

The Renegade Rip

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BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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California to assist unregistered students

By **Fernanda Martinez**
Reporter

Following last November's presidential election, many questions arose about what would happen to many of the policies that were established during the Obama administration. One that has been a hot topic is the issue of immigration.

The issue of immigration itself is exceedingly broad, with currently a dominant focus around deportations,

rejection of refugees, and the construction of a wall along the southern border of the U.S. In colleges and universities across California, the focus is on the protection and the safety of its undocumented students.

Many colleges have designated programs to aid these students with the proper resources, Bakersfield College among them.

The Latinos Unidos Por Educacion (LUPE) is a BC program that supports first generation students with educa-

tional, financial, and career advice. The program functions to encourage these students to continue their education. It also serves as a support group for students who remain in fear and uncertainty about their immigration status.

Manuel Rosas and Pedro Ramirez, coordinators of the program, have a lot of hopes and plans for this group of students.

Ramirez stated that one of the most important things is for students to know the difference between the Deferred Ac-

tion for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the DREAM Act, and the California Assembly Bill 540, as this helps students identify what resources and aid they are eligible to receive. He also stated that it is important for students to understand that none of these determine their legal immigration status in the country.

DACA is a policy established in 2012 that allows certain illegal immigrants who entered the country as minors to obtain renewable temporary relief from deportation as well as a permit to work

legally.

President Trump stated during his campaign that he would deport illegal immigrants and terminate DACA, which left thousands of students in fear of having to end their education. Even though what the president wants to do with DACA still remains unspecified, both Rosas and Ramirez assure that students in California should not fear as they will be granted full support wherever they decide to obtain a higher education.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRISTA MORELAND

Krista Moreland and her team reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro at an elevation of over 19,000 feet after an eight-day adventure up.

BC professor spends vacation on Kilimanjaro

By **Gaiana Latelers**
Reporter

Over the winter break, Bakersfield College professor Krista Moreland was climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. This massive mountain is in an eastern part of Africa called Tanzania. Being over 19,000 thousand feet in elevation, it took Moreland and her crew over eight gruesome days to climb to its summit.

Krista Moreland is a member of the local Southern Sierra Hiking Club in Bakersfield. This is where she met Susan, a local member who proposed the idea of taking a trip to Africa. In all, the group consisted of 10 members ranging from 20 to 60 years in age.

Before beginning their trek up Kilimanjaro, Moreland and her group got to know more of Africa in the cultural center, where they found out there

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Krista Moreland (back left) and her group pose at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro before their ascent.

How BC uses the Levan donation

By **Zach Sullivan**
Reporter

Before he died in 2014, Dr. Norman Levan's \$19 million donation to Bakersfield College was the largest in school history, according to Levan Foundation director Tom Gelder. Levan set up four scholarships in his name to promote humanities and the sciences, which he was extremely interested in, as well as funding the Norm Levan Center on campus.

Levan, a well-respected local dermatologist, established a friendship with John Collins, who was the president of BC at that time.

Gelder said that as Levan grew older and set up his funds, he felt comfortable giving the school such a large sum of money because he knew the money was in good hands with Collins, and pointed out that Levan felt the same way about current president Sonya Christian before his passing.

Gelder explained that out of the five different funds, the Norm Levan Scholarship is the largest and makes up a vast majority of Levan's gift.

"Currently there are five different pots of money, if you will. So there's the Norm Levan Scholarship that provides scholarships to both incoming freshman and returning students. You need a certain GPA, pretty broad in the sense that they are available to students either in the humanities or sciences, which covers pretty much everything we do here. Those are things students can access by going online, and the academic works or financial aids and access them. That has an endowment of over \$12 million, and that generates as much as close as a half a million dollars a year in potential scholarships," said Gelder.

Levan set up three other scholarships, the Norman Levan Hispanic and American Indian Scholarship, the Levan Humanities Scholarship, and the Levan Senior Lifelong Learning Program, as well as funding the Levan Center. Together, these make up the other \$7 million in donations from Levan.

According to Gelder, Levan's donation was the largest the school has ever received, and doubled the school's endowment at the time.

"His total contributions were a little over \$19 million and the current total of that is

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Public Safety pursues man who exposed himself to students

By **Morgan Park**
Editor-in-Chief

Two incidences of indecent exposure sprung campus security into action around 7:21 p.m. on Feb. 6.

In an email to students sent at 9 p.m., Department of Public Safety director Christopher Counts described the incident, saying the Bakersfield Police Department notified them of the first incident

that had happened around 4:50 p.m.

The suspect was a white male in his 20s with dirty-blond hair and wearing tan pants with a "black/gray sweater," said Counts.

"The female student was walking through the courtyard of the [Humanities] building and when she got near the men's restroom the male suspect was holding the door with his pants down exposing himself. The female fled the area and

contact[ed] the Bakersfield Police Department."

Only a few minutes later, Public Safety received another call from BPD reporting a second incident with a suspect matching the description of the first.

The suspect "in the north east parking lot (solar panel student parking lot) had pulled down his pants and exposed himself to another female student. The female student started walking to her vehicle and

stated the male began to follow her.

"She entered her vehicle and fled the area and contacted the Bakersfield Police Department," said Counts. Public Safety officers took to action in searching for the suspect, but were unable to locate him. Counts then reminded students that, in the case of an emergency, the best practice is to call BPD and contact Public Safety (661-395-4554) immediately after, as they can begin an investigation immediately.

Column

The holy land of equality

The Gay Agenda: *Life and times of a modern gay man.*

I jokingly say that my husband and I made a pilgrimage to New York City to visit the holy-gay landmark of The Stonewall Inn, referring to the trip most devout Jews and Muslims make to Israel and Mecca respectively.

However, the trip was nothing of the sort. In fact, I shoehorned the small excursion in because I figured if we're going to fly to the other end of the country we may as well be good gays and visit the site where the gay rights movement began.



J.R. Hensley

Many don't know that at one point in time it was illegal to be gay. The police could literally lock you up for just liking the same sex. And whenever the police felt like having some fun, they would raid gay bars or bath houses and just start arresting the people that were there.

In June 1969, the police decided to raid The Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street, but the men were having none of it and some blessed drag queen chucked a bottle at one of the officers. Thus began the Stonewall Riots. For three whole days, gay men and woman raised hell in New York City bringing attention to gay rights and starting a movement.

I thank those men and women that were there. I can't even fathom where I would be if it hadn't been for them saying "enough is enough."

The Stonewall Inn is a bar. A tiny hole in the wall kind of place. It has bare wood floors and pressed tin ceilings and doesn't look like anything extraordinary. It looks like any old pub, except for the rainbow series of lights on the front of the building and the rainbow flags hanging overhead. The patrons were average, everyday people and my husband and I felt like we belonged, which does not necessarily happen often in the gay community.

At the entrance of the bar hangs a few trophies from their history. One was a former NYPD sign that reads "This is raided premises - Police Dep't. City of New York - Howard R. Leary, Police Commissioner." I feel bad for the police commissioner that will forever be connected to something so trivial but negative to an entire group of people. The other thing that I loved was a newspaper clipping documenting the riot. I won't put the whole article here, but the headline is what kills me, "Homo nest raided, queen bees are stinging mad." I don't know if the person that penned that wonderful headline was one of our ilk or not, but the shade thrown is of epic proportions.

After a few drinks, we watched as Lady Gaga performed her halftime show to the hoots of delight from the other bar patrons, and then left taking a couple T-shirts and leaving only a tip. A generous one, of course.

The only thing that disappointed me was that somewhere in the past year I could have sworn that it was made a historic landmark. When I arrived on the scene I expected to see a plaque commemorating the event, but there was nothing but the crimson neon sign of the infamous name.

This coming June, when the pride events start, I will feel even more emboldened because I have touched the landmark stone of the event's entire purpose - to celebrate a riot.

Muslim student worries for family

By Dylan Bryant
Reporter

The political battle making headlines around the world is separating families here in Bakersfield. Huda, 22, is a Bakersfield College student whose parents came here from Yemen in hopes of building a new life for themselves.

When war broke out in 2015, Huda's family in Yemen began fearing for their safety, and started applications with the United Nations to come to the United States as refugees. They had hoped they could be reunited with their family here. But that

hope has dissipated since President Trump took office.

On Jan. 27, President Trump signed an executive order placing a travel ban on seven Muslim-majority nations, halting the admission of Muslim refugees from these countries, and placing a permanent ban on refugees from Syria.

Following protests at airports nationwide, a constitutional challenge to the order was upheld by a 9th circuit court of appeals panel.

On Feb. 9, the panel ruled unanimously in favor of the Washington State Attorney General, who had appealed to

halt the implementation of the executive order on the grounds that the ban constituted a religious test and thus violated the First Amendment. The decision came as a victory to groups fighting the ban in court, such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

The President reacted quickly to the decision, tweeting "SEE YOU IN COURT. THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!". Since then, the White House has apparently backed off the legal battle, stating that a new executive order may be coming instead.

But all of this political infighting and tweeting is lost on those impacted most by the decision, like Huda's aunts in Yemen. Huda thinks the ban is "terrible," but it hasn't changed her perception of America as a whole, a place she still sees as a "land of opportunity."

"The actions of one guy don't change the entire country," she said. But it has changed her perception of the president, whose campaign platform about a Muslim ban worried her before he took office.

But while students affected by the ban find it abhorrent, those whose lives remain unchanged

seem unconcerned. Naqaa, Maarah, and Eradah, students whose families also immigrated from Yemen, didn't seem too concerned about the order. The women seem unengaged by political questions, but shared their opinions.

Naqaa, 19, said this "isn't that much different than what Americans always do, messing with people abroad. As long as they aren't targeting us, Americans, then I'll be okay. I'm not in a camp, yet."

One of the women said she still has family in Yemen, a cousin, but "he can wait another four years," she joked.

Measure J funds to come in April

By Morgan Park
Editor-in-Chief

Around the time Measure J (the \$503 million bond measure that will fund new constructions and renovations across the Kern Community College District) passed last November, there was no sure date to expect the first breaking of ground to take place.

That much is still true, but the school now knows when it can expect its first allotment of funds from the bond - the beginning of April.

The school already has a shortlist of projects that are planned and ready to be started, of which one of the first will be the new Veteran's Resource Center, though they'll have to wait until they know exactly how much money they're getting before the first stages of construction can begin.

"We have committees set up, we're working on getting a budget set," said Maintenance and Operations director Bill Potter.

Potter touched on just how long of a process the larger construction projects are and how far in advance planning begins prior to construction.

"From the time you sit with



J.R. HENSLEY / THE RIP

The construction site of the new Maintenance and Operations building, one of the final Measure G projects from 2002.

your architect and start planning it to the time shovels are in the ground, it takes about two years on a major project," he said.

"It's not two years of sitting around and not doing anything, there is work being done."

According to Potter, right now is a "lag time" before the school has the Measure J funding due in April, but meanwhile, the last two big projects from 2002's

Measure G bond are still in progress: including the new Maintenance and Operations building currently under construction and the planned rebuilding of the bookstore.

"It's going to be, over the next 20 years, project after project," Potter said. "There will be times when there will be more than one building being built on campus at once, but we still have to

serve 20,000 students here every semester."

Potter said the process of working around the normal school year and moving buildings to various swing spaces (temporary buildings used while the new one is built) is like fitting together a puzzle.

