



The Renegade Rip

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BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Attempted sexual assault reported at BC

By Hector Martinez
Reporter

On April 10, Bakersfield College's Public Safety sent out an alert about an incident that happened inside the women's restroom of the Humanities building.

A female was followed into the bathroom by a male suspect. She was able to defend herself and the suspect left, according to the notification.

When the female managed to reached Public Safety the suspect had already left the scene. As of press time no one has been detained or arrested.

The suspect is described as a White or Hispanic male between 20-30 years of age. The height of the suspect is between 5'10"- 6' tall. The female victim saw a tattoo of a colored boat on the suspect's right shoulder.

Christopher Counts, Director of the Department of Public Safety at

Bakersfield College, explained that for the moment, all the information Public Safety had on the matter was included in the email alert sent to the campus community that day.

Counts also explained that there are sometimes several incidents in a single semester because Bakersfield College is an open campus and it is difficult for their staff to cover all grounds.

Counts said that Bakersfield College has 15 cadets, students who are trained by Public Safety, that work alongside campus security and if anything happens on-campus students can contact the cadets.

"They are our eyes and ears on campus so if anyone sees or hears something, contact them and we will handle the situation," said Counts.

Counts also explained that students can apply to become a cadet for Public Safety for next semester and help them provide safety services to the campus.

Newly elected BCSGA officers for 2018-2019 have big plans for future

By Issy Barrientos
Reporter

A few weeks ago, Bakersfield College held its Student Government Association elections to vote in the new officers for the next school year. The new president and vice-president are James Tompkins and Ashely Nicole Harp.

Tompkins joined BCSGA because he not only wanted his voice, and the voices of other students heard, but also the voice of former incarcerated students. He has been a part of BCSGA for a year now as senator. As a senator he was able to pass a resolution to have staff on campus complete bias training so that they can see pass their own biases. As the president he would like continue to expand on his work for incarcerated students.

"I still think there are a lot of barriers for education for people that are dealing with incarceration or coming from incarceration" said Tompkins. "I think that working together with the faculty and staff, who are awesome, we can really remove some of those stigmas early on."

While he does not see himself as a politician he would like to see some reform for students that have been incarcerated or going into the workforce.

His main goal is to give a voice to students that feel like that are not represented.

Harp, on the other hand, as political science major, wants to be a career politician and wants to use BCSGA to get her foot in the door.

One of her political role models is former-President Barack Obama. She likes his energy and feels like she has the same type of energy in herself.

Harp said, "We are going to be getting a lot more involved this year. We are going to make sure people on campus know who we are and we're going to make sure that they know our faces."

She did not want to run for president because she does not have the time for it. As vice-president she will be able to spend more time working with the senators.

She wants to get the community involved and have the rest of campus get involved as well. She wants to know what the students want to do.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

President-Elect James Tompkins and Vice President-Elect Ashley Nicole Harp, the newly elected BCSGA officers for the 2018-2019 fiscal year at Bakersfield College.

Speakers inspire audience at the Annual Renegade Talks

By Melissa Puryear
Managing Editor

Bakersfield College presented its annual Renegade Talks on April 10 in the Simonsen Performing Arts Center Indoor Theatre. The Renegade Talks series is similar to the TEDx Talks platform, where speakers share an idea for about ten minutes.

Todd Coston, Director of Information Technology at Bakersfield College and part of the team that makes up the Renegade Talks, said that he, Andrea Thorson, Dean of Instruction at BC, and Helen Acosta, Communication Department Chair, organized this year's Renegade Talks.

The Renegade Talks team selects speakers from auditions, then coaches them throughout the fall and spring. They encourage a well-rounded line-up of speakers that include College faculty, staff and students with ideas that would inspire those who attend.

Daniel Mechem, a military veteran and BC student was the first to present his topic, "The Burden of Freedom," a topic about the "importance of well-informed opinions and well-researched arguments."

With so much information that is accessible online, he said, "In order for us to maintain our freedom, we have to continually educate ourselves on it."

Tena Bensusen, a Communication major at BC, presented her topic, "Man's and Today's Society," where she explored modern-day rudeness and becoming more considerate.

Chris Cruz-Boone, a Communication professor presented her topic "Rolling the Dice: Should I Play Board Games with my Husband or Should I Get a Divorce?" explores her own personal struggle with a hard choice.

She had to make a choice between divorce or working on her marriage. She chose to save her marriage by playing board games and reconnecting with her husband.

Amber Smithson, a Community Liaison for Behavioral Healthcare Hospital and a current BC student, presented her speech Twelve Seconds, which talked about suicide prevention and recognizing its signs. Having faced the struggle of helping her own child who had tried to take their own life, Smithson shared both statistics and gave advice on how to pay attention to suicidal signs and behaviors.

Joe Saldivar, a BC Biology professor presented his talk on Biology Smooth Endoplasmic Reticulum: A Fork in the Academic Road.

Saldivar drew a humorous parallel between the high school graduate who rushes off to a higher educational institution and finds himself binge drinking instead of applying himself to learning, and the smooth endoplasmic reticulum, which is located in the liver and allows you to handle only so much alcohol.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Amber Smithson, BC Professor, whose own child attempted suicide, instructs the audience members during her presentation, to stand or sit, for a few moments to demonstrate how many people around us, may think or attempt suicide every 12 Seconds.

He encouraged students who found themselves starting over, to apply themselves to their education, even if that education is starting over again at BC.

Julian James West, a BC academic advisor, spoke about the challenges black men face in Black Masculine Identity. His powerful closing speech, called for both personal responsibility and societal responsibility in advocating for black men.

Historically black men have been marginalized and this has had a negative impact upon success for black men. West calls for the advocacy and value of black men, stating that when a black man gets an education, he has extended his life expectancy, living beyond the life expectancy men of other races.

He calls for "dropping negative cultural stereotypes" and help them to "pick up the identity of a college student, which will allow them to pick up the iden-

tity of a college graduate."

"If we can send more black men to college, not only will we change their lives, not only will we change our community's lives, but we can change the world" said James.

Christian Bravo, a Bakersfield College student who was a part of staff assistance team at the talk, said that the topics were "very broad and eye-opening, and that this kind of event is very good to come to because it doesn't happen all that often."

He said he enjoyed Daniel Mechem's speech on The Burden of Freedom. This talk was relevant to him because he will be enlisting in the Marine Corp this year. He also commented on Smithson's speech on the topic of suicide. Bravo said that "signs of suicide are difficult to see."

"If someone was going through personal issues here at BC and they would always be cheery, you wouldn't be able to tell."

He said that people who are able to mask their emotions which make detection of their struggle harder.

Embarrassment is one reason Bravo gives for the reason someone remains silent. Another reason he gives is that some people don't know how to share what they are going through and sometimes, he said, "they just don't want to."

Suicidal thoughts he said, "could happen to anyone," and for people who aren't struggling, they could be surrounded by people who struggle and they wouldn't know. "It could be a friend or co-worker or family member. It can even be a significant other."

He said that he would try to do the best he could to help anyone who was struggling with suicide.

Michael Sargeant who is from Bakersfield and attended the event to show support for his son-in-law Julian West. He said "I thought he [West] did a fabulous job, in fact I was very impressed with everyone up there and how timely the messages are."

He said that he is going to start playing games with his wife after listening to Cruz-Boone's talk. "We need to build more shelves to house them and I'm probably guilty of picking them up and not using them, so yeah, we're going to try a little harder with that," he said.

Sargeant also said that most families have issues they face and that these messages delivered at the Renegade Talks series are messages he wishes they could all hear. "More people in the community need to hear about it [the talks] and you will have to find a bigger hall."

He said, "For me, this restores my faith in all of us, that we can help each other."

He looks forward to next spring's Renegade Talk.

Pet Match Maker Rescue hosts yoga event with baby goats for public to enjoy

By Miranda Defoor
Reporter

Pet Match Maker Rescue (PMMR) held the first ever Goat Yoga event in Bakersfield at the rescue on April 8th.

Along with being the first in Bakersfield, it is also the first event of its kind for PMMR. The rescue director, Morgan Sokolow, coordinated the event after hearing about similar animal rescue and yoga events in other cities. Sokolow rescued a few baby goats and needed a fundraiser to help cover the cost of the milk and care for the rescued goats.

Sokolow and PMMR started with

rescuing only dogs, but Sokolow then fostered ponies, goats, and "fell into farm animal rescue," according to Jessica Barringer, adoption coordinator.

After rescuing several calves and a horse, Sokolow was contacted about rescuing a goat from slaughter. She was going to rescue a pregnant goat, but the mother goat and two baby goats died. After this, the organizer of the slaughter auction contacted Sokolow about six goats to be rescued.

PMMR was expecting less than 50 people for the entire event, according to Barringer, but after online registration opened they had over 100 people

sign up.

There were three 30 minute sessions held in order to keep the sessions manageable.

Sokolow wanted everyone to have the opportunity to interact with the animals.

Those who attended were led by a yoga instructor from Warrior Yoga at the rescue while baby goats were able to roam around. The goats chewed on shoelaces, headphones, and even a yoga participant's hair.

Sokolow said she would like to hold the event several times through the year, with another goat yoga event being planned for this fall.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

Rochelle Pate, the yoga instructor at the Goat Yoga event, pets a goat as it wanders to her side.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

During the Goat Yoga event put on by Match Maker Rescue, a baby goat begins chewing on a woman's hair.

Studio Movie Grill's grand opening wows

By Melissa Puryear
Managing Editor

The Dallas-based theatre concept, Studio Movie Grill (SMG), which incorporates affordable box office hits, full menu options for food and drinks, plush leather reclining lounge chairs with individual dining tables and push-button concierge-like waitstaff service, celebrated its Grand Opening event on April 13. The Northwest Bakersfield theatre is located in the shopping center on the corner of Calloway and Rosedale Hwy. and is one of the newest business additions to the Bakersfield scene.

The 46,037 square foot, 10-auditorium theatre venue, has 1,056 seats, according to SMG's General Manager Teejay Scharf. With a 275-team member operation, he said that movie goers can sit back with the family and relax. Here, "you won't be serving yourself. The staff takes care of everything for you at the press of a button."

