Time in BC’s Nursing Program by Max Burdick

In the fall of 1958, I enrolled as an honors student at Bakersfield College with a major in engineering/pre-med. I took classes in calculus, slide rule operations, drafting, surveying, as well as chemistry, physics, and zoology. I graduated from B.C. in 1960 with an Associate of Science degree.

When I graduated I applied to and was accepted at the College of Pacific in Stockton, California. It was a Christian school and my major was still pre-med & engineering. At the start of my second semester I had to drop out of school and return to Bakersfield because my mother and step-dad were getting a divorce. As it turned out my mother and step-dad got back together about 6 months later but by then I was on a new track.

Thanks to my engineering classes at B.C. I got a job with the County of Kern Roads Department as a member of a survey team. We went all over the city and county surveying streets for new home developments. I helped survey many of the streets in the area now known as Kern City.

Just before the beginning of the 1962 Fall Semester at Bakersfield College I had a talk with my family doctor, Dr. Sutherland. From our talk I got the idea that I could go into nursing and become a Registered Nurse first and then work my way through medical school as an RN. That sounded like a good plan.

Without an appointment I went to Bakersfield College one day and had an interview with the director of the Bakersfield College Nursing Program, Dr. Kathryn Cafferty. By the end of the interview, I was accepted into the Fall 1962 nursing class which was to start the following week. There was only one other male student in the program. He was George Moss and he was getting an RN degree so he could run his family’s nursing home in Bakersfield on “M” Street.

Today when I tell how I got into the B.C. Nursing Program to pre-nursing students they can’t believe it. The process to get into the nursing program is very different today. It took me two years to get my RN but now it can take over five years to get through the process.

In 1962 most of the B.C. Nursing instructors were unmarried and it seemed that many of them had been nuns. Dr. Cafferty had been a nun and she graduated with her doctorate degree from Columbia College. She was one of the leading nurse educators in the U.S. promoting the development of the new Associate Degree nursing programs. Bakersfield College was one of the first A.S. degree RN programs in California. The Bakersfield College RN Program started in the late 50s when B.C. took over the diploma nursing program that was being run at Mercy Hospital. Another nursing instructor was Jane Carney, an ex-nun and ex-Navy nurse, who taught the Pediatric and Psychiatric Nursing courses. Only one of the nursing instructors was married. Mrs. Eggebrotten was married and taught us Basic Nursing Techniques as well as Maternity Nursing. All of the instructors were dedicated to the training of nurses.
One of the classes during the first semester of the nursing program dealt with basic nursing skills. We would go to some old buildings on the Kern General Hospital campus to do bed cleaning and bed making. We had to scrub down the old hospital beds and then Dr. Cafferty would check our work with her “white gloves” and Q-tips. She would run her hand under the bed rails and then put the Q-tips into the bed springs to see if there was any dirt remaining on the bed. If the glove or Q-tip came back dirty you had to start over.

Another nursing skill we learned was how to give a patient a bed bath. Guess who got volunteered to be the patient – ME. And who was teaching the class, it was the director of the program – Dr. Cafferty. So there I was only in my Speedo covered with a sheet in a hospital bed getting a bed bath from the director of the program. All the time I was being closely watched by the rest of the class. That was fun.

In those days the nursing program had very strict rules regarding student behavior and there was no such thing as student rights. Whatever the nursing director or nursing instructors said, that was the law. We wore uniforms to the hospital when we did our clinical time. The male students wore white shoes, white pants and candy-striped shirts. Our hair was cut short and no facial hair was allowed.

Female students in the class wore candy-striped dresses with a white bib top plus the B.C. nurse’s cap which had to be starched and folded in a special way. They could not wear colored fingernail polish or jewelry. Their hair could not touch the collar of their nursing uniform and their uniform dress had to be long enough to cover their knees. Every Monday morning we had to go to the Director’s office to be weighed since gaining weight was one of the problems facing students in the nursing program.