The school is also looking toward acquiring Proposition 51 (the \$9 billion state bond passed

in November dedicated to funding construction in K-12 and community colleges) money to assist with scheduled Measure J projects. BC will have to compete with other schools for funds.

"If we can get \$10 million for one of these projects, that's \$10 million that we don't have to spend in Measure J and we can move to another project," said Potter.

Guided Pathways will provide assistance to lost students

By Mario Saldaña
Digital Content Editor

Bakersfield College has joined the Guided Pathways project, which will navigate the average student to a faster graduation process by showing them what they exactly need for a major and how to stay on that path.

On Dec. 7, 2016, a group of college leaders met in Sacramento to announce the official launch of the California Guided Pathways project.

The project will soon help up to 20 community colleges that are located in California. Each college will commit to have implemented Guided Pathways for

all incoming students by 2019.

BC is one of three schools in California who have partnered with the American Association of Community Colleges, along with Irvine Valley College and Mt. San Antonio College, to start the Guided Pathways project.

Thirty other schools nationwide have joined the project.

Many college students go into college signing up for classes without being prepared, meaning they don't have a particular major chosen.

Guided Pathways is a project that helps students who are undecided get their education done at a faster rate than doing it alone.

In California alone, only 39.6 percent of students who start school unprepared are likely to finish and complete school after six years of education. Schools that have joined the project want to make that number go up by following the model explained by Nancy Pryor, the director of communications for the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

Pryor says there are four things the model goes through: Clarifying the path and career options for students, helping students explore programs of study, tracking students through this process, making sure students have learned all the basic skills

and learn more advanced skills along the way.

According to Pryor, clarifying paths and options for students will simplify students' choices with program maps that will be developed by the school that would help a student complete or further their education. It would also establish a transfer pathway to optimize applicability of community college credits to university majors.

Helping students choose and enter a pathway would bring early education together for students in their last year of high school to help them explore academic and career options before they go to college, so they can

succeed in college level courses, Pryor said.

By making sure students are staying on their path they will be even more persistent with the path they chose. A strong advising process that would help a student make the right choices and offer more clarity about career and transfer opportunities they can choose from at the end of their paths.

And by ensuring that students are learning it would establish program-level learning skills and effectively practice the skills they have been shown to fill the requirements for success in employment and in further education as well, Pryor said.

CAS workshops temporarily on hold, will be revitalized

By Zach Sullivan
Reporter

Bakersfield College is putting their CAS workshops on hold to retool and revitalize them, according to Eileen Pierce, the program manager for Supplemental Instruction at BC.

Pierce said BC began holding the workshops 12 years ago.

"The purpose of them was to help students with critical academic skills as the name implies," she said.

"Basically like study skills, basic skills in English and math, the metric system, test taking

strategies, anything that a student would need as a survival skill to make it through college. That was the intent."

Pierce explained that the workshops are not discontinued permanently but rather on hold for the time being, and she hopes to resume them in a few semesters.

Pierce further explained that she began to notice over time that students attending the workshops were not showing up to learn and take advantage of the tools the workshop provided, but to receive extra credit from their professors.

"Over time, we realized our attendance was kind of stagnant, and it wasn't growing. We would get roughly five to 10 students per workshop, and that was a workshop being advertised campus-wide.

So we were a bit discouraged by the attendance, and it seemed like most people were coming for extra credit from instructors, but not really coming for the knowledge," she said.

"I certainly don't want to get rid of the workshops. I think there's a place for them, but when they're broadly advertised to everyone on campus and be-

come just a means of getting extra credit, they lose their impact."

To combat this problem, Pierce plans to make the CAS workshops more specialized and aimed toward specific learning communities on campus.

Pierce believes by making the workshops smaller and gearing them towards a specific subject, they can be more effective.

She stated, "If it's more specialized it will be more relevant to the students' interests and needs, which will encourage attendance, and if we can talk about subjects that they are encountering in the classroom

that semester, it will make sense to them and they will be more motivated to pay attention to it. It's become a means to an end; it looks good on paper, but substance wise what is it producing?"

Pierce said she hopes that students take advantage of all the help and resources the CAS workshops provide when they return.

"If I was a student here, and I wanted to succeed, to me there's no way a person couldn't make it with all the help that we have and how coordinated we've become in offering our services."

BC students showcase their talents

By Brandon Cowan
Reporter

On Feb. 2, the Jones Art Gallery opened for the Student Art Exhibition at 3 p.m. and will be open Monday through Thursday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. during the spring semester.

There were a total of six videos as well as 50 drawings, paintings, and sculptures at the gallery.

Thomas Andrade, 28, a physics major, submitted a video titled "Claymation Test Reel" to the exhibition.

He said, "It's not really a narrative, it's like a combination of small clips I put together. I've been working on and off on it for the last year. I put like six hours into it."

The Claymation that Andrade submitted had numerous clips including people made out of clay doing various things such as being on the moon, faces being melted, colorful lights being shined, and a clip of someone being ripped apart by some creature and exposing an electronic device in the person made of clay.

Vice president of instruction of Bakersfield College Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg attended the gallery, stating that it was a "good art show."

She also said, "I almost always attend, but in particular this year I wanted to attend because we have such a wide range of students – different kinds of art that I wanted to make sure that I got to see them all."

Gomez-Heitzeberg was a professor of art for 31 years and suggested that might be the reason that she comes to almost all of the student art exhibitions.

A.I. and robotics major Michael Anthony de Tomaso, 63, was at the Jones Gallery.

"I love art. Art is life. Life is art," he said.

Jay Patel, 21, a civil engineering major, said the reason why he came to the exhibition was because he took an art class before.

He was particularly interested



SAM MORENO / THE RIP

Students gaze upon the ceramic sculptures by Anna Keene in the Student Art Exhibition at the Jones Art Gallery.

in a piece titled "Untitled [Rodin in Process]", created by Biology major Rubi Solano, 19.

Solano said that the piece took her more than 10 hours throughout the course of a couple of weeks.

Solano submitted the piece to the gallery before it was finished, but she was not allowed to submit the art untitled.

Tom Betthausen has been running the Jones Gallery for three years. He said that he leaves his trust with the students and the professors when a student submits an art piece that is not finished. He will look over the art and decide if it can be finished by the time that it will be on display because students are not allowed to show unfinished art in the gallery.



A two-dimensional design by Sabriana Salazar titled "Anubus" made with plaster, fabric and acrylic, 2016.

SAM MORENO THE RIP

Column

Secrets of skin care

Beauty Addicts Advice:
Tips and tricks for the beauty obsessed

Skin care is the number one necessity that both women and men forget about or slack on. I cannot express enough how important it is to take care of your skin. It's the first thing people notice and that shows age the quickest.

Living in Bakersfield is also a huge factor that takes a beating on your skin. We have pollution, and we have extremely dry and hot summers that don't take too kindly to it either. Starting a skin care routine in your late teens or early 20s is what's recommended to deter wrinkles, age spots, acne, etc. The best thing is to start out with the basics: face wash, toner, day moisturizer, night moisturizer, and an eye cream.

It's taken me quite a few years to finally concoct the perfect regimen for my own skin, but I'm here to shave off those years and give my best advice possible to give you a clearer and glowing complexion. Just like hair care, skin care can be extremely intimidating and overwhelming to shop for.

The voice in your head says "where do I even start?" Now, I can't exactly say what precise item to purchase because every single person has a different skin type, but I can narrow down the brands and say what has truly worked for me and others I've witnessed.

There are three brands of skin care that I use that have completely transformed my skin, but today I am going to talk about two of them. Mario Badescu is one of them. I was first introduced to this brand when I worked at Ulta a few years ago.

It's super affordable, and it works. I'm obsessed with their facial spray that has aloe, herbs, and rosewater. Not only is it a quick pick-me-up for thirsty skin, but it's also a makeup setting spray. And for a price tag of only \$7 for four ounces, it surely can't be beat.

For a daytime moisturizer, I use their hydro moisturizer with vitamin C. It's pertinent to look for products that contain vitamin C because it acts as a natural antioxidant, which repairs and renews the skin cells and gives it a healthier look. It also helps produce collagen, and collagen binds the cells of our body. Reiterating what I mentioned earlier, it's recommended to buy skin care that is tailored to your own skin type and needs. With Mario Badescu, you can't go wrong. Their affordability and easy to read packaging makes it a simple task to find the perfect products.

The second brand I love and use daily is Arcona, which takes a more natural route. Arcona's line of skin care is completely free of animal ingredients and by-products, derivatives and is 100 percent vegan with the exception of three products that contain honey. All are also gluten free with the exception of one. My favorite from this line is their face wash, the white tea purifying cleanser.

It's a face wash and toner in one. The best part is that it tightens the pores, leaving the skin looking poreless and refreshed. Another favorite is the desert mist, which is a water-soluble type of serum, used in the morning. It protects skin from pollution and free radicals in the air and helps defend against environmental damage. Mario Badescu can be purchased at Ulta, and Arcona can be purchased online.



Kylie Hendrickson

Random Renegade

Every issue, The Rip will be interviewing a random faculty member at Bakersfield College about hopes and goals.

By Brandon Cowan
Reporter

Bryan Russell has been a professor of philosophy for eight years. He has been teaching at Bakersfield College for almost two years. Russell also taught at colleges in Arizona and at Georgia State.

Russell has a brown belt and normally does jiu-jitsu three times a week, but is currently in recovery from knee surgery.

"Since I was 18 I've been doing jiu-jitsu, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, with Dan Camrillo when my knee isn't injured. I just had surgery on my knee," he said.

Russell guesses that he moved his knee wrong when he was doing jiu-jitsu.

He said, "I guess I was in the operating room for a couple of hours, but the recovery is going to be six months."

"I had surgery right before school since the Friday before this semester."

Jiu-jitsu was not the only thing he started practicing when he was 18.

He stated, "I've been vegan since I was 18 years old. The thing that made me vegan – I was watching a documentary about factory farms and felt horrible for the animals, but since then I have done a lot of research."

Russell teaches Philosophy B9,

which is a course about the theories of the moral status of animals. He also teaches Philosophy B7, Introduction to Logic. The class focuses on the evaluation of arguments to figure out if they are good arguments or not.

"[The class] comes in really handy especially when you're watching politicians talk. You can learn how full of shit they are. So it actually makes it worse trying to listen to politicians and salesmen and stuff like that because you realize all their arguments are crap," he explains.

Russell got married last October and is expecting a child in six months.

His hopes and goals are not farfetched as he has already accomplished most of what he has wanted to do with his life.

He said, "As far as career-wise, I'm sort of exactly where I always wanted to be. When I was a student I just wanted to be the person who was getting paid to teach."

"Like, I loved going to school so much I just wanted somebody to pay me to do it. And that's sort of what I got now, so I'm good. I don't have any aspirations for like being a dean or president or anything like that."

Russell wants to get a black belt in jiu-jitsu and win a tournament with that belt.

He also wants to have one child.



Bryan Russell

Hobby shop Mega-Bitez gives students a geeky haven

By Mario Saldaña
Digital Content Editor

A hobby shop has recently opened right across the street from Bakersfield College, and many BC students have become regulars and go there for a place to hang out and play the many activities and card games.

Students may have noticed the fliers all around the BC campus for the anime hobby shop called Mega-Bitez, or the spray-painted logo as the sign in front of the store. Mega-Bitez was recently opened in October of 2016, though the store originally was located in Los Angeles.