Scharf highlighted the expansive menu choices, which he said are affordable for families. Every night of the week there's a special drink menu. The \$5 Margarita Swirl with a fruit flavor like watermelon is Thursday night's special. Appetizer prices range from \$7 - \$10. Burger options are \$12 - \$13. A large coconut shrimp dish is \$13. BBQ ribs are \$15, with an averaged mixed drink price of \$11. There's an open-window sidewalk bar for people who just want the dining or bar experience without a commitment to the movies, according to Scharf. Everyone is welcome to experience what SMG has to offer.

As far as the movie goes, "What we do is we give you the full package. We give you a sit-down, recliner seat, laser projection system and the full American grill coming right to your tray in a matter of minutes. Full service bar, great selection of wines, draft beers. I don't think there's anything like this in Bakersfield," said Scharf.

The theatre incorporates state-of-the-art performance Q-SYS custom sound systems, laser technology, and Dolby 3D.

With a Founder and CEO who is passionate about community, according to Scharf, Brian Schultz made sure that everyone feels comfortable when watching a movie at his theatre.

Scharf said the recliners located on the front main row in each theatre are designed to be roomy and additional, to accommodate those who are in wheelchairs. Instead of guests remaining in their wheelchairs, they have the choice of sliding into a recliner, which is a specially designed to open on the side.

Once seated the side can be closed. It's a part of giving back to the community, said Scharf.

The theatre includes sight-impaired and hearing-impaired accessibility devices also according to Scharf. The headset devices amplify sound. The closed-captioned devices allow the viewer to follow along with the film's dialogue.

There's also the video description device for those who are visually impaired. This gives the viewer personal narration of the movie. There's one

caveat though, not all movies are device available. Movie goers will want to check with the box office should they have special needs.

The movie ticket process is simple and similar to purchasing a concert ticket purchase process for seats at a concert. To reserve seating, movie goers can log online where a diagram displays seating options. If a seat is available, the purchaser will see the visual cue that indicates the seat is still available for purchase. Seats can be chosen by number and row. Once a guest has paid for the seat, it is placed on reserve status. This removes the stress of not having a seat available and allows people to plan their movie going experience on their own terms.

Hosea Mercer, a Bakersfield resident, attended the grand opening and said that he came to check out the dine-in and bar options. "I always love to come on opening night so I can see the progression later on," he said.

As far as his thoughts on what the theater has to offer patrons, Mercer said, "the concept is awesome. It's perfect."

He has plans to keep an eye on SMG, that's because he lives right across the street. He hopes that a cooling system will be added to the outside bar and dining area to keep patrons cool in the summer and heat lamps to keep patrons warm in the winter.

Seth McGary, a team member who works in the box office said, "there's no other place like this. Before the movie even starts you'll have your food in front of you. You'll have all



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Studio Movie Grill Marquee displayed outside the new plush-seat full-menu service theater on Calloway and Rosedale.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Patrons socialize at the open patio bar at Studio Movie Grill.

of your drinks in front of you. If you need something, just press the button on the table and the servers will come to you and ask you what you need. Here, it's not just candy and popcorn. It's real food. We have a big menu."

The grand opening featured blockbuster's "Rampage" starring Dwayne Johnson and thriller horror film "Truth or Dare," by Jeff Wadlow.

An entire box hit movie lineup at SMG is now available.

Addressing homelessness

By Hector Martinez
Reporter

The Kern County Homeless Collaborative had their 2018 Spring Membership meeting, the KCHC's goal is to end homelessness in Kern County by collaborative planning and action. At the meeting, they discussed the Built for Zero movement, introduction to the local Cost-Benefit Analysis, and the release of the 2018 Point in Time Count (homeless census) data, on April 3.

United Way of Kern County is the fiscal agent and collaborative applicant for the Kern County Homelessness Collaborative, it is the backbone of the organization. It focuses on hunger and homelessness, financial stability, and early childhood literacy.

Built for Zero movement is a national effort created to aid a group

of committed US communities terminate chronic and veteran homelessness and is coordinated by the Community Solutions.

On an interview conducted to the Homelessness Resources Administrative Assistant, Jessica M. Janssen, she explained that when it comes to ending homelessness the main thing to do is provide affordable housing and supportive services to the individuals who are suffering from homelessness.

Janssen also informed of an increase in homelessness this year.

"From 2017 to 2018 we are seeing a 9 percent overall increase in homelessness in Kern County," she said.

There is a various reason on why homelessness has increased this much over a year.

Some of that reason can be domestic violence, substance abuse issues,

mental health concerns, job loss and among others. Janssen has a different opinion about the reason why homelessness has increased that 9 percent this year.

"I believe the 9 percent increase is due to lack of affordable housing in Kern County and throughout California," said Janssen.

Janssen explained that Permanent Supportive Housing is being provided to chronically homeless over vouchers, and also by qualifying through Rapid Rehousing.

Rapid Rehousing, by Alpha Project, is a program providing affordable housing to people who are homeless, and with a goal of giving them permanent housing.

These programs are funded through CoC Program Competition funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Connecting veterans

By Miranda Defoor
Reporter

The current Veteran Program at Bakersfield College (BC) is being connected to Cal State Bakersfield (CSUB) and Taft College. The Veteran's Club at BC is a resource for any veterans that are BC students. The aim is to provide information and assistance, along with creating a feeling of belonging for the veterans.

The services provided to veterans at BC include priority registration, a designated counselor, and access to the BC Veteran's Lounge.

In the Veteran's Lounge, students have a place to study, use computers, access counseling, and referrals to other veteran's services.

Taft and CSUB are also offering assistance to veterans on campus, though CSUB's Veteran's Success Center opened this year.

Both BC and Taft are trying to help veterans register for classes and transfer to CSUB.

"We're connecting the bridge between BC and CSUB," Armando Trujillo, Veterans Educational Adviser at BC, said.

After the CSU Bakersfield Blue and Gold Day on April 11, Trujillo said veterans looking to transfer had a chance to make contact.

"[There are] students there who are peers," he said about the veterans who have already made the transfer to CSUB.

Trujillo hopes having a connection between BC, Taft, and CSUB will create an easier pathway for veterans aiming to transfer.

Downtown post office honors Merle Haggard

By Fitzgerald Graves
Reporter

On Friday April 6 the downtown Bakersfield United States Post Office located at 18th Street was dedicated to a country music icon and Son of Bakersfield, Merle Haggard. Several members of the public, local, state and national government were in attendance to honor Haggard's legacy of redemption and accomplishments.

As this measure took an act of congress to enact, the lead on this effort was United States Representative of California's 23rd congressional district and Majority House Leader, Kevin Owen McCarthy.

McCarthy spoke candidly about the challenges Haggard faced throughout his young life. And how he was able to maintain his passion and talent while paying his debt for an earlier transgression that led to Haggard's incarceration.

"Although Merle was not perfect, he is a model of not giving up and pulling himself upand having a better life," said McCarthy.

McCarthy said, "Getting this act passed was not a partisan effort, but a bi-partisan effort and representatives from both sides of the aisle have a

love for Merle Haggard's music."

The Act H.R.1988 was passed by the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress of the United States of America at the second session approved the name change/dedication of the United States Post Office in Downtown Bakersfield to officially recognized as the Merle Haggard Post Office Building.

Protestors at the event silently held up signs that read, "Why haven't you brought H.R.1406 and H.R.401?" Another sign read, "McCarthy (should Know) Torture is Not OK."

Bakersfield Mayor Karen Goh was a speaker at the dedication to Haggard. She reflected on the 40 number one country hits Haggard accrued and a litany of awards he received.

"What a wonderful city we have and how honored we are to have Merle give [share with] us his gift the.... gift of music." Haggard's song *Today I Started Loving You Again*, has been recorded by roughly 400 various musicians. Bakersfield Sound was also started by Haggard and his band, The Strangers, solidifying their original sound through the twang of a Fender Telecast.

Johnny Owens and the Buck Fever Band performed some of Haggard's

popular songs. Johnny said, "It's a great honor to be a part of this celebration that celebrate a great country music icon."

Goh presented Theresa Haggard, widow to Merle Haggard, with a certificate of honor from the City of Bakersfield in celebration of the life and legacy of Merle Haggard and the newly dedicated post office.

Postmaster Lynda LaForce, the first ever female postmaster in Bakersfield, was the first speaker at the dedication.

"It was on this day two years ago that Merle Haggard died and it was important that we have the dedication on April 6.... although it was a short turn around on the passing of the Act, planning the dedication to Merle, and like myself as well as all who help put it together felt that this event had to be done on this day" said LaForce.

LaForce said, "Merle is a Bakersfield treasure..... whose music I was introduced to by my husband [boyfriend at the time] ... and his music is very moving."

"He has a highway named after him, that I travel on everyday...he has an overpass named for him in Northern California near his home where he passed [Palo Cedro, CA]



FITZGERALD GRAVES / THE RIP
Horace Mitchell and Kevin McCarthy greet one another at the ceremony honoring the late Merle Haggard.

.... Actually, he is internationally acclaimed," Said LaForce.

Several of Haggard's friends gathered near the steps of the newly dedicated Merle Haggard Post Office to share memories about their friend amongst each other.

His long-time friend and manager Fuzzy Owens said, "I'm very pleased to see my friend be honored this way." Stu Taylor,

who was Haggard's head of security and friend for 40 years said, "I really miss the Hag's sense of humor. What a great honor for a great friend."

Over 300 people attended the ceremony in honor of Merle Haggard. Fans, friends and the public celebrated the renaming of the post office and the legacy Haggard left behind.

On self-care and learning how to prioritize it

Student Success: Tips, tricks and practical advice for students

By Paige Atkinson
Reporter

Stress is everywhere. From the second you wake up and open your Twitter feed until your head hits your pillow at night- you will be exposed to stressors. Lightning-fast internet connection and social media sites have done more than provide us with access to information, it has also provided an ever-constant source of stress.

