sales and any kind of earned profit from the planetarium go toward the general fund at BC and not to the planetarium specifically.

The planetarium has had the

same projection equipment since 2006, just after their renovation of the entire planetarium back in 2005.

Like most technical equipment, they need to be updated and replaced by new and better hardware, but unfortunately there aren't enough donations and ticket proceeds to provide all these equipment updates. The planetarium has been able to provide about four to five shows with each one costing about \$5,000 or more, and a video equipment system, such as the projector, which displays the shows, costing around \$300,000.

Strobel says, "We are going to need to have a new projector put in because it's aging. It's computer equipment, so eventually it's going to die on us. This is what people come to see and we won't have it... If we could set aside some money and have it built over the years, then when it does break, we're ready for it. That's not happening though and I am a bit nervous about that."

The biggest donation the STEM program has received this semester came from Chevron Company that helped to provide the new line of geology shows that will now be displayed at the planetarium this spring. Strobel added, that because of the generous gift provided by Chevron, they decided to include two new geology shows as a sign of good faith toward the Chevron Company, since they are after all about the ground and Earth.

The demand for more tickets and seats are high, but the funds are low and donations are needed to fulfill these demands.

Everyone from BC students, to young aspiring minds of children and even the general public have enjoyed and benefitted from the planetarium shows.

So giving to an educational program such as STEM will benefit the entire community of Bakersfield.

The planetarium is not just a show, but also a way to give into people's interest and fascination about space and Earth.

Blog gives advice to BC students

By Amber Hayden
Online Editor

Since the fall semester of 2014, student Jackie Estrada has been writing one part of the student blog and giving advice to students about how to get through the semester.

"My own creativity was being tested, so I had to try to be creative, and I wasn't this type of person," said Estrada.

The Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Amber Chiang, hired Estrada to write advice and about experiences at BC.

The blog though is not linked from the Bakersfield College website to the blog itself, so students are left to wonder on how to even get to the page for it. Estrada hopes that more students will locate the blog and find the

topics she writes on will help them to succeed at Bakersfield College.

During the fall semester Estrada focused on giving advice to the students on how to be successful in their classes.

But during the spring semester she went in a different direction by giving examples of how she gets through everything from tests, to studying for midterms, to even just relaxing when she can find a moment.

She also expressed that she has had a lot of students coming up to her asking how she is able to be successful and take as many units.

She has found that writing the student blog is very different in styles of writing compared to writing an article for journalism.

"You have to be much more

creative, it's not just informative there has to be creativity," Estrada said.

Estrada is a communications major earning her AA in order to transfer and earn her bachelors degree.

As she has progressed through the semester she has made the choice to stick to just what students should know, and staying away from the hot topics of the hard journalism.

"I believe everything should be reported at least to bring awareness but I leave that up to the student newspaper. I stick to the more positive side of the school because a lot of students are not aware of how great this college really is," she said.

The link for the student blog is www.renegadenow.wordpress.com.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**** COMING SOON ****

Elected and appointed positions available

Elected offices	Appointed offices
President	Director of Finance
Vice President	Director of Student Activities
Director of Student Organizations	Director of Legislative Affairs
	Parliamentarian
16 Senators positions	
Allied Health (2)	Candidates seeking appointed offices can campaign to the public but will not appear on the ballot. Individuals must apply within the Office of Student Life before April 8, 2015. Individuals will be appointed by the newly elected President upon acceptance by the Senate.
Career Technical Education (2)	
Community at Large/Delano (4)	
English, Library and Pre-Collegiate writing (2)	
Humanities and Social Sciences (2)	
Physical Education and Athletics (2)	Interested students can file for candidacy until noon March 27. Filing can be done online. The general election opens April 13
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (2)	Vote online at Inside BC



**FOR QUESTIONS,
CONTACT BCSGA AT:**

Phone:
(661) 395-4614

Email:
studentlife@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Online:
bakersfieldcollege.edu/campus/bcsga-elections

ARTIST: Tom Chung shows art at BC's gallery

Continued from Page 1
heavily influenced around him growing up in a white America explained Chung.

"I grew up in a small white suburb in New Jersey, I was the only person in my elementary school that wasn't white," said Chung. Chung also went to middle school in Hong Kong.

Chung also showed work from the time he spent in San Francisco, where Chung took tropes of how Asian males were perceived in American culture and hyper-sexualized it in an effort to overwrite those particular tropes when someone would look at his art.

Because Chung's mother was in the advertising business, he was always noticing the effects that the media had on everyone surrounding him.

"Every Asian male in the media, on TV...was always this desexualized sort of character, this joke."

Before graduate school, Chung decided to live in the woods of Virginia for a while to see if he could survive. He ended up living mostly off of snakes and fennel. Chung later explained that a person can eat pretty much any snake as long as the head is cut off below the venom sacs. While in the woods of Virginia, Chung would come across hunting platforms. He would then take his art and collage them on the platforms with resin so that they would be almost impossible to remove.

"Sometimes I just like to make mischief," said Chung.

But Chung missed some things that civilization had to offer that the woods did not.

"I missed toilets," said Chung.

Chung's main body of work while in graduate school was mainly based around Ayahuasca, a plant brew containing the hallucinogen DMT. Chung would consume the Ayahuasca, then produce art about his experiences.



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Tom Chung stands with his painting, "I Wish I Could Quit You" at the Wylie and May Louise Jones art gallery.

Soon after, Chung was able to get a grant to go to the Amazon Basin where they had been using Ayahuasca for thousands of years. But Chung's goal was to ultimately get as far away from the western culture as he could.

"Culture can be a really powerful force itself and referred to as the third parent," said Chung.

The pieces shown were those inspired from the time he spent living in the villages with the natives of the Amazon Basin and taking spiritual trips on Ayahuasca.

"[The shaman] forced me to drink hallucinogens every day for two weeks," he said.

"I thought I was going to die, like all the time."

Chung also showed art works from his time in Hawaii and from the time he had spent in Alaska, which included the selections in "Dragnetomania."

Chung also happens to be red and green colorblind. In Chung's case, there is an absence of those colors, but Chung doesn't let it affect his art.

"I know when to be suspicious," said Chung.

Chung can be found in a good majority of his art, as he puts himself in it, as well as Chung's current setting. Chung believes he fits right into the genre of identity politics, where the artist's identity becomes very important when it comes to the art itself.

"The underlying basis of my work I believe is, that I'm investigating what makes us human," said Chung. When it comes to art there is one thing Chung always tells his students.

"Good art always asks more questions than it answers," said Chung.

You can check out more of Chung's art at tomchung.org.

\$5 dates are popular with BC students

By Darla Mangrum
Reporter

For the past couple of months, The Renegade Rip has had some ideas for going on some dates that can cost \$5 or less per person.

These dates may not cost much but from what Vivian Diedda and her family said, they have really helped their family of four find something to do on the weekend that has been affordable.

"My family has used a couple of these ideas but our favorite was last weekend," Diedda said. Her and her fiancé, Tracy Confair, and two young daughters wanted to do something over the weekend, but were really short on funds, and then she remembered reading about Wildlands Conservancy—Wind Wolves Preserves in The Rip.

So they decided to pack up a lunch from home, get their walking shoes on, put gas in the car, and take a drive to the preserves.

Diedda's daughters Ally, eight, and Arisa, 11, were so excited that before Diedda had the opportunity to read the rules to them they had already broke a couple of them. "They had to touch the antler archway, pick up the deer skulls that were on display" said Diedda "and try to catch pollywogs out of every source of water that they came across including over by the waterfalls, where we had our lunch."

While they were there, they asked about camping and found out that camping is free as long

as you make reservations in advance. Diedda said, "The only problem with camping is you cannot cook at the campsite and all the campers have to share one very large fire pit, which is fine with my family. In fact, we are planning on going again real soon." Diedda mentioned that her daughters want to go on the wildflower hike so they plan on doing that next time they go.

Wind Wolves Preserves is having a Nature Festival on March 28-29 starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday. The preserves are located at 16019 Maricopa Highway, Bakersfield, Ca. 93311. For more information call (661) 858-1115 or go to www.wildlandsconservancy.org or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WindWolvesPreserve.

This issue's \$5 dates: If you or your date like nice cars, especially good old fashion muscle cars, then you can always go to the Sonic Drive-In at 1227 Olive Drive in Oildale on Friday nights.

The cars are lined up all around the parking lot and their owners are friendly and love to talk about their favorite things: the cars.

If you get there after 8 p.m., you can get any beverage, including shakes customized to your liking, for half-off the regular menu price.

Sonic Drive-In has a free car show every Friday night as long as the weather permits and seems to be a fan favorite among people.

Column

Advice from an unlikely source

Brooke Howard | It's OK to learn the hard way.

When I lived in Los Angeles, an elder man once came up to me and said, "Just don't get out of the line, that's all you have to do."