Owners Roy Cortez, 25, and Eloise Cortez, 22, are happy to be a place for anyone to come in and be themselves with many other people interested in the same types of hobbies. Cards aren't their only passion—they have so many other hobbies they offer at the Mega-Bitez shop.

The Cortezes originally wanted to open a tech repair shop, hence the name Mega-Bitez, though they are still working on getting their license to be a tech repair shop. For now, they decided to start as an anime hobby shop because they are both huge fans of the anime culture.

"The reason why we started the shop is because we love anime," Eloise Cortez explained.

"He [Roy] got me into card games and I got him into collecting things, but together we love things like Gundam [anime series] and making models."

"We like so many different things, so that's why we aren't just a card shop, we do custom swords, custom apparels. I love doing all the creative stuff, and he [Roy] supports me!"

"This is our passion, and we love to share our passion, but it's more than just about the cards. We run anime shows for people to watch, like we're watching Bleach right now for people who love anime have a place to watch it. I'm not a fan of it, but I know people love it."

"That's why we started this, because we know there's nothing like us and sometimes our customers have no place to go. Most go to school here, but the school is open for only so long, so we believe this is a great location for them."

Both Roy and Eloise are thankful for their guests and they always make sure to help anyone out who is in need of something from the shop, and if they don't have what they're looking for, they will help a customer go where they would have an item by referring them to other shops.

Though many of their customers don't always go in to play, they also use it as a place to study or do homework, and Roy and Eloise gladly invite anyone who is looking for a place to just hang out, study, or buy a snack.

Though both of the owners can't run the shop all on their own, they have volunteers like Salvador Lobos who is still in high school, but is filling out his volunteer hours by helping around the store.

"Everyone is always so nice here and this is where I usually came all the time to relax and get away from everything that bothers me," Lobos said.

"Roy and Eloise would help me out all the time with all the problems I had and they were great, and I would do anything to help them out."

The shop hosts a variety of age groups, from the ages of 12 to 55, who all have a love for anime.

The shop's displays have many different types of cards that are offered, like Pokémon and Yu-Gi-Oh, as well as models from anime shows and Pop! Models.

On the wall, they have a lot of art that has been drawn by costumers, like Deadpool riding a bulbasaur.

They offer some tournaments at the shop as well and also encourage their customers to make a tournament whenever they want.

By having a small entry fee, they can get a prize for the winner of the tournaments.

The most popular card game that was being played was Yu-Gi-Oh.

Two BC students who often go there when they don't have class, Lorenzo "Sylvan trainer" Ramirez and Marlon Blanquicet, explained the whole basis of the card game.

They talked about the individual cards and how they were used in a battle, how they got into playing the card game, and said why they love going to the shop, because they like hanging out with a lot of friends who go to the shop.

Drama club entertains with games of improv

By Lizette Chavez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Drama Club hosted an improvisation show, "Brian's Beard," Feb. 9-10 in the black box room.

The cast of actors consisted mainly of BC students and the audience was a collection of students, teachers, and members of the community.

Like most "improv" shows there was no written script, therefore the actors began by asking the audience for suggestions.

Blanca Trujillo was the first to respond and her suggestion of "sex" elicited laughs from the audience.

Shane "Spirit" Wright, 33, took the suggestion and began by sharing a sex related anecdote about his life, this laid the foundation for the actor's scenario.

With this scenario the actors would go up two at a time and act out a scene, while the rest of

the cast stood behind.

When an actor had an idea, they would come up and tap one of the two people and take their place in the scene.

Myles Worthy and John Spitzer started off by pretending to be a couple that had trouble with intimacy without a recording of the former's father.

Nolan Long then grabbed a chair, tapped Spitzer and proceeded to pretend to be Worthy's father as Worthy asked him for permission to record him.

Though the cast was made up of mostly males, the actors seemed to have no problem getting into their roles.

Nolan Long, 19, went as far as fondling Carlos Vera's chest, which drew laughs and claps from the audience.

The rest of the first act continued much like this until intermission.

The second act consisted of the same cast all sitting down in

chairs.

Spitzer, 26, then asked the audience if anyone was scared of the dark, to which he received just one response.

He then assured the person he was not judging him, but shared that perhaps in his head he was but definitely not aloud.

The cast then sat around and took turns describing a squid, until finally in unison they said "I am squid."

The lights then proceeded to go off, and it went silent for a moment until a bell rang and the cast began to act out stories, some about submarines and others about art. Some topics broached body image and sexism.

Every time a bell rung the topic was changed, though an actor could bring back a topic by saying "cut to" whatever scenario, and resume their act.

The bell rang for a final time and before the lights came back



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

The actors try not to break as they listen on to other cast members participating in the improv games during the "Brian's Beard" event at BC's Black Box Theater.

on the audience clapped and cheered.

This unusual addition of a "blackout" in the show was quite different in comparison to traditional "improv" and most were not familiar with this type of

format.

"It was a collective choice to do it [the blackout], we tried it during practice and then we just decided to do it," Long said.

The earnings of this show and the upcoming spiring play, "Our

Town," will be used to send some of the students to the American College Theater Festival held at The Kennedy Center.

"Our Town" is set to open next month in BC's Performing Arts Center.

'Pick your own oranges' helps fund the Ag Dept.

By Lizette Chavez
Reporter

Bakersfield College students, teachers and members of the community showed up to buy and pick oranges Feb. 7-8, to help fund the Agricultural Department.

The sale offered a bag of oranges for \$5 to those willing to pick their own.

For those not so keen to pick, pre-picked bags were sold for \$10. Most of the first time participants preferred the full experience.

Armando Flores, 20, was not bothered by having to pick oranges and expressed that he actually enjoyed putting in the hard work. Flores said he found it such a good experience that he might possibly change his major to agriculture.



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

A group of students use fruit picker baskets to pick the oranges higher up on the tree.

"[It's] awesome, It's cool ... I like working with my hands," he said.

Flores ensured that he would be back next year for the event.

Richard Wiley, 29, is one of the people who has been coming back every year for the event.

"I love animals, being able to

help and wildlife. I've done [this] six, seven times," he said as a friend handed him oranges.

BC agriculture professor Bill Kelly said he was happy to hear about the student's enthusiasm and said that it made him feel very good. Kelly shared that he has been helping out at the event

since he first started teaching at BC 35 years ago.

"Sally Stern, the Horticulture technician gets the word out. And [we do this] every spring semester," Kelly said. "The funds go to help the Agriculture Department, [and] gas for the buses for [our] field trips."



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

A man uses a ladder, instead of the fruit picker baskets, to get the hard-to-reach oranges.

Renegade Struggles: Alayna Geoghegan

We all have a struggle, and every person has a different story. Each issue, The Rip will feature a student overcoming certain struggles to gain an education and better their life.

By Sam Moreno
Reporter

Alayna Geoghegan, a 19 year-old student at Bakersfield College, is currently majoring in nursing.

Geoghegan struggles with an illness everyday that the eye can't really see by just taking a look at her, especially if you catch her on her good days.

In the sixth grade when Geoghegan was only 12-years-old, she began experiencing awful migraines, to the point where she would miss class and be forced to stay home.

While this may sound like a luxury to others, she describes the next year of her life as going "downhill, real fast."

After an accident at her school that following year, she had a very hard time recovering from any illnesses she experi-

enced.

She was experiencing very high fevers, joint pains that became excruciating when combined with a fever, and rashes.

Geoghegan recalls her mother pouring Calamine Lotion on her back and her body not reacting at all to the medication.

Geoghegan says, "I remember going to the emergency room with a huge fever, throwing up, back full of hives, and my hands and feet [were] sensitive, so I [couldn't] walk. I [couldn't] hold anything, my joints [were] starting to swell up, and I [couldn't] move my arms."

Doctors could not diagnose her for many months.

After multiple long nights inside different emergency rooms, she was first diagnosed with Hepatitis, because her liver was enlarged. However, after

more tests she was then diagnosed with Systemic Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (SJRA).

Her illness impacted her entire body and any flare up would cause her to be incapable of even lifting a pencil.

She was then home-schooled until the start of her junior year of high school.

As a young girl, Geoghegan returned to school and realized she could not do regular activities she was used to, such as cheerleading and gymnastics.

After years of battling her illness she managed to learn how to live with her illness.

In present day, her illness is controlled with the help of medication. However, she can't exert herself too much.

She finds herself constantly making everyday decisions of what she can and cannot do.

She can't be on the move for

multiple days in a row without her body flaring up. If she doesn't manage her SJRA her joints begin swelling up, causing her to be in bed rest.

Although her illness is very serious, many people wouldn't be able to tell that she deals with this struggle every day.

She says the biggest misconception people have of her and her illness is that she doesn't wear her disability.

People ask her "why aren't you in a wheelchair?" They see her looking "normal" she says, so they assume she doesn't really have a disability.

Geoghegan's SJRA causes her to fall behind in her classes, she struggles with completing assignments because her body refuses to let her sit up right or even move her hands. Getting to class can be a struggle, when her SJRA flares up.

Geoghegan says her disease causes her immune system to be weak, so she can't be around other sick people because she will have a flare that may typically last days, weeks or even months, depending on the extent of the flare up.

Geoghegan's is restricted from doing activities humans do every day, she says "The worst part dealing with it is... I'm not allowed to do certain things, I can't run, I can't jump... and I may not be able to have kids because of the medication."

Geoghegan's says, "it is pretty scary, it is difficult to deal with" on realizing she could not do certain things in life because of her SJRA.

She says "I just wish people were more sensitive... I am not bald, I am not super pale, I'm not sickly... I don't look like I'm sick." Geoghegan deals

with a catch-22 situation every day.

She says, "The [medication] that's keeping me alive, is also killing me... if I don't take the medication my disease will kill me and if I do take the medication, the medication will kill me."

She hopes to attend a nursing school in Monterey, CA. However, because of her daily struggle she worries about who will take care of her when she gets sick, or who will take her to her doctor's appointments.

She wonders if she will ever be able to have a family or live alone or even be independent.

Although Geoghegan's future is something that scares her, she doesn't let her illness define her.

Her struggle is her motivator and it is what has led her to want to become a nurse, so she can help others.



Alayna Geoghegan, a 19 year-old BC student, shares her story about her personal struggle with Systemic Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis.

SAM MORENO
THE RIP

HBCU visits campus to offer advice

By Ambria King
Reporter

Bakersfield College kicked off Black History Month with a recruitment event from The Historically Black Colleges and Universities caravan on Feb. 13. The event allowed those from the Bakersfield area to apply to over 20 colleges in one stop.

Many of the colleges are part of the California Community College Transfer Admission Guarantee program, which offers guaranteed acceptance to those transferring from California community colleges.

Those who attended the event had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with recruiters in order to learn more about each HBCU and what they have to offer. Those who applied to the participating colleges during the event had the benefit of having the application fee waived and finding out if they've been accepted right on the spot. All applicants needed to provide was a copy of their transcripts.

It is important to note that HBCUs aren't just for those of African ancestry.

Monroe Griffin, Assistant Director of Admissions at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania said, "Black colleges were established for access and opportunity. [Cheyney University] was established to serve slaves. We served



AMBRIA KING / THE RIP

Grant Johnson and his mother, Alisa Johnson, asking Michell Williams for information on Lincoln University.

all of the underrepresented, and that mission is still relevant in the 21st century."

Many of the colleges participating in the event offered scholarships.