While it is admirable to be informed about the state of the world around you, sometimes it is important to unplug from the news and top trending hashtags. Academic environments come with its own set of stressors. Juggling college courses, work, social events, and financial aid can leave you feeling exhausted and unable to give your schoolwork the attention it requires. The simplest way to avoid burning out during exams is to prioritize self-care.

The term "self-care" has risen to popularity in the past few years, so much so that it has nearly lost all meaning entirely. Most recently the term has been ironically used to excuse laziness and lack of motivation; however, what I mean by "self-care" is a conscious effort to care for your emotional and physical needs.

Over the course of your academic career you may find that the demands of college courses and personal obligations have resulted in you neglecting to take care of your physical or emotional needs. For Paige Atkinson me, this looks like forgetting to take the time to eat meals during the day or allowing myself to get to little sleep.

While I tend to neglect my physical needs during high-stress situations, some neglect their emotional needs instead. This can look like refusing to dedicate time to relaxing or isolating oneself instead of engaging with others. Figuring out where your self-care routine is lacking can allow you to come up with a plan to address these issues.

Take the time to do a personal health inventory. Are you meeting all your physical needs? Do you drink enough water and eat healthfully throughout the day? Do you regularly go without sleep? Do you spend time with your friends and family? Are you spending too much or too little time relaxing? Asking yourself these questions can help you pinpoint which areas of your life in which you can improve your self-care.

Now, don't think you can master self-care all at once. Though caring for yourself a simple task it is not an easy task.

Replacing old habits with new ones takes practice. Instead of completely rearranging your schedule and attempting to simultaneously abandon and replace bad habits, consider addressing one habit at a time. Making small, incremental changes over time is the best way to improve your life in a lasting way.

For example, if one of your goals is to incorporate more social activities into your schedule, start by studying in a group setting. If your goal is to take better care of your physical health, start by making sure you drink enough water each day.

Finally, make sure your self-care schedule is centered around your school schedule, not the other way around. Your academic success should be one of your highest priorities, so try to implement new habits that will have direct effect on your schooling.

If you struggle to spend time with friends, try studying in a group setting. If you struggle to eat enough during the days you are on campus, try making snacks an essential component of your study sessions.

Find which areas of your life are the most stressful and take the time to meet your needs. It may take time to see the results, but caring for yourself is the most effective way to manage academic stress.

FEATURES

The Renegade Rip | www.therip.com

Page 3

Thursday, April 19, 2018

In memory of crime victims

By Jenny Brito
Web & Social Media Editor

Dozens of people gathered in front of the Kern County Superior Court building for the 6th Annual Crime Victims' Rights March on April 10. They held posters of people they have lost and shared their grief with others who have been through the same.

The event held by the Kern County District Attorney's Office began at 4 p.m. at the Liberty Bell. The public had a chance to meet others as well as stop by the many information tables and displays to learn about community resources and support.

Before the march began, several speakers including Bakersfield Mayor Karen Goh and a survivor of Las Vegas Shooting recognized those who have died from violent crime and their families. They also shared messages for those who feel that just-

tice has not been served after losing their loved ones.

District Attorney Lisa Green addressed the crowd and pointed out that their bad experiences with the criminal justice system are unfortunate but somehow expected.

"Sadly, the criminal justice system does not always provide the answers you seek. However, we are a nation of laws, and sometimes the law cannot be reconciled with your expectations of justice," Green said.

Some of the people in attendance disagreed with her statement. Danielle Case, who advocates for harsher penalties for drunk drivers, said that the sentences they serve are not proportionate to the severity of the crime. Dianne Davis, who also attended the event, shared that sentiment.

"Take pedophiles, for example, they should be locked up for life," Davis said.

Other speakers included families that have been victims of crime.

Carl Harris talked about the death of his youngest son, Cody, who was 20 years old when he was shot and killed while at the park in 2013. His father said that time has helped him heal, but he will never understand why crime happens. "How can someone walk up and take the life of somebody they don't know? How do we stop this senseless violence? By all of us working together, we will find a solution," Harris concluded.

Laura Maldonado also took the stage to share her family's story. Her family has had to deal with two deaths in recent years. Her 15-year-old grandson, Cipriano III, died in a stabbing in 2012. Then, in 2016, her 35-year-old son, Cipriano, was killed in a shooting.

The Maldonado family finds comfort being around people who know



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

A Bakersfield police officer gifts flowers to one of the marchers.

how they feel, so they attend the march every year. "It's great because it gets the families out to express their feelings and know that they are not alone. We're showing our support and showing that they're not forgotten," Maldonado said.

After honoring victims by sharing their story, the march began. As they walked, some police officers shook people's hands and gave them flowers.

The group made its way down Truxtun Avenue, 21st Street, and stopped at Mill Creek Park. There, marchers held a candlelight vigil in recognition of those who have passed away.

The District Attorney's Office holds the event as part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which was from April 8 to 14. "We hope that events like these can help ease the burden for families," Green said.

Car enthusiasts unite for a good cause

By Alexandra Apatiga
Editor-in-Chief

The Aztec Image Car Club held its 8th Annual Lowrider Car Show and Super Hop at the Kern County Museum for car enthusiasts and the public alike, on Sunday April 8.

Inviting car clubs from across Bakersfield, the Central Valley and the state of California, nearly 300 cars were present at the lowrider show. Cars of all sorts of designs and models were parked along the roads on the Kern County Museum grounds. Bikes, trucks, and motorcycles were also on display throughout the day for everyone to see.

The lowrider car show featured live music, as well as a live performance from artists such as D-LOC, food, various vendors and a raffle with prizes.

Hundreds came out to participate in the community event, which was benefiting organization such as the Kern County Museum, as well as the Jamison Children's Center and the Mendiburn Magic Foundation.

Junior Gonzalez, the President of the Aztec Image Car Club and member of 15 years, explained that the car



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

One of several lowrider cars is on display at the 8th Annual Lowrider Car Show and Super Hop.

show began as an annual picnic for car owners and their families to get together before it became a car show. Because of this, explained Gonzalez, many car clubs in Bakersfield and throughout California communicate using social media and know one another.

"We all know each other," said Gonzalez, "it's like a circuit, so if there's a show in LA or San Jose or Fresno, we put the word out on social media so everyone can know about it." According to Gonzalez, car clubs from cities like Ventura, Los Angeles and Guadalupe come down to Ba-

kersfield to participate in the Aztec Image Car Club.

Not only do car clubs come to the Aztec Image Car show to mingle, but many chose to participate in the super hop, a competition between car owners to see which car can jump the highest.

According to Gonzalez this event is the highlight of the car show and about \$2,500 in cash prizes was given out to contestants, with the first place car winning \$500 in cash.

"These cars aren't easy to make or maintain," said Gonzalez, "they take a lot of time and money, especially with the paint jobs and the modifications, like hydraulics, to have the cars jump."

Gonzalez shared that the perception around lowriders meant many outside of lowrider culture viewed them as "bad."

"A lot of member as you'll see are Mexican, so the idea around us is that we're not all great. But the thing is, you need a steady source of income and a lot of dedication to be a part of a car club, because it isn't cheap" explained Gonzalez.

"You have to be dedicated to your job or else you can't have one or these cars." But at the end of the day, shared Gonzalez, he can't judge others for what they might think of lowriders.

"We're all here to have fun and enjoy ourselves," said Gonzalez, "we lowriders take pride in our work and this car show is a way for us to share that pride with others."

Bakersfield community celebrates MLK's life during 50th anniversary

By Fatima Lopez
Reporter

On April 7 the community of Bakersfield came together for a rally celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Yokuts Park. As well as commemorating the 50th anniversary of his death.

Although the weather was rainy and gloomy, the support from several people who came out kept the rally cheerful.

There was music from a live band and food vendors such as Uncle's BBQ and The New Spirit of Burgers. As well as informational booths from different organizations such as The Bakersfield LGBTQ group, Dolores Huerta Foundation, Planned Parenthood, CAPK: Community Action Partnership of Kern Energy Program, Gay and Lesbian Center of Bakersfield, Faith in Kern, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

The emcee of the event was Danny Morrison the on-air personality for Bakersfield's New 103.9 The Beat. The speakers from some of the organizations spoke about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s organizing and how it helped shape our community today.

Camila Chavez from the Dolores Huerta Foundation dedicated her



FATIMA LOPEZ / THE RIP
Sara Pettiford at the rally commemorating MLK for the 50th anniversary of his death.

speech to today's youth and their current activism to make a change in our country.

"The civil rights gain of our country must always be defended. I have faith that fifty years from now, my children will speak of the brave actions of today's youth who are taking the necessary actions to make all of our lives safer. They will speak of historic legislation to cure the epidemic gun violence currently plaguing our country. Just like Dr. King, I have a dream that my children will also give homage to the Black Lives Matter and the Me Too movement to make their lives safer," she shared.

Jerry Pettiford who helped organize the MLK rally felt the event was needed to spread positivity and commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"There's been so much political negativity and division that the purpose of this is to say this is what has happened over the last fifty years, we don't have to revisit those years to appreciate what we have today," said Pettiford.

"If we look at one day at a time the world looks pretty bleak, but if we look at it over the last fifty years things have gotten better for all people of color and that's something positive."

Bakersfield College's M.E.Ch.A hosts Annual Noche de Cultura

By Hector Martinez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College M.E.Ch.A club had a Noche de Cultura event that took place on Friday, April 13 in the Outdoor Theater from 6-9 p.m. The event also had a pre-show called Arte A La Fresco which included paintings from BC students; it started at 5 p.m.

Emmanuel Limaco, Internal Representative for the M.E.Ch.A clubs, explained what the event was about. He said that Noche de Cultura is a yearly event that the club does and it is free to the public.

"We like to highlight many different cultures from around the world," explained Limaco.

Limaco added that at last year's event they had a Peruvian group of dancers, and for this year's Noche de Cultura they had two Mexican Folklorico groups performing.

"We also have a Hawaiian group called the Jammin Island Hula," said Limaco.

Limaco explained that the M.E.Ch.A club has had this event at Bakersfield College since the 1970s. "We hope the next generation of the M.E.Ch.A club continues doing the tradition," he added.

