

THE RENEGADE RIP

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YEARS

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Bakersfield College

May 7, 2004

Copter comes down near BC

■ Sheriff's pilots make emergency landing Monday night on Haley Street near baseball field.

By JARROD M. GRAHAM
Associate Editor

An evening at home was interrupted by a cacophony of screeches, booms and sirens for residents near Bakersfield College shortly before midnight Monday when a Kern County sheriff's helicopter lost power during a patrol flight and

made an emergency landing on Haley Street, west of the baseball field.

"I didn't see it, I just heard it," said Linda Mireles, who lives on the northwest corner of Haley and University Avenue. "I had come outside and moved the water because I'd been on jury duty during the day ... and I went to bed."

"As soon as I got in bed, the helicopter was in my back yard, and I go, 'Oh, they must be chasing somebody.' Then, I heard the screech, and then I thought, 'Oh.' It sounded like some part hit the bottom or some-

thing, so it must have been when they screeched on the street."

The helicopter was on its way to Oildale to check on a possible carjacking when the trouble started, said Sgt. Jess Baker, head of the sheriff's Air Support Unit.

"They heard what sounded like a loud boom," which preceded a vibration in the craft, he said. The pilots started searching for a place to land when they heard a second boom a few seconds later, which caused the engine to fail.

The pilot in command, George McNinch, turned toward BC, hop-

ing to land the helicopter in one of the campus's empty parking lots as it lost altitude, a sheriff's news release said. He overshot the campus, but he was able to put down on Haley Street, near the southwest corner of the college.

McNinch and co-pilot Norm Canby were not hurt, and the helicopter received minimal damage, Baker said.

"I thought it was just a helicopter flying down too close," said Joey Mullen, 15, who lives just off Haley on the south corner of Telegraph

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LEE MAXWELL / THE RIP

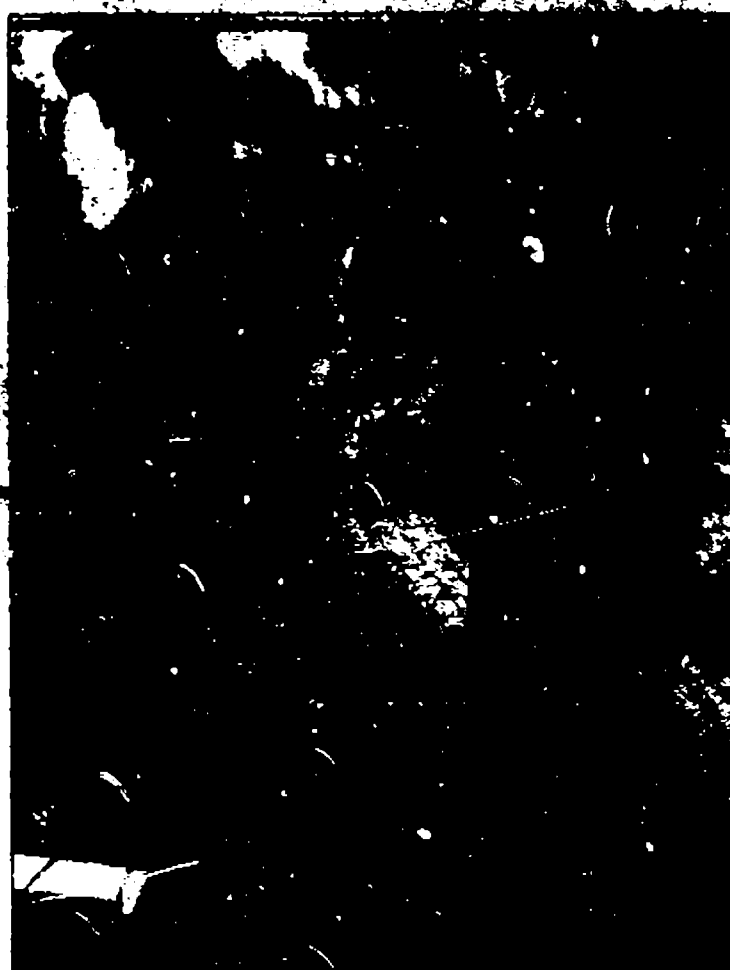
The Kern County Sheriff's Department helicopter that made an emergency landing on Haley Street.



Jackson's Day in Court

Above: The Jackson family came to support Michael. Right: Harold and Mike Ray, two fans of the singer, say he is innocent until proven guilty. See story and photos, Page 4.