Dr. Theresa Price, the founder of National College Resources Foundation, who hosted and produced the event, stated, "We've

already given away over \$20 million [in scholarships] since we started touring on the 7th of this month, and our goal is to do over \$50 million in scholarships."

Price also stated that she hoped to get at least 100 students accepted on the spot.

One such student, Grant John-

son, who attends Stockdale High School, was immediately accepted to Lincoln University after applying during the HBCU event. He also received an \$86 thousand scholarship.

Johnson stated that he's still looking into more schools, but that the HBCU event has made the application process much

easier.

BC will be holding more events in honor of Black History Month. Including:

History of Americans of African Decent: A Black History from Feb. 13-16, and Moon Over Malcom Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. in the Bakersfield College Indoor Theater.

Column

Finding out what hides beneath

The Stress Free Tips: For mental hygiene and wellness

I want to start this off by telling you all that you are enough, no matter what anyone tells you. You are enough. So often we walk around in a dull haze just living life without acknowledging the fact that we are enough. We don't have to create a persona to hide behind just to go through life.



Daulton James Jones

Theater Masks are basically personas of ourselves that we have created, so that we can be accepted and well received from the world around us. Most people can admit that at least during their childhood to young adult period they were affected by this need to be accepted. I know I was.

During my childhood I grew up as a nice, well-mannered child who other parents wish their kids acted like. Of course, I'm just a well-mannered person, but when I was younger I slapped it on even more in front of people just so that my parents would be proud of me. I love my parents, and like most parents they had stress of their own to worry about, so if me acting like a perfect angel could make them less stressed and happier, I did it.

This eventually led to me being shunned by the other kids. I'm a pretty observant person, so I developed another mask so that people around me would accept me. I wanted so badly to be a cool kid, or at least to come off as someone other kids liked. I saw that everyone else was loud, talkative, extroverted. Whereas naturally I'm more mellow, but I straddle the line between intro and extrovert the more I get to know people. Sadly, who I was or understood myself to be at that age wasn't going to cut it, so at school I had to act like I was one of these kids who was just too cool for school.

This was fun at first because for years of following this decision to act like someone else, I enjoyed the benefits. I had more friends, people talked to me, and recess and lunch period were always lit. The problem was that, over time, the mask that I created and who I truly was were conflicting. The ways that I had been acting all these years did not align with the beliefs that I hold about myself. I had used this mask so much that I sort of became it, and that wasn't its original purpose. It was solely to protect me, so I could survive school. When you're younger, being an alternative thinker often doesn't work.

Once I came to this realization in sophomore year of high school, I tried getting myself back to who I truly am. Today, I feel like I'm back. I am me again. I realized that the need I felt to belong was obviously something that not only I dealt with, but everyone around me. We were all wearing these masks that weren't necessary whatsoever.

Now I'm thankful my mind works the way it does. I look how I look, and I am who I am. These masks we have conditioned ourselves to wear aren't necessary or healthy, because we are enough regardless of if two or three don't understand us. And by realizing that, you are welcoming so many others who will embrace you for being you.

BC students came to jam out at open rehearsal

By Ambria King
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Commercial Music Ensemble held their first performance of the semester on Feb. 1. The show was an open rehearsal held in PAC 102, inside the Bakersfield College Performing Arts Center. Students performed a mix of original pieces and cover songs, ranging from "Paint It Black" by The Rolling Stones to "I Want You Back" by The Jackson Five.

This is the second semester that Bakersfield College has offered the Commercial Music Ensemble course. The class is taught by Professor Josh Ottum and entails participating in small ensembles that concentrate on popular styles, improvisation, and other aspects of commercial music performance.

The ensemble has three more performances scheduled in the coming months, including:

The Moon Over Malcolm Block Party on Feb. 16 at 6 p.m., First Friday on March 3 at 6 p.m., and in the Bakersfield College Campus Center on April 5 at 11:30 a.m.



AMBRIA KING / THE RIP

Mason Edwards, Jawan English, Angie Kaffee, and Josh Duffel practicing during the Commercial Music rehearsal.



Left: Mario Fernandez practicing during the Commercial Music open rehearsal.

Right: Muhamud "Ash" Ashter, Miguel Mejia, and Xander Bennett practicing during the Commercial Music open rehearsal.

AMBRIA KING
THE RIP



BPD arrest car thief suspect on campus

By Morgan Park
Editor-in-Chief

Vehicle theft in the Administration parking lot ended with an arrest on Feb. 10.

At about 1:20 p.m., the Public Safety office received a call reporting a white male adult pulling car door handles in the administration parking lot.

Afterward, the same person called back saying the man had entered a red vehicle.

Public Safety senior officer

Marco Sifuentes arrived at the scene, and after confirming the man had no ownership or connection to the red vehicle and had stolen change from inside of it, took him into custody for theft from a vehicle.

The Bakersfield Police Department was then called and later took the suspect into custody.

During a search of the suspect's belongings, a hypodermic needle was discovered, which the suspect identified as containing heroin.

The suspect was also charged

with possession of a controlled substance.

"I would like to thank the person who got involved and called in the information to Public Safety. With the assistance of our students, staff, and faculty working together to get involved and call in to Public Safety when they see something that they believe to be wrong or suspicious, [we] make our campus a safer place for our entire community," said Public Safety director Christopher Counts in an email to the Bakersfield College community.

KVS sticker reduces bus pass

By Fernanda Martinez
Reporter

Bakersfield College students who have purchased a Kern Value Card are now eligible to receive \$5 off the purchase of their next monthly GET Bus Pass.

GET Bus monthly passes are sold for \$40. Students would receive the pass for \$35 with this discount.

This discount is provided by the Office of Student life and the Bakersfield College Student Government Association.

Students interested in receiving the discount can simply show their KVC Sticker to the BC Bookstore.

Game Review

Resident Evil 7 disappoints

By Brandon Cowan
Reporter

Resident Evil 7: Biohazard has many flaws, but it could have been worse. I played this game in one sitting on PC on normal difficulty (which is the highest available until the game is beaten once).

Resident Evil 7 is the most horrifying at the beginning. There is no way to fight enemies for about 20 minutes. The game gives you a weapon at the beginning, but it does not feel as though you can kill everything that is in your way because of a lack of damage and ammo for the weapon.

The game has a clear point of when it stops being scary. There are more weapons that you get and it makes you feel unstoppable. The best part of the game was when you could not fight back and had no idea what was happening. The feeling of not wanting to shoot everything because you have a scarce amount of ammo is short-lived. Most of the time, I did not even have to fight the enemies because I could just run past almost all of them.



GOOGLE IMAGES

The boss fights were not great, either. All of the boss fights consist of shooting and running away from them so that they could not do damage. The boss fights felt dragged out, too. There was one particular boss fight that was nothing but shooting and scavenging for ammo for what felt like 25 minutes; it was boring and felt unrewarding.

Resident Evil 7's story starts off well with not giving too

much information at the start and leaving you to wonder what is going to happen. The pacing of the story was good until the end. You are given two choices that come out of nowhere and give an incentive to only choose one over the other. The only time you would choose the other option would be to play through the game again to see what it would be like.

The puzzles of the game were

not complicated at all. The only puzzles that actually felt like puzzles were the ones where I had to spin objects a certain way to create a shadow to open entrances. Most of the puzzles were to explore to find an item to open a door. Although, there were a couple of puzzles that showed what the game could have been.

The worst part about Resident Evil 7: Biohazard is that it took me less than nine hours to complete it. This amount of playtime is not acceptable for a game that costs \$60.

The graphics for Resident Evil 7 were great. The atmosphere and the lighting felt perfect for what the game was. I was never thrown off by the look of the game, and I did not have any complaints when playing it. There are many settings on PC that can be turned on and off and does not affect the gameplay to be anything different.

Even though this game has many flaws, I still had fun playing it, but I would not pay more than \$30 for it.



Renegade Events

News

Scribes wanted. Bakersfield college is looking for students to participate in the scribe program to help students with disabilities take notes. Scribes are paid \$10.50/hour. If interested go to collegecentral.com/bakersfieldcollege to apply.

The 12th Annual Garden Fest, which will be held on April 22, is looking for BC clubs, organizations, departments or programs to set up booths. Reserve your space now by contacting Sally Sterns at 661-395-4446. Submission forms are online.

Campus Events

Feb. 15: The BC Writing Center spring workshop series, Wednesday, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in CSS-133. Presenter: Miguel Cuate on "Reading to Write: Rhetorical Reading Strategies for Writing."

Feb. 15: BCSGA Elections Candidate Workshop #4, Wednesday, 9 a.m. This event is mandatory for all of those that wish to run for BC Student Government. Location: BCSGA Executive Boardroom, Campus Center 5.

Feb. 15: Life Skills Workshop: Resume Writing – How to Get Employers to Notice You, Wednesday, 10 a.m. The event focuses on how to write a resume. Location: BCSGA Executive Boardroom, Campus Center 5.

Feb. 15: BC SGA Open Mic, Wednesday, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. BC SGA welcomes students to come and share their talents. Location: Fireside Room.

Feb. 16: Valley Poets: A Celebration, Thursday, 7 p.m. A group of local poets gather to read the works of eight poets that were born in the Central Valley. Location: Levan Center.

Feb. 16: "Moon Over Malcolm," Thursday, 6-8 p.m. This one man show about Malcolm X is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death. Location: Indoor Theater.

Feb. 17: Lincoln Day – Campus closed.

Feb. 20: Washington Day – Campus closed.

Feb. 24: Foster Youth Empowering Success Conference 2017, Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited. Location: Fireside Room, Forum 102, Cafeteria Alcove, LA 109.

March 1-4: Spring Performance, Wednesday-Saturday, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Location: Indoor Theater.

March 4: STEM Speaker Series: David Gallo, Tuesday, 12-1 p.m. David Gallo comes to talk about the technology of oceanography that advances the knowledge of our world. Location: Fireside Room.

March 14: STEM Pathways Speaker, Tuesday, 12-1 p.m. A seminar for STEM students on educational pathways. Location: Fireside Room.

March 14: Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) New Member Orientation, Tuesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Location: BC SGA Executive Boardroom, Campus Center 5.

March 22: Housing Workshop: Renters Rights, Responsibilities, & Expectations, Wednesday, 10 a.m. Location: BC SGA Executive Boardroom, Campus Center 5.

March 24: Last day to withdraw a semester length class and receive a 'W.'

March 24: Spring Choral Concert – "Freedom," Friday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Location: Indoor Theater.

March 25: Leadership and Honors Car Show, Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Participants set up displays of their cars for judging. There will be trophies for best in show, best paint, best display, and more. For more info contact: Charles.kim@bakersfieldcollege.edu Location: North East Parking Lot.

March 28: RN Allied Health Open House, Tuesday, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The event is for those interested in the BC RN Allied Health program. Location: Fireside Room.

April 3-6: BC Cheer Tryouts, Monday-Wednesday, 4-5 p.m., and Thursday 5:30 p.m. Location: BC Huddle (Gil Bishop Sports Center entrance near stadium.)

Around Town

Feb. 18: Authority Zero, Hey Smith. Saturday, 8 p.m. Location: B Ryders.

Feb. 20: The Harlem Globetrotters, Monday, 2 p.m. Location: Rabobank Arena.

Feb. 23-25: The Vagina Monologues, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Location: Bakersfield Community Theatre, 2400 S. Chester Ave.

