



The Renegade Rip

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Bakersfield College

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KCCCD trustee candidates discuss policy ideas at community forum

By Saad Kazi
Reporter

Providing half a billion dollars for Bakersfield College to improve its campus, Measure J became the focal point of BCSGA's Oct. 8 Community Public Forum for the Area 1 candidates for the KCCCD Board of Trustees.

"When you have all this Measure J money up here, I'm the only one that would be able to understand the bargain you're going to see on the job," said candidate Jerry Melsom, a retired electrician who spent 41 years in the field.

The purpose of the forum, held in the Levan Center and moderated by Director of Legislative Affairs Mustafa Barraaj, was to let the BC community meet the candidates for the two open seats and understand their reasons for running.

Though all five candidates were invited, only Melsom and Nan Gomez Heitzeberg attended.

Kyle Carter, the incumbent, was unable to show but sent a

statement explaining his qualifications to be elected for a second term.

"I spent the last 43 years of my life in the field of construction," he wrote. "Currently, I am the only trustee that has construction experience, and I am very committed to make sure that the students at Bakersfield College and the taxpayers in our community get every bit of their money's worth."

Being a prominent highlight of the year for BC legislation, Measure J has been the common denominator in most issues and ideas brought up by the candidates for the Nov. 6th election. Approving BC for \$415 million, the Measure J bond will make BC construction and remodeling feasible for the next several years. Both Melsom and Gomez Heitzeberg addressed how they each would utilize the bill and fill its independent oversight committee.

"Unlike Mr. Carter ... I actually have hands-on experience," Melsom said. "I know how to deal with projects, and I know what it takes to get

them done."

Currently a faculty member at BC, Melsom believes diversity is key when it comes to the members of the committee.

"You're not going to get all of the qualifications that [you] would look for in any one person," he said. "You're going to need a variety of people and what you don't want is everybody the same, because then you're going to only have one opinion, one idea, and [you] want multiple ideas on a committee."

Gomez Heitzeberg's concern is whether a member has the appropriate skill set.

"I would be looking for someone who is invested in the community and someone who has expertise," she said. "Do we have somebody who has expertise in the sciences? ... Do we have people who are well-versed in finances and construction?"

Along with having firm grips on how to spend Measure J construction money, both Melsom and Gomez Heitzeberg want to see a shift in the way students



SAAD KAZI / THE RIP

Jerry Melsom (far left) and Nan Gomez Heitzeberg (far center) discuss their main concerns surrounding their platforms for the campaign for KCCCD trustee as Mustafa Barraaj (right) moderates.

enter and leave BC.

Gomez Heitzeberg's platform centers around getting students "in here and out of here in the shortest time possible."

With over 40 years of experience in education, BC's former Vice President said that she has "worked along the faculty to help develop the programs and services to do that."

Melsom touched on this problem with his own experiences as a student.

"When I went here, just about 80 percent of the students were here to transfer to a four-year [university]," Melsom said. "Later on, it became more of a place for people to get their degree and then not be able to transfer or [they

just] didn't want to."

Both issues Melsom and Gomez Heitzeberg drive forward could be fixed with AB 705, a bill enacted to allow for students' college course levels to be determined not only by the assessment test but also on their own individual

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Bakersfield ranks among least educated

By Malachi Parker
Reporter

Of the 150 most populated metropolitan cities across the states, when it comes to education, Bakersfield ranks 147.

According to WalletHub.com, Bakersfield ranks towards the bottom in most categories, such as the percentage of high school diploma holders, percentage of people who hold higher degrees, while educating children in a below average public-school system.

Milton Henderson, an outreach counselor at East Bakersfield High School, specifically deals with kids who are truants or not on track to graduate.

Henderson has held this position and coached varsity basketball for nearly two decades, seeing his fair share of kids who seemed to be on the wrong path.

"Most kids at this age are very easily influenced, whether it's for the positive or negative," said Henderson. "When it comes to

encouraging these teenagers, it isn't the easiest to keep them on the positive track because they tend to fall back into bad habits," said Henderson.

"Most of them have never tasted success so when they get close to something like graduation and they are actually going to cross the stage, they get cold feet and try to sabotage it by not coming to class for the last month."

Jordan Rendel, a teacher at North High School, shared many of the same beliefs as

Henderson about the kids needing a positive influence to be consistent in their lives.

This influence could come from anywhere, whether it's parents, siblings, or even a teacher or coach.

"A lot of the kids who graduate top of their class are also very involved in clubs and sports, and that just isn't kids taking the initiative to be active in school, but also having the support system at home that pushes them to do more than the average

student," said Rendel. The dropout rate in Kern County is twice as high as the national average.

The national average is at 13 percent and just in Kern County alone, the rate is at 26 percent, according to Towncharts.com.

"The dropout rate is due to many different factors that take place outside of the classroom," said Henderson.

"There are cases where there is a shortage of money or there is a family emergency and

now somebody has to step up and make money. Even though this is just a high school kid, if they are called upon by family to grow up a lot sooner than they should have to, then they have to answer the call and education takes a back seat," said Henderson.

"It's a generalization thing. If a parent didn't go to college they are less likely to push that onto their kid because they did not reap the benefits of college," said Henderson.

AB 705 will affect students hoping to transfer from Bakersfield College

By Miranda Defoor
Web & Social Media Editor

Academic Development (ACDV) classes have been offered at Bakersfield College for students returning to college or students who would otherwise have trouble succeeding in transfer-level courses without additional preparation. Many ACDV classes are a stepping stone to the transfer-level courses students need to leave BC, and in that way, a stepping stone to their success.

Community colleges all throughout California, not just in the Kern Community College District, will remove remedial math and English courses, known as ACDV at BC, by fall of 2019 in compliance with new bill AB 705.

AB 705 requires the California community colleges to “maximize the probability that a student will enter and complete transfer-level coursework in English and math within a one-year timeframe,” according to the California Community Colleges website. Meaning, the goal of this bill is to help students through community college courses faster and limit the number of math and English classes students will be required to take prior to reaching a transfer-level class.

“Many of the students in our remedial courses tell us that they are thankful they are in our classes because it has helped them feel more confident about their math and writing skills and that what they have learned in Academic Development helps them in their college-level coursework,” Kimberly Bligh, Department Chair and Academic Development Professor said.

The prerequisites for math and English will be changed, along with the way students are placed in math and English courses. Currently, a student’s assessment scores determine the class they are placed in. After AB 705, however, factors such as grades from high school, AP courses taken, high school math level, high school English level, and the delay between graduation from high school and beginning community college, will all be considered when placing students in math and English. Taking these factors into consideration means students have a better chance of being placed in higher level math and English courses at BC.

If students do poorly on their assessment and had a low GPA in high school, or did not complete certain levels of math and English while in high school, then they can be placed in a transfer-level class with one unit or two unit co-curricular or co-requisite

course at the same time. The co-requisite courses will allow students more time with professors and allow them the opportunity for individualized help.

Despite the goals of AB 705, students have concerns. One BC student, Emmanuel Limmaco, expressed his thoughts over the removal of ACDV classes; because many Bakersfield College students are adults returning to school after being away at careers, parenting, or possibly after being incarcerated, these classes are essential to their success according to Limmaco.

“I fear that new students will be placed into transfer-level courses because they can be, but might not be adequately prepared for the expectations of them in those transfer-level courses.”

- Phil Feldman
BC Professor

“Students who are part of a minority, older, [or who have been] previously incarcerated would have to go to adult school,” Limmaco said, explaining that adult school would still not properly or adequately prepare these students for college courses.

Although colleges are not required to be compliant with AB 705 until the fall of 2019, BC is moving forward in a shorter timeframe than required. BC is expected to be implementing the changes by Spring 2019.

“It appears BC is determined to implement AB 705 ahead of the permitted schedule,” Phil Feldman, Academic Development professor explained, “Because of the speeded up implementation process the administration has decided upon, math and English faculty are under tremendous pressure to implement new co-requisite courses very quickly.”

Feldman also expressed his concern over the state data not being fully representative of the BC community and students by saying, “I fear that new

students will be placed into transfer-level courses because they can be, but might not be adequately prepared for the expectations of them in those transfer-level courses.”

The changes happening at BC under AB 705 are also not in coordination with BC faculty, according to Feldman.

“Decisions about what BC will do appear to have been made by administrators not in consultation with faculty—those staff members most familiar with our students.”

Currently, BC is going to revise the ACDV math courses such as ACDV B61 and ACDV B50 to meet requirements for the CSU pathway. The ACDV B72 class will be available for students who place as “Highly Unlikely to Succeed,” according to the AB 705 Math Proposal for Academic Development.