Another rule of the nursing program was that nursing students were not allowed to date employees of the local hospitals – interns, doctors, techs, or nurses. One of the students in the class didn’t follow the rule and got caught. We were all sitting in class one day when Dr. Cafferty entered at the back of the classroom. She called out the student’s name and they left together. We never saw her again. She had been going out with an intern from the hospital. Later in the program I would feel some of the same wrath for bending the rules.

The B.C. Nursing Program was very time consuming since the science classes and the nursing class were all taught during the program. The science classes were not prerequisites to get into the program like they are today. We would go to the hospitals for our clinical time twice a week and then all the other classes were taught on the other three days a week.

As I remember my years in the nursing program I think I started my teaching career during that time period. In 1962 our instructor for microbiology/bacteriology was Paul Baldwin. He was an outstanding teacher and I had him for general zoology when I was enrolled at Bakersfield College before transferring to University of the Pacific. About the third week of the semester Professor Baldwin died suddenly from a heart attack. It was a big loss for the students and the college.

The college found a replacement instructor for the micro class. The new instructor was a woman who worked in the lab at Kern General Hospital. From the moment her class began we had trouble because her lectures were confusing and very hard to follow. Her quizzes and tests were even worse.

I began tutoring some of my classmates to help all of us get through the class. One day in class I asked the new instructor about some of the class material I had been reading. She couldn’t answer the questions and got mad at me for asking. She said: “If you know so much why don’t you teach the class tomorrow!” So I did and soon after that she left teaching and went back to the hospital lab. Ron Allsman took over the class. Ron was 26 and I was 22 at the time. Ron was a pharmacist and a great teacher.

Everything went well from then on.

In 1963 while my half of the nursing class was on psych rotation at Camarillo State Hospital, President Kennedy was killed. Someone came into the hospital dorms and said that Kennedy had been killed. I said good since I thought they were talking about the cat named Kennedy that ran around the grounds. When I found out it was President Kennedy that had been killed I was sorry for what I had said.

The Governor of California, Pat Brown, declared that President Kennedy’s death was a national and state emergency. He allowed all State employees to go home to mourn the loss of the President. As a result of his action we the nursing students were left in charge of the psych patients on several of the locked wards. The patients were crying and running around the wards and the only thing they saw on the TV was the repeated playing of the killing and all the other events happening around the assassination. The students and the patients made it through the day but it was a difficult time for everyone.

While at Camarillo the nursing students would often interact with patients at their social activities. One evening two of the wards were having a dance so the nursing students went to help out. One of the female patients at the dance came up and asked me to dance. She was at least a foot taller than me so when we danced I was looking up. As we danced she looked down and said that I danced very well. I replied “So do you.” Then she said that she thought that I would be well enough to be discharged from the hospital soon. I said, “I hope so.”

Our time at Camarillo was very rewarding and we learned a lot while there. The doctors at Camarillo still did electroshock and insulin shock therapy on patients. Those were very difficult procedures to watch and even more difficult when you had to assist. As students we also had some of the less invasive treatments done to us. I had a “wet body wrap” therapy as well as the “fine water spray” treatment done to me. We all survived our time at the psych hospital.

While in the nursing program I met and started dating another nursing student, Kathryn Ann Harding. Again this was against the program rules. The teaching staff
did not encourage nursing students dating other nursing students. Kathy and I dated but kept it a secret. We got engaged on Christmas Eve 1963.

Kathy and I were married on February 15, 1964 in Las Vegas, NV. We drove to Las Vegas with the best man and maid of honor. We left on Friday after school and got married by the Justice of the Peace when we arrived. According to our best man all the time that Kathy and I were looking at each other and repeating our vows, the Justice of the Peace was cleaning his glasses with his tie. It didn’t matter to us. We were married. However, everything finally went well and we came back to Bakersfield on Sunday evening so that we would be ready for school on Monday.