Photos by Chris Wong / The Rip



A \$194 million building face-lift

■ Humanities Building, Delano Center, Allied Health Building among major projects listed in facilities plan.

By VICTOR GARCIA
Editor in Chief

Bakersfield College will tear down the Humanities Building to build a new humanities facility in a different location under a proposed \$194.4 million plan.

The new building, which would house Humanities and Business, will be located in the grassy free speech area often used for student activities. The total for the humanities project exceeds \$14 million.

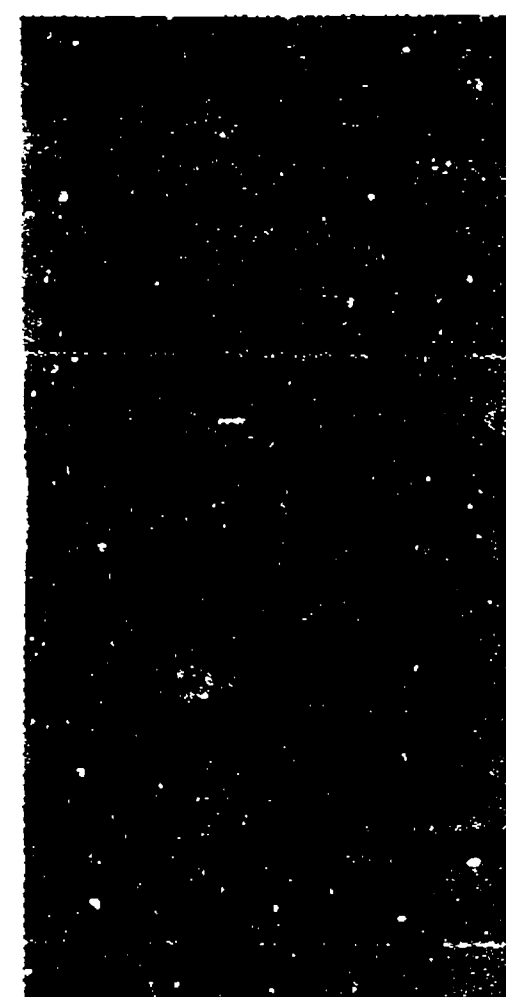
Ash West, vice president of communications for the ASBC, said that he was not aware of any projected changes to BC buildings until he was interviewed by *The Rip*.

"Just from the 30 seconds I've had to look over that (the Maas plan), it looks like a good enough plan because they're moving humanities to the free speech area," he said. "They're just consolidating basically all the classrooms to one area, which is nice. You don't have to walk as far."

The plan was developed by Maas Companies of North Fork, Calif. after Maas was hired by the Kern Community College District following the passage of Measure G, a \$180 million bond measure approved by voters in 2002. While Measure G would cover some projects, others are candidates for state funding, according to the plan.

Jane Black, Maas official, said if all of the plan is approved, it would take 15 years to complete.

Ken Meier, vice president of student learning, said that it would be about a year and a half to two years before the Humanities project would begin.



"It is a very high priority for us to build a new building in the center quad because it is very, very expensive to develop what we call swing space, some place to put people," he said. "It would cost us literally millions of dollars to bring in mobiles. So by building a new building we'll be able to move all the Student Services people into the humanities building in a couple years and then go in and do that building right."

Meier said the administration wants faculty and staff involved in the design of classrooms and offices. The project must then be approved by the state.

Carol Cunningham, chair of the English Department, said that she thinks the plan for a new humanities building

See FACILITIES, Page 6

CSEA seeks overtime pay for staffers

■ Union awaits outcome of unfair labor practice filed in November last year.

By SETH NIDEVER
Copy Editor

The classified union of the Kern Community College District is awaiting the outcome of an unfair labor practices charge it filed against the district on Nov. 1 relating to a change in working hours, union officials say.

In a formal hearing, union officials will challenge the administration's unilateral decision last spring to increase Monday to Thursday hours for many staff members from eight to nine with a four-hour shift on Fridays. They say that was a violation of collective bargaining rules requiring the district to consult with the union.

"By law, they have to negotiate," said Mike Nolan, the union's outgoing labor relations representative. "Wages, hours, and working conditions are a mandatory subject of bargaining."

Roy Quan, district director of human resources, could not be reached for comment.

Richard Galtman, a Fresno-based attorney representing the district for the firm Lozano Smith, confirmed that the issue will be decided in a formal hearing this summer but declined to comment on the specifics of the case.