Those “Highly Unlikely to Succeed” students, however, Bligh explained, may be unsuccessful for reasons beyond their ability and education.

“Many of our students are not successful due to a lack of College Knowledge meaning they may be the first in their family to attend college, so they really just don’t have the background information and experiences needed to be successful,” Bligh said.

The proposal also suggests a new ACDV math course as a prerequisite for PSYC B5, which is a transfer-level course that is part of the one-year path for students not majoring in STEM, Business, or Elementary Education. The STEM, Business, and Elementary Education majors would have different one-year math plans all starting with Math B70.

The English requirements and courses have proposed changes as well. One such suggestion is to combine ENGL B50 with ENGL B1A through “an 8-week accelerated English 50 followed by an 8-week English 1A,” according to the English proposal. Another proposed change for English courses is to “revamp English 53 and English 50,” in order to create a better course that offers the skills and information students need before continuing to ENGL B1A.

Students have access to resources at BC such as the tutoring center, extend the classroom for math, and the writing center for English. Feldman suggests things students can do for themselves, such as read their book before the topic is covered in class, do homework on time, ask questions during class, and utilize scheduled office hours for their professors.

Veteran resource programs grant approved

By Rosa Salazar
Reporter

The California Community College Board of Governors approved an \$8.5 million dollar grant in the 2018-19 state budget to enhance veteran resource centers around California’s community colleges.

According to David Lawrence, Veterans Services Specialist, colleges that applied for part of the grant depended on how many veterans were enrolled.

“Colleges were allowed to apply for up to \$100,000 or \$200,000 depending on the number of Student Veterans they serve annually,” Lawrence said.

Lawrence added the funds can be used to create new centers on campuses where centers do not already exist and augment existing centers as well.

Bakersfield College was one of 59 community colleges to receive part of the grant. BC was awarded \$200,000 to improve its Veteran Resource Center.

Paul Beckworth, faculty director of Veterans Services, said he goes out for grants and makes sure the students have everything they need to be successful.

Beckworth added that there are going to be more resources in the Veterans Resource Center with the

funding.

“What we’re going to see is more resources. We’re going to be able to bring in faculty completion, coaches to assist veterans within their chosen majors. We’re going to be able to buy laptops for the veterans to use. We’re going to be able to buy supplies that we need to run the offices effectively. As well as training. So, a lot of good stuff,” Beckworth said.

Beckworth along with the administrators such as the director of the Veterans Services Paul Beckworth, BC vice president Zav Dadabhoy, and BC president Sonya Christian will be in charge of how the money will be spent.

Richard David Jorgensen III, BC student and veteran, said the money could be used for technology, school supplies and a larger area.

“The computers are out of date. [I] guess it’d be nice to have supplies hanging around like markers. Another dry erase whiteboard. Maybe some more space for tables back there. We only [have] two; It gets pretty crowded. I mean I would like to not be able to see wallpaper on the [wall]. It looks like the buildings about to fall off,” he said.

Fellow BC student and veteran Crystal Appleton said the Veteran Resource Center has helped

her, “Especially if you have anyone who deals with PTSD or anxiety issues, coming to a place where people have the same issues then they can understand it; work that out,” she said.

Appleton said the money can be used to add more space, “Definitely a bigger spot so we can separate people that need to work and relax so we can actually eat and [...] actually study. Maybe just updated equipment, like printers and computers and ones that have scanners in case we need to scan a document to turn into class,” Appleton said.

Arthur Carrillo, BC student and veteran, said the money should be used on technology. “Honestly better equipment, like computers,” he said.

Carrillo said he and other veterans go out of their way by tutoring others and hopes every BC veteran visits the center.

“We go out of our way to even just cater to all veterans [...] I wish every vet would come in here because they have great resources [...] I’m going out of my way aside from that I mean other vets go out of their way too. We’re all willing to help each other even regardless of if you’re a student, a vet, or not because [behind] the door they treat you like family,” Carrillo said.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church hosts forum about immigration in Kern

By Bryana Lozoya
Reporter

As part of Kern County's "One Book Project," a forum about the Mesa Verde immigration detention center took place at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Sept. 27.

Discussed were the immigration laws in the United States and the treatment of undocumented immigrants in detention facilities throughout America.

The panel, moderated by pastor Dawn Wilder, consisted of four people of various backgrounds and professions. Jeannie Parent, Luis Rodriguez, Ambar Tovar, and Tommy Tunson provided anecdotes, advice, and insight on about the night's topic.

Jeannie Parent is the coordinator for the Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants (KWESI) group and an English for Multilingual Students (EMLS) professor at Bakersfield College.

Parent spoke about KWESI's involvement with Mesa Verde's detainees. Those a part of KWESI visit immigrants in the detention center, providing emotional support and advocating on their behalf.

Former detainee Luis Rodriguez spoke briefly about the four years he spent in the detention center. He was in Sacramento before being transferred to Mesa Verde; he was not familiar with the areas and had no family where he spent his time.

He spoke about how detainees were treated as if they were prisoners although many had not committed a crime. Rodriguez noted how he missed the birth of his son because he was detained.

He discussed how he thought it was unfair to treat people differently because of documentation status.

Ambar Tovar is an immigra-



BRYANA LOZOYA/ THE RIP

From the left of photo is Jeannie Parent, Luis Rodriguez, and Ambar Tovar listening to Bakersfield College criminology professor Tommy Tunson speak at the Mesa Verde forum.



BRYANA LOZOYA/ THE RIP

Luis Rodriguez sharing his story at the Mesa Verde forum at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

tion lawyer and director of Removal Defense for the United Farm Worker's Foundation. She provided insight on what rights immigrants do not have in the United States.

"[Constitutional and due process rights] does not apply to immigration law," Tovar said.

Then added that immigration laws are not like criminal laws where attorneys are appointed to those who cannot afford them.

"[In] immigration court you are not appointed an immigration attorney. You have to find one yourself," Tovar said.

Bakersfield College criminology professor and former police officer Tommy Tunson provided extensive information about the criminal justice system and immigration laws applicable to the forum. He also shared his thoughts on the treatment of undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers.

"I'm appalled at what I see our country doing to [immigrant] people," he said, having seen firsthand the violence people are fleeing from other countries.

Tunson relates the detention of asylum seekers and children to the internment of Japanese-Americans in the 1940s.

To show how passionate he is on this issue, he told the audience about what he told his police officers in three cities where he was their chief. He told his officers that they were not going to arrest someone solely on the reason that they're undocumented; they are not federal agents.

Near the end of the forum, there was a Q & A between the audience and the panelists. Questions ranging from why is there solitary confinement in immigration detention centers to how people can change how they can talk about immigration reform, to the differences between private institutions and state and federal institutions.

Tunson explained that the reason that the government made more institutions shift into privatization was because of the cost; it's cheaper to house someone in a private institution rather than a state or federal institution.

He went on to explain that the original intent of private institutions were supposed to be for the housing of dangerous felons and was not intended to house undocumented immigrants.

"The reason we have private facilities is [so] we can incarcerate at a lesser [cost] than we could at [other facilities]," Tunson said.

The forum concluded with some people sticking around to ask the panelists more questions one-on-one.

BC Alumna runs for District 2 supervisor

By Paige Atkison
Editor-in-Chief

In an ambitious campaign, Bakersfield College alumna Whitney Weddell is attempting to unseat incumbent Zach Scrivner as the Kern County Supervisor for District 2.

Though Scrivner has held the position for nearly eight years, Weddell is confident in her campaign.

"We have been very successful," Weddell said. "I am so pleased at the number of supporters who keep coming out of the woodwork."

Weddell's primary

strategy is to focus on local issues. Weddell believes it is those issues that drive Kern County voters.

"People are concerned about the economy and jobs. The unemployment rate in East Kern fluctuates with [the rate of] unemployment being three to four times the national average."

Weddell added that the constituents in East Kern feel undervalued.

"They feel left out. And I hear a similar story from people in West Kern. They just feel like Bakersfield is always the priority, and everyone else gets what is left

over," Weddell said.

Weddell would like to draw more attention to the need for additional county services in East Kern.

"There are only three deputies patrolling 1,700 square miles," Weddell added.

When asked what sets her apart from her opponent, Weddell referenced her passion for serving the community.

"I'm a person of the people. I've spent the last 35 years of my life serving at the grassroots level. I've been greatly impacted personally by hearing people's stories about how they're trying

to survive in these areas without the services they need," Weddell said.

Weddell says she has a plan for the district's constituents.

"[I want to] work on economic diversity that brings jobs to these areas, bringing hope to these people. [And] work on budget issues to make sure the whole county is getting the resources they need."