Album Reviews

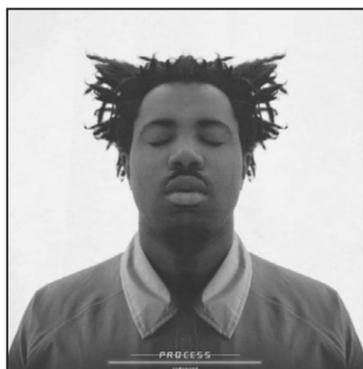
Three albums, three unique sounds

By Daulton James Jones
Reporter

The weekend of Feb. 3 was a great time for music. Three highly-anticipated albums came out on the exact same day: "I Decided." by Big Sean, "Fin" by Syd of The Internet, and "Process" by Sampha. Syd and Sampha both gifted us with the masterpieces for debut albums. Big Sean's was definitely everything we expected it to be an even more. All three of these albums offered different things to me personally.

Big Sean's fourth album "I Decided." was by far his best, and also a great follow-up to his 2015 album "Dark Sky Paradise." Sean had all of us excited once he released his first single for the album "Bounce Back" in late 2016. That was followed with an amazing visual for the song. He later released other tracks from the album like "Moves" which was partnered with a kaleidoscope-like visual, and the week before he gifted us with "Halfway off the Balcony." These were great appetizers, but I needed the album. Thankfully, a few days later, the album came and it was exactly what I needed and expected from him. When I listen to Big Sean I feel like I'm the man! He makes you feel like you're on a balcony in the south of France in a vintage Versace button-down.

After I digested Sean's album I was more than ready to listen to "Fin" by The Internet. When I had first heard she was coming out with a solo project I was very intrigued because The Internet is very much misfit hip-hop/R&B, so I wasn't really sure what to expect from her. I decided the best thing for me to do was go in blind. I avoided every visual, every post, every Spotify notification when she released a song until the full album came. I was very surprised and pleased by it.



GOOGLE IMAGES



GOOGLE IMAGES



It was really good. It had a vibe that you can't resist. It honestly gives you some Aaliyah and Erykah Badu vibes. The standout tracks for me were definitely "Nothin' to Some-



GOOGLE IMAGES



thin," "Drown in It," and "Smile More". She is definitely playing a part in the return of R&B.

Last, Sampha came in with a very hauntingly beautiful debut, "Process". I came across him from hearing his music on TV shows like "Scandal" and "How to Get Away with Murder." He makes great songs for those little emotional moments we all go through. As of recent the public may know of him because of his feature on Solange Knowles's album on the song "Don't Touch My Hair." His album was full of all the emotions from loss of love, finding love, being hurt in general, etc. It's just a collection of songs you know you're going to hear on TV or movies, or when you're in the mood to feel some things. He has a great way of mixing the traditional elements of alternative music with hints of R&B and EDM.

RENEGADE MINDS "Do you think Bakersfield should be a sanctuary city?"

Compiled by William Dubon and Brandon Cowan



Shileen Ruiz
Age 18

"I don't think we should because our city is overpopulated but we shouldn't have every immigrant deported out because of what president Trump wants."



Devin Coates
Age 19

"Yes, I do believe Bakersfield should be a sanctuary city. . .not everybody wants to be deported. I believe some people are just here to find work and to support their families."



Jaime Cerda
Age 19

"No, because there are two colleges here in Bakersfield and there won't be any financial aid and probably any medical or things like that."



Mark Gildez
Age 20

"I'm torn on the subject because I do think we should be helping illegal immigrants that are running from a corrupt government nation, however, I don't think breaking the law is the way to do it. Adjusting the law is for easier citizenship."



David Morales
Age 21

"I don't know if we should be a sanctuary city, but people do have to think about a lot of agricultural workers who are possibly undocumented with families here already and been living and working here for years."



Sean Leon
Age 22

"There's this new inception which is very white supremacist and is gaining ground. I believe we need sanctuary cities, but it's not safe enough in Bakersfield."



First place for newspaper in 2011, third place in 2013, 2014, 2015 for CNPA General Excellence

Ninth place for newspaper in 2016 for national Best of Show contest by Associated Collegiate Press

Second place nationally in 2016 for website publication by Associated Collegiate Press

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

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Write The Rip

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

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

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

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Speaker draws embittered crowd

By Megan Fenwick
Reporter

A large crowd of students was drawn around a religious speaker at Bakersfield College on Feb. 8. Nathaniel Runnels, 25, faced largely negative reactions from those listening to his message, which included offensive remarks, condemned members of other religions to hell, and blamed women for being raped.

Many students attempted to reason with Runnels amid the shouts exchanged between himself and the enraged audience. While a woman was expressing her opinion, Runnels dismissed her by saying, "Do not listen to emotional women."

One Christian student named Shanel Dillard asked him questions about evolution and fossil evidence. "You can go about it without hate. And he uses the hateful way, calling everybody who doesn't believe in his way a sinner, but we all have our different perceptions. Even when you're trying to have a nice conversation with him, he comes off as aggressive," she said.

"How many of you are Mus-

lim? You are all going to hell," Runnels said, provoking outcry from those gathered.

Larence Froese, another member of Calvary Chapel Bakersfield who held a sign next to Runnels, believed that their incendiary approach to preaching was successful because of how many people had gathered to listen, despite how unfavorable the response from the crowd was. "If you talked quietly, there'd be two or three," he pointed out.

While many clearly disagreed with what Runnels was preaching, their opinions on whether he should be allowed to preach on campus were more complicated.

"On the one hand, he does have the right to say what he wants to say, but also it's distracting us from when we actually need to focus on our education," said someone who wished to stay anonymous.

Another student, Jason Gossage, said, "If you're trying to incite a riot, that's not good, but if you have your own booth and you're quiet it's perfectly fine. This guy definitely needs to not be on campus." Gossage did, however, express worry that ban-



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Public Safety officers arrive to push back the crowds around Nathaniel Runnels.

ning a religious speaker would set a dangerous precedent for free speech and other religious

speakers on BC's campus.

At one point, employees of BC's Department of Public

Safety had to step in to drive the crowd back after it had pushed too close to Runnels.

BC professor hosts art gallery

By Megan Fenwick
Reporter

Bakersfield College art professor Diego Gutierrez Monterrubio showcased his art in Metro Galleries on Feb. 3. The show was free and part of the monthly Art Walk held downtown during every First Friday.

Monterrubio's art show filled both stories of the gallery, consisting of two collections and a sculpture. The first collection, called "Una Novela de un Amor Eterno," depicts a passionate relationship between a man and a woman who are star-crossed lovers. The paintings are partly done in

a classic comic book style, with phrases like, "You do not love me like I love you," written in Spanish as dialogue, and partly in gestural paintings of the couple.

"I created a Visual Narrative series of paintings of my own personal love story where I incorporate actual quotes from 'our' meetings... some are full of an eternal love, some illustrate hope, and some are full of a love that could not exist," Monterrubio said in his artist statement.

The first chapter of the novella was painted in New York, the second chapter in California, and there are tentative plans for the next to be painted in Argentina, ac-

ording to Monterrubio.

His other collection featured paintings of a somewhat abstract person, often standing alone to represent the complete isolation the artist created the art in. When Monterrubio decided to start these paintings, he stocked up on food and completely cut himself off from the outside world for six weeks; the resulting solitude became the theme of his art.

In the center of the room stood a colorful wooden sculpture that stood 14 feet high, took 10 hours to create, and 5.5 hours to assemble. Monterrubio described it as his "own personal homage about



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Diego Gutierrez Monterrubio poses in front of one of his gallery pieces.

what's happening in the world, all these catastrophes happening in the world." The piece was a tribute to Picasso's painting, Guernica, which itself was a protest against the Spanish Civil War.

MORELAND: One BC professor's trek up Mount Kilimanjaro's dangerous peaks

Continued from Page 1

were over 120 different cultures in Tanzania. The group also got to go on an African safari, where they saw lions, elephants, cheetahs, giraffes, and a baboon that even jumped into their jeep. These animals were quite domesticated with the locals and were not afraid of the group.

Other than Moreland's group of 10, 20 other people accompanied them up the mountain. They had a main guide, Herment Moshia, and three assistant guides who helped lead them along the way. The others all carried the tents and the equipment they would need to set up camp along the way. This hike would take eight days of perseverance and overall willpower.

Each night, the crew that car-

ried all the equipment and gear would get there a little early and set up camp.

That way, when Moreland and her group would arrive, food would be ready and they could relax and sleep for the long day ahead of them.

Arriving into their camp, they would be greeted with a celebration of singing and dancing, marking that each night, they had gotten closer and closer to the top.

The group would have breakfast together, and then leave by 7:30 a.m. or 8 a.m. to start trekking farther up the vast mountain. They would have to carry their day packs, rain gear, and any snacks or water on their backs the whole way up. Not to mention that there were no show-

ers or bathrooms the whole trip. Moreland notes that by about 16,000 thousand feet, fatigue started to set in as the temperature dropped and the air thinned. She describes it as "a cold you can't explain."

One night, the group even got caught in hail. She also noted how you had to walk slowly at such a high elevation to avoid getting sick and dizzy, or even lightheaded.

Most of the crew was there watching and checking on everybody to make sure they were feeling well enough to continue up the steep mountain.

Finally, they reached the summit at about 3 a.m. to watch the sunrise. Although their group was a bit slow getting up there, they got to see a majority of the

beautiful scenery at the summit of Kilimanjaro. They had an amazing view of the clouds and glaciers. But, at such a high elevation, they unfortunately could not stay too long due to a lack of oxygen.

After the two-day trek back down the mountain, the trip was an official success. Moreland and her crew were thankful to get back to their hotel and take a well-deserved hot shower. Moreland reminisces how they were gifted with beautiful weather their whole trip.

She would love to visit Africa again someday. In the end, she says it is "not just seeing things, it is bringing things back to the classroom."

Moreland enjoys enriching the lives of her students with the di-

versity of different cultures. So no, in the end it is not just going to all of these different places and seeing all of these different things. It is about what you bring back from these experiences. It is the sharing of knowledge to those who want to learn, that is what is most important.

Moreland will also be taking donations of gently used jackets, shoes, socks, hats, etc., to send to those who helped her and the club on the hike up Kilimanjaro. Being in a third world country, it is not always easy to get the proper gear they need, as it wears out easily in the cold, harsh conditions of the mountain.

Any donations will be greatly appreciated, they can be dropped off at the LA building in room 209.

LEVAN: Foundation money used in student scholarships and building upkeep

Continued from Page 1

a little over \$21 million, so it has grown. Ideally not only do they grow, but we're paying out money for scholarships and other things while it's growing. So Norm Levan's gifts alone pretty much doubled the school's endowment. Before Levan's donation, I think BC's endowments were in line with similar community colleges of our size had, but Levan's gifts completely changed that.

"We have a very strong endowment for the community college we are and Norm Levan's stamp, or influence will be here forever just because of his gift," Gelder said.

BC has received the bulk of Levan's donations, Gelder said, but he elaborated that the school will receive one more payment later on.

"We've gotten the bulk of it. Dr. Levan's house still needed to sell, and when

it does we should get a little more, but the bulk of it is done. The last distribution we got from the estate, I remember, was \$6.5 million, and it just a personal check. I remember when it came in and I took it around to people in the office and said, 'how many of you have seen a check for \$6.5 million dollars?'"

Gelder said that if the money set aside for the scholarships is not used up, it is put back into the foundation to be re-used.