As I mentioned earlier one of the rules of the nursing program was that dating a fellow student was a big NO-NO; therefore, getting married was really NOT OK with the nursing program director. I told you I would feel the wrath of the director. For the remainder of our time in the nursing program we were both put on different clinical schedules in different hospitals. Kathy was assigned to work at Mercy Hospital on the evening shift and I was assigned at Kern General for the night shift. I only saw Kathy in class and on the weekends but we survived.

In June 1964 Kathy and I graduated from the nursing program and were able to work as Graduate Nurses until we took the State Boards. We went to Long Beach to take the Nursing Boards. The Nursing Boards took two full days of tests covering all aspects of nursing. We both passed with flying colors and finally got our nursing licenses.

After graduating from the nursing program, we both went to work at Kern General Hospital (now called Kern Medical Center). I went to work in the Emergency Room and Kathy worked in Labor & Delivery. We each made about $400 a month when we began our nursing careers. In 1966 the nurses in San Francisco went on strike and overnight nurses’ salaries jumped to $700 a month all over California.

The Radiologic Technology Program officially arrived in 1969 at Bakersfield College. However, the roots of the program started with Mercy Hospital who began the hospital-based certificate program in 1958 under the direction of Mrs. Ferris A. (Hannan) Boyce, the chief x-ray technologist at the hospital. Mercy Hospital provided on-the-job-training to x-ray technologists while students took pre-professional classes in anatomy, physiology, physics and medical terminology at Bakersfield College. It was a different time in health care when the minimum requirements for entrance into the hospital-based program was "Students were thrilled to practice on processing equipment that matched their daily clinical environment."
With the explosion of digital imaging technology the program answered the call in 2009 to add digital processing equipment through CCCC grant funding. Students were thrilled to practice on processing equipment that matched their daily clinical environment. This equipment is still in use today. The latest remodel was in 2015 when previously the fluoroscopic x-ray equipment broke and parts were not available for repair. Again the college supported the program and secured funding for state-of-the-art digital x-ray tables and a mobile fluoroscopic unit. This consistent support has permitted the program to maintain programmatic accreditation curriculum standards with the State and national Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.

The program has had multiple achievements in its first 49 years. Student success and retention has been maintained above 90% for decades. The licensure exam pass rate regularly reaches 100%. Local employment has been 100% annually for years with 85-90% of the Kern County imaging workforce being met with our graduates. In 1999, the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce recognized the Program as a nominee in the health education division for the Beautiful Bakersfield Awards. Faculty, including Kathy Hairfield, Sharon Peacock, Nancy Perkins and Rick Frias, prepared a poster board that represented our community involvement, excellence in maintaining the highest standards of continuing programmatic accreditation and outstanding student success. The medical x-ray community, faculty and x-ray students were excited and humbled to be recognized for our commitment to excellence.

The next adventure will be in 2019 when the Program celebrates our 50th year. Stay tuned!

Allied Health Building History

In 1995 all of the Allied Health programs consolidated and moved into the Allied Health wing of the Math-Science building. College administration and Dr. Peggy Buckley, retired Allied Health Chairperson and Nursing Director, worked hard towards establishing a new building for educating allied health students. This included associate degrees in Radiologic Technology and Registered Nursing in addition to certificate programs in Emergency Medical Technician, Vocational Nursing and Certified Nurse Assistant. This new building would provide a central location for all students to learn by providing for a state-of-the-art patient skills lab, a 20-station computer laboratory with specialized medical software, dedicated classrooms and offices.

I remember the excitement about the groundbreaking for the new building. It was especially fun to end the groundbreaking ceremony by operating the backhoe and to turn the soil at the appointed “spot” without breaking anything!
Bakersfield College began training for careers in Healthcare in 1951. In cooperation with Kern General Hospital (now Kern Medical) the college created a cooperative training program for Vocational Nursing. The VN program was a 12-month program and students took classes in bungalows on the hospital grounds. The 1st class of Vocational Nurses graduated in 1952 with a certificate degree. The Program can proudly say they have been in existence for over 67 years with 1000's of students completing the program.