Long after her graduation, Weddell was chosen to be one of BC's 100 Stars. When asked what she would like convey to students at her alma mater, she talked about her personal

growth as a BC student.

"BC is where I found myself," Weddell said. "When I left high school, I was swimming in a very large ocean and trying to define myself. When I went to BC, I put my life in order."

"I was just searching," she added. "It was while I was at BC where I realized who I was, where I want to go, and the difference I want to make in the world."

Weddell credited her time at BC for the development of her passion for public service.

"I decided I wanted to change the world when I was 19 at BC. I owe a



COURTESY OF WHITNEY WEDDELL

Weddell poses for a campaign photo.

great debt to Bakersfield College."

Author Sonia Nazario delivers speech at BC

By Paige Atkison
Editor-in-Chief

Pulitzer-winning journalist Sonia Nazario visited Bakersfield College to deliver a speech on immigration and journalism. Joined by media leader Joaquin Alvarado, Nazario led a discussion with BC students and faculty in an examination of today's media. Nazario began by recounting her family history of immigration. Her father fled Syria due to persecution of Christians, and her mother fled Poland to escape the oncoming persecution of Jewish populations. Her family migrated to Argentina, where Nazario was born. When she was 14-years-old, she learned of the death of a dissident journalist in Argentina. Following the military takeover in Argentina, she and her family left for Kansas. As an adult, Nazario dedicated her life to journalism and telling stories. "I view my role as to

afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted," Nazario said. Nazario believes journalism is best when it not only informs the audience but explains the story. Her ground-breaking work "Enrique's Journey," originally published as a series of articles in the LA Times, follows the journey of a Honduran child travelling on top of freight trains to arrive in the United States. Nazario said she practices "immersion reporting," the process of travelling with and observing subjects for long periods of time. As part of her reporting, Nazario accompanied migrant children on their journey to America. Nazario participated in the journey herself, riding a top freight train with the children. Considering her great success in reporting on migrant journeys, Nazario was surprised to see immigration become a contentious topic. "Journalism is under siege finan-

cially and from the President," Nazario said. "There isn't enough journalism on migrant and immigrant contributions [to society], especially farm workers and field workers," Alvarado added. Nazario believes that certain reforms can change journalism. "Journalists have to be much better at explaining what we do," Nazario said. "We need to be more transparent about our reporting and our sources." Citing her own experiences writing "Enrique's Journey," Nazario explained the strenuous attention she displayed in including her sources. Nazario added that community support benefits journalism far more than the support of corporations. "We need to engage the community," Nazario said. She also believes that media literacy needs to be taught in high schools in order to increase readership. Nazario then expanded on how journalists can better their field.

"Journalists think too small," Nazario said. The speech shifted to a discussion on immigration in the U.S. today. Nazario and Alvarado described the current pattern of immigration, in which immigrants from Mexico are largely leaving the country while migrants from Central America are arriving in greater numbers. Nazario expanded on asylum laws and the process of migrating to the U.S. to flee persecution. "The majority of these people are fleeing violence," Nazario said. "The majority of immigrants are coming from Honduras, Guatemala, and other Central American countries." The conversation concluded with a Q&A session. Audience members raised their hands to ask further questions of Nazario and Alvarado on journalism and current patterns of immigration. Following the event, attendees lined up to greet Nazario, take pictures, and have their copies of "Enrique's Journey" signed.



Sonia Nazario (left) listens to Joaquin Alvarado (right) talk about the issues Americans face.

Renegade Events

Campus Events

Oct. 18: Art Exhibition - COLLECTOR by Matthew Craven from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery

Oct. 18: Know your Rights: Legal Clinic and Immigration Resources Fair from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fireside Room.

Oct. 18: Race, Citizenship, and the American Farmworker from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Levan Center.

Oct. 19: Argiculture Career Expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gym Huddle.

Oct. 19: Fall Band and Orchestra Concert from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater)

Oct. 22: BCSGA Power Lunch-KCCD Chancellor Tom Burke from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fireside Room.

Oct. 22: Homecoming - Poster and Office Decorations Competition from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Campus Center and Office Areas.

Oct. 22: Art Exhibition - COLLECTOR by Matthew Craven from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery

Oct. 22: Homecoming - "Little Shop of Horrors" from 2 pm. to 4 p.m. at the Fireside Room

Oct. 24: Distinguished Speaker Dashka Slater at the Levan Center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Levan Center and a Livestream to Delano, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Levan Center.

Nov. 01: Dynamic Earth Planetarium Show at the William M. Thomas Planetarium, Math Science 112 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 08: Distinguished Speaker Oz Sanchez at the Levan Center from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Levan Center with a Livestream to Delano, and 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater)

Nov. 13: Fall 2018 Orientation at the Welcome Center from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Nov. 14: Gadfly Café-Suicide: In Pain, Protest and Honor at the Levan Center from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Nov. 15: Black Holes Planetarium Show at the William M. Thomas Planetarium, Math-Science 112 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 29: Season of Light Planetarium Show at the William M. Thomas Planetarium, Math-Science 112 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Dec. 06: Season of Light Planetarium Show at the William M. Thomas Planetarium, Math-Science 112 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Dec. 09: The Panorama Grill Kitchen will be closed all day at the Campus Center.

*"There isn't enough journalism on migrant and immigrant contributions [to society], especially farm workers and field workers."
- Joaquin Alvarado*

Bakersfield College student holds an undefeated professional record

By Malachi Parker
Reporter

BC student, Miguel Contreras, a 20-year-old professional boxer, had a long journey from his amateur days to his now 6-0 professional career.

The record for Contreras stands undefeated and five of those wins come by knockout.

"My mom signed me up to be at PAL (Police Academy League) just so I would have somewhere to be while she was at work, and boxing was one of the first things I saw and I wanted to try it," Contreras said.

He started training at the age of eight and had his first amateur fight at the age of 13. Contreras had 60 amateur fights over the span of five years and held a record of 53-7 throughout that span, bringing home two titles and a bronze medal.

He made the trip to Kansas City for the National Silver Gloves where he came out as the champion. Contreras then made a trip to Nevada for the Jr. Golden Gloves and came out victorious in that one as well.

He then went to West Virginia for the Jr. Olympics and brought home a bronze medal.

"Only time I've ever been on a plane or out the state it was for boxing, I'm forever grateful for this sport," Contreras said.

After all of those accomplishments, Contreras entered the professional realm at the age of 18.

"My game has improved a lot from my first fight to where I'm at right now," Contreras said.

Contreras sparred with pros from LA, such as Olympian Carlos Balderas and world champion Oscar Val-



MALACHI PARKER / THE RIP

Miguel Contreras walks out his corner moments before a round begins.

dez.

"Sparring with those guys taught me a lot and gave me more experience and great chances

to learn how to improve my own game," Contreras said.

Contreras' most recent match took place

on Sept. 29 where he achieved a win with a fifth-round TKO.

Contreras works immensely for a six to eight week period of time leading up to his fight that he and his team call "training camp".

From the first day, Contreras participates in strength and conditioning three times a week at six in the morning.

After that, he would go to class, and every single day he would follow class with practice and a trip to In-Shape gym after that for his own cardio workout.

On weekends Contreras says he would usually go for a long eight-mile run.

Six to eight weeks of that all leads up to the big day.

"Until the fight, the big day is really just eating and resting," said Contreras.

"People always ask me if I get nervous before a

fight, and I always answer that with a question. I ask them if they get nervous before they clock in for work. This is my job and I prepare for months for this moment so there is no need for me to be nervous," Contreras said.

Contreras also works around his boxing schedule and still makes time for his education.

He is a kinesiology major and says education is his backup plan.

After his career, Contreras hopes to either be a boxing trainer or maybe even open up his own boxing gym.

Typically, there are a few months between fights, however, Contreras says he could be back in the ring by December.

"It is a one-man sport and you can't blame anyone else on your loss, and I know that nobody works harder than me," concluded Contreras.

Got Myth: A discussion on how myths still have an impact on today's world

By Issy Barrientos
Photo Editor

The Norman Levan Center at Bakersfield College hosted the discussion "Got Myth: Ancient Stories That Still Inform 21st Century People, Politics, and Pop Culture," on Oct. 10.

Rae Ann Kumelos, an associate professor of English at BC, started the conversation by talking about archetypes. Kumelos described archetypes as molds.

The first archetype she mentioned was the king. She asked the audience what they thought about when she said the word king. The audience yelled their answers which ranged from power, scepter, gold and Arthur.

In her slideshow, she included pictures of kings from the Burger King to King Arthur and Prince William. She explained to the audience that when Arthur became king, he built

the Round Table to show that everyone was equal.