Art major student Belinda Rickett, treasurer for the M.E.Ch.A at BC, shared that the performers were not part of the club. They are community members who wanted to display their art for the audience.

Rickett also explained that they always try to make free events to the public and they always have fundraiser money on the side to cover for some of the expenses of events like these.

The club's president, Dezi Von Manos, participated in the event by providing a tribute to famous



HECTOR MARTINEZ / THE RIP
Some of the paintings done by the Fine Arts and Bakersfield College students are displayed at the Arte A La Fresco. Noche De Cultura celebrates different cultures from around the world and is held every year by BC's M.E.Ch.A.

Mexican-American Tejana artist, Selena Quintanilla.

Von Manos is not only the president of the M.E.Ch.A club at BC, she is also BCSGA's president. Von Manos is a communications major at Bakersfield College.

She explained that the club had planned this event since last semester. "We knew the month that we wanted to do the event, but not the actual day so we started planning a semester ahead," said Von Manos.

She added that there were a total of

8 different group performers for the Noche de Cultura.

The next coming event for the Bakersfield College M.E.Ch.A club is a Jess Nieto Memorial Chicano Conference.

"We are honoring everything he did for the Chicano community, as well as acknowledging how important he was for Bakersfield College," Von Manos said.

The event will take place Tuesday, April 17 from 3-8 p.m. at the Levan Center.

Society's influence

Mental Health: For mental wellness and awareness

By Christina Benavides
Copy Editor

There are many ways that society has heavily influenced people that are dealing with mental health issues, and it may be for the worse.

One of the negative influences is definitely within education. There is this pressure put on young adults to have our degrees in a specific span of time, but everyone completes their education at different paces.

There is something extremely important that all Educators must remember, and that is to be more understanding of students with mental illnesses or mental health issues. Our minds work differently than yours, and you should never assume that we do not need accommodations.

If students are not mentally well and are struggling in a course, they should be accommodated in some way.

Mental illness has ups and downs. A student can start a semester feeling mentally ready, however when mental illness strikes, it can be devastating. There needs to be more compassion and kindness with students from educators, especially if a student chooses to share with them that they are going through a hard time.

Another negative influence affecting those struggling with mental health is the beauty standards for both men and women. I am not saying only this specific group of people is only targeted, but I believe they are largely affected.

Modern beauty standards are ridiculously pushed on society.

Everywhere you look there is some form of this, an example is social media. If a person with a mental health issue is scrolling through Facebook or even Instagram and are not in a good place, social media can be unhealthy. All you see is other people's achievements when you are currently trying to reach your own. It can be a downer when you compare your life to others. Whether you are comparing your appearance to another person or your achievements, it is unhealthy for you. Log off until you are mentally healthy enough to be on social media.

Something else that a person with mental health issues is affected by are TV shows and films that are directed at those who are dealing with mental illness, but claims it is for awareness purposes only.

I am all for awareness, but if you do not have a trigger warning before or you do not pose the characters correctly, then it can cause harm. The film "Split" directed by M. Night Shyamalan, was a thriller about a man who had multiple personalities. Although, I personally thought the film was well done, I did not like the paranormal aspect of it. I would think that someone who has a similar personality disorder would find it offensive, and inaccurate.

Another show that probably should not be watched if you are dealing with mental illness or suicidal thoughts is Skins (UK). The show is beautiful written, but it touches base on several sensitive topics. All over Tumblr the main character named, "Effy" is glamorized. Young teenagers compare themselves to her, and want to be her, even though she was absolutely mentally unstable most of the show.

There are plenty of negative influences out there, however you must push through it. Do not let it get to you. You are worth more than what your education level is, your appearance, and do not consume content about mental illness if you are going through it. It mostly makes things worse for you.

In time, I hope mental health reaches more attention, and is portrayed with trigger warnings. I truly believe that there is always more we can do to help those in need. There is no excuse not to.



Christina Benavides

The Spectacular World of Science Annual Convention

By Issy Barrientos
Reporter

A line for booths ranging from rocks to robotics filled the room at the Double Tree Hotel on April 7 during The Spectacular World of Science 8th Annual Convention from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event was presented by the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History and Science to demonstrate the scientific side of the community.

Attendees would need to pay an admission fee of \$9 for a child and \$12 for an adult.

David Hanley had a room where he talked science and asked audience members to participate in the activities that he was conducting.

Hanley, a board member of the Buena Vista Museum, made the science experiments that he was conducting more of a performance, which is where his motto "Science as a Performing Art," or SAAPA comes into play.

He wants people to know about science in Kern County. Hanley claimed, "there is more science in



ISSY BARIENTOS / THE RIP

David Hanley using the audience to conduct electricity to light up a bulb on April 7 at the convention.

Kern County than anywhere in the continental United States."

He wants to promote scientific literacy for better quality of life improvements.

Also in the main lobby were the

science projects of students that will be going to a state science competition.

Attendees could vote on which project they liked best and the top three would get money prize with third place getting \$50, second \$100 and first \$150.

The third-place winner was Gianna Nicomedes. At 12 years old her project was on rocket science and it dealt with how fin placement affects a rocket.

Nicomedes spent about a week or two on research and two days on experimentation. She might try rocket science but NASA is defiantly her goal. Alexander Fan, 14, won second place.

Fan's project, Medication Adherence, proposed that men take less prescribed medication than women.

He got that idea from his father, who is a doctor, complaining that his patients do not take their medication.

He thought that women would take their medication more because of estrogen which enhances memory.

Through his research he found out that 43 percent of medication adher-

ence belongs to women and men at 36 percent.

Zachary Been, 12, won first place. His project, Grassy Gas, involved using lawn clippings to create biofuel. His experimentation took two days while his research took five hours.

Notable speakers at the event were Bakersfield College Professor Nick Strobel who was presenting on eclipses. Miles Muzio talked about CSI forensic.

Erika Martinez, an attendee, heard about the event through her sister. Her sister's child did not have a project so Martinez was "just coming to see," the event.

She learned that it takes about a month for a rock to get shiny.

BC Professor Michael Korcok was there with his son because he saw a flyer for the event.

Korcok said that he had been waiting a few weeks to attend. He thought that the event was "terrific."

His son, John, played on a bicycle that would power light bulbs if the rider went fast enough. He thought that the game was "too easy."

BC guest speaker Jimmy Santiago Baca speaks on poetry

By Alexis Pedroza
Reporter

Bakersfield College welcomed guest speaker, Jimmy Santiago Baca on April 4 in the Levan Center for the Humanities.

The event had two different times one taking place in the morning at 10 a.m. and the other was at 7 p.m. This presentation was open to the public and included free admission.

The event was introduced by BC Faculty member Jack Hernandez, who gave a brief blurb about how thankful they were to be able to have this presentation for everyone; then called Baca up to speak.

Baca greeted everyone and proceeded to talk about his accolades and accomplishments as a poet and writer. He mentioned how people perceive him differently depending on

where they are from, he even joked about how most Americans nowadays do not appreciate poets.

"When I tell people I'm a poet, they reply with so you're a lazy bum who doesn't want to work," Baca said jokingly. He also told the audience that he writes because he really enjoys it and doesn't need notoriety.

Baca made a clear acknowledgement that April 4 was the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.

He explained the importance of MLK's work throughout the years and the progress we have made in society.

Baca then read a few of his poems that he wrote about oppression and overcoming the struggles in life.

Afterwards he talked about how his own experiences and how it has shaped him into the person he is to-

day. "I like when someone challenges me intellectually," Baca said.

He also mentioned how over the years he has helped those who are not good writers become proficient in writing, even going as far as hosting his home as a sanctuary for those who want to learn.

Baca then introduced his book "A Place to Stand" which is his memoir and details how the written word helped him through life.

After he read a few excerpts people were able to ask questions and talk to him as well.

Attendee Christian Perez mentioned how he enjoyed the presentation. "I really liked hearing his experiences as a writer," Perez said, "I also enjoyed his poems."

The event wrapped up shortly after the questions and Baca thanked everyone in attendance.



DIANA CORONADO / THE RIP

Jimmy Santiago Baca opens up about his past and shares stories about his childhood with audience members. He mentions the way poets are treated today in America, and recites a few of his poems.

CSUB holds Blue and Gold event at BC

By Issy Barrientos
Reporter

Students gathered around the Fireside Room on April 11 during the California State University Bakersfield (CSUB) Blue and Gold event. The event was held to help Bakersfield College students transfer to CSUB.

According to Natasha Harris, who works at the CSUB transfer center, there were, "Different support systems," such as financial aid, councilors, 22 CSUB departments and six clubs and admissions. Harris said it was the transfer center that provided the free food to whoever had a ticket.

Véronica Bethea-Amey, from admissions and records, was there admitting students on the spot. She admitted people with upper division credits, English, speech, Logic or Critical Thinking, 2.0 GPA and math above algebra. She admitted roughly 15 students.

Diana Hernandez, an ambassador for 15 to Finish, and April King, an advisor were there informing students about their group. 15 to Finish is a group that aims to help students take 15 units every semester or 30 for a full year to finish their time at the university within two years. The group's aim is for transfer students but it also recognizes two and four year grads. King said the group offers 30 scholarships.

Ed Webb from the Office of Student Involvement was there to talk about the various clubs that are on campus because he oversees them all. Andrew Razo, a former CSUB student and current BC student, talked about the Campus Gamers club. Razo said the club is one of the most active groups on campus. He said they do more than video games such as events.

One event that Webb mentioned was the Extra Life event. Extra Life is a charity event similar to a fun run. It is a group event and one must raise a certain amount of money to be able to participate. The Children's Medical Center presented Extra Life the Corporate Partner of the Year Award after raising \$147,000.

Ellie Quiroz, a two year BC student, was there visiting the various booths. She is planning to attend CSUB during the Fall of 2018. She spoke with the proprietors of the Arts and Humanities booths as she is a violin playing Music major. Even though she applied late she was still accepted by people like Bethea-Amey. Quiroz liked, "Just being able to get answers."



ISSY BARIENTOS / THE RIP

Students seen talking to some of the many booths during the Blue and Gold Event hosted by CSUB.