Among other things, the union is seeking back overtime pay for the ninth hour and the regularization of schedules, which Nolan said have been subject to change without notice.

Noland said the district's actions in the case were characteristic of its dealings with the union over the past year. Instead of negotiating what may have been an easy issue to agree on, it unilaterally changed schedules, he said.

"They feel they have the ability to do basically whatever they want to do," he said.

The work hours issue was the last of three unfair labor practices, or ULPs, filed against the district in 2003, according to union President Cynthia Munoz.

The first alleged that the layoffs of some 50-60 employees in July were done improperly. That issue was resolved in mediation when the district agreed to reinstate medical benefits and salary retroactive to the initial layoff dates, according to Nolan.

The second involved allegedly improper reassignments of four employees whom

Noland said were moved unilaterally. The dispute was settled in an informal hearing in which both sides agreed on a structural arrangement to govern future employee reassignments.

Noland said the district could have saved \$300,000 if it had followed the proper procedures.

"If the district would have followed appropriate law, there would be no cost," he said.

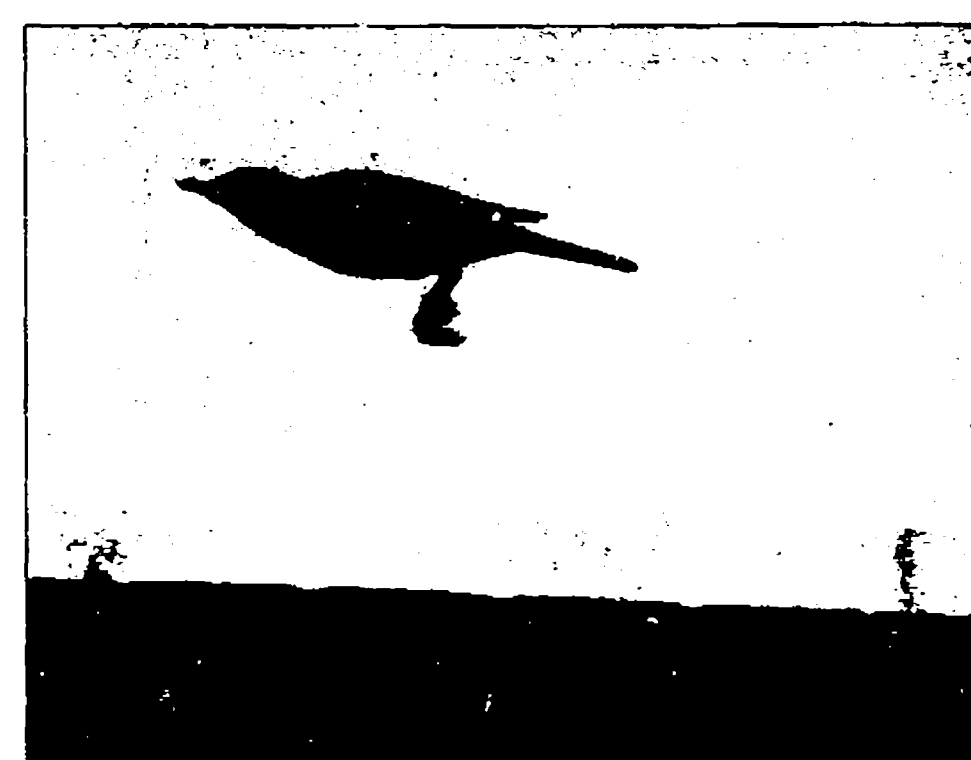
He estimated the hours dispute will ultimately cost the district up to a half million dollars in retroactive pay because so many employees were affected.

Noland said the 2003 ULPs were the result of a deteriorating district-union relationship that began to sour earlier during Dr. Sandra Serrano's tenure as BC president.

"(The union) from the beginning has generally had a good working relationship with district management, including management at BC," Noland said. "There was a general shift in relations before last year, I'm guessing sometime around the time that Serrano took office."

When asked if a new BC president would improve the relationship, he said that "the shift has to come from the very top," adding that

See UNION, Page 6



DENNIS MAHAN / THE RIP

Spring Takes Flight

An energetic robin catches some air as spring temperatures soar in Bakersfield.