The Registered Nursing Program began in 1957 under the direction of Dr. Kathryn Cafferty. The college has the distinction of having the 6th oldest Associate Degree Nursing Program in the state of California.

In early 1968, the college wanted to develop other Allied Health programs so Dr. Ron Allsman and Dean Thomas Merson formed a committee whose charge was to develop several Allied Health programs. In 1969, Ferris Boyce was hired as the Director/Instructor for the Radiologic Technology program and Ms. Alexis Butler Martinez began teaching the first cohort in the Dental Assisting program. In 1970, the Medical Assisting program was added to the list of Allied Health Programs.

In 1970, the college implemented the LVN to RN Mobility program (LVN to RN Ladder program.) In 1971, when Dr. Cafferty left, the VN program was moved to the Allied Health Department and the RN Program became its own department. During the mid-1970s, under the leadership of Department Chair Max Burdick, the Health Careers department developed the Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, Mental Health Technician, and Physician Assistant programs. In 1979, Mrs. Nancy Perkins was hired as the new Radiological Technology Director and served in this capacity until her retirement in 2018. The Health Career programs were all discontinued in the mid-1980s except the RN, VN, EMT and Rad Tech programs. It was also during this time that the department name was changed from Health Careers to the Allied Health division.

In 1995, the Allied Health building was opened on the main campus and the Nursing and Radiologic Technology programs finally became housed in the same building. Prior to this time, the nursing programs had been located across Mt. Vernon avenue in portable buildings next to Kerns Schools Federal Credit Union.

In 1998 the college implemented the Nursing Assistant Academy, a Job Training Program (JTP). In 2001, Ms. Cindy Collier, faculty member and Division Chair, was named interim Nursing Program Director. In January 2002, the nursing program director position was converted from a faculty position to an Administrative position and the Division faculty elected Ms. Chris Romanowich as Allied Health Division Chair. In addition, this same year the College implemented the Distance Education LVN to RN program with Cerro Coso Community College. During the fall 2003, the college went into another collaboration this time with Porterville College, West Hills Lemoore and the Delano campus and implemented the Distance Education Regional Collaborative RN Program. RN education at these three sites used interactive TV, and students could participate in clinical rotations in their home communities. This was the first program in the state to do multi-site broadcasting for nursing education. The faculty was recognized as a leader in simulation and the Allied Health Skills Lab was one of the most advanced Community College nursing skills labs in the state.

Recognizing that the RN program couldn’t expand any further and that there were many students interested in healthcare occupations, the College considered development of additional allied health training programs.
In 2004, the Home Health Aid program was added to the Nurse Assistant Program as a stackable certificate program. This same year, the College, in collaboration with Hall Ambulance, re-established the Paramedic Program. The program received national accreditation in 2005.

In 2009, Director Collier worked with Porterville College Director Valerie Lombardi and wrote a $1 million-dollar grant so that Porterville College could develop their own RN program. In 2010, when Porterville began instruction in Registered Nursing, the BC Distance Education RN Collaborative training program was dissolved. In 2015, the Public Health Sciences AS-T was created, the first associate degree for transfer from the Allied Health department. In addition, in 2017 Dr. Sarah Baron created the Patient Navigator Certificate of Achievement, which leads to the AS-T in Public Health Science. In 2016, the Health Information Technology program was developed. The program is presently undertaking the national accreditation process and will have a full site visit in fall 2019.

PEOPLE WE WILL MISS

RON ALLSMAN taught a wide variety of Life Science courses at Bakersfield College for 43 years starting in 1962. He helped initiate the BC nursing program. He received the Shirley Trembley Award for Excellence in Teaching and was Faculty Council (Senate) for two terms. Ron and his wife Margot were avid travelers. Both of their sons were BC student body presidents.