Renegade Professor Reggie Williams speaks about beauty at open Gadfly Cafe discussion

Sabrina Lopez
Reporter

The Gadfly Cafe hosted their last discussion for the spring semester in the Norman Levan Center on April 11. The Discussion was led by Reggie Williams, a philosophy professor at Bakersfield College, on the topic of Beauty and the Pursuit, Privileges, and Pressures of it.

The dialogue invited faculty, staff,

students, and the public to share their opinions about this timely issue that affects men and women alike. Professor Williams opened the discussion with the following questions, "What is beauty? What makes someone or something beautiful in terms of nature and people? And what rides on the answers to these questions?" The concept of beauty varies from different cultures, to what's hot in today's fashion, and gender.

The Beauty/Cosmetic Industry (including the body soaps, shampoo) is valued high and most likely exceeding \$445 billion industry.

So though exact numbers are elusive, one can assume that the cosmetics industry that deals solely with makeup is well over one billion dollars.

This number seems to be accurate, corresponding to Professor Williams inquiry on a study that was on girls

between the ages of (8-18) 58 percent of those girls wear makeup regularly. Now moving on to the comparison of Beauty and Fashion, one attendee answered that conceivably there's self-image which can be shaped by fashion, but by and large fashion is a construct of society. The chosen topics are issues that resonate with stu-

dents, staff, and the public alike. Another chimed in on the comparison of Gender and Beauty, and how there is a double standard that reaches down to young boys and girls and pressures them to reach certain expectations. The discussions are informal so attendees can walk in late, leave early, or just relax and listen to the opinions of their peers.

They were designed this way also so Professor Williams isn't lecturing those in attendance.

"This is a safe place for people to come and just listen and where we can air out our difference, while being respectful and honest of one another's opinions," said Williams. The next Gadfly Café discussions will take place in the Fall.



SABRINA LOPEZ / THE RIP

BC Professor, Reggie Williams has discussion about Beauty in the Norman Levan Center April 10.

Kenyan Artist comes to Bakersfield

By Alexis Pedroza
Reporter

Bakersfield College hosted a presentation by Kenyan Artist Andrew Kamiti on April 5 in the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center. The presentation started with BC professor Krista Moreland introducing Kamiti and giving a brief introduction.

Kamiti then took over and showed a video clip about his home country, Kenya. The video showed Kenya's various terrains and wildlife as well as the tourism spots.

He then shifted to a slideshow about his sketches and drawings of the wildlife in Kenya. Most notable was the process and different techniques that he has to do in order to complete his art.

The presenter mentioned that it takes about a week to complete his drawings, which start off as a simple sketch of a picture that he took. He then layers his sketches with more

details that create different textures. He stated that he had developed a hobby of sketching as a child and later became his passion.

In his earlier works as an artist he focused primarily on insects and plants then made a change to wildlife mammals in 2008.

One of the many spots Kamiti pointed out as being a phenomenal place to visit was Lake Nakuru where there are many flamingos that reside there.

The audience seemed very intrigued by all the slides that he showed.

After his presentation the audience got the chance to ask a few questions. When asked how does he feel when he draws? Kamiti replied "It makes me feel very happy." Another interesting question was when he was asked how long it takes him to take picture of the wildlife?

Kamiti said "It usually take about 3-4 days."

He explained that he takes hundreds of photos and chooses about 3 to work from for his drawings.

After the presentation the audience had the opportunity to view his work up close. Moreland expressed her satisfaction with the event, "It was a great opportunity," she said, "I would like there to be more guest speakers, students really enjoy this learning experience."

She also mentioned how she hopes to develop a program, "Nexus" that helps bridge the gap of learning for students.

BC Student Edna Martin expressed a few words about the event, "It was fun and enjoyable," Martin said, "I need fun events like these to make learning more interesting."

Another BC student Reyna Ruiz also enjoyed the presentation, "I would recommend other students to attend future event like these because it's pretty cool. Kamiti also expressed his feelings toward his first time be-



ALEXIS PEDROZA / THE RIP

Andrew Kamiti presenting a slideshow about his home country Kenya.

ing a speaker at any college.

"I loved it" he said "I would do it again if asked to." He also mentioned

that he enjoys traveling but will most likely stay in Kenya and use it's wild-life as his primary subjects for his art.

The Korean Culture Club holds their 2nd Annual Korean Festival



KARLA GUTIERREZ / THE RIP
The First Bite performs at the cafeteria. Top (left to right): Eddie Valencia and Lex Woo; Bottom (left to right): Hope Vu and YouA Chang



KARLA GUTIERREZ / THE RIP
Jasmine Lyons running the K-Pop table where she's showing her collection of CDs and glow sticks

By Karla Gutierrez
Photo Editor

The 2nd Annual Korean Culture Festival was held in the Fireside Room on April 9. This event was host by the Bakersfield College Korean Culture Club. This event started from 11:30 a.m. and ended at 2:30 p.m.

They provide Korean food for all the guest that came in and join the festival. There was also a representative from California State University Bakersfield, Sonia Silva, who is the director of the International Students and Programs Enrollment Management. For those who are transferring to CSU Bakersfield can enroll in this program and study abroad. When talking to Silva, she said that people

can finish their degree in a different country and still graduate from CSUB. If the country a person wants to go to does not have their major, Silva recommended to add a minor because some majors are required to add a minor.

The Korean Culture Club also invited The First Bite, who are a K-Pop dance cover group on YouTube. The members contain Eddie Valencia, YouA Chang, Lex Woo, and Hope Vu. They performed three times in the cafeteria.

Each time they performed, it was a different song. The three songs that they performed was "Black Dress" by CLC, "Bad Boy" by Red Velvet, and "DDD" by EXID. When Jasmine Lyons, who is a part of the Korean Culture Club, asked the au-

dience if they like the performance, they all cheered.

In the festival they played a game called "K-Pop Random Dance Game" where the participants had to dance to whatever song came on. The songs varied from different artist like BTS, EXO, Red Velvet, TWICE, etc.

They also had a raffle going on where people could win K-Pop and non-K-Pop stuff. The winner would win simple stuff like a poster of BTS or small standees of a K-Pop idol. One table had a lot of the K-Pop collectables.

For example, it had glow sticks and CDs from different groups. Another table had laid out books where people can read about the history of Korea.

Hackathon takes place at BC

By Hector Martinez
Reporter

The 2nd Annual Health and Social Justice Hackathon took place at Bakersfield College on April 12-14 and organizers of the event were BC Professors Edward Rangel, computer science, and Sarah Baron, Public Health Science. The three-day long competition is mainly for BC students to come together as a group and build technology-wise tools that can be used by the community. The participating teams had to show judges a technical prototype and also a group presentation explaining what their project was about. The main goal of this event was to deliver more awareness on public health. It began with a preliminary panel

session on Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Forum 102. At the session, the presenters covered several subjects such as public health, pollution, mental health stigma and awareness. Some of the members of the panel were Sandy Woo from Kern Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Christy Leyvas Medical Investigator for the Kern County Public Health Services Department, and Genevieve Gale from the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, among others.

On day two of the competition, there were two workshops at Forum 102 and B5 respectively from 1-2 p.m. The moderator for the workshop inside Forum 102 was Carlos Bello, Kern Family Healthcare, Linda Urata, Regional Planner, Kern Council of Governments was

there to mainly discuss air pollution in Kern County.

Urata explained that the Kern Council of Governments has worked on things like health awareness for indoor and outdoor pollution that can decrease someone's own health. Urata also explained that one of the pollutants inside one's own house can be the constant use of a fireplace. She also said that the most common pollutant outdoors are vehicles and other sources.

"80 percent of our air pollution usually comes from mobile sources," said Urata. Urata explained that it is important to reduce traffic congestion because that can be another source of pollution, and gave the advice to take the bus, ride a bike or carpool with friends.

Kerem Sanga discussing film "First Girl I Loved" at Bakersfield College

By Paige Atkison
Reporter

Bakersfield College hosted a showing of the film "First Girl I Loved," followed by a discussion with the filmmaker on Thursday, April 12.

The film screening was hosted by the Bakersfield LGBTQ and Helen Acosta, faculty coordinator and the chair of the Communication department.

"First Girl I Loved" is an independent film that follows the high-

schooler, Anne, played by Dylan Gelula, on her journey to discovering she is a lesbian. The film covers many sensitive topics, including complexities of consent and the difficulty involved in coming out to friends and family as LGBT.

The film's main character, Anne, struggles to come to terms with her own sexual identity while managing her personal relationships.

The antagonist, Clifton, discovers the importance of consent and the validity of LGBT relationships.

The film's director and writer,

Kerem Sanga stayed after the film showing to answer audience questions.

Sanga discussed the personal significance of his younger sister coming out to him as LGBT and how it influenced his decision to make an LGBT film.

"My sister and I are still unclear as to who came up with the idea first," said Sanga.

Sanga discussed the film's success in the 2016 Sundance Film Festival where it won the Best of Next Audience Award.

Spring Fling Carnival kicks off the spring season



DIANA CORONADO / THE RIP

BC students struggling to survive, as the huge wrecking tries to knock them down one by one.

By Naythan Bryant
Reporter

Bakersfield College held its annual Spring Fling Carnival in celebration to kick off the spring season on Wednesday, April 11. The event was coordinated by the Office of Student Life with help from community volunteers as well as several staff and faculty and took place on the CSS lawn from 4 to 8 p.m.

The carnival was originally scheduled to be held the week before spring vacation, but was postponed due to heavy rain.

Nallele Sanchez, a student employee and member of the production team for the Office of Student Life, says the overall goal for the event was to just have some fun.

"We hope it will be something fun for the students. We all need a breather after stressing about midterms and

exams so now we can let loose," said Sanchez.

"It is also an opportunity for the community to come and see what BC has to offer because it is open to the public with free admission."

Rock climbing, the three-legged race, bowling, giant Jenga, hula hooping, and face painting were just a few of the activities that took place at the carnival. Students could also treat themselves to free snow cones and cotton candy after playing some games.