She continued to show pictures of different Greek gods such as Demeter, the mother goddess and Aphrodite, the goddess of love and the darker aspects that fall under that domain such as jealousy.

She ended her presentation by personifying the Statue of Liberty as an American goddess.

Throughout Kumelos' presentation, the attendees laughed at her clever slides and jokes.

Following Kumelos were Susan Pinza, an Academic Development professor, and David Koeth, an art professor.

The topic that Pinza and Koeth discussed was the hero. The hero they mentioned at the beginning of the presentation was Odysseus.

With the talk of Odysseus, the conversation turned to Joseph Campbell's work specifically the hero's journey. The first phase of a hero's

journey is the call to adventure.

Luke Skywalker from "Star Wars" was a character mentioned that goes through a hero's journey.

Their presentation focused heavily on their slideshow. Other heroes included Pocahontas, Mulan, Hermione from "Harry Potter" and Belle from "The Beauty and the Beast." One surprising addition to the list was Dolores Huerta.

Their presentation ended with Pinza reading quotes from Joseph Campbell.

Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg was the third presenter.

She started by telling the audience that her husband and son are artists. Not only are they artist creators but they are also storytellers.

Gomez-Heitzeberg asked the audience what necessities are needed to live, which caused someone to shout "iPhone." Laughter followed the

remark.

She by listing a few necessities such as water, shelter, and clothing. From clothes, she asked when did clothes go from an essential to decorative.

Professor Duane Anderson of the architecture department from Bakersfield College was the last to present.

He gave a short speech about Greek Mythology, focusing on Athena. He explained that the Greeks gave their gods flaws. Athena lost a weaving contest so she turned her competitor into a spider.

Anderson then talked about architecture, which he called, his "favorite subject."

He echoed what Gomez-Heitzeberg talked about; having a necessary object, like a pillar, to then modify to look more ornamental.

The night ended with a Q&A with multiple members of the audience asking the panel questions.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

Professor Rae Ann Kumelos, an associate professor of English at Bakersfield College, talks about the king archetype during Got Myth: Ancient Stories That Still Inform."

The Outdoor Theatre presents the annual Kern Shakespeare Festival

By Cameron Johnson
Reporter

The Kern Shakespeare Festival kicked off their 34 annual production on Oct. 3 in the Outdoor Theatre. The two plays selected for this year's festival were "Measure for Measure" and "Julius Ceasar."

The Bakersfield College Performing Arts Department puts on the festival every year, and this year the productions were coincidentally relevant to the current social climate.

"Measure for Measure" tells the story of the repercussions of sex outside of marriage and believing the victims of sexual assault. It takes place in the early 1980's

as rock and roll was in full swing, and bad decisions were plentiful.

"Julius Ceasar" is altered to the possibility of Ceasar being a woman, and how the public would react to having a woman in power.

Director Cody Ganger explained that she appreciates the history of Shakespeare plays but is amazed how the situations from literature written hundreds of years ago are still relevant to our lives today.

"We decided to go with 'Measure for Measure' as the Me Too movement was starting, and no one could have guessed how relevant it is now while we're performing," Ganger said.

Ganger agrees that

studying Shakespeare is dreaded by most students, but believes that it is intended to be performed rather than read in class.

"Shakespeare is the greatest writer of all time, but so many people only experience him in the classroom," Ganger said.

Sophomore theatre student Ryan Darbee attended the play to complete an assignment, but he left the production with a greater appreciation for live performances.

"I liked seeing the play in person. Adding humor to a classic story made the experience enjoyable," said Darbee.

Ganger modernized the play by dressing

the actors in modern clothes and playing the B-52's between scenes.

"Updating costumes, music, and set design keeps the audience involved and helps them relate to the scenes," Ganger said.

The festival presents opportunities for students to get experience acting, set designing, as well as light and audio production.

"Students are involved in every area of the production. It's perfect for those who are interested in areas other than acting," Ganger said.

It may be tough for students to convince themselves to go see the play, but Ganger believes once they take that leap they won't re-

gret it.

"College is the time to try new things and get out of your comfort

zone. I encourage everyone to go and see their first Shakespeare production."



HALEY DUVAL / THE RIP

Nicholas Morgan (left) as Froth, Justin Thompson (middle) as Pompey, and Alissa Morrow (right) as Escalus the Duke's advisor performing in "Measure for Measure."

Gadfly: A roundtable talk on bias in society

By Saad Kazi
Reporter

Reggie Williams is a white man.

But the BC professor and Gadfly Café host can't expect every person to know that just by looking at his name.

"How many other white people do you know named Reggie Williams?" he asked the room.

It's a question referring to how the name 'Reggie' is predominant among African American men, a fact that presents an unfortunate misunderstanding he experiences when calling real estate agents in Bakersfield.

"If I leave my name [in a voicemail], I don't get calls back," Williams said. "If I leave my number without my name, I get calls back; with the exact same question and the exact same friendly voice."

Bias is in everyone, everywhere.

That was what Gadfly Café session-goers came to conclude in their second discussion "Bias: Explicit, Implicit, and Injurious" at the Levan Center on Oct. 10.

"We all have biases," Williams said. Some of which "we have but we're not aware that we have."

There are explicit biases: for example, lean-

ing towards one genre of music over others. In other words, interests.

And there are implicit biases, kept in, but so severe they are best labeled 'injurious.'

"Before you even open your mouth, do people make assumptions about you?" Williams asked. The occupants of the room all responded "Yes."

The discussion between at least 40 students and faculty members dove into personal encounters of people having others assume certain characteristics about them based on their looks, actions, age, gender, tone of voice, race, or socioeco-

nomics status.

"What does a wealthy person look like?" Williams asked. "What does a poor person look like?"

One student, Matthew Solito, expressed his frustration with how people misconstrue the sexual orientations of some males.

"A guy dresses too feminine in societal norms, and it's like 'oh, you're gay, aren't you?'" Solito said. "It sucks because it doesn't allow full expression of oneself."

Again, Williams raises the question, "What does gay look like?"

Other examples that were brought up were how women are per-

ceived compared to men in terms of intelligence, how minorities and people with disabilities have a tougher time being moved into more challenging courses even when performing at the same level as their white peers, and how people who dress sloppy would not be approached at a car lot before a person who is noticeably more sharp.

Zariyah Hall shared a characteristic of her own that gets mixed reactions.

"There's a stereotype ... that black people eat chicken and all that," Hall said. "So when I told people I was a vegetarian I would get 'Are

you sure you're a vegetarian?'"

The bottom line, in Williams words, is that "you cannot see something without interpreting it."

Williams' especially long goatee and ponytail and choice of casual clothing singles him out markedly to look like, according to some students, someone who smokes weed.

Williams joked about how candid he is with addressing this irony. "Hi I'm Reggie, I'm your professor. I don't smoke pot."



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

Ninth place for newspaper in 2017 for national Best of Show contest by Associated Collegiate Press

Eighth place nationally in 2017 for website publication by Associated Collegiate Press

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Kern County Historical Society has a Walking Tour of “Eastchester”

By Hector Martinez
Features Editor

Ken Hooper, the president of the Kern County Historical Society (KCHS) and Archiving teacher at Bakersfield High School, conducted a Walking Tour of the “Eastchester” on Oct. 6. The tour began on the corner of 18th and R streets around 10 a.m. and finished at Narducci’s Burger & Italian Ice around 11:30 a.m.

Hooper explained that he has been doing walking tours for the KCHS for nearly five years.

“I started with a quarter of the downtown and I’ve been moving down block by block,” Hooper said.

He also explained that he lets his students do the research for the walking tours beforehand.

“When I finish here in the downtown area I might just go to the Baker Street old Kern area town. I’ll let my students do some research of it,” Hooper said.

One of the first buildings visited on the tour was the New China

Cafe located at 801 18th street. Hooper explained that the cafe opened for the first time in 1928.

“The owner was Di Toy, and told architect Clarence Cullimore how he wanted his cafe,” Hooper said.

The outside of the building has green tiles with ornamental Chinese characters and Hooper explained that the meaning of them is “fortune and longevity.”

Another place that was visited on the walking tour was the corner of 19th and O streets. Hooper explained some history of the building with a sign that reads “Power House.”

“In 1940 that building used to be a gas station and then it was sold and became a paint store. This current building is now a speed shop and it helps to get your cars to run faster,” he said.

After learning some history about the “Power House” building Hooper asked everyone to move to Sinaloa Mexican Dinners located on the corner of 20th and P streets. He explained

that the dinner used was the first Kern Children’s Shelter and it opened in 1909. The land for the shelter was donated by Ellen M. Baker the wife of former colonel Thomas Baker.

In 1909 there were 24 children living in the shelter and 60 by the year after.