OFFBEAT

Jacko brings out wackos

Michael Jackson arraignment attracts hundreds of media, fans and even a few space travelers

By VICTOR GARCIA
Editor in Chief

SANTA MARIA — Space Cowboy stood in the middle of the crowd outside the Santa Maria Courthouse passing out "Tickets to Mars."

"I am not a teacher," he said. "I just reinforce what they already know."

The tickets, which were pictures of himself with writing that states, "Endeavor to Reach Beyond the Stars," were handed out to educate children, he said.

Space Cowboy, aka James Scott Hollister, was one of hundreds of people waiting for a glimpse of the pop superstar who is accused of a conspiracy involving child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion plus the charge of molesting a 12-year-old boy. Jackson pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Media from all over the world converged around the courthouse in their own special area with the main crowd a few feet away.

Chants of "Michael Innocent! Michael Innocent!" could be heard throughout the arraignment. Some of the fans were wearing shirts that said, "Don't arraign on his parade."



Crowds wait for Michael Jackson and his family to exit the Santa Maria courthouse.

Chants of "Michael Innocent! Michael Innocent!" could be heard throughout the arraignment.

Others played to the cameras. A few older women with signs that read, "We believe and support the victims" and "Think of the Real Victim the Child."

When Jackson came out of the courthouse, the crowd began screaming, "We love you Michael!" He

quickly vanished into a SUV. Harold and Mike Ray, from Acton, a town just outside Lancaster, were at the event to support Jackson. Dressed in all black with sunglasses and long beards, the brothers looked like an Amish ZZ Top. "He's innocent until proven guilty," said Mike Ray.



Above: ABC 7 News flies its helicopter to get shots of the trial.

Right: James Scott Hollister, aka Space Cowboy, stands outside of the courthouse along with Space Dog to show support for Jackson.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS WONG / THE RIP

End of Semester Cafeteria Hours

Monday, May 17
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Tuesday, May 18
Renegade Food Court a.m.-CLOSED
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Wednesday, May 19
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Panorama Grill OPEN (regular hours)

Thursday, May 20
Renegade Food Court a.m.-CLOSED
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Friday, May 21
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This event will be fully bilingual - so please bring your parents and loved ones. Your dedication and commitment to your studies have brought you to this crossroad in your life and we are proud to be part of this celebration.

Applications are available in the Office of Student Activities Campus Center Room #8. Application deadline is May 2, 2004 before 5:30 p.m. For further information please call 361-4355.

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OPINION

LETTER TO
THE EDITOR

Writer calls Rip anti-military

While reading the most recent edition of *The Renegade Rip*, it has become blatantly obvious that a large number of your staff are unsupportive of the United States military. This is evident, as seen in an article titled "Military gunning for students" (April 30) and in an online poll.

In the article, the federal government is accused of using their legislative powers to coerce colleges and universities into breaking their policies. The article alleges that a federal bill forces colleges to allow military recruiters into their campuses, while the military is not an equal-opportunity employer.

I do not have a problem with the staff making allegations about things that are alarmingly true. However, I do have a problem with fabrication of information, or misleading accusations. The military of the United States of America is in fact an equal-opportunity employer. They do allow homosexuals to join the military. But just as heterosexuals are not allowed to fraternize with other military members (a display of heterosexuality), homosexuals are expected to adhere to the same rules. The specific regulation in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, in fact says nothing about being homosexual. It merely states that three things in regard to homosexuality are grounds for disqualification into the armed forces.

1) Any homosexual statements or affirmations (it is generally seen as sexual harassment when heterosexuals make these statements).

2) Any homosexual acts (also seen as sexual harassment, also there is the no-fraternization rule).

3) Any same-sex marriages (seeing as they are a recent development, they were illegal at the time when the codes were established). Most interesting of all is the fact that all of these regulations are used on a basis of keeping sexes separate (does homosexuality defeat the purpose of that rule?), and keeping a tone of professionalism in the work environment. To an extent, regarding the recent development of marriages and civil rights movements for homosexuals, the military is still in an archaic age.

More important to me, however, is the apparent anti-armed forces movement as evident in this college. While many of our fellow American citizens are fighting, and risking their lives across the sea, we continue to thrash their very existence. I would argue that although many of them choose to join the armed forces, they in fact, desire nothing more than to serve their country.

There are likely a great many number of individuals who are opposed to the war in which they serve, but out of respect and dedication, they do their part. I would encourage fellow American citizens to support our troops. I personally don't like it when people thrash an institution which I am a part of (especially when I am risking my life for the dis-senters) and I am sure that many of them do not.