First 5, a local organization committed to supporting children in Kern County, also hosted a booth at the event to offer any guidance and advice to those attending.

Lastly, live music was performed by band The Akoustiks throughout the event. BC plans on hosting the event again next year, hopefully this time without having to reschedule.

Gustavo Aguirre, Jr., Kern County Coordinator, Central California Environmental Justice Network was there to also give important information about the air pollution. Aguirre shared the five air quality levels. Level one is when individuals have no restriction to being outside their houses. Level two is considering reducing some outdoor activities because there is somewhat pollution outside. Level three advises individuals that they need to exercise indoors and not outdoors. Level four is when there is more pollution out-

Shocker! It is scripted

Professional Wrestling Culture: From a fan's perspective

By Karla Gutierrez
Photo Editor

I was that child that was very naïve when an adult would tell me wrestling was "fake." Looking back at it now, they were an idiot as much as I was not wanting to accept the truth.

When I was a youngster, I would go to wrestling show and experience them actually chopping each other in the chest, which always confused me on why people called it fake. Well here's a dose of reality to those who call it real and those who call fake: it's scripted. Everything is predetermined and they plan the high spots on what they want to do in the ring. However, most of bump and falls are real.

In the basics of wrestling, wrestlers have to learn how to bump safely and how to do everything properly because if they don't, well that's how injuries happen. Most beginners who go through this training by the first week are already bruised up and have back burns from the ring ropes.

Professional wrestling is a live performance. They don't have stunt doubles to take their bumps through a table. Pro wrestlers aren't there to hurt each other either. They put their body through hell for the entertainment of the fans.

Seth Rollins, current WWE Intercontinental Champion, said, "You can be the smartest guy in the world and not understand what it is to have a presence on stage." With the wrestling, comes the character. I feel like the only wrestler that I can think of that executes his wrestling persona very well, but is so nice in real life is Cody Rhodes.

Rhodes can make everyone hate him with his persona. Hell, I can admit that he makes me dislike him when he's in the ring. However, outside the ring, he's the nicest person I have ever met. I've met him twice, and both times he's been nothing but genuine. So when people say, "Why are you hating this person if they're only playing a character? It's not real." Reason being is because they're doing their job damn well.

Becoming a wrestler and doing it safely is such a big part of wrestling. I'll give an example of this move called the "Tombstone Piledriver." Opponent A who's doing the move on Opponent B has to pick him up and has to flip Opponent B upside down to where Opponent B's head is "supposed to" hit the canvas. Now to make things clear, Opponent B's head has to be slightly above the knees or they will have an accident like the one that happened with Stone Cold vs Owen Hart at SummerSlam of 1997.

Owen Hart is a great wrestler, however in this incident, he grabbed Stone Cold to do the "Tombstone Piledriver" out of nowhere and Stone Cold's head was below the knee therefore getting him almost paralyzed and causing his to have neck surgery. Stone Cold, after the incident, had many neck issues and was a cause of why he retired from in-ring competition.

There's a reason why some of the punches to the head look "fake." The performer's job is not to hurt their competitor, but to keep them safe from any harm. Chris Benoit always comes to mind when it comes to that issue.

He took many incidents to the head that after he committed suicide, a doctor did research on his brain. The result came out to him having the brain of a "85-year-old Alzheimer's patient" according to the Sports Legacy Institute. Since then, WWE has strict about strikes to the head.

Professional wrestling is not UFC or MMA, even though some come from that background. It's an art that is "very complex and underappreciated" as Seth Rollins mentioned. It takes time to understand the psychology in pro wrestling. Once a person gets that down, they can enjoy the classic magic that happens in the ring.



Movie Review

"Ready Player One" sends out a message

By Hector Martinez
Reporter

The film "Ready Player One" was released on March 29, 2018, and it is based on Ernest Cline's science fiction, action adventure book "Ready Player One." It is a film directed by Steven Spielberg.

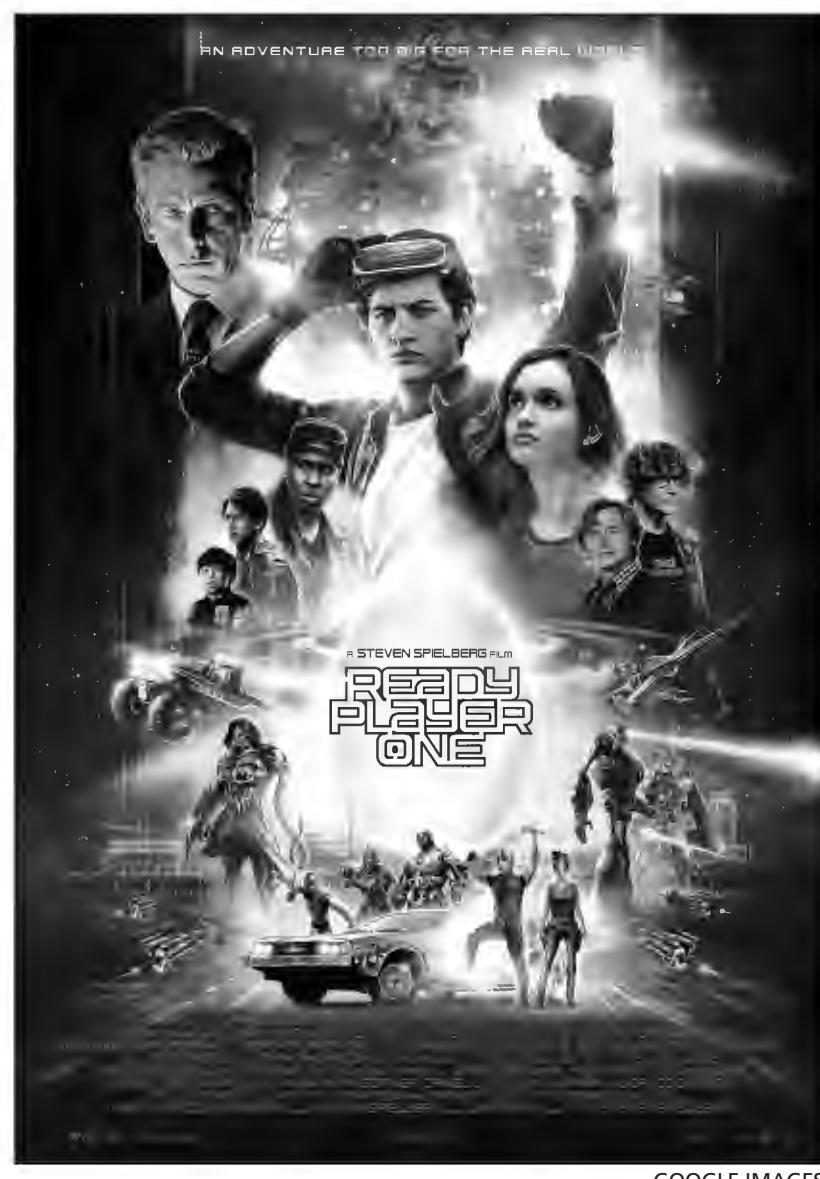
The movie takes place in Columbus, Ohio in 2045 and almost everyone is playing a virtual reality universe called OASIS.

The main cast of the film starts with Tye Sheridan as Wade Watts who is a teenager that plays a lot in the OASIS. The nickname Watts uses for the OASIS is called Parzival. Olivia Cooke plays Samantha Cook, she and Wade Watts meet at the OASIS and become friends. Cook's OASIS nickname is Art3mis. Lena Waithe is Helen Harris and she is Watts best friend in the OASIS, but on the OASIS she has a male character called Aech. Finally, Ben Mendelsohn stars as Nolan Sorrento who the CEO of the OASIS, and he is the antagonist of the film as he seeks full control of the virtual reality game.

Watts lives with his aunt and her abusive husband and just like many other people in the film, OASIS is his only escape from the real world. OASIS is where people hang out every day, where they can go to a club or do any other social activities, and where they can do almost anything except eat, sleep, and go to the restroom. That is why OASIS is a very successful corporation because it has created an environment for everyone to join.

The film is mainly focused on the virtual reality because that is where the plot and good amount of film take place.

The deceased co-creator of the OA-



GOOGLE IMAGES

SIS James Halliday, played by Mark Rylance, leaves a challenge to every player of OASIS that consists of finding three keys on three different scenarios that take place inside the game, but inside the OASIS there a lot of

games not just one so finding the keys is difficult for them. After finding the keys Halliday will grant the winner an Easter egg, which will grant full control of the OASIS to anyone.

Two of the things I really enjoyed

about this movie was that many objects and characters of other movies appeared on this film. The Robocop character, as well as the Ninja Turtles, appear inside the OASIS. Another cool object that appears in the OASIS is the famous DeLorean which is used in the famous "Back to the Future" trilogy, and the DeLorean is Watts' vehicle that he uses to win his first key on a racing game. Another thing that I liked was that the OASIS was really well designed. The coolest thing about it is the way player can switch from one game to another, without having to swap a disc or anything like that, that makes the game really awesome.

One thing that did not really convince me was the plot because I just felt that having the opportunity to gain full control of a big corporation by winning in a virtual reality game does not make a lot of sense. Another thing was that people that have actually read the book have told me that some things were taken out and also new ones were added by Spielberg, but still most of them consider his movie a genius work.

The film was really great and it also gives a good message for all of us that like to play video games. Sometimes when we play virtual reality or online games we forget to do what is really important in life and that is to enjoy reality. No matter how many friends we may have on a game we also need to live in the present and try to overcome our situations and problems that each of us might have in life.



Album Review

Post Malone's "Stoney" is as bland & underwhelming as his personality

By Paige Atkison
Reporter

Post Malone's debut album, "Stoney" is receiving much attention over a year after its release. The album garnered attention after Malone released specific songs from the album as singles. However, Malone's success is largely undeserved.

"Stoney" though marketed as a rap album, contains almost no rap. Malone simply dips his toes into the waters of rap music; his version of rapping consists of speaking poorly-conceptualized lyrics into the microphone while the sound engineer drowns Malone's vocals in auto-tune.