The children of the shelter got sick with diseases such as Scarlet fever and measles for a few weeks.

“Unfortunately, two of the children did die of those diseases while they were in the shelter, and some internet sites do mention that this place is haunted because of those children that die there,” Hooper said.

Footprints and handprints of the children that use to live in the shelter are still on the concrete by the stairs of the house.

One of the audience members that attended to the Walking Tour of the Eastchester, Linda

Enyeart, explained her first-time experience on her first walking tour.

“I really liked the Buddhist Church that we visited at the end of the tour. My husband and I really enjoyed this walking tour, and we got a lot of history about Bakersfield,” Enyeart said.

She also said that young people should take advantage of opportunities like walking tours to learn more about the local history of Bakersfield.

The outside of the building has green tiles with ornamental Chinese characters and Hooper explained that the meaning of them is “fortune and longevity.”



HECTOR MARTINEZ / THE RIP

People checking Buddhist Church on 2207 N St. which was the last place visited on the walking tour.



HECTOR MARTINEZ / THE RIP

Ken Hooper reads the history and stories of a Buddhist Church located on 2207 N St. from his tablet.



HECTOR MARTINEZ / THE RIP

The New China Cafe building located at 801 18th St. with the green tiles with the Chinese characters meaning fortune and longevity.

The Empty Space showcases well known musical “My Fair Lady”

By Charr Davenport
Reporter

The Empty Space Theater put on the well-known musical “My Fair Lady” to an enthusiastic crowd on Oct. 5. The musical, directed by Ron Warren, Kelsey Morrow, and choreographed by Jennifer Skiby Plunkett, runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. until Oct. 20.

“My Fair Lady” is a musical based on the play “Pygmalion” by George Bernard Shaw. The plot revolves around a young street

peddler with a strong British accent and a language instructor who is absolutely appalled by the way Eliza speaks. He takes her off of the streets and into his lavish home after making a bet with his friend that he can pass her off as a duchess within six months.

The play starts off with flower peddler Eliza Doolittle (Tessa Ogles) as she tries to sell flowers to the rich people that walk by. She catches the attention of both Colonel Pickling (Ron Warren), a rich

socialite, and Henry Higgins (Tevin Joslen), a language instructor. The two men end up discovering that they’ve been pen pals for months.

The second scene features Eliza’s father, Alfie Doolittle (Perrin Swanson) and his friends (Victoria Lusk and Victoria Olmos) as they come up with a successful plan to get money from his daughter.

Afterward, Eliza goes to the home of Henry Higgins to make a deal with him for language lessons to help her accent. Pickling voices that

he doesn’t think Higgins can do it, leading to the six-month bet mentioned above. Higgins throws out all of Eliza’s clothes, buys her new ones, and gives her a home as he teaches her.

The next few scenes involve great musical number revolving around Eliza re-learning English. At the end of these scenes, she has a formal sounding accent and is ready to be taken into the public. The first attempt is at a racetrack for horses where Higgins’ mom (Cathy Henry) frequents. It is

there that she shocks the socialites and captures the eye of a young man named Freddie (Alex Mitts).

After deeming the racetrack a semi-success, Higgins and Pickling take Eliza to a royal ball where she passes as a duchess, even fooling the queen of Transylvania (Marti Hoyt) and convincing Zoltan Karpathy (Pete Keys), a native Hungarian, that she is a Hungarian princess.

After the ball, Higgins and Pickling are extremely happy with their success, but Eliza

finds herself in a state of worry. She feels as if she is losing her home now that the bet is over. Higgins, who can’t understand why Eliza is so paranoid now that she has a good accent, ends up fighting with her and causing her to leave. It is then revealed that he is in love with her. He later confronts her, only to be met with rejection. The play ends on an ominous note as Pickling, Higgins, and his secretary Mrs. Pearce (Julie Gaines) listen to a recording of Eliza’s old accent.

KRAB Radio hosts annual concert experience for locals

By Ruben Lira
Reporter

KRAB Radio hosted its 11th annual “Free-4-All” event, sponsored by Monster Energy, at Stramler Park.

The Free-4-All started to give listeners and music lovers an opportunity to get a concert experience without forcing them to spend so much money.

“We wanted to do this as a “thank you” from the station,” Robin Jones one of KRAB Radio’s host said.

“After dealing with Bakersfield’s heat, we moved the event to the fall to give us a break,” Jones said.

The show had five bands that performed that night, including Flora Cash, Slothrust, The Brevet, Just Loud, and the Interrupters. As the bands were setting up DJ Michael Hart would play to keep the fans entertained be-

tween each set.

The concert set up a “Monster Energy Zone,” which was a small pit area for anyone with a pass to get closer to the bands that played.

When asked about the Free-4-All Andrew and Emilee Morgan said “There were bands we wanted to see and it was free.”

The couple met with the band Flora Cash for a meet and greet and said how great it was to have met them.

“They were really personal,” The Morgan’s said.

The Morgan’s had mentioned it was there very first Free-4-All and that they hope to do more in their future.

There was more than just music to the event as there was also various vendors selling food and drinks.

The three hosts of the night Robin Jones, Danny Spanks, and Randy Chavez of “The Woody

Show” would come out on stage before and after each band had performed to throw free shirts to the fans and to speak about KRAB Radios other shows and events as well that are to come in the year.

There were some concert goers who even came in costumes. One guy had dressed as Waldo from Where’s Waldo as well.

The night ended with the band The Inter-

rupters who stayed after their setlist to sign memorabilia, meet fans, and take photos.

They stayed until every one of their fans had gone home happy.

“It’s amazing to see how Bakersfield supported this show for the past 11 years” Danny Spanks said about the concert.

“Without their support, this would not be possible,” Spanks said.



CHARR DAVENPORT / THE RIP

Shpresa Lleshaj of Flora Cash sings emotionally to the packed crowd.

Toys for couples

Sexual Wellness: *Sex and your health*

By Bryana Lozoya

Reporter

Choices of different types of sex toys are boundless; people can choose from a variety of toys that suits their needs or their partner’s needs.

The making of sex toys is nothing new. If anything, they’ve been around for a long time and are even depicted in ancient literature such as Aristophanes’ “Lysistrata” which was published in 411 BC.

Technavio, a market research company, reports that the global adult toy market will exceed \$29 billion by 2020, with North America predicted to exceed \$6 billion by 2020.

The extent of stores and brands of sex toys available are endless.

Popular brands and stores such as Lelo, Adam & Eve, Bad Dragon, We-Vibe, and Wet for Her provide pleasure by selling an assortment of toys of all sorts of shapes, sizes, materials, and purposes.

Wet for Her is an online sex store, founded in 2009 by Alice Derock, aimed at lesbian couples. The company carries other lesbian-focused brands such as Rodeo H and Spare Parts to help extend the availability of products made for lesbian couples and promote lesbian businesses.

Founded in June 2008, Bad Dragon is an online shop that makes fantasy sex toys for everyone. Toys sold on Bad Dragon range from tentacle and tongue-shaped dildos to dragon muzzle masturbators. They offer extensive customizations to their toys where people can choose colors and firmness.

We-Vibe, Lelo, and Adam & Eve are online retailers that sell sex toys for everyone: male, female, and couples.

Among the things, these online retailers offer are vibes, dildos, genital rings, Ben Wa balls, pumps, prostate toys, and lubrication.

Ben Wa balls are hollow metal balls that are inserted in the vagina and can be worn for long periods of time.

Pumps are made for different body parts; there are pumps for penis, nipples, and vagina that helps increase the blood flow to the area.

Granted, brands such as those can be pricey but the quality of their products are superb. Many of them offer high-grade silicone and borosilicate glass sex



Bryana Lozoya

toys and toys that are chargeable.

Many are familiar with penetrative toys such as dildos, vibrators, and anal toys but there are also toys that do not involve penetration.

A good example would be tools used in sensation and impact play.

Sensation play can take many forms, but the activity generally involves the senses.

Anything could be used in sensation play but some common tools would be the Wartenberg wheel, vampire gloves, and feathers.

The Wartenberg wheel is stainless steel object that has a handle and a spiked wheel at the end, originally used as a medical device to test nerve sensitivity.

Vampire gloves are gloves with tiny metal spikes poking out of the fingers or palm.

Typically practiced in the BDSM community, impact play involves the use of objects to strike a certain part of the person’s body. Whips, canes, paddles, floggers, and a cat o’ nine tail are some of the few things a person can use in impact play.

When engaging in this type of play there are a lot of important things to be aware of. Know where it’s safe to hit someone and how to hit them to avoid injuries. Communicate with your partner about comfort and pain tolerance levels. Establish safe words to use during play, one to indicate lighten up and another denoting that the person receiving the beating wants to stop.