A sarcastic poll on *The Rip's* Web site had the following as options: What would it take for you to join the military?

• The promise that the Army will help me "be all I can be"

• Five tequila shots and a dare

• A six-figure paycheck

• Being able to hang out with those fun-loving Navy SEALs

• Getting a Hummer

• Being drafted

• A submarine berth for two

While I admire the humor, I encourage the staff in the future to please leave more reasonable choices. Although many people see it as funny, there are also many others who do not.

NICHOLAS MOORE
BC student

Steroids

&

It's time to clean up the sport

By MARQUES RAY MASCARINAS

Study blames publishers for book prices

By JILL WATTS
Special to The Rip

College students are paying too much for college text books and need to find other affordable means to obtain information.

A recent study by the California Public Interest Research Group found that students are spending about \$900 a year on textbooks and they only remain on the shelf for about three years before new editions come out.

The study maintains that publishers are to blame for these unjustified new editions, according to a recent story by *The Associated Press*.

Textbook prices within the last five years have risen 64 percent, which is nothing compared to a whopping overall rise in the last two decades. These rates are alarming when compared to the 51 percent increase in consumer goods in general, according to the Consumer Price Index.

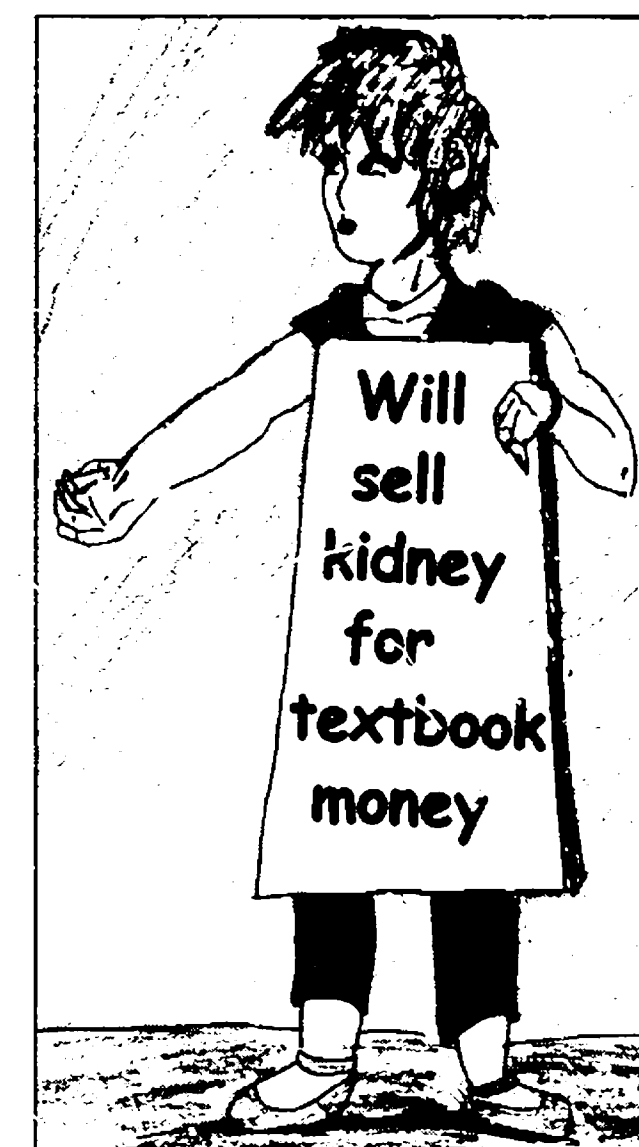
The CALPIRG study gives reasons for skyrocketing prices like "bundling of ancillary products like CD-ROMS." These price additional bells and whistles are rarely even touched. Because of these useless items some students may not even purchase textbooks.

There are some alternatives for students to consider when faced with expensive bookstore prices. Purchasing used books, making internet purchases in the United States or overseas, or borrowing books from someone who took the class are solutions.

Many schools allow for students to sell back their used books at reduced prices. Many times this is far less than what the books cost, but it is better than nothing. The biggest problem with purchasing books outside of college bookstores is its effect. According to publishers, prices are being forced to rise because of money lost when students reintroduce used books into the market, thus raising the likelihood that students will not purchase new books.

These statements only lead us to believe that publishers are only looking out for themselves and their paychecks instead of education as a whole. Why not cut back on the number of new editions and let teachers update their students? By the time new editions come out, they are already about two years old anyway.