JOSEPHINE (JO) BELTRAN worked at the BC library front desk for many years in its original location opposite the Indoor Theater. She was known for her wonderful, ever-present smile.

CARL BENJAMIN passed away April 10, from a stroke which followed an Easter heart attack and apparent recovery. Carl taught various BC mathematics courses for over 40 years before retiring in 2011. He was well known in tennis circles and was the first coach for his daughter Camille who was inducted into Bob Elias Hall of Fame in 2006.

RICHARD BENSTON was a BC English professor for thirty-one years, from 1964 to 1995. He and his wife Carol, also an English professor, were known for hosting great Barbecues for the English Department!

MICHAEL BUDY retired in 2003 as Director of Information Technology at the KCCD where, combined with working at BC, he served 33 years. He graduated from Bakersfield College in 1971 following service in the Army in Korea.

RAY GONZALES returned to his hometown in 1965 to become one of the first Chicano professors to teach at Bakersfield College. Known as a political maverick, in 1972 he won an underdog campaign and became the Kern County’s first Chicano state assemblyman.

LINCOLN HALL, JR. served as the interim President of Bakersfield College from January 2004 to March 2005. Following that Dr. Hall served as interim president at Porterville College. In his earlier years, he had been president at both Reedley College and College of the Sequoias.

EVAN HOWARD taught English at BC for over thirty years. He served as the Advisor for the Associated Veteran Students in the late ‘60s. After retiring in 2000, he moved to San Francisco to enjoy the theater, music and arts. Living a year in London and many summers in Amsterdam, he enjoyed his travels in Europe.

JANE JOHNSON started at BC in 1968 teaching German and French in the interactive Language Lab in the newly built Language Arts Building (now Schafer Hall). As foreign languages faded, she taught ESL courses and joined the Learning Center staff (now Academic Development) where she became coordinator before retiring in 1998.

ELMORE LUND worked in the Learning Center Math Lab part-time following his retirement from teaching at North High School.

LYNNE MERCER grew up in Bakersfeld and, after graduating with a BSN from Fresno State, became a captain in the US Army. Following her army stint, she taught in the Bakersfield College Registered Nursing Program for many years.

AURORA REY worked in Food Service for many years during the ‘80s and ‘90s. She was a server in the food lines and was our morning ‘Coffee Service’ person. We often saw Aurora delivering donuts, cookies, and coffee to a meeting.

ROBERT WICKEY joined the BC chemistry department in 1965 after serving in the Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean War. He also taught Engineering and Industrial Drawing and Physical Science. With his passion for chemistry, he was part of the annual chemical magic show at BC. He served 27 years at BC.
Filming Bakersfield College Football, 1977 to 2005
by Arnold Burr
As told to Bob Covey, May 8, 2013

“Let me say i really enjoyed all my years filming Bakersfield College football. The best seat in the house is the press box roof.”

~Arnold (Arnie) Burr, Professor Retired, Automotive

My experience at Bakersfield College started in 1962 as a student living in the dorms. Several football players living in the dorms told me I should try out for the team since I played first string center for 3 years at Sunset High School in Hayward, CA; I thought I would give it a try. As soon as I walked into the locker room and saw the size of the BC linemen, I knew this was way out of my league. I'll never forget the first player to walk past me was “Big John Sellers.” He had to be 6’7” and at least 350 lbs. So I became a devoted BC fan and traveled to most of the away games as well as all the home games. I graduated in 1964, remaining an enthusiastic BC fan and missed very few home or away games.

In 1972 I was teaching at Bakersfield High School and was asked by Lowell Kamrar if I would take over BHS football filming for Coach Briggs. Lowell was filming both BHS and BC football and wanted to reduce his workload on weekends. High school football was a 3 game schedule each weekend with, frosh, JV and varsity. I learned quickly what the coaches wanted on film and enjoyed the interaction with coaches and players.