Another thing to keep in mind with this kind of play is checking on your partner throughout and after the activity.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church hosts annual Taste of Grace

By Katalina Quintanilla
Reporter

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church hosted their 9th annual Taste of Grace at The Gardens at Mill Creek on Oct. 5.

The yearly event is a fundraiser for the Bakersfield Homeless Center and the Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault. Every single item at the fundraiser was donated from parishioners, the community, and co-partners of the church.

“It [Taste of Grace] brings the community of Bakersfield together,” said Miriam Raub Vivian, a parishioner.

“It is an affordable and fun event for everybody.”

The fundraiser gave members of the church and the community the ability to come together to help raise awareness and donations for a good cause. Donations provided the fundraiser with unlimited wine,

a diverse selection of cheeses, and home-cooked meals made by members of the community.

“We’ve been coming for 9 years,” said church members Dolores Whitley and Marilyn Metzgar. They said the thing that brings them back every year is the comradery and the gift to support and give back to the homeless shelter.

California weather was in favor of a calming breeze and with a sunset that illuminated The Gardens with a carefree ambiance. Standard Procedure, a local jazz band, delivered live music to event goers to ease the night with some classic tunes.

“We are sold out once again with a little over 100 people anticipated,” Cindy Lyday, External Affairs Manager, said.

Lyday said that from the first event to now it has grown immensely with the help of the community. Many con-

gressional members attended and donated a lot of the food for the night. She also brought seven volunteers from either the homeless shelter and the Alliance to help with the event as well.

“The beauty of events like this is that it has unrestricted funds. So we can use these funds to fill any hole that we have at the homeless center and the Alliance. Anything from repairs in the building, to helping buy diapers for the babies,” Lyday said.

The money raised

at the event is split between the sister organizations, the Homeless Shelter, and the Alliance. For the past 10 years, St. Paul’s has had the pleasure to organize a Taste of Grace for the non-profit organization with the hopes of growing every year.

“We need community support. There is a lot of opportunities to help the Alliance, there is a lot of opportunities to help the Bakersfield Homeless Center if they reach out to us and called us,” Lyday said.



KATALINA QUINTANILLA / THE RIP

Attendees at Taste of Grace event mingle while also enjoying a nice glass of wine.

Release of long-awaited Hozier EP pleases listeners

By Paige Atkison
Editor-in-Chief

Hozier's new EP "Nina Cried Power" wowed listeners upon its late September release. Hozier, a folk-rock artist from Ireland, first made waves with his single "Take Me to Church" in 2013. Since then, Hozier has collected numerous awards, including a Grammy nomination.

Hozier's self-titled album made its debut in 2014, and fans have patiently waited for the release of a new EP in 2018.

The EP is composed of four songs, two powerful anthems and two soothing ballads.

The opening song "Nina Cried Power" is a rousing tribute to previous civil rights movements in America and Europe.

"The song started as a tongue-in-cheek inquiry into modern popular language regarding political awareness and grew from there," Hozier wrote in his newsletter.

The opening line of the song "It's not the waking/it's the rising," references the concept of being "woke," a word used to describe political awareness. Hozier combats today's emphasis on simply being aware of social injustice rather than using that awareness to become the catalyst for change.

The song builds slowly, starting with a complicated yet steady drum beat. As Hozier's vocals join the track, simple piano chords build the verse. The final addition to the verse's crescendo is the addition of a catchy bass riff paired with a chorus of voices.

As the song is an ode to previous civil rights anthems, the music incorporates aspects from Gospel and rhythm and blues, including artist and civil rights activist Mavis Staples.

"Nina Cried Power" swells to a startling halt before the chorus begins with Hozier belting "and I could cry power!" His melody is then joined by Staples' powerful and raspy vibrato.

As the song continues, Hozier makes repeated references to other artists who spoke truth to power, including Nina Simone, Billie Holliday, Mavis Staples, James Brown, and Bob Dylan.

The second song, "NFWMB," an acronym that stands for "nothing f--- with my baby," is an apocalyptic ballad full of Bib-

lical allusions.

The first verse begins with an allusion to the Yeats' poem "The Second Coming," with the line "From Bethlehem we slouched/and then I must have caught a good look at you."

Hozier lulls his audience with his gentle serenade backed by the haunting melody. The song is rife with metaphor, such as the line "If I were born as a black thorn tree/I'd want to be felled by you/held by you/fuel the pyre of your enemies."

Hozier turns his lover into a triumphant force that cannot be bothered by the disasters around her. His muse is described as a creature not only surviving, but

ics of the first verse: "All reason flown, as God looks on in abject apathy/A squall, and all of me is a prayer in perfect piety/A moment's silence when my baby puts the mouth on me."

Hozier's final scathing critique of Catholicism is in the second verse and chorus.

He first criticizes clerics for the hypocrisy of their obsession with sex. "What yields the need for those who lead us oh so morally/Those that would view the same we do through their deformity/Who view the deed as power's creed, as pure authority."

Upon the first listen, the audience may gather that Hozier is referencing widespread child sexual abuse.

This is confirmed shortly after in the second chorus, "Be thankful some know it lovingly/There the reason comes in the common tongue of your loving me." Hozier implores the religious establishment to simply be thankful that some have known sex through love rather than violence.

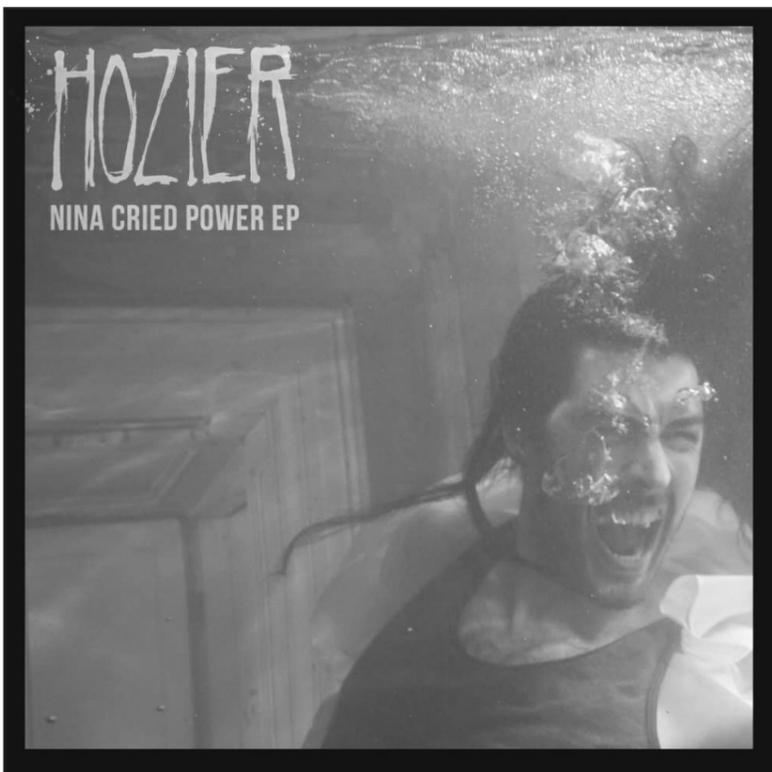
The EP concludes with another solemn ballad in which Hozier

mourns the loss of a former lover. "Shrike," like many of Hozier's songs also relies on extended metaphor. Hozier casts himself as a shrike, a bird known for impaling its prey.

His lover is the thorn the shrike stands on. He continues his lament for lost faith, singing "And I had no idea on what ground I was founded/All of that goodness is going with you now/Then when I met you my virtues uncounted/ All of my goodness is going with you now."

The ballad closes the album with the powerful theme of rebirth. "Remember me love, when I'm reborn/as a shrike to your sharp and glorious thorn."

Hozier's latest EP is sure to impress long-time fans as well as lure in a new audience. His diverse style of music and well-crafted lyrics make each song worth listening to-over and over again.



GOOGLE IMAGES

The artwork for Hozier's new album, "Nina Cried Power."

intently observing the chaos around her.

In an abrupt change of pace, the EP's next song, "Moment's Silence (Common Tongue)," is another catchy anthem. The song continues the common motif throughout Hozier's work: the loss of faith and struggle to find meaning after a religious deconstruction.

Similar to "Take Me to Church," this song includes a uniquely religious tone. Hozier's critique of Catholic doctrine is clear; he finds meaning in human relationships- and sex- rather than in the grasp of religious ritual.

He refers to being with his lover as his own cure for his soul.

"A cure I know that soothes the soul/the soul impossibly/a moment's silence when my baby puts her mouth on me."