I took it pretty literally since at the time I was standing in a line at Chipotle. I started to retort with a joke along the lines of, "Oh no sir, I'm very serious about my Chipotle burritos," until he cut me off and continued, "What you are doing, just don't stop. All the hard work, all of the stress it'll pay off. Don't stop. Don't get out of the line because your chance will come. You will get your opportunity and the fact is, 80 percent of people get out of the line because it's too hard or takes too long."

When he walked away it struck me who he was: Jack Klugman.

Klugman was a well-known actor who appeared in many Broadway plays, amazing TV shows, "The Twilight Zone" and multiple award-winning movies.

I wondered why he chose me out of all of the people standing in line for Chipotle burritos.

Then I had another small realization. That day my car had died, and I was taking public transportation everywhere. I was carrying my backpack for school, my bag of clothes for work, about five books and my guitar I was about to sell for some quick cash. I probably looked like a young, tired bum.

What he said that day resonated in me ever since. At one point, it was the bane of my existence.

I took it so literally I refused to move back to Bakersfield from L.A. because I felt it would mean I was stepping out of line, that I was a failure.

Klugman died a couple months after that day we met in Chipotle, and I was never able to get a hold of him.

After taking time to understand where Klugman came from and what he meant with what he said, I realized something.

Klugman was born to Russian Jewish immigrants, a hat maker and a house painter, and had many people tell him he would never make it as an actor.

At one point, someone even recalls him in 1948 coming home upset because his drama teacher told him, "Young man you are not suited to be an actor. You are suited to be a truck driver."

Now I understand many stories start like this. A kid with passion and drive is born to a poor family and overcomes the odds and ends up triumphant and successful.

But something about the way Klugman, who was 90 at the time, talked to me about not getting out of the line. I realized this could correlate with any problem you face in life.

Klugman served in the army during World War II and fought in many battles. After the war was over, he went back to pursue acting. He never got out of line.

He was called to war but his heart stayed in the game. Klugman read many plays and books on acting while fighting the war. He never got out of line.

When you want to do something in life, and you really want it, stick with it. Persevere. Don't step out of the line.

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This issue's Top Ten

Things to do during spring break

1. Go to Los Angeles and visit The Grove, Getty Museum, LACMA and the beach.
2. Go to Big Sur. Trust me, just go.
3. Sign up to volunteer and add to your resume.
4. Catch up on your sleep.
5. Spring clean your whole house and car.
6. Update your closet.
7. Plan a guys/girls day.
8. Take a local class and learn something new.
9. Begin a work out and healthy eating regimen.
10. Make some extra cash by housesitting, dog walking or babysitting.

LINK attempts to gain support for North Koreans

By Elias Ahumada
Photo Editor

Bakersfield resident Kyle Johnson, 25, hosted an event on the weekend of March 6-7 at his home in Bakersfield that was put together by the non-profit organization Liberty in North Korea, or LINK. The event was held outside of Johnson's house and nine people showed up.

Johny Williams, Haley Mah, and Yeji-Kim were responsible for putting the event together. They are known as Nomads in the organization.

The three Nomads belong to a group named Cal-West and they are part of five teams touring North America at the moment.

LINK's mission is to tackle one of the biggest issues they

believe humanity is facing today and "mobilizing" the current generation to support the North Korean people. Johnson is originally from Exeter but has been living in Bakersfield "for about four or five years," he said.

Johnson first heard about LINK while living in Korea Town, Los Angeles with his ex-girlfriend.

"Her dad's side, they came over a little after the war [Korean War], when the parallel was being set up, and her mom is from the south [South Korea]," Johnson said about his ex-girlfriend's family.

Johnson recalls his first LINK event was seven years ago and the event was similar to the one he hosted. The event Johnson and his ex-girlfriend attended

was in a city near Irvine.

"After the event I signed up for the Nomad program, I put my name in, but I never actually went," said Johnson. "About six months ago I got a call from a group saying they were wanting to come out to Bakersfield."

Johnson said that he was a little apprehensive at first but then, he said, the more he thought about it the more he wanted to help. Johnson finally made up his mind after reading a couple more books on North Korea.

"Now these guys are here [Nomads] and my plan is to sell this [his house] and go do what they do," Johnson said.

Johnson currently works for Hall Ambulance as an EMT.

"We are one of five teams traveling across North America right

now and so that makes us 15 in total, Nomads, Spring 2015," said Kim, who is from Seoul, South Korea.

Kim says that the Cal-West team is responsible for covering the entire south of California because there is so much support for LINK in the area. The other Nomad groups cover "North East Nomad, South East Nomad, Pacific North West Nomad, and Great Plains Nomad," she said.

LINK's also covers areas in Canada. The group expressed their appreciation from all the supporters in California.

The Liberty In North Korea Headquarters is in Torrance, Calif. and that is where all the teams start from and also where team members receive their training.

Qualifications to be a Nomad

include "always eager to learn and you should be the one to be self-motivated because serving to humanity and helping people is sometimes really hard...so you should be the one that can self-motivate," said Kim.

Johny Williams, 22, is from Anglesey, Wales and says he is excited that Kyle has been a wonderful supporter for some time now and glad, he hosted the event.

"We have three main programs...the narrative program, rescue program, and our resettlement program...these programs are funded by donations by selling merch [merchandise]," said Williams.

Haley Mah, 23, is from Vancouver, Canada and has been in training for about six weeks and

this was her first week on the road. "It's nothing that I've ever experienced before, everyday is completely new, and things that I could not have imagined are happening and I'm meeting really amazing people," she said. Mah was pleased to see so much support from people all over California.

"I would like to say that we are three people from different countries in another country helping people in another country...we just really want to bring the world together...and support the North Korean people."

LINK Nomad's travel and live inside of a van and the spring tour ends in San Diego. For more information on the organization visit the website at www.libertyinnorthkorea.org.



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Nannette Gonzalez (left) and Gabby Caraballo set up a booth inside Smart and Final Extra! to gain food donations for BC's Renegade Pantry.

Pantry improves service

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

Bakersfield College's Renegade Pantry hopes to be more active this semester and continually serve those at BC who suffer from food insecurity. Last semester there were few disbursements of food items from the pantry. Co-coordinator Gabby Caraballo said that the pantry is now better able to serve BC.

"I started last November as coordinator and I was really trying to build more partnerships," Caraballo said.

Now, for the spring semester of 2015, the pantry has partnerships with Smart & Final Extra!, Fresh and Easy, Vallarta Supermarkets, Sam's Club, and even Panera Bread. The pantry will disburse free bread daily, Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The bread comes from Panera and it is the responsibility of Caraballo and co-coordinator Nannette Gonzalez to pick up the bread from the bakery the night before.

"We applied for the day-end baked goods and after two weeks, we were approved," said Caraballo.

The "doughnations" from Panera continue as long as the Pantry ensures to pick-up the food items on their scheduled days. If the food does not get picked up, the contract is nullified. Caraballo is excited to have Panera's help, but she is also concerned about pick-up during spring break and other holidays. Students can sign-up for the free bread at the Pantry location. A coordinator is there to help students sign-up online. To receive bread or other disbursement items, students must sign-up online each time. Caraballo said the new online sign-up has received mixed reviews.

"Some students say it's more difficult, others say the online sign-up is easier," she said. "It's more efficient to store statistics and now we don't have to read handwriting. Students can also access it at home."

The Smart & Final partnership al-

lows for the pantry to have a booth at the store for customers to donate non-perishable items. On March 13, the pantry had a donation booth inside the Smart & Final Extra! location on Stockdale Highway. With the booth, the pantry hopes to raise awareness of food insecurity experienced by BC students.

"There are students who skip meals and need food," Caraballo said. "But not a lot of people know students are suffering. When I informed a Smart and Final customer of food insecurity at BC, the woman laughed at me."

Caraballo said that some residents of Bakersfield don't believe that students are dealing with food insecurity. She said that people may think that students are well off because of financial aid and there is a stigma associated with food insecurity. While some individuals are not very sensitive to the issue, the coordinators still believe it is important to share the issue with others in Bakersfield. Caraballo said that the first

person to donate food to the pantry at Smart and Final was a BC alum.

The Pantry has also developed a partnership with The Cookie Jar bakery downtown. The bakery donates cookies and the pantry freezes them to disburse them to students. The Pantry also held a bake sale on March 12 to raise funds to stock more food items. Cookies from The Cookie Jar were sold and cupcakes from Panera were also available.

The Pantry's next goal is to have more hygiene products and other sundries available for disbursement. The coordinators hope to get donations from hotels to increase their stock. The Pantry is run through the SGA and Gonzalez said that she is happy to help the BC student body.

"The Renegade Pantry is an incredible program and it shows that SGA really cares," said Gonzalez. To learn more about the Pantry or to sign-up for monthly grocery or daily bread distributions, visit www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/campus/pantry.