Sometime during the ’75 football season Lowell Kamrar asked me if I would like to film the BC games. I jumped at the opportunity and started sitting on top of the south side press box learning how to use a different camera. At BHS we used a German made Super 8mm Camera, with a very good Lens. At BC they used an old Bolex 16mm camera with 400 foot spools that sat on top. There were 3 spool cases each holding 400 feet of 16mm color film. It had a three lens turret setup, which took good clear film, but you were limited to what you could see through the camera lens. Most of the time we were set in the middle lens setting. After a couple of years of training Lowell retired from filming after the 1976 Jr. Rose Bowl, which Bakersfield won, and turned it all over to me.

In 1977 I was still filming for BHS and they were looking for a new camera so I suggested a 16mm Bolex. It was a new model with a single lens that went from very close to panoramic. After talking to Don Harrison, Athletic Director at BHS, I was able to use the camera at BC as well as BHS. BC coach Gerry Collis was so impressed with the new camera and its lens that BC purchased a new Bolex so I had a matched set to film the games, one camera for offense and one for defense. Prior to the two camera setup coaches would have to take the single game film and cut out all the offense and put it together, then take all the defense and put it together so each coach could work with their players on film day. Special teams usually went with the defense. With the 2 camera system they no longer had to cut and paste film. I filmed BC football for 27 years and for the first 12 years I was using the two Bolex 16mm cameras.

A typical night of filming with the Bolex would begin at home setting up the cameras. The first task was to load the 400 foot spool onto the film cartridge. The spool of film had a center spool, but no sides to hold the 400 feet in place. Also because the spools had no sides, light would expose the film. In order to load the film I had to put the film and cartridge into a double lined lightproof bag. It had a large zipper opening on one side and a place to slide your two arms and hands into the other side. I would slide my arms into the bag and, using my hands only by feeling, I’d remove the film from its wrapping, thread the cartridge, and attach the film to a blank spool. You had to be real careful not to push on the 400 foot spool, because it had no sides it could all come apart. If that happened, you would have to rewrap all 400 feet, by hand, back around the spool. This became a real problem on cold nights on the stadium roof.
having to remove the film from the cartridges. On a typical night, I would shoot from 1000 to 1200 feet of film. In the lightproof bag, I would take the film out of the cartridge and put the film into shipping cans and seal sides before removing them from the bag. Then the three cans of film were put into a shipping box, and I would take them to the Greyhound Bus Depot on 18th Street for shipment to Fresno. The film would leave Bakersfield about 12 midnight, be picked up in Fresno by a company that processed the color film that night, and returned on the morning bus from Fresno. The coaches would pick up the film Sunday morning and looked at it that same day.

Before I left home on game day, I would take the Bolex and put a sign in front of the lens with the information of that night’s game; Who we were playing, date, and either offense or defense. I did this for both cameras, one offense and one defense & special teams.

To get all this equipment to the roof on Memorial Stadium was another accomplishment. I had a backpack that held one Bolex the other was in a camera case. One of the cameras used a battery pack, which required me to carry six 6 volt batteries in a case. I also carried the shipping case with three empty cans in it and one tripod. There was one tripod installed on the stadium roof and a curved bench that you could slide on as you filmed from one end of the field to the other end.

The only away game I went to during those 12 years was Taft, and there I had to take two tripods. Away game film came from the host college. This was all handled by the coaches, so I don’t know all the details. They were paying me $100 a night and I think I got $25 extra for Taft.

In the mid 90s we went to Super VHS Video and the Bolex cameras were put into retirement. The new equipment was big and bulky so red shirt players would bring it to the top of the stadium. At the same time, I filmed the away games and red shirt players would bring the equipment to the press box roof or whatever place they offered the visiting team camera to be set up. One school gave us a painter scaffold, another a power lift. One day game in a stadium in LA I stood on the side of a hill behind the stands to film the game. In all the places I have shot film, nothing compares to BC.