He continues to find meaning in her, while disregarding the belief that God is particularly concerned with their behavior. This can be found throughout the song, particularly in the lyr-

Both Disney and Final Fantasy fans will certainly enjoy newest "Kingdom Hearts" game

Video Games: *All Things Gaming*

By Ruben Lira

Reporter

With the release of the upcoming game "Kingdom Hearts 3" there is a lot of hype towards the game since its release in 2002. The games that lead up to the latest entry have so many titles on multiple systems, as well as an HD re-release for the console of today. So, what is Kingdom Hearts and what makes it great?

Kingdom Hearts is a series created by Square Enix that mixes the Disney franchise with Final Fantasy in a way that works great together.

The story from the first game follows the character Sora who lives on an island called Destiny Islands amongst his friends Riku and Kairi. They wish to make a raft to leave their home and see other worlds. One night their island is attacked by a dark entity called The Heartless and Sora is chosen by a weapon called the "keyblade" to fight The Heartless. As he is taken from his island and fighting The Heartless, Goofy and Donald

Duck are at Disney Castle and see a note left by King Mickey. The king's letter reads that he left to find The Darkness that is destroying the other Disney Worlds. He instructs the duo to find the keyblade-wielder to help fight against The Heartless and to tell Queen Minnie not to worry. Donald and Goofy then decide to find the king as well as the keyblade wielder.

After fighting The Heartless Sora in his island has been transported to a new world called Traverse Town. He realizes he is alone without his friends, so he decides to look those that were left behind. While trying to locate he fights more heartless and ends up meeting Donald and Goofy. They decide to work together to fight The Heartless, find the king and Sora's friends.

One of the best features of the game is going to different worlds that are all based on

various Disney mov-



Ruben Lira

ies and cartoons. Unlike most role-playing games that make the player wait to attack and defend, Kingdom Hearts has more action and free use of magic spells and summons, which are given.

Summons are all based on characters from movies and each summons has their own abilities, such as summoning Simba from "The Lion King." Simba uses a roar attack for a certain amount of time. Summoning a character like Stitch can replenish Sora's health, magic, and attack foes that attack the player.

Among each world, there is an option to change your party. For example, in "The Nightmare Before Christmas" world where Donald or Goofy can be replaced with Jack Skellington who has his own abilities that can help the player.

The game not only has its own story but also follows some of the stories already told in each world. Some start at a point in the Disney films where the world is based on the end point of that story.

In Mulan's world, the story starts when Mulan is joining the army and follows how she ends up being discovered. Playing in the world of Hercules starts with the ending of the film when Hercules decides to stay on earth.

There has been a total of nine entries into the Kingdom Hearts series. Both the story and game are great for anyone who loves action and Disney.

FORUM: KCCCD trustees debate

Continued from Page 1

high school GPAs and courses. "I wish [AB 705] would've been enacted when I was a student,"

Melsom said. "It's a way to show that you are progressing forward and you're not just looking at a test score,

but you're looking at an evaluation based on [student's] grades, and ... high school course-work ... It fast-tracks

people to get where they want to go, whether it be a certificate, a transfer, or a degree."

BC holds a public safety expo

By Todd Banker
Reporter

Bakersfield College held a Public Safety Career Expo on Oct. 10. The expo consisted of 65 local, state, and federal agencies. The event was crowded with students, faculty and agency personnel.

Bakersfield College Criminal Justice and Behavioral Science Professor Patricia M. Smith said the expo helps students answer questions regarding public agencies and their educational requirements.

"This is a spectacular event," Smith said. "I started my career out of BC too. I was a student here and I got hired at probation when I was a sophomore."

According to Smith, there are a lot of jobs to do in the law enforcement business. Smith worked in law enforcement for 30 years as a probation officer and has also worked in jails and for mental health Services.

Agencies brought vehicles and equipment to the expo such as a Kern County Sheriff helicopter, a National Guard armored vehicle, and local agencies displayed SWAT vehicles. At noon, the California Highway Patrol did a fly-over in a helicopter.

Each agency had personnel who were prepared to talk about important factors regarding the hiring process.

According to Smith, some agencies were able to recruit students as well. Some agencies require as little as a GED when others require an associate's or even bachelor's degree.

Criminal justice, medical, or fire science degrees may be the degree of choice for students interested in public safety and law enforcement - but some agencies are not requiring students to have specific degrees.

According to FBI Special Agent Michael Bengtson, the FBI doesn't only accept criminal justice majors. They have social workers and doctors, lawyers, and CPAs. Bengtson says the FBI accepts diversity- they don't want everybody to think the same.

Law enforcement, medical emergency, and fire agencies were not the only agencies present at the expo. The military was also present.

Recruiters from all branches of the military were available for students to talk with.

Sergeant First Class Everett J. Enstine of the United States Army said "the biggest thing we talk about is what the Army is and what it provides."

According to Enstine the army is a means to an end, it's a means to get you where you want to be.

Enstine also said the army can provide experience that agencies at the expo would like to see on a resume.

BC student Jasmine Candela, a criminal



A Kern County Sheriff helicopter lands on a grass field at the Bakersfield College Public Safety Career Expo on Oct 11.

TODD BANKER / THE RIP

justice major, said, "I thought it was really fun. I got to see all the different things they have here. I'm in criminal justice but I still don't know what I want to do. Seeing the different agencies, it showed me what I can do."

BC student Cynthia Sanchez, a nursing major, said "It was pretty interesting honestly."

According to Sanchez, she was interested in some of the booths at the expo after seeing all of the careers available.

WWE in Bakersfield

World Wrestling Entertainment: *Attitude Era*
By Taylor Jensen
Reporter

Rabobank Arena opened back in 1998 on Oct. 1 and has since held numerous incredible events such as concerts, sports games, musicals, plays, symphonies, circuses and many more.

However, one event that has stood out tremendously throughout the 20-year history of the arena is World Wrestling Entertainment.

The WWE, then World Wrestling Federation (WWF), was the first sold-out event the arena held.

The arena has had a total of 37 shows in the last 20 years.

Bakersfield has had the opportunity to witness private house shows and live TV shows such as Raw and Smackdown.

House shows are when it isn't aired live on television. Believe it or not, sometimes they are more fun and connecting compared to live shows.

The first WWE show held at the Rabobank Arena was on Nov. 20, 1998, and since then many wrestlers have made their stop in Bakersfield such as Steve Austin, John Cena, The Undertaker, and many others.

The earliest memorable WWE event was WWF Smackdown! on Dec. 13, 2001. It was televised and it even went outside of the arena.

During the show, a segment took place with Vince McMahon, Booker T and Ric Flair in one of the suites. They had received food from catering that supposedly wasn't theirs but was "Stone Cold" Steve Austin's food.

Somehow, some of it caught on fire and eventually the fire department came in to evaluate. As they checked the suite, one "fireman" was still standing behind McMahon.

McMahon eventually turned around and when the "fireman" took off his mask, Steve Austin was revealed which caused the Bakersfield crowd to erupt into a roar.

Austin attacked McMahon and then attacked Booker T.

The beatdown was led through the crowd, down the steps, and into the backstage area.

When they reached the backstage parking

lot, Booker T climbed into a vehicle and peeled out of the arena's vicinity.



Taylor Jensen

However, Austin was only one step behind him. He got into his own truck and followed Booker T out.

When they came back to the storyline, Booker T was in the Green Frog Market where he was trying to hide from Austin who had his sights set on Booker.

Eventually, Austin found him and the beatdown continued throughout the supermarket.

Austin humiliated Booker T by spilling food, products, and beer all over him.

That segment is considered by WWE as one of the best segments in the history of the business and I believe Bakersfield is very fortunate to have hosted this history-making moment.

Since then, Bakersfield has hosted dozens of successful Smackdown tapings and even a few Raws.

WWE NXT had two shows in 2016 and 2017 at the Convention Center and I attended both of them.

The energy was through the roof.

I've been to every WWE show in Bakersfield since 2009 and the atmosphere of NXT topped the main roster shows from the past to the present.

The crowd was different at NXT as well. There were more adults than kids and it was refreshing because I can relate more to that age group.

WWE will return to Bakersfield in the near future and it will add to the history of WWE shows at this fantastic venue.

Hopefully, they continue to "lay the smackdown" at Rabobank Arena for many years to come.



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BC women's soccer team continue to build their strong winning streak

By Franco Castelo
Reporter

Bakersfield College women's soccer team faced Victor Valley College at Memorial Stadium and left with another victory with the score of 4-0.

With only seven seconds on the clock, Rhyan Acosta sent the ball from midfield and scores. Acosta displayed consistent and great passes and callouts to her teammates during the entire first half of the game. At minute 21, Jackie Zavala scored with help of the center midfielders ending the first half with a score 2-0.