The album begins with a song entitled "Broken Whiskey Glass," a pathetic and droned ode to drug abuse and alcoholism that sets the tone for rest of the songs to follow. Malone's lyrics feign depth, but are in reality a farcical exploration of existentialism.

Though Malone would like to paint himself as a soulful musician processing his emotions through song, the music he produces is devoid of meaning. Rather than exploring and challenging the common negative thought processes caused by depression, Malone simply indulges his negative thoughts.

It is this immoderate self-indulgence that makes Malone's album truly unbearable. The album continually glorifies drug abuse and alcoholism while simultaneously painting Malone as an impotent bystander en-

during much suffering. However, the suffering Malone alludes to is never characterized as the result of his own actions. Instead, Malone casts all of his hardships onto the shoulders of his former girlfriends and "haters," which is to say, people who are not his fans. The song "No Option" perfectly exemplifies Malone's victim complex as he spends the entire song venting his frustration regarding the existence of his critics.

Malone highlights his perceived victimhood throughout the album, which could perhaps provide the listener with a sense of banal comfort if Malone's vocalizations were not so weak.

Malone dances around the notes rather than simply singing them and his inconsistent warbling is even more noticeable with the use of auto-tune. I can only assume his warbling is a failed attempt at vibrato.

Sadly, the album's lyrics are just as lacking as Malone's vocals. Malone repeatedly refers to the women in his life using derogatory terms. The song "I Fall Apart" perfectly exemplifies this in that Malone refers to his former girlfriend as a "devil in the form of a whore."

Beyond being derogatory and lazy, Malone's lyrics are simplistic and infuriatingly repetitive. The eleventh song of the album, "Too Young," is as repetitive as it is incoherent. The last phrases of the majority of the lines are repeated multiple times through-



GOOGLE IMAGES

out the song, and a significant amount of the "lyrics" are the artists making gunshot sounds. It seems as if each irrelevant onomatopoeia is met with an equally useless "ooh," "ahh," and "ayy's."

Malone's album leaves the listener wanting; wanting your wasted time back, wanting to flush your ears with

saline, and wanting to forget whine and drone ringing in your ears.



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

Ninth place for newspaper in 2018 for national Best of Show contest by Associated Collegiate Press

Eighth place nationally in 2018 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.

The Renegade Rip

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Renegade Events

News

Bakersfield College is now smoke-free, and people are no longer allowed to smoke tobacco on campus.

Campus Events

- Apr. 19:** Your Career Questions Answered at the Fireside Room from 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Apr. 19:** Incoming! Planetarium show on April 19 at the Planetarium - MS 112 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Apr. 19:** Revisiting the Two Cultures - Alenda Y. Chang
- Apr. 19:** Spring Choir Concert: "Moments" at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Apr. 20:** SubUrbia at the Black Box Theatre (PAC 107) from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Apr. 21:** Adult Education Express Enrollment in Arvin! at Arvin High School Library from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Apr. 21:** Garden Fest - Discover the Art Around Us at the Renegade Parks from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Apr. 23:** BC Jazz Plays the Beatles at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Apr. 26:** Industrial Technology and Transportation Pathway Employer Fair at the Stem Courtyard from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Apr. 26:** Reading the Classics: "Tartuffe" at the Levan Center from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- May 01:** Digital Delano Rural Archives Showcase Event at DST 118 starting at noon to 2:00 p.m.
- May 01:** Counseling/Advising - Shafter Learning Center at 236 James St., Shafter CA 93263 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- May 04:** Law Day Conference 2018 at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- May 09:** Retiree Reception at the Fireside Room from 9:00-11:30 a.m.
- May 11:** African American Pre-Commencement Celebration at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- May 11:** Veterans Pre-Commencement Celebration at the Levan Center from 3:30-5:00 p.m.
- May 11:** Industrial Automation Baccalaureate Degree Pre-Commencement Celebration at the Renegade Park from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Off Campus Events

- Apr. 19:** 2018 Conference featuring Laila Ali at the Bakersfield Women's Business Conference from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Apr. 19:** La Chupitos at the Fox Theater starting at 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 19:** Coffee with the Mayor at the Coffee Mill from 7:30 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- Apr. 19:** \$2 Day at BV Museum at the Buena Vista Museum of National History and Science from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Apr. 20:** Marriage Conference 2018 at RiverLakes Community Church from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Apr. 20:** Chamber Music Concert at the CSUB Music Building 127 from 7:30-11:59 p.m.
- Apr. 21:** The Mac and Cheese Fest 2018 at CSUB Amphitheatre from 2-6 p.m.
- Apr. 21:** The 3rd Annual Medieval California Festival at the Kern County Fair Grounds
- Apr. 21:** The WatchTower at Beacon Studios from 3-8 p.m.
- Apr. 21:** Power and Respect 661 Presents: Nothin But Body Bags at Jerry's Pizza & Pub from 8-11:30 p.m.
- Apr. 22:** Haggard Boxcar Music Festival at the Kern County Museum from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Apr. 22:** Quinceanera Expo & Fashion Show Bakersfield 2018 from noon to 4:00 p.m.
- Apr. 26:** I-rish I Knew More About Teeling Irish Whiskey at the Old Fashioned Drinkery from 6-9 p.m.
- Apr. 26:** An Evening with Steve Kilbey & Amanda Kramer at a private home in Bakersfield at a Private Home from 7-10 p.m.
- Apr. 27:** 32 Annual Bakersfield Jazz Festival at CSU Bakersfield Amphitheatre from 7:10-30 p.m.
- Apr. 28:** Photo Safari at the Kern County Museum from 1-3 p.m.
- Apr. 28:** 3rd Annual Tunes & Tacos Festival at Stramler Park [Metro Area] from 5-10 p.m.
- May 18:** Bidi Bidi Bakersfield 2018 at the Elements Venue from 8:00 p.m. to midnight
- May 25:** Temblor Brewing Presents: Chelsea Williams w/ The Sheriffs

Compiled by Karla Gutierrez
Photo Editor

Write The Rip

Letters should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by a signature and the letter writer's identity must be verified. The Rip reserves the right to edit letters, however, writers will be given the opportunity to revise lengthy or unacceptable submissions.

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

How to reach us

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

Renegade baseball team defeats LA Valley, 10-9



NAYTHAN BRYANT / THE RIP

Bakersfield College baseball player, Zach Williams, driving through the ball in the bottom of the fourth inning against LA Valley at Gerry Collis Field on April 5 at Gerry Collis Field.

By Naythan Bryant
Reporter

Bakersfield College's baseball team defeated LA Valley 10-9 on April 5 at Gerry Collis Field. The game was decided by an explosive fourth inning in which the Renegades scored five runs on three hits.

LA Valley scored three runs in the top of the first inning to get an early lead on BC. The Renegades were able to score one in the second inning with the help of Brycin Hernandez' double and RBI from Luke Lewis, but the top of third inning saw LA Valley score another three runs on only one hit coming from Jonathan Castenada. Zach Williams, Kyle Willman, Ryan Darbee, and Hernandez all registered a single in the bottom of the third inning to score two runs, bringing the score to 6-3. Hernandez made impact again in the bottom of the fourth with a three RBI triple off LA Valley pitcher Isaac Gutierrez. The triple, combined with Lewis' double and Willmans RBI, totaled five runs in the inning to give BC their first lead of the day, one they would hold onto through the end of the game. The Renegades scored their last two runs in the fifth inning with hits from Willman and Ashanti Ross. BCs defense and pitcher Joey Salinas allowed only two runs in the last four inning to keep the Monarchs from making a comeback. Salinas was awarded the win after allowing three runs on seven hits with three strike-outs. Willman and Hernandez led the offense with three RBIs each followed by two RBIs from Lewis. The win brings BCs conference record to 8-3 and their overall record to 14-17. BC will face off against LA Valley at home again on April 10 at 3 p.m.

BC baseball beats Valley, 18-6

By Naythan Bryant
Reporter

Bakersfield College's baseball defeated LA Valley College 18-6 in their highest scoring game of the season on April 10 at Gerry Collis Field.

The Renegades offense was led by Luke Lewis who went 4-4 at the plate with five RBIs. BC players Brycin Hernandez, Joe Pineda, and Isaac Ramos registered two RBIs each with an inside the park homerun from Hernandez in the bottom of the third inning. The Renegades scored seven in the first three innings and kept the bats swinging through the end of the game, scoring five in the bottom of the eighth to secure the win.

BC pitcher Chris Diaz was awarded the win after allowing three runs earned on four hits with four strikeouts. While LA Valley pitcher Chasen Shaw was credited with the loss, the Monarchs pitched eight different players on the mound for the game. Shaw allowed six runs on six hits before being pulled.

Together, the Renegades registered 17 hits against LA Valley with 13 players being walked. The victory secures BCs first place position in the southern section of the Western State Conference by half a game and moves their record to 16-17, 10-3 WSC. BCs next home game is against West LA on April 14 at noon.



NAYTHAN BRYANT / THE RIP

Bakersfield College player, Ashanti Ross, crossing home plate in the bottom of the first inning.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

BC player, McKenna Valencia, hits the softball as she runs first base at game against Santa Monica.

Bakersfield College women's softball team wins game against Santa Monica at Gerry Collis Field, 8-0

By Alexandra Apatiga
Editor-in-Chief

The Bakersfield College softball team played against Santa Monica College Thursday, April 5 and won 8-0 in a softball shutout. This game marks the sixth game in which BC hasn't allowed a run from the opposing team, with BC winning the game in inning-five.

BC softball pitcher Kylee Fahy threw the pitch which won the game, only giving up two hits and striking out eight players in the five-inning game. BC batters Jordan Jimenez and McKenna Valencia both went 2-3 with an RBI each. Jimenez scored two runs and Valencia scored one run. The BC Renegades are currently sitting at 28-6 overall after their April 5 home game and a game at Porterville College with a seven game win streak.

The Bakersfield College softball team also sit at 10-1 in the Western State Conference North Division, with their next game being played at home against Allan Hancock College on Thursday, April 12.