"There are restrictions how we can spend it. If not enough students apply and qualify for it to use all the money up, it's reinvested, which makes it grow and makes it be even bigger," Gelder said.

Gelder pointed out while Levan is no longer with us, his presence can still be felt through the Levan Center and the scholarships he set up, which will continue to carry on Levan's legacy for as long as they exist.

UNREGISTERED: California dedicated to protecting undocumented students

Continued from Page 1

"The Chancellor's office from all community colleges, all the main leadership from the Cal State system, and the UC system have come out and declared that they are still going to support undocumented students," said Rosas. "The California Dream Act, AB540, in-state tuition, scholarships, and grants will all be supported because it's all California based. No one will be turned down."

"It doesn't matter what happens in the next few weeks, or the next few years. The Board of Governors has already said that they will support these students," stated Ramirez. "If DACA goes

away, students can still apply for BOG and Cal Grants and other California financial aid, because all DACA is, is a work permit and temporary protection from being deported."

In the state of California, students are allowed to apply for the California Dream Act and be considered an AB540 student. The California Dream Act allows undocumented students to apply and receive in-state financial aid and scholarships. The Assembly Bill 540 is a California law that permits any student who was born outside the state to pay in-state tuition fees at any college and university as long as they attended a California high

school for three or more years.

With that in mind, LUPE is designed to make these students aware about what options are available to them. Ramirez stated that a lot of students refrain from registering for classes because they have the mentality that because they are undocumented, they automatically don't qualify for anything. Many of them also hesitate to apply for anything with the fear that their information will be in the hands of someone who may potentially want to deport them.

"We ultimately want to connect them with other dreamers on campus and members of the community for the support,"

said Rosas. "We do so by offering workshops for the students. We've assigned people from the community to come out and speak to them about their services and what they offer."

They mentioned that some local organizations have offered scholarships as well as job opportunities during the summer. This increases their confidence by knowing that there are people and organizations that want to offer them help.

"When people hear the term Dreamers, they automatically think Mexicans," stated Ramirez. "Our name does say Latinos, but the program is open to everyone, regardless of their immigration

and ethnic status. We have Indian and Filipino students as well."

Their goal is to have more diversity to strengthen the group. They state that they are confident that these students will strive as they have shown to be some of the most hardworking because they treat education as an urgency to better themselves and their families.

"This program is just people like us, counselors, faculty and staff that are simply passionate about helping this population on campus," stated Rosas.

More information on BC's LUPE program can be found at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/sse/dreamers.

Column

Billionaire buys seat

Practical Idealism: Seeking a balance between what can be done and what should be done in the political landscape today

On Feb. 6, billionaire heiress Betsy DeVos was confirmed by the United States Senate in a 51-50 vote. The historic vote, requiring a tie-breaker cast by Vice President Mike Pence, is evident of a new way of governance in the Senate, where the minority party is absolved of any power whatsoever.

The Senate is considered to be the greatest deliberative body in the world. Part of this tradition is the body's roots in the Roman Senate. This body, from which our upper house of legislature draws its name, would designate issues of importance to be debated, for hours on end, until the body reached a unanimous consensus.

This is because, while the body could have ruled by brute majority rule, its purpose was to deliberate and find consensus. This was the original purpose of our Senate as well, a purpose which has been eroded over time, and is now entirely abandoned.

The first signs of this erosion came during the George W. Bush years. Senate democrats filibustered 10 appellate court nominees in that era, an unprecedented move. In order to avoid changing the filibuster rules, a group of 14 moderate senators known as the "Gang of 14" colluded to render these filibusters ineffective.

Things have escalated. President Donald Trump has told the Senate GOP to "go nuclear" and change the existing filibuster rules to silence the minority party with 51 votes, as opposed to 66. This means Democrats will have no chance of stopping Neil Gorsuch's appointment to the Supreme Court. This also means one of the most celebrated traditions of the United States legislature, the filibuster, will die, and with it, any sense of deliberation or consensus-building in that body.

Further evidence exists in the confirmation of Betsy DeVos. DeVos' family has donated an excess of \$200 million dollars to the Republican party. She has paid every Republican sitting on the Senate Judiciary Committee. She has been an advocate of Charter School systems that have devastated communities in New Orleans and Detroit. She is the most unqualified nominee to any cabinet level position the Senate has ever considered, according to Senator Al Franken. Despite this, and that two Republican Senators defected to vote "no", The GOP overrode the essential duty of the body to advise and consider these nominations by breaking the tie vote.

One of the most frightening actions by the Senate majority has been the censure and silencing of Senator Elizabeth Warren. On Feb. 7, Warren was reading the testimony of Coretta Scott King to the Senate Judiciary Committee considering the 1986 nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions to a district judgeship when she was silenced and told to sit down for violating Senate Rule XIX, 'impugning the motives' of another senator.

This is unprecedented. If the minority party is not allowed to speak, and 100-year-old rules to prevent fistfights on the floor of the Senate are used to silence opposition, we are headed for the darkest era in Senate history.



Dylan Bryant



JESSE NAJERA / THE RIP

Sophomore guard Shane Christie (3) dunks against LA Pierce.

Renegades make history in win vs. West LA College

BC wins back-to-back conference titles

By Sam L. Jaime
Sports Editor

For the first time in school history, the Bakersfield College men's basketball program has won back-to-back Western State Conference titles.

To accomplish this feat, the Renegades had to get through a tightly contested matchup against West LA College on Feb. 11. Much like their Jan. 25 contest against West LA, the Renegades battled through both halves, at times being up by 10, and tied at others.

Ultimately, they managed to defend a four point lead in the game's final moments, ensuring they had at least tied for the Western State Conference title with the 70-66 victory.

"At this point, it's do-or-die for them, they know they have to win," said Renegades coach Rich Hughes. "I knew they were going to compete for it. I'm just proud of our guys, we were understaffed, someone had to step up and replace the other guys, and we just did that as a group."

With a roster of only four returning sophomores, Bakersfield College was projected to finish near the bottom of the conference. Instead, the Renegades have averaged 78 points and 40.8 rebounds per game, going 6-1 in conference play and 19-9 overall.

"No one picked these guys, they picked us last in conference, everyone said that we weren't good enough, and those guys persevered throughout the year, and did what they needed to do to win," said Hughes. The team has been consistent all year long, winning 6 of 7 games in January and haven't

lost more than three consecutive games at any point.

At the close of BC's victory against West LA, coach Hughes took a moment to put the season in perspective. He said, "Our guys are tough, they're tough-minded kids who don't quit and I'm proud of them. We've at least clinched with a tie, but you know, to us, a conference title is a conference title. History makes back-to-back conference champions. There's no other team in the Western State [Conference] for Bakersfield College that can say that. For our school to do that, it's big-time, it's a big-time win and a big-time accomplishment for our guys. They set a legacy tonight."

The game also signaled the 14th consecutive game freshman guard Jamar Hammonds registered double-digit points, scoring 10 in limited action. Hammonds, who sat most of the contest due to early foul trouble, was supplanted by performances from sophomore guard Shane Christie who put up 14, and freshman guard Tucker Eeneningburg who dropped 23 points off the bench. Those totals, alongside Sean Leflore and Henry Galinato, ensured the workload was spread evenly throughout the roster.

By night's end, the first-place tie with Santa Monica had been broken as Santa Monica fell to Canyons 80-65, placing Bakersfield College in sole possession of first place in the conference with one game remaining on the schedule.

Ironically, the final game of the Renegades' regular season will be against Canyons Feb. 15, in the Gil Bishop Sports Center, at 5 p.m. "We're trying to win our 20th game, that's another benchmark for us, and we want to win it outright, so that's our goal for Wednesday [Feb. 15]," said Hughes.

BC women vie for playoff spot

By Daulton James Jones
Reporter

Since their loss to Canyons, the Bakersfield College women's basketball team has come back to win three games in a row against LA Pierce, Santa Monica, and West LA respectively. The last game of the Renegades' regular season is Feb. 15, 7 p.m. at the Gil Bishop Sports Center.

On Jan. 28, the Renegades were unable to protect a 12-point lead against Canyons, as Lady Cougars' freshman guard Morgan Bizzell came out in the second half and scored 22 points. "That was a bummer," coach Paula Dahl said, "There were four times we had shot clock violations, and they took it and just hit the bottom of the net. So you know they put stuff up, and they hit everything. We kind of went into panic mode, and it just kind of erupted into the perfect storm." After letting the lead slip away against Canyons, the Renegades did not hang their heads. They went right back to practice, so that they could come back to beat LA Pierce.

"The thing that made me really happy was that I've never seen a team regroup so late in the season," Dahl said. "They knew they were just going to

come in and beat Pierce, but after that loss [to Canyons] they just asked, 'Coach can I come in early just shoot?' They were just as passionate about the game. That's what I love about this team. They've fought all season long to get where they are, and that's all you can ask for," said Dahl.

This drive took them to win the games they did. The leading scorer, Kennedy Neilsen, averaged 18-22 points a game throughout the three-game stretch. Julie Olvera, Marissa Figueroa, and Angie Kroeger also filled up the stat line, contributing to the Renegades success, while sophomore forward Mackenzie te Velde has consistently logged double-doubles.

The upcoming game Feb. 15 against Canyons will determine whether or not the Renegades become conference runner-ups, and if they are able to move on to the playoffs.

After winning three games since the tough loss against Canyons, the Renegades are ready to face them again. "I think we'll beat them. My team's not happy about that one. During our practices we've been working on speeding the game up. Two of their lead scorers are back, so we're glad we get to play them. But we're gonna win," Dahl said.



JESSE NAJERA / THE RIP

Freshman guard Angie Kroeger prepares to pass the ball vs. LA Pierce Feb. 4. Bakersfield College went on to win, 100-41.

BC women's swim team performs well despite weather conditions

By Mario Saldaña
Digital Content Editor

The Bakersfield College women's swimming team starts off well during their first swim meet, impressing both head coach Matthew Moon and assistant coach Pat Zuniga.

The women's swim team had their first meet at the WSC pentathlon at Ventura Feb. 10.

With multiple personal and individual records from the swimmers, Moon is very excited to see the team already in full motion.

He was really happy with the performance from the team, even with the rough weather, the swimming team pulled through, especially for the first

meet of the year.

This season, the team is considerably smaller than it usually is, but for coach Moon, it looked like it did not affect the team.

"The women's team is a little smaller than it has been in the past, but we got a pretty good all-around team." Says coach Moon.

Moon believes they performed well, even facing a type of competition they aren't really used to.

Victoria Hernandez, a freshman in the swim team had five personal records in different types of races she competed in.

Two swimmers are back from last season: Kathryn Hunter, she mostly competes primarily

in freestyle and backstroke and Crystal Amavisca.

They practice along the men's swimming team six days a week and have put in a little extra work due to the smaller size of the team.

They are starting to practice individual styles of competitions that each swimmer is more comfortable with to get ready for their next meet.

The Bakersfield College women's swimming team next swim meet will be at Mt. SAC invitations at Mt. SAC on Feb. 24 and 25.

Upcoming Schedule

Feb. 24	Mt. SAC Invite	All Day
Feb. 25	Mt. SAC Invite	All Day
Mar. 4	WSC #1	10 a.m.

Men's swim team trains hard for upcoming Mt. SAC swim meet

By Mario Saldaña
Digital Content Editor

Head coach Matt Moon and assistant coach Pat Zuniga are ready to lead the Bakersfield College men's swimming team this season, and the team is ready to compete.