Write your state and Congressional representatives and ask for a more extensive review and investigation of the high cost of textbooks. Students should keep fighting the rising textbook prices before publishers price them out of a college education.



CASSIE MULLEN / SPECIAL TO THE RIP

THE RENEGADE RIP



Winner of the 2003 JACC
PaceSetter Award

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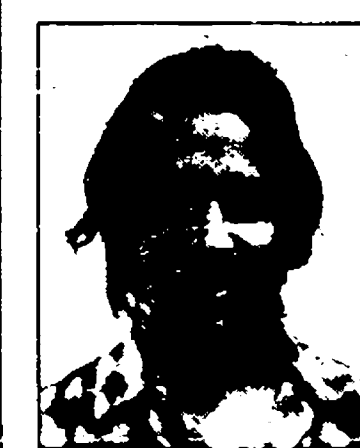
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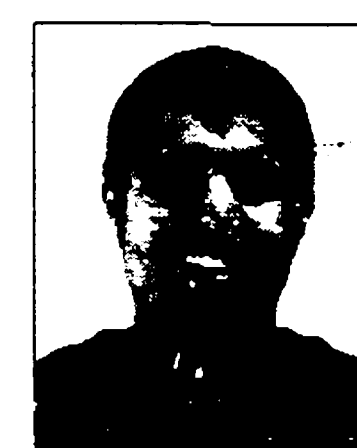
GADE FEEDBACK

Compiled by Jennifer Blesener / The Rip

Should the media show photos of flag-draped coffins from Iraq?



Vincent Cruz, film and theater: "It's kind of covering up the truth. Even though it may be painful, it needs to be seen."



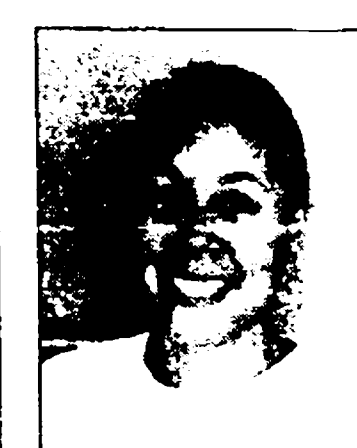
Lucas Bermejo, undeclared: "I just think they don't want people getting as frenzied as they were with the whole Vietnam situation."



Anna Luker, child development: "I think it's a good thing they don't show the coffins. There is too much emphasis in the media about the war."



Junior Galicia, general education: "That's not cool because they're supposed to show the decorated soldiers that died there."



Nidia Fambrough, nursing: "If you're an American and you feel good about it then you should show the flag."

Plaque honors custodian in Humanities Building

By VICTOR GARCIA
Editor in Chief

Bill Schroeder was overwhelmed. Schroeder, 53, custodian of the Humanities Building, was recently honored by the faculty in his building with a plaque of recognition on the door of his office that reads, "Bill Schroeder / Our Custodian."

"I am just overwhelmed that they did that for me," he said. Custodian Eddie Rodriguez said he has never seen anything like this at BC.



CHRIS WONG / THE RIP

Custodian Bill Schroeder points to the plaque on his door.

In his spare time, he enjoys watching NASCAR races. His favorite drivers are Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Kevin Harvick. "They're all technical racers. They're fun to watch," Schroeder said.

UNION: CSEA files unfair labor practice

Continued from Page 1
he hoped Serrano's move to the chancellor's office "changes her approach to the classified union."

COPTER: NTSB plans to investigate landing

Continued from Page 1
sive training to prepare for emergencies, Baker said. The Sheriff's Department has launched a joint investigation with the National Transportation and Safety Board to find the cause of the malfunction. Tealeye Cornejo, an NTSB air safety investigator, said that the helicopter will be inspected. "We look at what we call man, machine and environment," she said.

FACILITIES: Campus plans \$194 million renovation

Continued from Page 1
is a good idea, although she does have some questions.

"In terms of the college growing, I think it's a wonderful thing, but this is so far in advance it seems to me the key is going to be how that building is going to function, what it's going to look like," she said. Cunningham said that administrators need to discuss the plans with students and faculty.

"I am hoping that when the real plans come out that they listen to students, who have the most experience sitting in chairs to know what kind of chairs are convenient for everybody ... and that they talk to teachers and students and engineers for air conditioning, for windows that are perhaps openable," she said. "I think that is one of the great advantages of the Humanities Building, power goes out, I just open a window."