BC students think that the SB 967 is necessary

By K.E. Petersen
Reporter

A bill that was drafted by Sen. Kevin De Leon, D-Los Angeles, and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown will change how rape allegations are handled in colleges, but it seems that the majority of students do not know of this bill.

Studies indicate that on average 35 incidents of rape or attempted rape per 1,000 female students occur annually. And that's not taking into account the male victims of rape.

Senate Bill 967, which was signed on Sept. 28, 2014, sets new guidelines as to what constitutes as rape.

SB 967 applies to all California post-secondary schools, public and private, that receive money for student financial aid.

The California State University and University of California systems are backing the bill after adopting similar consent standards this year.

Advocates for victims of sexual assault believe this bill will provide constancy across college campuses, challenging the notion that victims must have "resisted the assault" in order to have a valid complaint.

The bill also requires colleges to provide training for faculty so victims are no longer asked inappropriate questions when filing complaints. It also includes counseling and health care services for the victim.

The new bill defines consent as an "Affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity." And that not saying "no" isn't a go.

The bill also specifies that if an individual has drugs or alcohol in their system, they cannot give legal consent.

"Every student deserves a learning environment that is safe and healthy," De Leon said. "The state of California will not allow schools to sweep rape cases under the rug. We've shifted the conversation regarding sexual assault to one of prevention, justice, and healing."

While there are many people and organizations that are for the bill, there are some who are against it.

Gordon Finley, an advisor to the National Coalition for Men, wrote an editorial asking Brown not to sign the bill.

He argued that "this campus rape crusade bill" presumes the guilt of the accused.

With a bill that deals so closely with college life, college conduct, and college safety, students should know about it.

Bakersfield College student Carter Wardlow, 19, says that although some things could have been added, for the most part the bill is right on point.

Wardlow said, "It's something that is needed in colleges and makes him feel safer."

He believes that the bill will help women so they can dress as they wish without fear that a man will take it as an invitation for forced sex.

He believes the bill will detour guys from approaching sex in an inappropriate and unwanted manner.

BC student Elaine Mackey, 18, says that the bill is definitely needed but that they went a little too far. "I believe that someone can give consent when drunk, I felt safe before. I think they are walking a thin line. There will probably be a lot of lawsuits," said Mackey.

Group hopes to inform locals on global warming issue

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

A group in support of political action for climate change hopes to bring the discussion to Bakersfield.

Citizens' Climate Lobby will hold a volunteer training and orientation workshop on March 21 to help residents of Bakersfield foster political will for climate change.

The group's focus is to eventually have Congress pass a revenue-neutral fee on industrial carbon emissions. According to Mark Tabbert, a co-founding member of the Orange County chapter of CCL, Congress will hold a briefing on a study of the economic potential of this fee.

"CCL hopes to have an effective chapter in every congressional district of California and having a chapter in Kevin McCarthy's district is especially important," said Tabbert.

Cydney Henderson, the group leader of the Bakersfield CCL chapter, said that educating people about the issue of climate change is extremely important.

"Climate change affects us all," she said. "A key aspect of the way that CCL operates is recognizing that people come to this issue from differing points of view and they might need information and clarifications to understand the seriousness and urgency of the issue."

Although there are varying opinions on climate change, Tabbert is confident that Bakersfield has many residents

willing to act on the issue.

He said that he believes oil companies such as ExxonMobil, Shell and BP are aware of climate change and have similar opinions on action against it.

According to Tabbert, climate change is a problem that is too large for individual action.

"Government needs to act, and America needs to lead on the issue," he said.

The meeting on March 21 will empower attendees to drive a conversation on action in Washington. He said that he hopes attendees will leave inspired to act on climate change.

He said that CCL has already made progress nationally and has met with Sen. Jim Inhofe and executives work-

ing for Charles and David Koch. Henderson is hopeful that Bakersfield residents will be supportive of CCL and understand the importance of moving toward alternative forms of energy.

"I understand that many families are dependent upon oil production for their livelihoods and that is not something that I take lightly," she said. "But in the big picture, we are understanding ever more clearly that we must reduce our output of greenhouse gases to build a sustainable future for generations to come."

The orientation workshop will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 2216 17th St. on March 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To learn more about CCL, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.

BPD officers give BC club a demonstration

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Reporter

Bakersfield College's Criminology Club and adviser Patricia Smith were given demonstrations by two bomb squad officers, their bomb robot, a K-9 officer and his partner, a Belgian Malinois, on March 13 at the Bakersfield Police Department in downtown Bakersfield.

The club was greeted by police community relations specialist Edwina Tripp and was brought into the back lot where all the police vehicles are kept along with a fueling station for the demonstrations. The first demonstration was with Police Detective Justin Lewis and Police Officer Craig Trefz and their bomb robot.

They first talked about some things that the robot could do and why it is so useful to the bomb squad. For instance, it keeps them from having to have a person take a look at the bomb or suspicious package. The bomb squad gets about 40-50 calls a year with 30-40 percent of the calls are usually calls about a suspicious package, left backpack in a crowded public place, etc.

The robot has three cameras; two located on two of the robot's "arms" and one at the top of the robot, as if it was the robot's head. From these cameras the bomb squad can see exactly what the robot is doing and how to maneuver it accordingly. The camera on top can be extended up and down, as well as rotate 360 degrees. This allows the bomb squad to be able to get a better view of something or even look into windows or spots where bombs might be. The robot has two arms one that helps

with the picking up and one that can help in the disarming of bombs and explosives, but the robot is not just limited to that. The robot has a variety of attachments that can be attached, such as a semi-automatic rifle. The robot is remote controlled from a control box located on the inside of the truck, along with a monitor showing the views from the cameras. The control box can be detached and taken to another location if necessary. In a matter of moving around the robot has two wheels on each side and caterpillar tracks located on the inside of each side of the wheels that move inward and outward to lift the robot up and down so that it can maneuver accordingly for the terrain.

The bomb suits are made with Kevlar, armored plates and other synthetic materials. The suits and helmets are made so that if an explosion occurs the blast goes around them and not into them.

Then Lewis and Trefz explained how you don't just become part of the force and get to be on the bomb squad, there is a lot of training that comes with it. Officer Trefz gave a good example by using himself and explained that he has been with the department for almost a decade and that he did not start out on the bomb squad. Detective Lewis explained that to be considered for bomb squad training, you first have to pass a physical agility test, written test, and go through an oral evaluation. Once accepted, you then go through six-weeks of training in Alabama and once back from there you still are pretty much always going to be training due to technology and the fact that bombs are being made differently all the

time. "You will probably never learn everything you need to know... all we do is train," said Lewis.

The next demonstration was with senior Police Officer Chris Dalton and his partner Bronx, a Belgian Malinois. Dalton explained that Belgian Malinois are the dogs that have been filtered through the K-9 units instead of German Shepherds due to shepherds having hip problems and other health issues.

"Shepherds are kind of being phased out," said Dalton.

There are 13 dogs that work for the Bakersfield Police Department and one is always on duty no matter what time of the day. There are three pure narcotic trained dogs, 10 dogs are dual-purpose dogs, which means they have two jobs. Out of the 10, two are bomb and patrol trained and eight who are patrol and narcotic trained. Dalton explained how the dogs are trained to be extremely obedient and alert. Dalton went on to show the club how Bronx always stays on his left side no matter what and will only bite or act upon commands when told. Bronx not only listens to voice commands in English but also knows commands in French, as well as physical commands.

The dogs are trained to attack the arms and legs, but dogs will go for the body part that is exerting the most body odor explained Dalton. Dalton then stated that even though the dog is trained to attack on command that they are not as viscous as they may seem and are not trained to be mean.

"They think they are playing...he looks at an arm like a tennis ball," said Dalton. "He could bite a bad guy and then I could pull him off and let the bad



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Police Officer Craig Trefz shows the BC Criminology Club the bomb squad's robot.

guy get him...I have never tried that though." Dalton explained that they are not much different than your dogs at home, except the hours and hours of one-on-one training that the handler and dog have gone through.

He explained that even being in contact and training with a dog so much it still takes about a year or two to completely gain the dog's trust.

Once an officer gets a dog, the dog from there on out is with the officer 24/7 and even goes home with the officer at night.

Even after the dog is trained, the officer then trains with the dog for about one hour out of every shift that the officer works.

Dalton explained how dogs are an important part of the Police Department because they can do

things that humans cannot. For instance, he told a story about how Bronx found a bad guy in a bush that the bad guy was hiding in, while other officers had walked by the bush and wouldn't have ever known the bad guy was there. Bronx can climb ladders, sniff out cocaine, and can run up to 25 to 35 mph.

"No human stands a chance," said Dalton.

Dalton also brought up the fact that since dogs have been implemented in the '50s that only one person has died from being attacked by a police dog, though Tasers have claimed a couple of thousand lives and weren't implemented until the '90s.