While in halftime, the Renegade players discussed and commented on being more consistent with their plays and having control while under pressure.

During the second half, Victor Valley's defense becomes more of a challenge for the Renegades but

did not stop Freshman Emily Lostetter scoring an impressive goal over the defense and keeper a minute 70.

The Renegades showed dominance both offensively and defensively making it hard for the college of Victory Valley to accomplish anything.

Forward Amy Packard displayed aggressive pressure for the forwards of Victor Valley College making it difficult for them as well.

Finally, the last goal was made by Lissette Garcia with only one minute left before the referee blew the whistle with the final score of 4-0.

The Renegades are now 9-3 in the season and improving with every game and challenge that they are faced with.



FRANCO CASTELO/ THE RIP

Player Drew Hallum takes the shot with a headbutt.

Oct. 5 Volleyball game leads to victory

By Malachi Parker
Reporter

The Lady Renegades played host in a top ten matchup with El Camino on Oct. 5 and came out victorious with a clean sweep with set scores of 25-23, 25-22, and 25-21.

The Lady Renegades came into this game with a 13-1 record and were riding a seven-game win streak.

El Camino came into the game ranked

third in the state and a 10-1 record.

Each set was hard fought with several big rallies; however, the Renegades prevailed each time.

The offensive attack was led by Lanie Camarillo with 20 kills and Penelope Zepeda adding 13 more.

The defensive specialist, Jessica Merante, had another big game with 24 digs on the evening.

"We're going to take it week by week. Seven game win streak and

14-1 is now behind us so we're going to enjoy this win but forget about it next week when we get back to work," said Coach Carl Ferreria.

"We knew this wasn't going to be easy so we were going to have to come in and outperform them.

We closed out each set pretty well because all week we practice late-game situations and mental toughness and I think that really showed up tonight," BC setter Sarah Armendariz said.



MALACHI PARKER/ THE RIP

Sarah Armendariz and Ryan Bayne leap to attempt block the ball at BC's volleyball game against El Camino College on Oct. 5.

Volleyball extends winning streak

By Cameron Johnson
Reporter

The Renegade Women's Volleyball team continued their season of dominance with another convincing win against West LA College on Oct. 10. The match was won 3 games to none with each win coming by 12 points or more.

Lanie Camarillo lead the team with 11 kills overall, and Penelope Zepeda was close be-

hind with 10. Freshman libero Jessica Merante showed off her defensive skills with 13 digs. Zepeda added 10 digs herself.

In the past month alone, the Renegades have earned impressive wins over three ranked teams in the CCCAA.

They won against number 23 ranked Cypress College on Sept. 22 by a score of 3-2, against number 10 ranked Moorpark 3-1 on Sept. 28, and most impressively they swept

number five ranked El Camino on Oct. 5.

The Renegades are now ranked number three in the state and improve their record to 15-1 on the season. They travel to Antelope Valley on Oct. 12 for their third Western State Conference game of the season.

The next tough test for the team will come on Oct. 17 when the play number 11 ranked College of the Canyons on the road.



CAMERON JOHNSON / THE RIP

Lanie Camarillo prepares to serve as the rest of team watches on during their game against West LA on Oct. 10.

Op-Ed: How to believe women in the era of the #MeToo movement

By Haley Duval
Reporter

The testimony of Judge Brett Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford captured many people's attention around the country through social media.

Ford appeared at the senate hearing to address her allegations of sexual assault against Kavanaugh. Ford alleges the assault took place in 1982, at the hands of Kavanaugh and his friend Mark Judge.

Upon watching and following the hearing, it was clear that no matter how poorly and overly defensive Kavanaugh appeared to be and despite the strength of Ford's claims, the Republican senators were in favor of Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court.

There are so many powerful men who never and likely will never experience sexual assault. Yet, they act as if they are experts on how a victim of sexual

assault should come forward to pursue justice.

Throughout American culture, many men in power openly and bluntly support known rapists and abusers.

The important question is "why?" Why are they so quick to question and judge a woman's motive for coming forward with her story? Could they not simply hold the abuser accountable for his actions?

When a woman is sexually assaulted and turns on the TV, media, or other sources of news, she will see how women with similar stories are treated after coming forward.

She will see how those who come forward can be called liars, gold digger, sluts, overdramatic, and delusional.

Because of what she may see or hear, she will fear coming forward.

This fear causes sexual assault to continue to thrive.

Fear of being shamed and judged for something one has no control over, something that

is not one's fault keeps many from coming forward. Many times the woman is shamed instead of the perpetrator.

But when a man goes to a party and has a "little too much to drink" and does inappropriate things to an unconscious or non-consenting woman, he will find his behavior validated.

If he turns on the news he will see powerful men defending similar actions. He sees how they would do anything they can to help him. It can validate his unacceptable behavior.

He may see nothing wrong with his actions and continue to act that way.

The saying "boys would be boys" continues to be an excuse used by many. This notion is pervasive.

For example, if the assault happened years ago the defense for the perpetrator is "why ruin his life for a mistake he made when he was a kid?"

Or when the assault happened not long ago



GOOGLE IMAGES

Matt Damon (left) performing as Brett Kavanaugh on Saturday Night Live. Kavanaugh (right) testifies during a senate confirmation hearing.

the defense for him is that it's not fair to ruin a young man's future.

According to the National Sexual Violence Recourse Center, the prevalence of a false reporting of sexual assault is between two and 10 percent.

However, one in five women have or will ex-

perience sexual violence in one point in their lives.

By contrast, the rate of men who are sexually assaulted is near one in 71.

It is a never-ending cycle that continues to shame women into staying silent.

The Kavanaugh hear-

ing is just another example.

Everyone experiences trauma in different ways and it takes a lot of courage to share personal accounts of violence.

The best thing to do when a survivor of sexual assault comes forward is to believe them.

Op-Ed: The new Kanye West, "Ye"

By Cameron Johnson
Reporter

While growing up I came to idolize famous people or celebrities who were influential in areas that I was interested in. I looked up to Kobe Bryant when I was first learning to love basketball, and when I became infatuated with Apple I loved Steve Jobs. But undoubtedly, the person I looked up to the most was the Chicago rapper Kanye West. His musical genius mixed with an unmatched swagger made a big impression on my younger self, and I dove head-first into his music and every aspect of his life.

Unfortunately, a hard part of growing up is learning the ugly truths of people you may have naively given your allegiance to. I remember being shocked when reading of Jobs' ruthless business tactics, and I couldn't believe the news when Bryant was accused of rape.

However, when it comes to Kanye, the process of him showing his true colors to the public is unique. It is important to remember that in 2007, Kanye's mother, Donda, passed away after complications from a plastic surgery operation. 2008 saw the release of his fourth studio album, "808's and Heartbreaks," which was a completely different sound for Kanye. The death of his mother clearly affected

his sound, and consequently, the album was met with harsh reviews.

2009 may have been Kanye's greatest misstep when he infamously interrupted Taylor Swift at the MTV



GOOGLE IMAGES

Kanye West wears a MAGA hat in support of President Trump.

Video Music Awards. This incident created a ripple effect of bad grace with the media, public, and some of his close friends.

Clearly a low point for Kanye, he went on a one-year hiatus to focus on himself emotionally and also to find his sound once again. "My Beautiful

Dark Twisted Fantasy" was released in 2010 and it showed the music genius was back on top once again, and seemed back in order, both mentally and emotionally. But as we all know



GOOGLE IMAGES

Kanye West wears a MAGA hat in support of President Trump.

the next 8 years were filled with Kanye moments that made us question what was really going on in that brilliant mind.

Questionable song lyrics and music videos with his naked wife tipped off that something wasn't quite right, but Kanye seemed to go incognito once

again when he deleted all his social media. In 2018, Kanye came back to social media, mainly making his mark on Twitter. His choice to wear a MAGA hat and support President Trump outraged fans and made people ask "just what in the world is he thinking." He's said things such as "slavery was a choice" during a TMZ interview and that he's freed himself from the "sunken place" (referring to the movie 'Get Out').

However crazy these antics may make Kanye out to be, I do admire the man for a few things. He isn't afraid to express himself, however questionable his opinions may be. He isn't easily scared by those who talk down on his way of thinking and he's using his platform in the best way he sees fit.

His ideas are free-flowing; whether it be music, fashion, or most recently politics. But that free-flowing style may contribute to his downfall.

Kanye recently deleted his social media once again, so who knows what's in store next for the music icon.

He is still a big figure in my life, and his music continues to move me in ways that are hard to explain.

I hope his break from the world of Twitter will help him gain a better perspective on the social climate, but most importantly I hope he continues to speak about what he believes in.