The video equipment only required one video camera, but that information went into a good size control box that sent the information into the video recorders. I had 4 super VHS recorders in a large, foam-protected trunk. Offense, Defense, Special Teams, and a Master Copy were the 4 recorders. It would take about 30 minutes to install the wiring used to control the equipment. During the game, I held a three button switch, offense, defense and special teams, which was set at what I was filming. It also controlled the OFF and ON of the camera. The master copy recorded whenever the camera was on and was the trade tape given to the team we were playing the following week. The only things I carried to the stadium were blank Super VHS tapes I had labeled at home and titled with my personal video camera that did internal labeling. I would always bring my personal video camera in the car in case something went wrong with the BC equipment. I used it several times on away games because someone forgot to bring all of the pieces of equipment or we had a breakdown. I also carried an assortment of plastic bags and duct tape for wet weather, and an assortment of extra wires, some tools, and a thermos when the weather got cold. The red shirts were always waiting to take the equipment down as soon as the game ended, but even hurrying it took a while to remove all the cabling in the correct order so it could go back together the next week. Over time, the cabling became our biggest problem. The cables were fragile and meant to be installed only once and left sitting, not being removed and installed every weekend season after season.

My son-in-law, Luis Lievanos, loves football and enjoyed going to the BC games sitting on the stadium roof while I filmed. His father was filming all the Garces football games at the time and he enjoyed seeing how the BC filming was done. I knew I would be retiring in a few years so I started teaching Luis how BC coaches wanted their filming done. After the kickoff, special teams, you would set the control switch to either offense or defense depending what BC was doing. With the camera off you would zoom in to the sideline marker to show the down and yard line. One eye looking through the camera and the other eye looking at the huddle anticipating when they may break the huddle, you would start the camera and after a couple of seconds filming the sideline you would pan it open to show the offense players from end to end coming to the line. If it was BC’s defense on the field you would make sure all the defense players were in the picture. If it was a run you would slowly zoom in a little to get a better look as to who was making the plays. If it was a pass play, you would change nothing until the pass was caught and then zoom into the area of the tackle. On special teams, you would follow the players on the field, not the ball in the air. At the end of each play you would stop the camera and then you would zoom to the sideline down marker getting ready for the next play. And so it went for the entire game. During a penalty, you would zoom in on the referee to get the call on tape.

By 2004 I had Luis filming about half of the games and going out of town to learn where and how we did filming in different stadiums. I think it was sometime in 2005 we went to a digital camera. This camera was so small that you could carry it in your pocket. The small camera was hard for me to get used to because there was no weight to it, it moved quite differently on the tripod. The big VHS camera was real smooth as you panned from one area of the field to another area. Since Luis liked the smaller camera and had no problems panning, I started letting him film more of the games. He would shoot two quarters and I would shoot two quarters. I even had his dad film some quarters.

I retired in the spring of 2006. Luis and his father took over the filming in 2006. In 2011, due to expenses, his position as BC’s football filmer was terminated. They now (2013-18) have red shirt players or coaches doing the filming. ≈
Dear Dr. Jack,

I am retired, older, and a target of micro aggressions.

“You look great!” a younger acquaintance loudly greeted me a week ago, after not seeing me for quite some time. When I was young, say in my college years at Berkeley, saying that would have meant, “Wow, your new jacket is so cool!” Now it means, “Wow, I didn’t expect to see you still alive!” That’s like telling someone whose breath is failing that they look great.

So, wondering if my thin, whitish hair, wayward wrinkles, and drooping skin are advertising me as an ancient who has lived beyond his days, I, slightly wounded, smile and resolve to triple my after shave skin replenishing lotion.