After a dog gets old and can't work for the Police Department anymore, the handlers are given

the opportunity to buy the dog from the department for one dollar. There have been 35 dogs that have worked for the Bakersfield Police Department and every handler has paid the one-dollar to take their dog home, explained Dalton.

"The most loyal partner I have had in my life," said Dalton.

The Criminology Club meets on the second Friday of every month. Smith plans on going to other law enforcement facilities such as the juvenile center and the CHP station. Smith believes that the students should get a chance to get out of the classroom, meet law enforcement workers, get an idea of what jobs are out there in the field of criminology, and the type of requirements necessary for certain positions.

Veterans will receive free parking pass through Mike's Pass Program

By Trina Goree
Reporter

Bakersfield College veterans will soon benefit from "Mike's Pass," a new fund that will pay for veteran students parking passes through a Mike's Pass Program.

The fund was recently approved this semester. There were a series of steps in order to gain approval for the fund. Tina C. Mendoza, veterans educational adviser, worked with the Foundation Department, Public Safety, and other organizations in order to establish the fund.

"Kern Schools Federal Credit Union donated the initial \$250 for the creation of the fund," said Mendoza.

Mendoza hopes to begin the program this fall. Veterans will be able to receive a parking pass every semester. To qualify for the program, students need to be a veteran or actively serving. Also, students must be involved in the general and BC community.

Priority will be given to all new veteran students. "Passes will go to new veteran students," stated Mendoza.

Veteran students interested in applying for the program can apply by filling out a form with Mendoza in the Veterans Lounge located next to the cafeteria in the Renegade crossings area previously known as the Free Speech Area.

Application forms will be available beginning in the summer.

"Veteran students can begin filling forms June 1," mentioned Mendoza.

Anyone interested in donating to the Mike's Pass fund can visit bakersfieldcollege.edu/foundation/. Also, cash drop-off donations can be made to the BC Foundation in the Levinson Building. All donations are tax deductible.

Mendoza encourages all BC staff and faculty to do a payroll deduction to support Mike's Pass.

Mike's Pass is part of a movement to make BC more veteran-friendly.

To aid in doing that, BC is following in the path of other community colleges, which have already implemented the Mike's Pass fund.

Mike Mihalakis was a veteran student at Cuesta College who was killed in Iraq. "I learned of this story from Porterville College and started to do research on how BC can create our own Mike's Pass," Mendoza said.

Mihalakis was the cousin to BC Veteran Club President Miles Post, who said that it is nice to be related to someone who has left such a huge impact and legacy that many community colleges are beginning to adopt and make their own.

Mendoza and Post along with BC Veterans Club will have events later in the semester to promote and raise awareness about the newly created fund that will help ease the veteran student experience at BC.



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Paola Colindres Campo talks about women in science at the "Challenges for Women in Science and How to Navigate Through the Corporate World" event on March 11.

Women in the workplace

By Brooke Howard
Features Editor

Paola Colindres Campo, a food scientist from General Mills and other large food companies in the U.S., came to speak at Bakersfield College as a part of the Women's History and More event on March 11.

This year's Women's History focus was on women in sciences. Campo's speech, named "Challenges for Women in Science and How to Navigate Through the Corporate World," discussed the difficulties of taking on the work-world while being a mother, how to be an assertive female figure and setting yourself up for success.

Campo spoke about her own difficulties while being a new mother and young female in the work place, "You can have a career and you can be a mother, actually studies show mothers in the work place are more efficient."

Campo also talked about how drastically motherhood will change your perspective and the perspective of those around you.

"There was a female company president who didn't have children of her own but let out a statement saying, 'I'm sorry to

all the mothers I worked with.' She said this because it's actually women who are the more judgmental on other women in the work place," according to Campo.

And its not just motherhood that might give women in the workplace difficulties, Campo also said family and loved ones can deter one's own path to success.

"Challenges in the work place can sometimes include your family and loved ones. They can doubt you or make you doubt yourself," Campo continued, "It's also yourself. Your lack of planning and setting career goals can be a big downfall."

A person's image also plays a big factor, regardless of sex, on how your success plays out. According to Campo the image you perceive is extremely important and you must look the part. Campo said it's also very important to surround yourself with people who believe in you and inspire you.

"Do not let people undermine you. And the best advice I've gotten is that people promote you when you are already performing at the next level," said Campo.

If you are at a job and want

a promotion, according to Campo, go to your supervisor and ask, "I want to be given more responsibilities to perform at the next level."

And never underestimate the power of developing connections explained Campo. She would constantly make contact with her co-workers and even requested meetings with lead executives to ask direct and clear questions on how to better herself in the work place. Campo also gave her advice on what students should focus on while in college.

"Apply for an internship, it gives you a taste of the real world and it lets you experience it first hand. You also get to see what your weaknesses and strengths are." Campo continues,

"You should also get a part-time job in something that relates to the job you want and constantly ask questions while you are there."

Campo also stressed something important for women, "Shoot for the moon. [Even if you miss] you will land among the stars. As women we need to do this. We need to aim as high as we can." Campo continued, "and when necessary, prove them wrong."

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Staff Editorial Tobacco policy up in smoke

In the past several years, we have sat wondering exactly what the smoking policy was on campus, but up until March 11 it had seemed even SGA couldn't even make up its mind.

During one of their most recent meetings it was made to seem that they as student government knew better than what we do as far as what we do to our bodies.

But as luck would have it, SGA President Alex Dominguez finally listened about redoing the outdated surveys that were from three years ago.

On March 11 SGA Vice-President Jimmy Moran was outside of the campus center passing out the surveys.

With the new surveys we can hope that it gives SGA a new direction on what the student body is wanting for the campus instead of having a bunch of senators and a Dean of Allied Health and Nursing telling us what we can and can't put into our systems.

We would hope that it wouldn't just be a case of SGA basically telling us, "Hey we are the ones who know better, and you don't."

But, even during the meeting that was held between the president and senators, they couldn't decide on which would be a better course of action to take.

On the new surveys students were given three options concerning how the campus would proceed with the smoking policy. The choices were that we didn't care and smoking didn't bother us, designated areas for the smokers, or a completely tobacco-free campus.

But there seems to be more smoking students than non-smokers on campus recently, and for the most part, students are following the federal law. Which states smokers need to be 20 feet from a building.

So instead of enforcing the strict tobacco-free policy on campus, designated areas seem to be the better option and the way to go.

Yes, there are inspections that have to be done stating that the college put the designated areas in correctly, but it would seem a better idea then forcing students to conform to a tobacco-free policy.

The designated areas would take the smokers away from the non-smokers, and this would give the faculty a place to go as well and not be a "headache" to the Dean of Allied Health and Nursing, Cindy Collier, happened to put it during the meeting.

The concerning factor is that most of the senators that are currently members on the SGA board won't even be here when the roll out for this policy takes place. So why push an issue if they won't be around to even see it through?

SGA needs to not just take into account their views but also ours, which we can hope that with the new surveys they do.

But you have to wonder if we as the student body voice our opinion and it comes out different then what SGA thinks, will they listen to the fact that we would prefer to have the designated areas or still continue to have the policy be that which is federal law.

Mixing college with dating

By Brooke Howard
Features Editor

By K. E. Petersen
Reporter

Dating in college is completely different than dating in high school or the professional world.

Dating in high school is premature, and dating in the professional world is, mostly, serious business. No pun intended.

Your time in college is a constant growth spurt and learning about others is sometimes the key to learning about yourself.

Dating as a young adult gives you the confidence you need, not because you need someone else to make you confident, but because you gain confidence from experience.

Today, traditional dating at any age has gone out the door. I believe it's negatively affecting the respect that genders have for each other.

By saying you will never date in college, does that mean you will just have some one-night stands? Because let's be honest, college and sex are two things that go hand in hand.

And do we not care who we are sleeping with? Do we not want to know more about these people?

We are at college to achieve many things, but the most important thing is to better ourselves. You do this by crafting your skills through a program, obtaining a degree, or just to learn more about the field you want to work in before you commit to it.

Well, why wouldn't you want to learn about the kind of person you want to be with before you commit to it? That's what dating is for. You might think you only like athletes until you say "yes" to a date with the engineer major. They might actually rock your world and inspire you to learn different things.

Everything and everyone you meet is adding to your human capital.

I will address the opposition by saying, I understand. Some people get wrapped up in a serious relationship and they start skipping classes, forgetting about their friends and not spending time on themselves the way they use to. The next thing you know, they are not focusing on their future or experiences outside their relationship.

But I will be honest with you, if you skip classes, stop spending time on yourself and ditch your friends for someone else, you're really not going to get the things you want out of college anyway. College requires a drive and hunger for learning and success if you want to finish and get the job you want and a relationship doesn't mean forfeiting your independence or responsibilities.