The team had its first meet on Feb. 10 at the WSC Pentathlon in Ventura. Though harsh weather made it difficult for the swimmers to perform, Moon believes that his team did well. He noticed some time improvements and personal bests, which he was very excited about, from the team even with the circumstance of inclement weather.

The team has a few returning swimmers from last semester, including Steve Santana, Brian Bender, Juan Escalante, Ezequiel Garcia, and Cesar Zepada.

Moon and Zuniga make sure that their team are fit by having their swimmers practice more than six times a week, and he feels like the team is committed to practice, even with what goes on out of the

pool, such as academic performance.

"Our freshman class have been really stepping up lately and have impressed me during practice sessions," said Moon.

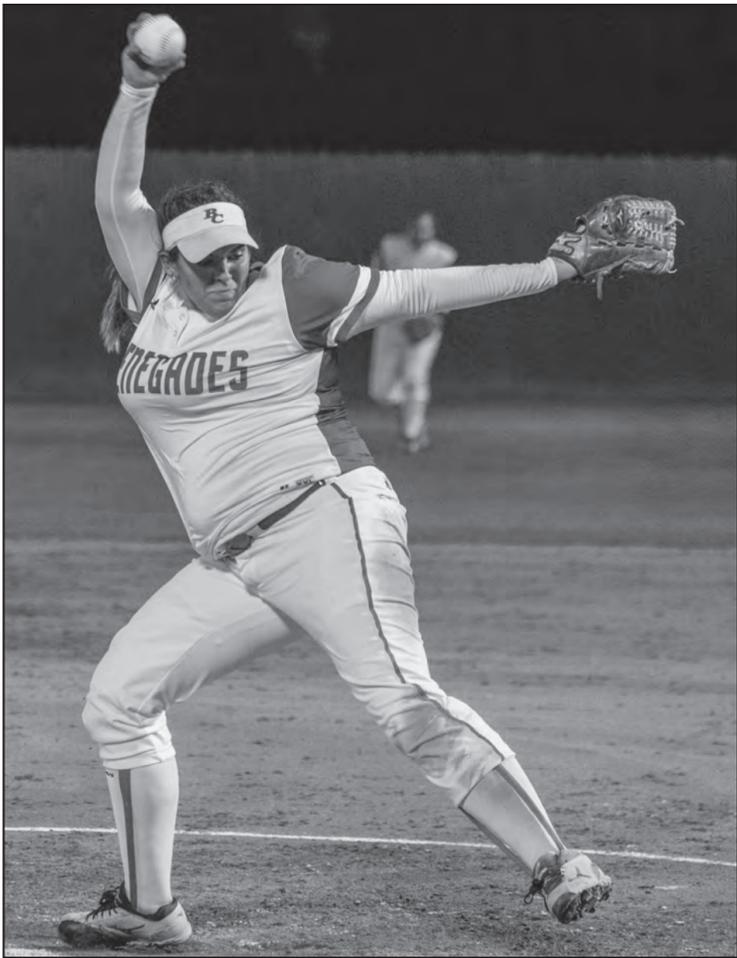
"In the water, we practice about six times a week if we don't have a meet, so we are all out here swimming a lot, and on land we use weights as well to keep the swimmers really busy."

Soon, Moon will begin setting up the swimmers in their respective type of competition, to prepare for the next meet, ensuring each of his guys are ready to compete at their highest.

BC's next swim meet will be away at the Mt. SAC invite at Mt. SAC on Feb. 24 and 25.

Upcoming Schedule

Feb. 24	Mt. SAC Invitational	All Day
Feb. 25	Mt. SAC Invitational	All Day
Mar. 4	WSC #1	10 a.m.
Mar. 9	Questa Sprint	2 p.m.



J.R. HENSLEY / THE RIP

McKenna Valencia begins her windup during a match against Taft College.

Renegades toss shutout vs. Taft

By Mario Saldaña
Digital Content Editor

The Bakersfield College softball team started off the season a little slow with three losses but quickly bounced back in an impressive 7-0 win at their home opener against Taft College on Feb. 9.

The Renegades offense scored three runs in the bottom of the second inning. After Alyssa Gonzales drew a walk from Taft pitcher Andrea Garner, McKenna Valencia hit a double, sending Gonzales to third base.

Back-to-back walks to Janelle Gutierrez and Alyssa Ruiz scored Gonzales from third.

Up by one with only one out, Chelsea Herrera's grounder forced out Valencia at home, despite a close call at the plate. Kathryn Alderete then singled, bringing Gutierrez and Ruiz home, giving the Renegades a 3-0 lead.

The Renegades came back in the bottom of the third to score two more runs on a single by Naisemarie Ubay that scored Alexis Solis and Gonzales.

The third inning for Bakersfield was one of the busiest for their offense, as they scored two runs on four hits. In the bottom of the sixth inning, BC scored two more runs on as Alexis Solis drove in Kathryn Alderete and Zaily Luna.

Defense was a big factor in keeping the game scoreless for Bakersfield, along with successful pitching by Valencia, who pitched six innings and faced 23 batters, allowing only two hits and three walks, while striking out six. Solis closed out the game in relief, giving up no runs on two hits in the final frame.

Garner pitched a complete game, resulting in her first loss of the season, facing 30 batters, allowing seven hits, three walks, giving up seven runs, and two strikeouts.

BC head coach Christie Hill was happy with the performance of her team, and felt like the team has finally found their stride after losing three games in a row and will use that night's win as momentum.

"I think the team played this game really well, and we hit the ball really well, and we had a really good defense tonight with solid pitching from McKenna for six innings and Alexis Solis closing out the game and shutting them down," Hill said, "we were a little more focused tonight. Even though we were at the home opener, we seemed a little more focused, I think we are more ready for this season. We saw how we struggled with defense in earlier games, but tonight we showed that we can play defense and offense really well."

Column

Tradition over time

E9: What you wouldn't believe about sports.

Baseball is a classical drama staged outdoors beneath the lights, in front of thousands. Its history spans generations, surviving tragedy and triumph alike. Major League Baseball was founded 114 years ago in 1903, five years before the United States started celebrating both Mother's Day and Father's Day, and is the oldest major professional sports league in North America.

Despite its implied traditions, the future of the league is driven by the quest to shorten game play. League commissioner Rob Manfred's obsession with making the game more appealing to the younger instant gratification generation has already brought about the pitch clock throughout the minor leagues and prohibited batters from completely stepping out of the batter's box between pitches. Both seem to come with the best of intentions, and are a step in the right direction, but appear to be the tip of a more ominous iceberg.

The problem with increasing pace is a fundamental contradiction of Manfred's goal to promote scoring within the league. Essentially the only way to get through innings faster is to increase the ease of making outs, which is difficult if you are also trying to make it easier to score runs. So when the accompanying suggestion for pace of play was a one-pitch intentional walk, it seemed a concession toward the offensive-minded approach.

How do we overcome the paradoxical nature of pace of play? Why would you want to? The average NFL game takes three hours and 12 minutes, despite roughly 11 minutes of the ball being in play. The average MLB game in 2014 however lasts two hours and 56 minutes, 16 minutes shorter on average than the NFL. The only problem with the pace of play is not with the game, it's with the perception of those watching.

It boils down to the popularity contest that ultimately pits the league's age against itself. It seems that because the NFL is newer, perhaps with more marketable television advertising considering there is a commercial after every other play. Baseball actually gives you the most bang for your buck in terms of commercial breaks and length, which ultimately means less commercials and less publicity. People also seem to not understand or appreciate that baseball at its most fundamental is a physics defying feat. I could rattle off some data about reaction time, speed, etc. but it won't matter. Even if it did, the main point is, if you've never played baseball, you are automatically at a disadvantage when it comes to becoming a fan, because you don't have as deep of an appreciation.

This makes Manfred's ultimate goal of attracting new fans to the sport difficult because it relies on previous generations to have some level of fandom and to pass that along to their children. Sure, the efforts of the league to make the game more accessible to the fans and to advertisers is a valiant, gallant effort, but the responsibility rests with current fans to spread the word and create new generations of fans based on the game's traditions, not on how easy the game flows, or is played. The game is tough, as it should be, and that's what has endeared it to many of us, because as with life, there is no place within it for shortcuts.



Sam L. Jaime

Despite pitching prowess, defensive errors cost wins

By Sam L. Jaime
Sports Editor

In a series beginning Feb. 9, the Bakersfield College Renegades suffered a three-game sweep at the hands of the visiting El Camino College Warriors, dropping their record to 4-6 on the season.

In game one, the Warriors capitalized on seven hits and three Renegade errors on their way to a 4-0 victory as El Camino pitcher Cassius Hamm tossed a no-hitter on the strength of 16 strikeouts and four walks.

His counterpart, Taylor Burns, struck out four and walked two while scattering six hits over seven innings before giving way to Cain Roberts.

Game two of the series was scheduled for Feb. 10, however, inclement weather forced postponement, resulting in a doubleheader on Feb. 11.

The postponement was the second experienced in the Renegades' schedule to this point, the other occurring Feb. 7 against Moorpark. Game one of the double-header's initial start time of 10 a.m. was pushed back to 1 p.m. as the Renegades worked to ready the field.

The Warriors again used errors to

their benefit, converting runs on each of the five errors committed by the Renegades, resulting in a 7-1 victory.

BC starter Austin Toerner took the loss for the contest, despite giving up only one earned run and striking out eight over seven innings.

The finale of the series was tightly contested, as BC starter Luke Andrews struck out nine and walked only one in a complete game loss.

When asked about the team's play throughout the series, head coach Tim Painton said, "[Their] effort is the same, we wasted three quality starts this weekend out of our pitching staff. You can't ask for more than we got out of those guys. We've pitched really well, pitching has kept us in every ballgame we've played."

Through Feb. 12, the Renegades pitching staff has averaged 6.2 strikeouts, seven hits and three walks per game, while posting a 2.30 ERA.

Errors have loomed large throughout the Renegades' season; the team has averaged 3 errors per game through its first 10.

Yet, despite committing 12 errors in the first two games of the season, the team has committed more than 2 errors only three times since. "Bad

defense shows up at inopportune times and that's really the difference in games we've won and lost this year. We play good defense when we win, we play crappy defense when we lose," said Painton.

Offensively, the Renegades are averaging 3.6 runs despite batting .207 and averaging nine strikeouts per game.

The renegades have shown patience at the plate however, averaging 4.8 walks and 6.7 hits per game.

During the past four games, however, the Renegades have only managed two runs, leading Painton to refer to offensive production as "spotty".

Adding perspective to the team outlook, Painton said, "We are 10 games into a 40-game season, so you just keep building and try and repair what's broken and move forward, that's all we can do. Hopefully the pitching continues to do what it does, and hopefully we can get better defensively and offensively, that's the goal."

Looking ahead, the Renegades will face Golden West in a three-game series beginning Feb. 16 at Gerry Collis Field.



J.R. HENSLEY / THE RIP

Sophomore outfielder Yukoh Saito swings against El Camino College Feb. 11.

Women's tennis hot, on nine-match streak

By Daulton James Jones
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's tennis team has started this season winning its first seven matches, including two Western State Conference matches.

The Renegades have three returning sophomores and five freshmen.