Six projects are taking place now, Meier said. One of these is the land acquisition and the building of the 17,094-square-foot science center facility at the Delano Center, a project estimated to cost just about \$6.7 million.

A new Allied Health Building also is planned. "We are also planning a new building for Nursing-Allied Health and the reason that is on the agenda is the state really is very concerned about the nursing pipeline issues and so we think there may be state money available to build that facility," Meier said.

The plan also includes moving The Rip's office from where it is currently located in Campus Center to the Fine Arts Building, and moving the Health Center, currently located in Student Services, to where The Rip and the Job Placement Center are located.

Cindy Collier, director of Allied Health, which oversees the Health Center, said the plan is just a proposal and nothing is finalized.

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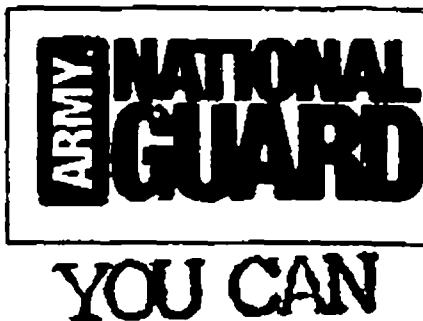
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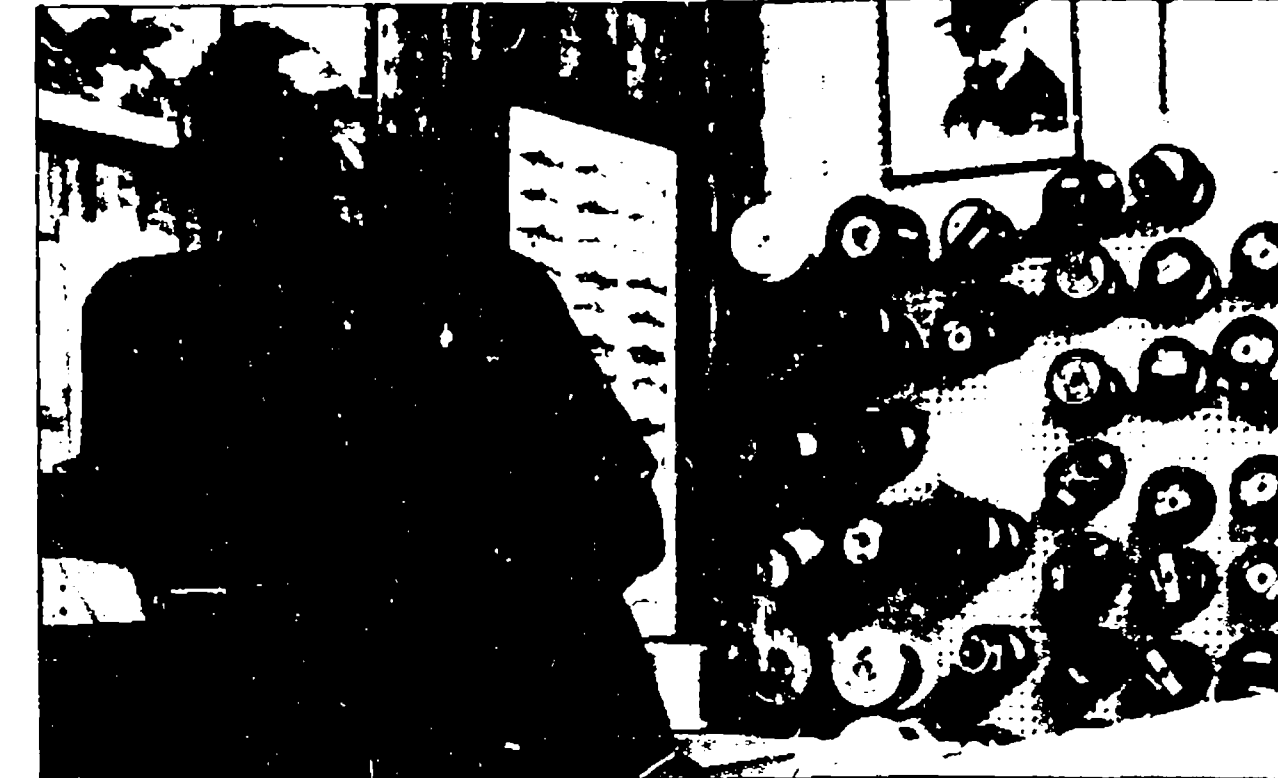
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The First Church of Bob

Bait shop owner dispenses wisdom as well as worms

By SETH NIDEVER
Copy Editor



LEE MAXWELL / THE RIP

Bob Rutledge shares his political views along with fishing advice.