And yes, college is the time to travel and explore, but what better way to learn more about yourself and how you handle certain people and situations, than by dating? By dating, you find out the characteristics you like and don't like in a significant other.

Dating teaches you to be honest and upfront with yourself. What do I want? Do I want to be a career man/woman and not have kids? Do I want to get married after I have my degree, or wait until I have a career?

I also know many people who solely dedicated their life to going out and getting drunk, college was an excuse and classes were on the back burner.

Maybe a mistake happens and a one-night stand ends up in pregnancy. Studies show that young adults in a steady (even casual) relationship are able to talk about things like birth control, protection and STDs much easier.

When you've just met someone that night and wake up with the classical "What's his/her name again?" you've most likely missed out on important information that could have protected you.

Dating is usually a friendship as well. A friend is there for you during those nights you're writing a ten-page paper, they bring your favorite candy bar when you feel down, listen to you when you are stressed and overall they are there to encourage you. And when you have someone with similar goals who also encourages you, you tend to flourish.

Dating in college gives you confidence, wisdom and absolute knowledge of what you want for your future.

Dating another student while in college should be avoided as much as possible.

While in college, students meet new people. They create new bonds and relationships with those who they get along with.

Long lasting relationships have been forged from the fire that burns during their college years. But what is at stake?

While some students can get along well while dating in college, for the vast majority, distraction is the cost.

Sitting in class, thinking about the one with whom you are with can cause you to drift off with thoughts about them and not pay attention in class. You can end up missing important lectures or information that could be on tests or a midterm. Spending a lot of time with the person who you are dating can interfere with homework and study time. Dating in college can slow your progress in class and possibly even cause you to drop out or fail.

I know this one student who is not only dating while in college, but he is dating a girl in one of his classes. Because of this relationship, he is doing badly in his class. Because she didn't have a textbook that was required for the class, he gave his copy to her. Now he is not able to do the assignments. He knows he is going to fail the class but says he does not mind as long as she passes, which means her education is more important to him than his own.

Also, while in other classes, he thinks about her constantly. He has even admitted to losing out on homework time to spend time with her and not hearing a lot of what some of his instructors have said in class.

"Yes, I text her while in class and I get distracted, but I really care for this girl," this student said. "And it's not like I can't retake the class if I need to. She is more important to me than school is."

Would you risk failing a class over a relationship that you can start later instead of during your college career? There is no logical sense in that.

Another student that I know has dropped out of school because she started dating a guy who went to college with her and she got pregnant. During her third semester of college, she had to drop out because of the pregnancy. Now her college career and ultimately her professional future are on hold.

"I don't know if I will be going back to college," she said. "When the baby is born, I will be a full time mother. So I may not have time for school."

And where is the baby's father? He bailed on her. He is still in college while his unborn child and the mother are struggling.

"I didn't try to get her pregnant," he told me. "And I cannot put my future on hold for something that was a mistake in the first place. I should have worried more about school and not the girl."

He couldn't even remember her name.

A college education is important in the professional world. It should never be compromised for anyone else.

I believe that friendships are good relationships to have in college.

And you can be friends with the person while in college and create something more once you both graduate.

Waiting for a romantic relationship is far safer and better for your college career. You should wait until you have the time to focus on the other person without risking your education.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO JAUREGUI

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Album Review

Kid Rock reinvents himself with release of latest album

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

It's always good to come across an artistic chameleon. Kid Rock can blend in with just about any genre of music. He is one of those artists that can play several instruments, act, produce music, write songs, sing and rap.

"First Kiss," Kid's 10th studio album was released on Feb. 24, and it looks like he is leaning toward old country.

The title song, "First Kiss," is about young love and all the mushy stuff that comes with it. To me, it is a bit reminiscent of Bryan Adams from the mid '80s.

"Good Times, Cheap Wine" is kind of a bluesy rock with almost a country feel. I can envision this song playing in a country bar with its own line dance.

"Johnny Cash" is not about Johnny Cash as I had anticipated. He talks about how he likes everything about his Kentucky girl and how he walks the line for her and will be her Johnny Cash.

"Ain't Enough Whiskey" is another bluesy rock song. His message in the song is that there is not enough whiskey to make him change his views on politics and certain things that the government wants to change, like taking away the right to bear arms.

"Drinking Beer With Dad" is a rite of passage song starting with his own dad and ending with his own son. He sings about the best education he ever had and some



GOOGLE IMAGES

of the best times he ever had drinking beer on the porch with his dad. The sound of the steel guitar is clearly heard, giving it a country feel.

"Good Time Looking For Me" has an unmistakable honky tonk sound. Which is fitting, since the song is about good times, rambling, whiskey, and song.

In "Best of Me", he talks about how crazy life on the

stage is, and though he gives his audience his all, his woman gets the best part of him. There is a funky organ, which gives it a country-funk vibe.

In "One More Song" his "hot little hooker" of a woman left him and he just wants to listen to some good time rock 'n' roll and drink her off his mind with a friend, and it seems that friend is a girl.

"Jesus and Bocephus" is the first song that I heard before the album came out. He played it live on "The Tonight Show" with Jimmy Fallon. A ballad, it starts out with one long note from a fiddle. He sings about Hank Williams Jr. and Jesus, how both of them have been there for him in his life.

Finally, "Say Goodbye" is a song that speaks of the reluctant end of a relationship. It reminds me somewhat of the Eagles back in the day.

If you buy the explicit version, "FOAD" is the same music as "Say Goodbye" but with different lyrics. Basically it's a not-so-nice version of "Say Goodbye," which is a bonus track on the explicit album.

All songs were written or co-written by Kid Rock under R.J. Richie (his birth name is Robert James Richie.)

All in all, I enjoyed this album, as I do most of Kid Rock's albums. I like the fact that he switches up his game. Each time he re-invents himself, he gets that much better. Not to mention that his "First Kiss: Cheap Date Tour" concert tickets are only \$20.

★★★★★



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

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

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Column

Stick with what you know you are good at

Vanessa A. Munoz | Nessa's Music Rant

As with most things in life, time seems to make things better. For example, wine, medicine, movies, technology and food. One thing that has declined in talent over time is music.

Almost anyone can get a record deal these days, from actors to athletes, just as long you have the funds to cover the equipment usage. Athletes like Shaquille O'Neal have tried to share their rhythm and lyric skills with the world by putting together songs and albums that sound like he's out of breath in every verse.

There are actresses like Scarlett Johansson and Gwyneth Paltrow who feel they have the vocal capability to sing, all because they portrayed a singer in a movie. Then you have some actresses who actually make it as a musician, such as Jennifer Lopez, but then again, that would depend on who you ask, because some would say she doesn't have any talent at all.

Then there are actors turned musicians who are talented enough to have their own album and have recognizable skills that can be acknowledged as music worthy, such as Jamie Foxx.

The transition from actor to musician hardly ever goes well, yet there are so many incidents where a musician gets into acting and that crossover ends up successful. So does it mean that musicians can be movie stars, but movie stars can't be musicians? Some of these musicians have the looks, but they don't have the talent to be on the big screen yet.

In Hollywood, good looks can get you far in the show business. The majority of these crossovers are all about name, and it's normal to see these famous faces everywhere, so when we see them on the big screen or on TV, it's supposed to be normal, yet these faces haven't earned recognition and lack the talent that used to be required in order to be on TV.

With the compilation of different talents joining in the music scene, music in general has changed. Not only do we have rap artists mixing in rock music or country musicians taking a rap twist on how they sing their songs, but there are mixtures of beats and melodies that are influenced by the region of where the artist comes from. There's nothing wrong with that, but defining the types of music now is a lot harder and way more confusing because of the many different influences.

Time may be the factor, but it's the talent in us that makes and accepts these changes. Is it time that changes us as listeners and what we consider talent? Making it acceptable to encourage those who have the full capability to earn or learn in a specific field, yet don't want to, only sets our future up for failure. Then these people will want to be acknowledged for these talents and given the credit for them, which only gives them a sense of entitlement that they don't deserve.

There is nothing wrong with exploring your talents, but when you don't possess any in a specific field, then just stay where you are in life or try a different route. Money can't buy you talent, and sometimes it's better to stick with your day job. Forcing a bad decision onto the rest of the world because of your refusal to admit that you don't have what it takes is incongruous toward others.

Food Review

College Coffee & Donuts glazes on

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor and Chief

College Coffee & Donuts adds a sweet kick to the college students' taste buds. The shop is located on Mount Vernon Avenue just a short drive away from the Bakersfield College campus. While the shop has typical doughnuts — rows of chocolate bars, maple bars and glazed — this shop also sells some of the newer and trendier doughnuts as well.

Customers can purchase one of several types of the New York-based croissant doughnut, also known as the cronut.

The cafe sells cronuts filled with apple or cream cheese but also has regular unstuffed cronuts as well. Along with cronuts, the shop also offers the very tasty maple bacon bar.