If the Renegades win this upcoming conference game, then their chances of making it to the conference championship become less of a dream and more of a reality. Allan Hancock have 8-2 in the conference, meaning winning this game would put BC ahead two games.

Two more conference games remain for the 2018 regular-season schedule, one on April 19 against Cuesta College and another April 24 against Moorpark College.

BC's final home game will be against Allan Hancock on April 12.

Renegade softball defeats Allan Hancock College, 5-1

By Alexandra Apatiga
Editor-in-Chief

The Renegades' win against Allan Hancock College at the last softball home game on Thursday, April 12, brings the BC softball team one game closer to winning their first league title since 2012.

The game finished 5-1, bringing their win streak to 8 wins and their conference wins to 11-1 and their overall season to 29-6, with two more Western State-North Conference games remaining.

The game played for seven innings, with BC scoring two runs during the second inning, two additional runs in the fourth inning, and one run in inning 5. Allan Hancock scored a single run during the fourth innings.

The run scored by the opposing team ended BC's previous streak held by BC softball pitcher Kylee Fahy for seven consecutive shut-outs.

Despite this Fahy was able to make 10 strikeouts and hit a triple into right field in inning 2, giving BC their first run of the game followed shortly by their second run.

Fahy, a BC freshman from Liberty High School, is currently the states leader in wins, strike outs and complete games (26-234-24).

Allan Hancock scored a run in inning 4 on a BC fielding error, but BC quickly made up for it with two runs at the bottom on of the fourth.

By the end of the game, BC had eight hits with three coming from BC's Aryka Chavez and two from Monica Alvarez.

The remainder of the 2018 season has five games left, with BC's next conference game scheduled for April 19 against Cuesta College.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

During the home game at Bakersfield College against Allan Hancock College, BC softball player, Jordan Jimenez, attempts to tag an incoming runner sliding onto second base on Thursday, April 12.

I finally got to experience the magic of the Blue Bayou at Disneyland's New Orleans Square

By Miranda Defoor
Reporter

Ever since becoming an annual passholder at the Disneyland park in California, I've had two goals. The first is to go to Club 33, which is a private, members-only club in New Orleans Square in the Disneyland Park. Since the membership for Club 33 can be years long and costs anywhere from \$12,500 to \$30,000 annually, I had to go with the second best thing.

The Blue Bayou is still fine dining in the Disneyland Resort, also located in New Orleans Square. It's place that almost everyone who's been to Disneyland before has seen, even if they don't know it. The magic of the Blue Bayou dining area is walking in from the sunny and warm California weather into a cozy and dark Louisiana night. If the opening ride scene on Pirates of the Caribbean hasn't made much sense while riding, it's because it's truly not a part of the ride, but part of the dining area and experience of the Blue Bayou.

The dining area of the restaurant is completely inside the Pirates of the Caribbean ride. From the point of view of the ride, guests get to see the tables with strings of dim but colorful paper lanterns overhead. Lots of riders yell to the diners to throw bread to them on the boats, and, if it's quiet enough, the Blue Bayou restaurant music can be heard in the ride boats, too.

As many times as I've been on the Pirates ride, I have wanted to eat at the Blue Bayou. The ambience seemed so magical, like everything at Disneyland, and the idea of being inside an attraction during a meal was even more exciting. Eating there meant I would have the opportunity to spend more time in the attraction than when I was just passing through.

on the ride. I would finally get to be fully immersed in the theming and experience that has been so carefully crafted by imagineers at Disneyland.

The Blue Bayou does dining for both lunch and dinner. Lunch is a little cheaper, but the dinner menu has more options. We were able to look over the menu while we were waiting for a table since it is on display just outside of the lobby and available on the Disneyland app. Guests can scope out options before even being seated in the waiting lobby.

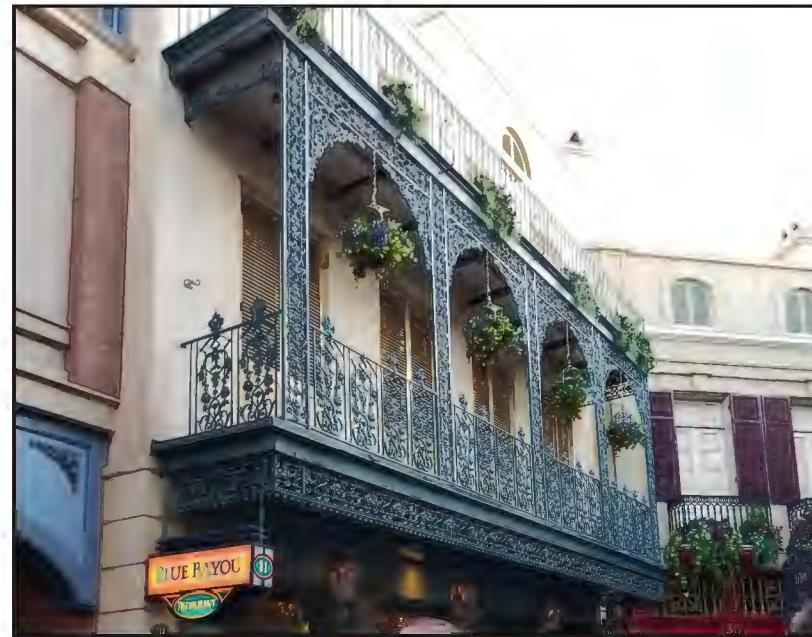
For the sake of my trip, dinner was a better time for reservations. Reservations are not explicitly required, but people have waited up to 45 minutes with a reservation, and maybe hours without. Disney allows, and encourages, guests to make reservations up to 60 days in advance. So I did.

My reservation was at 7:30 p.m., but the cast members, that's the title for all Disneyland employees, let us check in at least 15 minutes early. By 7:15 p.m., we were seated in the lobby and waiting for a host to seat us in the dining area.

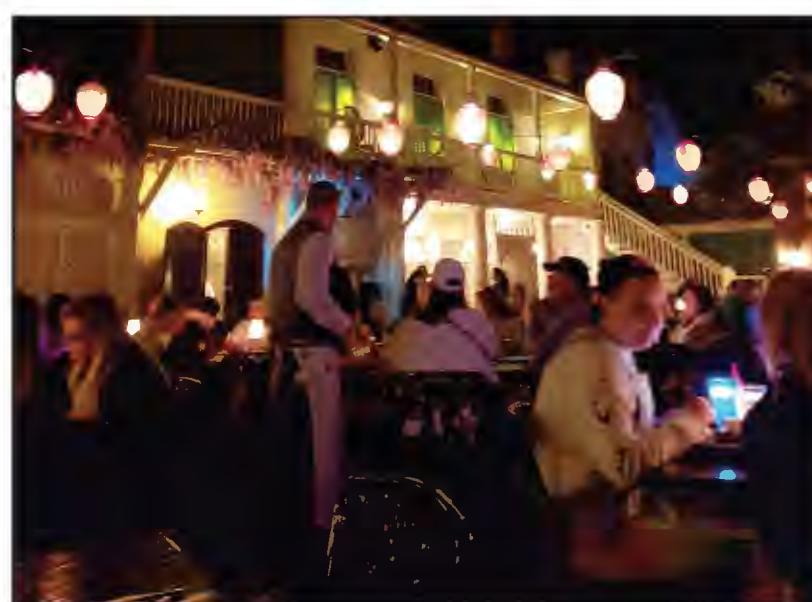
Because so much of Disneyland is aimed at families of four or more, we spent less than ten minutes in the lobby before my party of two was seated. I had been told that getting a seat near the water, and the boats passing by from the Pirates ride, would mean a special request or waiting even longer for an empty table, but as we were walked from the waiting lobby to the dining area, we were led straight to a table along the water.

I was already overwhelmed with excitement from being in the restaurant when we were seated. Trying to take in the massive dining area, the theming, dim lighting, and sounds from the ride nearby was so much at once.

We were two tables over from the kitchen, which was the only down-



COURTESY OF ASHE ABRAMSON / THE RIP
The Blue Bayou restaurant sign in New Orleans Square in the Disneyland Park.



COURTESY OF ASHE ABRAMSON / THE RIP
The interior of the dining area of the famous Blue Bayou restaurant located inside the Disneyland Resort.

side to our table. The entire dining area is only lit with the strings of large paper lanterns and flickering candles at each table, so the constant opening and closing of the kitchen doors shined lots of light in the area we were seated. It didn't affect the ambience too negatively, but it would have been better to be seated a little further away.

After getting our menus, our server brought us bread and drinks. Disneyland doesn't serve alcohol anywhere besides Club 33, so even though Blue Bayou is one of the fine dining places in Disneyland, there is no alcohol served.

Sitting so close to the water was more incredible than I expected. The Pirates ride looks completely different from the point of view of the dining area. The classic smell of the Pirates of the Caribbean ride water is mixed with the Cajun and Creole inspired food being served, but it isn't a bad thing. It's a comforting reminder of an age old ride I have always loved. Being able to watch the ride boats go by was so exciting. As we sat watching and listening to the boats, the table next to us started tossing slices of bread to the riders. Through all the times I've been on Pirates, I'd never seen anyone actually get bread thrown to them, so the entire group cheered when someone caught the second piece thrown at the boat.

Although the ambience and theming of the restaurant is magical and immersive, the food I ordered was not much better than any of the other sit down or quick service restaurants in the parks. I've heard mixed reviews from other people who have been there. Some have said the food is outstanding and some shared the same experience I had: it was good, but not quite what is expected for fine dining.

The menu is expensive, and for that



COURTESY OF ASHE ABRAMSON / THE RIP
Miranda Defoor smiles in the Blue Bayou restaurant.

high price you have to be willing to pay for not only the food, but the experience as well. I ordered pasta, and my boyfriend ordered salmon. My meal was great, but it was still not the stand out meal of the trip. My boyfriend, however, said his meal would be in the top three of any meals he's had.

Even though I felt my food was just average, the service from the cast members was so quick and friendly. We were seated quickly. Our drinks never made it past half full before they were refilled. The food came out quick, and our server was always checking in with us.

The magic, though, is what I was most excited for and what stood out for me. It's an experience I never thought I would have, and one I will never forget.

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