Last year, the team started with a winning streak followed by back and forth wins and losses throughout the rest of the season. This season, the women have won three matches by 9-0 scores, and have only had one close match, a 5-4 win over Hope International.

"When I had first started here, there wasn't a women's team, so I got about six women. They weren't the best, but they were hard working," said head coach Nick Jacobs. "After that, my friend Nick Loudermilk came and helped me with the women. He's been all over the place, and he knows a lot about the game because this is what he does."

They have three sophomores returning in Brittany Aguilar,

Kaylee Defrees and Riley Tucker. They are all expected to be doing well this season. "Riley is our number two this year. Brittany went down from two to three, Kaylee has a number four spot," said Jacobs.

"We've got a couple girls from around town, Wasco, and Delano who have helped out with the depth a lot."

The Renegades played Santa Barbara in a match Feb. 14 and travel to Santa Monica on Feb. 16.

Those two games are expected to be tough, but the team feels they will win.

BC hosts Orange Coast on Feb. 21 and Antelope Valley on Feb. 23.

Upcoming Women's Tennis

Feb. 16 @ Santa Monica 1 p.m.
Feb. 21 Orange Coast 2 p.m.
Feb. 23 A. Valley 2 p.m.

Upcoming Men's Tennis

Feb. 16 LA Pierce 2 p.m.
Feb. 17 @SD Mesa 2 p.m.
Feb. 18 @S. Jacinto 9 a.m.

Men's tennis seeking first win of season

By Daulton James Jones
Reporter

After a rocky start to the season, the Bakersfield College men's tennis team hopes to make a comeback.

The team has started this season with a three-match losing streak, falling to Saddleback, Reedley, and Glendale. They also have had several matches which were postponed because of the rain. "You know we attempted to play Victor Valley, but we couldn't because of the rain. Luckily these non-league matches can be rescheduled" said head coach Nick Jacobs.

"This team is maybe not as skilled, and I don't mean that in a bad way because they try really hard, and they are good. A lot of them just haven't had much experience. Like going to out-of-town tournaments and what not."

"They're a young team, and they just have a lot of things to get used to. In Bakersfield, tennis hasn't been

as good, so they're not used to the competition especially on the community college level where there's a lot."

This season, the Renegades welcome back three returners.

From last year, Austin Lux has returned, and from a few years' prior, Chanerion UL and Fabian Cardenas have also returned. Each are at the top spots on the team.

The roster also features 13 freshmen who are ready to learn and grow as the season progresses.

"I told them, 'The wins will come. Don't worry about other teams.' They know what they need to do. We've had some leads where we ended up losing, so they are getting an understanding of what it takes," said Jacobs.

Jan. 28 was one such of those matches, during which BC eventually lost the day despite taking four of nine matches. The Renegades face LA Pierce at home Feb. 16, beginning at 2 p.m. at the BC Tennis Courts.

Track and Field

Men's

Battle of the Regions

100m- Eddie Ochoa 11.76
200m- Ronnie Lesure 23.97
400m- Luke Parvianninen 52.68
800m- Cesar Patino 2:03.40
1,500m- Cesar Patino 4:13.18
3,000m- JAcob Franco 9:45.50
400mH- Adam Silva 1:07.81
4 x 100m- Relay 43:32
4 x 400m- Relay 3:36.22
High Jump- Jacob Bookout 1.83m
Pole Vault- Jovanny Lopez 3.05m
Long Jump- Jacob Bookout 5.88m
Tri. Jump- Stephan Drummer 11.93
Shot Put- Mason Grantz 12.65m
Discus- Mason Grantz 37.02m
Hammer- Mason Grantz 30.20m

Women's

Battle of the Regions

100m- Jasmine Green 13.38
200m- Jasmine Green 27.57
800m- Edith Velez 2:43.87
1,500m- Alyssa Morales 5:32.62
3,000m- Alyssa Morales 11:36.17
100mH- Diamond Thompson 17.75
400mH- Diamond Thompson 1:12.96
Long Jump- Jasemin Green 5.15m
Tri. Jump- Veronica Slade 9.98m
Shot Put- Savannah Wright 7.20m
Discus- Savannah Wright 15.56m
Hammer- Savannah Wright 25.01m
Javelin- Celia Hickman- 23.97m



A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY J.R. HENSLEY

It should be stated that three days in New York City is not nearly enough time to do anything of note. Even the staples are hard to accomplish, especially if one sleeps until noon.

I have never been to the Big Apple. The idea of going there never crossed my mind until I was trying to come up with a Christmas gift for my husband. He likes to give and receive items that the receiver wouldn't do for themselves. So, out of curiosity, I priced a weekend trip and found that for a little over \$1,000, the two of us could visit New York City. I had the funds available on my credit card so I booked it for the beginning of February.

One of the things my husband has told me that he loves about trips is the time leading up to leaving. He likes to plan and daydream about what he will do and see. So, because of that, and my inability to keep a secret, I spilled the beans in October about his gift.

An added bonus of telling him about the trip was that he planned his gift to me to be New York related. He bought us both tickets to see the Broadway play "Hamilton." No joke, the tickets to see a two-hour play cost almost as much as our entire excursion. So, keep that in mind if you're pricing out your own adventure.

The time arrived, and we had planned nothing. I think what little effort we put into it was him turning to me and asking if there was anything (besides "Hamilton" of course) that I wanted to do. I listed off a couple musts, and he grunted a response.

The day of, we packed our bags, because that's how we do, and we left with enough hours to spare to casually get to the airport.

We wanted to allot enough time for any potential protesters and getting through TSA. However, both were absent this day and we checked in and got to our gate in less than 30 minutes. It was truly a miracle, but that's where it stopped.

When we got to our seats on the plane I was shoved in the middle, which I am fine with if I have someone that takes the window seat and knows proper plane etiquette. My husband mused that this must have been this kids first ever flight because he sat with a wide stance and took up both of his arm rests.

"Whatever," I told myself. It was only a five-hour flight and I needed to sleep, because once we landed in New York we needed to hit the ground running to get a full three days in of sight-seeing.

Thirty minutes into the flight the calm, cool voice of the pilot comes over the P.A. and informs us that one of the doors isn't/didn't shut properly and we needed to return to LAX.

My blood ran cold and all I could think about was the plane crashing into the Sierra Nevada. Luckily, that didn't happen and we returned to the airport in one piece.

The second plane we were meant to take instead was also not fit for flight. My husband is still repeating the words the flight attendant used to let us know, "The plane no good." Therefore, United attempted to find a third substitute, however that one was also not flyable. I was seeing a terrifying pattern emerge.

The fourth plane was flyable; however, the entertainment systems built into the headrests were not operational. No one cared, me especially. I just wanted sleep.

As long as I was deep asleep, I didn't care if the plane fell out of the sky. We boarded lucky number

four and flew five hours to Newark.

I barely slept, but that did not dampen my spirits, I was going to make this trip worthwhile. We took a train into the city from New Jersey, and took the subway to our hotel.

All I could think as I climbed from the winding tunnels below was how the city was dirty and run-down and compare it to London, which I had loved tremendously.

We walked to Central Park where we were approached by a salesman for Big Bus Tours that sold us on a two-day pass that included passage on the ferry to Liberty Island.

Before hopping our first bus we ate at the Brooklyn Diner, where seated two booths away was Jerry Seinfeld and Colin Quinn having a cup of coffee. My husband was

so thoroughly excited, however I was in no mood and just glanced over my shoulder to check and then shrugged. All I cared about was their world famous pot pie (which, by the way, was amazing).

Afterward I wished that I had snapped a sly photo to, at least, prove I was sharing the same oxygen as the celebrities.

We went back to Central Park and were heading toward this large crowd gathered adjacent to the Trump Hotel tower, one of many towers, when our bus arrived. We quickly hopped on and climbed to the second floor.

As we drove between the crowd and the gilded tower we looked down upon the crowd surrounding Stephen Colbert filming a bit for his show that night.

The first day we rode the bus around Harlem, Times Square, and Midtown, then we got exhausted and returned to our hotel.

The next day we awoke around 11 a.m. and headed for the Statue of Liberty. That took up the rest of the daylight hours until we were forced to sit atop the open-air bus as we went sight-seeing through the city at night.

I nearly froze to death, even with the three layers I wore; 33-degrees is worse when it's blowing hard at your face.

The next day we saw the wonder that was "Hamilton," which was worth every penny of the trip, and then made a stop-over at the Stonewall Inn to pay homage to my gay predecessors.

Afterward we headed for the Empire State Building, which for \$34 each we could ride an elevator to the 82nd and then the 86th floor.

The views were spectacular on the side of the building where the remaining floors blocked the wind from attempting to blow us over the curved railing of the observation deck.

The next day we headed back home, hoping the first plane would be usable.

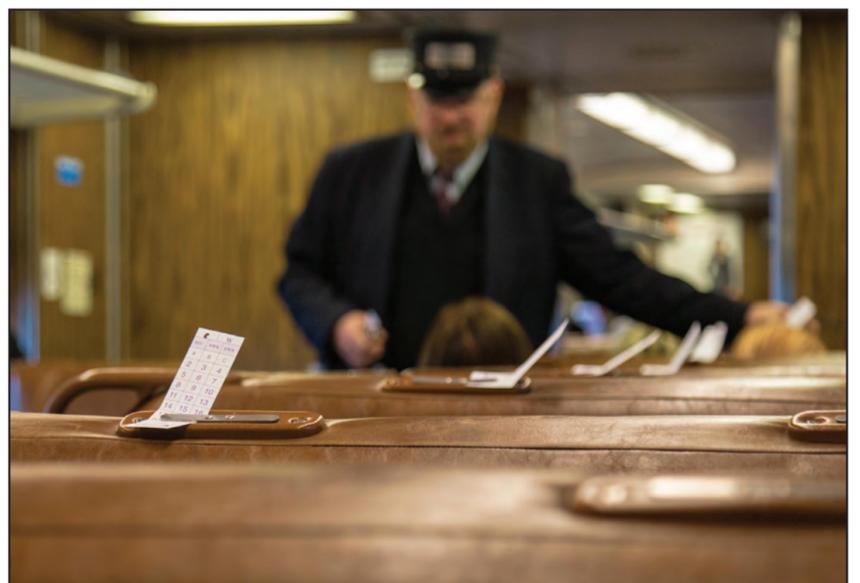
I should also note that while we were busing around the city there was a flurry of different, more momentous events occurring.

There was a pro-Trump rally at one of his many gold towers, there was an anti-Trump rally on Christopher Street for gay rights, Nazi graffiti had been etched on one of the subway trains before the community banded together to remove it, and for the Chinese New Year there was a parade to celebrate in Chinatown.

We did none of these things because we are boring people that like casual and relaxed events.



J.R. Hensley warming his ears in the 33-degree weather while site-seeing from the second floor of a double decker bus driving down 7th Ave. toward the Statue of Liberty



On the train from Newark, N.J. to New York, the conductor punches passengers' tickets.

Transfer to University of La Verne in Bakersfield

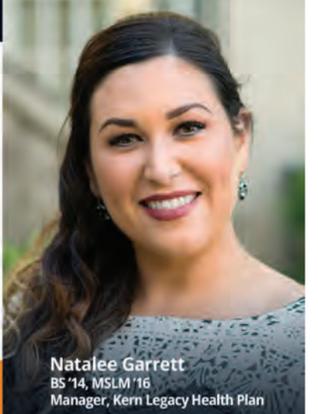
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