The bacon doughnut has minced pieces of bacon atop a traditional maple bar and provides customers with a sweet and salty doughnut. The bacon is perfectly crispy, and isn't burnt

or chewy. The doughnut is also very soft, even at 5 p.m. The maple topping of the pastry isn't too overwhelmingly sweet, and it works well with the bacon.

The cafe serves a better maple bacon doughnut than that of another hometown competitor, Sugar Twist. The maple bacon bar at College Coffee & Donuts doesn't have extra glaze on the bottom of the doughnut.

The only sweetness comes from the maple topping, which works well because customers don't have to worry about sticky fingers while eating the sweet treat.

While the maple bacon bar shines at this establishment, traditionalists can enjoy a classic doughnut here as well.

The original glazed doughnut is also sweetened to perfection and is soft and fluffy. The pastry doesn't have too much glaze and is a great size for a quick and indulgent snack.

One of the less successful doughnuts served at the shop is the raspberry-filled, jelly



PHOTOS BY MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Isac Say, an employee at College Coffee & Donuts, packages doughnuts with a smile.

doughnut.

The glaze on this treat is spread with a very heavy hand and leaves teeth in pain from the overwhelming amount of sugar. Then, the raspberry filling is tucked away too deep into the doughnut, leaving customers with an overly glazed hunk of dough. Thankfully, the raspberry filling saves this otherwise mediocre doughnut.

It is stuffed with filling and the raspberry is sweet and delicious. This pastry would be much more successful if the filling were spread more evenly within the doughnut.

The copious amount of glaze is entirely unnecessary, and the doughnut would taste perfect with just the raspberry filling.

While jelly doughnuts may not

be for everyone, chocolate-lovers rejoice because the chocolate bar is well-executed.

There is just the right amount of chocolate on the bar and the doughnut isn't overly sweet. The bars at this shop are a good size so customers don't have to feel guilty if they eat the whole thing. The chocolate topping is crunchy and melts in your mouth.

Overall, the chocolate bar is a great classic doughnut that is created successfully at this shop. Fans of Fosters Donuts can enjoy the great selection at this establishment as well and find happiness at this mom and pop shop.

Although coffee is in the title of this shop, buyers beware, the caffeine available at this store is entirely underwhelming.

The store has a huge selection

of flavored espresso beverages, but the espresso falls short.

The mocha is tasty as a hot chocolate, but the espresso is very weak and doesn't provide that afternoon kick for those late BC classes.

Students are better off with a generic drink from Starbucks down the road or an overpriced Monster beverage on campus.

The caffeinated beverages at this establishment unfortunately aren't the best. Thankfully, the doughnuts are so tasty that a nice glass of milk will work as a fine replacement.

For students looking for a doughy treat, College Coffee & Donuts is the destination for tasty baked goods, but be advised, get caffeinated elsewhere.

★★★★☆



College Coffee & Donuts advertises their new smoothie bar where people can create their own smoothies.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO JAUREGUI / THE RIP

Secret worldwide elite group of evil billionaires: the Illuminati?

By Tyler Goucher
Reporter

John Lennon once said, "Our society is run by insane people for insane reasons." I believe this is entirely true, however, these "insane people" are really just power hungry billionaires that treat everyone below them like pawns on a chessboard.

It is quite simple. The people at the top of the pyramid want to stay at the top and the only way to do this is to brainwash the people on the bottom levels of the pyramid into believing that what they are doing is necessary in order to keep the wheels going on this machine we call society.

It is believed that many of these Illuminati members are Satanists and that they are literally and figuratively working for the devil. Although I am not a huge believer when it comes to religion, I do believe a lot of these people have evil intentions. I mean, is it right that these people are able to use money to control those who don't have

money? Do money and power make someone better or more important than those without? My answer, of course, is no.

Another aspect of the Illuminati that is quite interesting is their gross over usage of satanic symbolism in media. There are pictures and videos that are constantly being dissected on YouTube that show actors, musicians, politicians, etc., throwing up hand signs that resemble devil horns or using the infamous sequence of 666 in their performances or speeches. I often, at times, believe that these people are searching for reasons to give truth to the conspiracy. If the Illuminati is some secret worldwide elite group of evil billionaires, why would they make it obvious enough for even the most uneducated person to point out?

Now I'm not saying I don't believe they exist, I just think it is more complex than what most people think. These signs and symbols could be a way to throw everyone off. What if there was something bigger go-

ing on that is beyond our capabilities of understanding? For instance, consider that the Illuminati are really hyper intelligent aliens that have the ability to shape-shift into human form. Maybe Earth is just a giant science experiment being run by foreign entities with the goal of understanding existence themselves.

Now I'm sure at this point you're probably asking yourself, "What the hell is the guy talking about?" That is one of the biggest issues we have in society though. Thinking outside the box or having an opinion that goes against the status quo can send you to the loony bin.

That could very well be the Illuminati's plan. Keep society in a closed box to stop them from uncovering the real truth. It's scary to think any of what I just talked about could be true, but it's even scarier to think after reading this, most of you will write it off as just another silly conspiracy theory.

Movie Review

Liam Neeson changes it up in his new movie

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

Liam Neeson, in "Run All Night," plays another hero with a bit of a twist to his character.

"Run All Night" is a film about a man named Jimmy Conlon, played by Neeson, who is a scumbag that does not talk to his son, Michael Conlon, played by Joel Kinnaman.

Jimmy worked for his friend, Shawn Maguire, played by Ed Harris, but now is a drunk who beats himself up for all the terrible things he has done.

Long story short, Michael was at the wrong place at the wrong time and witnessed Shawn's son, Danny Maguire, played by Boyd Holbrook, shoot a person. The situation got sticky and ended in a result of Shawn wanting Jimmy and Michael dead. Michael and Jimmy must work together, even though Michael hates Jimmy, to survive.

As I was walking into Maya Cinemas, I had low expectations for this film. To my surprise, I left the theater happy because

the movie I watched was actually good.

Having not watched the trailer for the film, I thought it was going to be another movie where Neeson plays an average to good guy who kicks ass.

In this film, he did play a guy who kicks ass, but he was not a good person. He was in fact a terrible person that had a lot of making up to do. Even though he played a scumbag, I still found myself rooting for him the whole movie.

The acting as a whole was good. There wasn't a moment where I thought that an actor didn't portray the emotion of their character well.

The filming of the movie was also good. There were scenes that had an unorthodox way of being filmed. The transitions between scenes were different, and I enjoyed it.

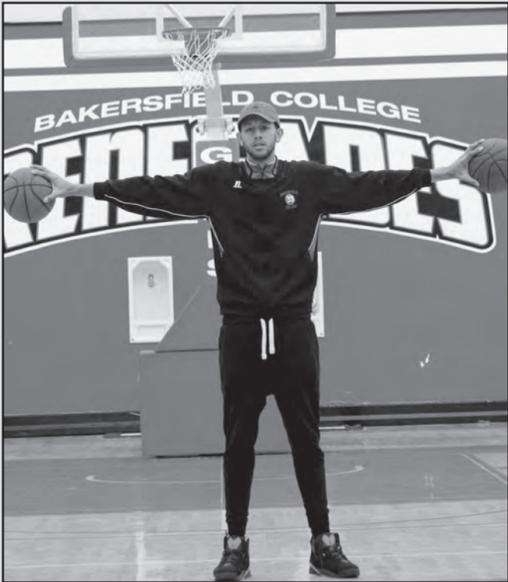
If you are an over-critical person, I say don't watch this movie. For the rest of you who aren't, I suggest that you do watch it.

★★★★☆



GOOGLE IMAGES

Going beneath the shield online



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

For in-depth analysis and features on all things Renegade Athletics, stay tuned to therip.com as we'll have several multimedia features with players and coaches beginning next week with men's basketball players Deandre Dickson, Greg Glamoc and Austin Welch.

Dickson will take us through his MVP season and Glamoc and Welch will talk about coming to Bakersfield College from unique places.

Forthcoming will be features on the women's basketball team, spring sports, and more updates on fall sports as well.

End of road for Renegades

By Mohamed Bafakih
Sports Editor

A quarter century of Bakersfield College women's basketball history has been rewritten this past season.

Despite being eliminated by Irvine Valley 71-53 in the third round of the regional playoffs on March 4, it was a season where records were shattered, accolades were handed out – but above all, it was a complete team effort.

It was a core led by sophomores, but when it came time for the freshmen to pick up the slack, they would answer. When in doubt, head coach Paula Dahl felt comfortable and confident going deep in her bench or even switching up the starting lineup constantly.

That would ultimately be the case as to why BC would start the season a program-best 9-0; a span lasting nearly two months (Nov. 1 – Dec. 28) and the only thing stopping the Renegades from finishing the preseason undefeated was Santa Ana in the third and final meeting between the two.

BC came into the 2014-15 season unranked in the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCA) state and regional rankings.