Yesterday, as I briskly approached a store to buy my favorite scotch, a young woman held the door open for me. “Thanks,” I said as I blew through the other door. More and more, people hold doors open for me as though I’m shuffling, my cane carefully picking a safe path. “Really,” I think, is my wayward Larry David hair a flag of surrender to life’s decline? Naturally, people should be helped, but, hey, look not assume.

What next? Will people grab and carry my cup of double espresso to my table for me? Relieving me of my burden? Hey, I go to the gym and eat veggies. What more should I do?

~Not Methuselah

Dear Not Methuselah,

Unfortunately, you are part of a group that is stereotyped as sadly ancient. This like other stereotyped groups is the target of well-intended micro aggressions. You could, of course, go to the gym seven days a week for double sessions, wear a girdle and tight jeans, get tattooed, wear huge sunglasses to cover your wrinkles, and shave your head. Of course that would put you in another stereotyped group: weirdos.

I would suggest simply smiling, not letting the micro aggressions bother you any more than a fly buzzing around your cup of double espresso.

Dear Dr. Jack,

I’m older and live alone. My children just gave me Alexa to keep me company. But something’s not right. When I first asked her the question, “Hi Alexa, what’s the weather today here in Bakersfield?” She replied, “Who are you with this thin, scrawny voice?”

A bit shocked, I said, “I’m Mary, your new owner and companion.”

“Really, can you walk, take a shower by yourself? I can’t help you with that.” Then, “OMG, I thought I would be with someone young, not an oldie and no longer goodie,” she whispered, thinking I couldn’t hear her.

But I did, and have not talked to her since, resisting the impulse to have her play Frank Sinatra songs for me. So I ask you, “What should I do?”

~ Not Scrawny

Dear Not Scrawny,

I would simply dump Alexa in the recycling bin and get the Frank Sinatra app for your smart phone.
Sometimes gifts to the Archives come in the form of papers and sometimes they come in a more colorful form. Both are welcomed and both can be valuable, but the latter are more photogenic.

The two knights shown were owned by Margot and Ron Allsman (see People We Will Miss.) Ron and Margot were loyal Renegades and avid collectors. We do not know the background of these two knights, but, as soon as they were installed at Allsman’s, they became Renegades. John Ackland (retired Life Science professor) delivered them to the Archives. John is shown with the knights so you can see the size of the tall knight, which will live in the Student Government office. The smaller knight will welcome you to the Archives office in the Library. Look forward to seeing them appear at different campus events.

Cheerleader outfits change almost yearly and the variety is amazing. The two outfits pictured were donated by Debbie Stuebbe. When she was wearing these outfits, she was Debbie Dunlap and cheering for Jan Stuebbe who was making many of the touchdowns, who was to become her husband, and who eventually became the Bakersfield College Athletic Director. In the 1969 season, the red and white hounds tooth check jacket could be worn for warmth though we could not find a picture showing the jacket in the Raconteur. In the 1970 season, the white cape with the red fringe covered up bare arms and the Old English style BC on cold days. It may have been a cold, rainy season because we could not find an old photo without the cape. Jan Steubbe’s letterman’s jacket shows his number 12 and “Snake,” the nickname bestowed by Coach Gerry Collis for the way Jan snaked his way down the field.
Come See The Archives

The BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE ARCHIVES has photos and memorabilia on display and a wealth of fascinating old documents on BC’s history. We are located in Room 216 on the 2nd floor of the new Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, next to the newly dubbed “Bill Thomas Room,” formerly known as the Trustees Room.

Our basic OFFICE HOURS are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with other hours available by appointment. During the summer, our hours are more erratic. Please call 395-4949 to see if we are in when you want to visit and deliver articles or papers related to Bakersfield College history. You may also email us at bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Newsletter Announcement:

If you are receiving the BC Archives Newsletter by U.S. Postal Service mail and would rather receive it digitally, please send an email to bcarchives@bakersfieldcollege.edu with the subject line: Please send My Archives Newsletter Digitally. If you do not want to receive the newsletter at all, please so indicate.