However, it only took just over a month for them to be seeded as high as 11th in the state.

It seemed as if Dahl and Company had the perfect recipe for a perfect season.

An experienced frontcourt in sophomores Nakia Page and Rosebrooke Hunt – both six-footers who combined for 16 rebounds a game – which in large part led the team to finish the season 12th in the state in rebounds.

Defensively, they anchored the defense and altered anything and everything in their direction.



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

The 2014-15 WSC South champions helped coach Paula Dahl to a record-setting season.

Joining them was Claesey Tarver, another sophomore who could stretch the floor and could guard the opposition's best player on any given night.

For instance, in their first tournament of the season at Santa Ana against MiraCosta, Tarver held MiraCosta's leading scorer, Brogan Griffin, to just two points. Brogan came in averaging 23.7 points per game but spent her birthday that night making an early departure from the tournament while BC would win it all; a second tournament championship in the program's 36 years and first since 2006-07.

The backcourt was led by sophomore transfers Alex Green and Yoemma Esparza. It was a duo which can both score and distribute the ball efficiently while setting the tempo.

All five players above represented BC in the sophomore junior college showcase at Cypress



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

WSC South MVP Nakia Page gets a word from Dahl.

College on March 14 where college scouts took notice.

"This is the first time I've had 5,6 really recruitable kids... each

one of them generated interest from coaches," said Dahl.

Then you add some energy and production off the bench with players like Khyilah Dean, Marissa Jones and McKaiela Tyler just to name a few, and you've got yourself all the pieces to the puzzle.

Despite such a fundamental concept of Dahl's style of play of "run, rebound, defend," it led the Renegades to the first outright conference championship for BC women's basketball.

It also became the reason as to why WSC South Coach of the Year, Dahl, was able to have this team reach its pinnacle with an overall record of 23-5 while hosting a playoff game and reaching the third round of the playoffs for the first time in 25 years.

There will only be one 2014-15 Bakersfield Renegades women's basketball team, and it's one that will always be remembered.

Column Jamming into the Madness

MOHAMED BAFAKIH | Going beneath the shield

Let the Madness begin!

It is that time of the year where brackets will be busted, girlfriends and wives will be forgotten, and best of all – having the March Madness Live app on your phone to watch games live in class while your professor rants about how bad your midterm scores were (it won't be me, cough cough).

Every year, it's hard to imagine who will be that mediocre program to win their small conference and punch their tickets into the dance and go on to upset the Duke's of the world... you know, Lehigh, Mercer.

You gotta love the underdogs. Dunk City (Florida Gulf Coast) in 2013 when they came in as a 15-seed and reached the Sweet 16, or Butler nearly winning the National Championship over Duke in 2010 on a halfcourt heave by Gordon Hayward that rimmed out.

Yes, Kentucky is clearly favored to win it all, and if I wanted to play it safe in Vegas I'd have them going 40-0 and cutting the nets down in Indianapolis – a city where an hour away in Bloomington Bob Knight and the 1976 Hoosiers completed college basketball's last perfect season.

What is the importance level of playing at the highest level of any postseason in all of college sports?

I got some insight from current Bakersfield Jam forward and former Miami Hurricane Adrian Thomas who was part of the madness in 2008 when the seventh seed Hurricanes reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament only to lose to number two Texas in Houston, 75-72.

Also part of that team – Thomas' roommate – Jimmy Graham. Yes, the newly acquired tight



end for the Seattle Seahawks who played basketball for Miami from 2005-09.

Miami never really solidified itself as a basketball school due to the attention surrounding their long history of football success, but in 2008, the focus around Coral Gables was strictly basketball.

Thomas on heading into the Big Dance: "It was big. We got a lot of love around campus... everybody knew us."

It was just Miami's sixth trip to the tournament in nearly 50 years. That is what you love to see from a school that despite being in the ACC and gets overlooked by North Carolina and Duke get a shot to make some noise.

This year Miami will be a two-seed in the National Invita-

tion Tournament (NIT) – a tournament that Thomas says "is another chance to keep playing basketball, and its fun... especially if you're a senior."

However, for the main pool, it will be interesting to see how it plays out.

Who has the best chance to actually beat Kentucky? Who will be the next merging small school?

I'll be Joe Lunardi, or better yet, Moe Lunardi and give you a rundown of my bracketology expertise that will probably end up trouncing before the week is over.

Kentucky is in the Midwest region as the one seed and will roll over into the Sweet 16 but struggle a bit with Big Ten newcomer Maryland. Maryland is a physical team with great guards.

They will pull it out and face even a bigger test in Notre Dame, though.

The ACC Champion Fighting Irish are playing their best basketball of the season and it will show, but it won't be enough.

The "Diaper Dandies" or freshmen as Dickie V calls it, will lead Kentucky one step closer to a title.

Finally, I see John Calipari and the Wildcats play the Wildcats of Arizona who will come out of the West region after defeating Frank Kaminsky's Wisconsin and UK prevailing in a game for the ages.

Nevertheless, I really like the style of play Arizona plays with. They can spread the floor, take you down low and realistically have the best shot to end Kentucky's historic run.

SLEEPER TEAMS

(14) Albany, (12) Buffalo, (12) Wofford

TEAMS THAT MAY GO DEEP

(3) Iowa State, (4) Maryland, (5) Utah, (8) Oregon, (12) Wyoming

EARLY DEPARTURES

(1) Villanova, (3) Oklahoma, (4) Louisville, (5) West Virginia, (6) Butler

On the opposite side of the bracket, it's a bit safer to take a gamble with certain teams.

Virginia in the East region has lost two if its last three games but I really like London Perrantes and as long as Justin Anderson can remain healthy, they will be very hard to contain.

They'll meet up with quite honestly one of four teams in the

South but perhaps Duke or Iowa State.

When it's all set in done, I see Big Blue Nation completing a perfect 40-0 season and cutting the net down in Lucas Oil Stadium on April 6.

Feel free to chime in on ESPN's Tournament Challenge by searching the group name "BC Rip."

Softball struggles in conference

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's softball team has not started out the conference as well as they started out the preseason. BC has won one game out of the first four conference games.

With the game against Allan Hancock College on March 3 being cancelled, BC moved right along and went to Glendale College only to be shut out 9-0 by Glendale's pitcher Donna Lara. This was the first game this whole season that the BC softball team has not scored a run.

The game against Cypress College on Feb. 22 was cancelled due to rain. It was rescheduled and played on

March 8, with Cypress taking the win 10-2.

BC played at Citrus College in a doubleheader on March 10. Citrus managed to walk all over the BC women's softball team with Citrus coming out on top of the first game 10-2, and the second game was even worse as Citrus' pitcher Autumn Bartholomy managed to shut out BC 8-0. This was the second shutout against BC this season and both being conference games.

After a four-game losing streak on the road, BC came back home and hosted a close game against Santa Monica College on March 12. BC ended their losing streak beating Santa Monica 9-8. Even with eight fielding errors against BC, they managed to keep Santa Monica at bay with four stolen bases by Alex Avila, Trinidad Lee, Brittany Puetz and Victoria Appling. Lets

not forget about the seven RBIs as Brooke Quiddam totaled up for three, Vanessa Moralez with two, and one from each Zaily Luna and Brittany Puetz. BC, prior to Tuesday's doubleheader matchup against Canyons, is sixth in the Western State Blue Division at 1-3 right above LA Mission and Santa Monica College, who are tied for seventh in the division at 0-4.

BC softball will then resume play for the next 10 games here at home vs. LA Valley College on March 19, Riverside College on March 21, Saddleback on March 22, LA Mission on March 24 in a doubleheader, Antelope Valley College on March 26, and Citrus on April 2.

BC will finally travel on April 7 to Santa Monica for a rematch in a doubleheader against the Corsairs.

Tennis strives to win

By Daniel Ojeda
Contributing Editor

The struggles have continued for the Bakersfield College tennis teams as the season has bounced along and despite some improved play, both teams had losing streaks extended.

Despite playing at home, the men's tennis team (2-6) dropped both matches at BC, losing to Ventura College (6-3) by the score of 9-0 and to Glendale College (7-5) 7-2. Glendale has had the Renegades number this season as they swept the season series by winning both matches.

The losses extended the Renegades losing streak to three games and has left the team sitting in third place behind first place Ventura.

Once again the young BC squad struggled against the top teams in the division just as they have all season.

The women's tennis team (0-12) also extended its losing streak as they dropped three straight matches, first against Ventura (6-6) by the score of 9-0, then losing to Glendale (12-2) 7-2 and falling against Antelope Valley College (2-8) by the score of 8-1.

The losses pushed the women's losing streak to 12 straight and has left the Renegades sitting in last place in the division behind first place Glendale. Despite the losing streak, the women's team has started to score more frequently than earlier in the season, leaving the team with a positive outlook as team play continues to improve.

With the season nearing an end, the men's team will hit the road to end the season against Ventura on March 24 and then against Cerritos College on March 31.

The women's team will finish the season off at home, facing Santa Barbara College on March 19 before finishing against Ventura on March 24.

BC track and field ends the two-year curse

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

Bakersfield College women's track and field team continues to do well as the men's team broke their two-year curse.

"It was the first meet the men have won in two years, so that was exciting for us," said head coach Pam Kelley.

BC's men and women dominated the BC Relays on March 7 as both teams won the meet.

The BC men had a team score of 191. The runner up to them was Ventura College with 136.

Austin Varner took first place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 50.61 seconds. Juan Calderon placed second in the 800-meter run with a time of 1 minute 59.69 seconds. Christopher Moreno placed second in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:11.02. Richard Timmermans took first place in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 9:37.87.

Mark Agbalog placed second in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.87 seconds. Bakersfield took the top three spots in the 400-meter hurdles; Agbalog took first place with a time of 57.86, Brandon Hernandez-Segura finished in second place with a time of 59.94, and Victor Rodriguez placed third with a time of 59.84.

BC men's A-relay team placed second in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3 minutes 25.74 seconds.

Edgar Llanes took first place in the pole vault with a height of 14 feet, and Jose Leandro placed second with a height of 13'.

The BC women had a team score of 278, and the runner up was VC with a team score of 74.

The top three spots in the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash were taken by the BC women. In the 100-meter dash Kyra Saunders took first place with a time of 12.29 seconds, Tyra Saunders placed second with a time of 12.61, and Nicole Lewis placed third with a time of 12.7. In the 200-meter dash Lewis took first place with a time of 25.49, Kyra placed second with a time of 25.7, and Tyra with a time of 26.15.

Kyra said, "No, I was not happy with my performance today... I didn't get enough sleep and the sun drained me from the high school meet we hosted yesterday."

Jessica Campbell and Leah Theroux took the top two spots in the 800-meter run. Campbell took first place with a time of 2 minutes 17.97 seconds, and Theroux placed second with a time of 2:21.60.

Lilliana Portillo took first place in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1 minute 9.15 seconds.

"I PR'd [personal record] today so I feel really good," said Portillo.

DeannaLynn Rubio placed first in the long jump with a distance of 16.37 feet. She also took first place in the triple jump with a distance of 33.16'. Amanda Reyes took first place in shot put with a distance of 32.77' and in the discus throw with a distance of 114.27'. Carolina Martinez placed first in the hammer throw with a distance of 99.04'. Stephanie Perez placed first in the



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Lilliana Portillo is hurdling on the final stretch of the 400-meter hurdles; she took first place.

javelin throw with a distance of 85.1'.

The BC men struggled at the Modesto 5-Way meet on March 13 as they placed top three in only four events.

Moreno placed second in the 800-meter run with a time of 2 minutes 0.08 seconds. Hernandez-Segura placed third in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 59.34 seconds. Timmermans placed second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 10:33.7. BC men's A-relay team placed second in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3:22.49.

The BC women's team did well at the Modesto 5-way.

Kyra took first place in the 100-meter dash with a

time of 12.51 seconds, and Tyra placed second with a time of 12.71. Kyra later placed second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.25.

Theroux placed second in the 800-meter run with a time of 2 minutes 21.2 seconds. Campbell placed first in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:45.29.

BC women's A-relay team placed first in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 49.56 seconds. BC women's A-relay team took second place in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4:09.25.

BC's track and field team will be competing on March 20 in the Antelope Valley College Spring Invitational, and will also be competing in the WSC Inland meet on March 27.

BC men's golf team improves

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

Bakersfield College men's golf team has improved as they put up some of the best scores all season.

BC placed fifth at Ventura College with a team score of 399. That score is the best score that the team has had all season.

"Best tourney of the year so far. We may have reached a turning point for the better," said coach Bob Paillet.

Paillet was suspended two matches for playing an ineligible player. BC women's golf coach, Brittney Goehring, took over for the two matches.

Jeremy Choi placed fourth overall with a score of 72. Brad Chamberlain shot a 77, Jerren Walter shot an 82, Bowdy Carroll shot an 83, and Robert Chavez shot an 85.

BC men's golf hit the road for the Peterson tourney where they shot a team score of 405.

Choi led the team with a score of 71. Walter played well showing the team he has leadership potential by shooting a 75.

Chamberlain shot an 85, Jarrett Buntley shot an 85, Tal Elliot shot an 89, and Carroll shot a 90.

The team will be playing at Antelope Valley College on March 20, and they will be playing at Allan Hancock College on March 30.

BC baseball team turning season around

By Mohamed Bafakh
Sports Editor

It was a slow start to conference for Bakersfield College baseball as they continued to struggle with hitting, but the tables have turned.

Although the Renegades were outscored 23-9 during the first week of March against Citrus, L.A. Mission and Glendale putting them at 0-3 in the Western State Conference - South Division, they managed to spend this past week finding their rhythm at bat.

Bakersfield earned its first conference win on March 10 when visiting Antelope Valley College came into Gerry Collis Field also looking for its first conference win in a back-and-forth contest.

Third baseman Harrison Smith led Bakersfield with four RBIs and three hits, allowing the Renegades to score seven runs – two shy of the total over the previous three games.

"I'm not sure we played much better today [than previous games], we just happened to play the right opponent," head coach Tim Painton said on Antelope Valley who came in with a record of 3-10, 0-3 WSC South.

Following the victory over the Marauders, BC played against another team looking for their first conference win in West L.A. (4-14, 0-4 WSC) on March 12.

Once again, Bakersfield impressed at the plate going 14-for-38 on the day and bringing in 12 runs while giving up just



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Jacob Herrera (16) gets up after sliding through the dirt to score a run.

four.

Josh Stone led BC in the lineup and didn't disappoint as he had four hits and two runs.

It was the first win for the Renegades on the road this season and it came at the right time. With a two-game winning streak intact and a game to come against then undefeated Canyons (12-5, 4-0 WSC) on March 14 at home, Bakersfield dug themselves into a three-run deficit after two innings but rallied together and even led until the eighth inning, 5-4.

Things got interesting in the ninth. Shortstop Eddie Torres seemed to have the walk-off run in the bottom of

the ninth but after Canyons coaches argued the call, the run was overturned.

However, Torres redeemed himself in the 11th as he officially captured his first walk-off of his career and giving the Renegades the upset victory over the Cougars, 7-6.

BC, before Tuesday's affair vs. L.A. Valley will look to continue its hot streak throughout conference before facing Citrus in back-to-back's on March 19 at home and 21 on the road, then L.A. Mission on March 24 on the road and March 26 at home.

Stay up to date with BC baseball in between issues on therip.com/sports.

Injuries can't stop swimmers

By Mohamed Bafakh
Sports Editor

It is passing the midway point for the Bakersfield College swim teams, and they have certainly been impressive.

Although a few injuries have played a role to their potential as a unit, they continue to set sight on competing for high finishes against conference opponents.

However, BC was able to face many other schools around the state on March 5-7 at the Cuesta Invitational.

Prior to the actual invitational, BC along with the host Cuesta, American River and Ventura had a preliminary "King of the Pool" competition on March 5 where 50 swimmers participated in multiple events, and Mikey Fink took second overall for the men while Lexi Zimmerman, Sarah Klang and Briana Smith finished in the top eight.

In the actual invitational, 17 schools including Bakersfield participated with BC finishing seventh overall.

Looking past a busy weekend, BC got back to the drawing board and prepared for another meet at Allan Hancock on March 14 which featured Cuesta, Allan Hancock, Santa Monica, and Ventura.

The women's team finished second overall behind Santa Barbara City College while the men finished second as well behind Ventura.

BC will have had two weeks to prepare for their first and only home meet coming up on March 27, and it will be a test to show how ready they are for conference opponents.

The Color Me Rad annual event took place at the Kern County Fairgrounds on March 7. Hundreds of people from the Bakersfield community participated in the 5K run to raise money for the Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House, which houses Kern County families that live more than 25 miles away from the Bakersfield area and have a child being cared for at the Bakersfield Memorial Hospital. The Color Me Rad event donated 15 percent of the registration proceeds to the Ronald McDonald house. The 2015, "Bigger, Badder, Radder" tour introduced new color stations with 8 in total throughout the race. The Color Me Rad 5K event is open to all ages and holds races all across the U.S.



PHOTOS BY JAVIER VALDES / THE RIP

After running through eight areas of colored powder, participants threw more of the colored powder into the air covering each other in vibrant colors.

Color Me Rad comes back



BC student Charles Wise licks the colored powder off of Vanessa Pesina's face during the Color Me Rad 5k race March 7.



Brittany, Kameron, and Maddix Wilson smile for a picture after the race. Kameron and Maddix rock their fake mustaches they wore for the race.

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