"How many minnows you want?" Sixty-eight-year-old Bob Rutledge has probably put that question a thousand times to a thousand different people from every imaginable walk of life, from yuppies to blue collar stuffs to poor laborers.

For 28 years, he's been selling bait and dispensing wisdom from his little store in a dilapidated neighborhood on South Chester Avenue. It's called Bob's Bait Bucket, and if you're looking for a live critter to put on a hook or feed to a pet, it's the place to go.

But it turns out there's a lot more to Bob's Bait Bucket than bait and tackle and fishing advice. For the mostly minority residents of the neighborhood, it's a community institution, a kind of free speech zone where conversations take place on a first-name basis.

Call it The First Church of Bob. "This is a place where you can interact with people and learn about people and interact with psychology," Bob said.

And, like any fisherman worth his salt, customers tend to come early, where they can find him alone from 6 to 9 a.m. "every day except Christmas."

That's also the time to catch Bob at his sharpest. A lifetime of fishing has given him an early morning clarity that most harried professionals only dream about.

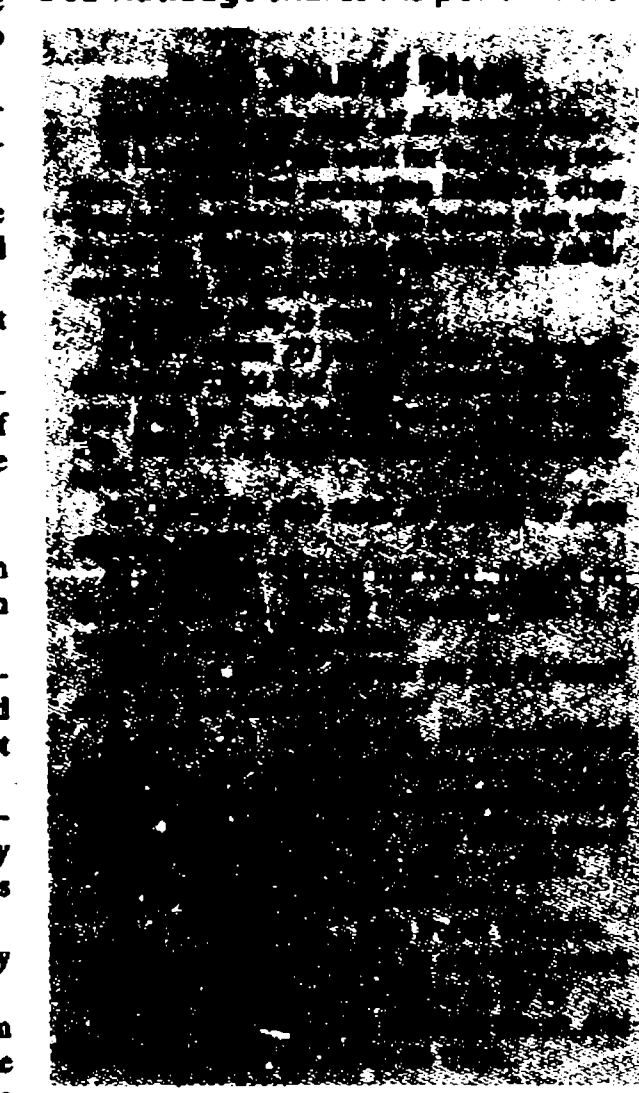
He had something personal to say to nearly every customer on Tuesday morning.

"Hello, Cleo!" he said, as an older black man walked in. "You missed out yesterday." He had called Cleo's aunt to tell him about some fish he'd caught, but the message hadn't gotten through and Bob gave the fish to someone else.

Cleo Calloway met Bob 20 years ago, and he's been a regular ever since.

"Yeah, we wait a lot younger then," said Cleo. When she was an interview with The Rip, he was reluctant.

"Uh, I don't know about that," he said, looking to Bob for reassurance. "That all right?"



"Yeah, go ahead and give him your name," Bob said.

That kind of personal touch has won him a loyal clientele that has grown from a circle of fishermen to include people who don't fish and local schools.

Bob now has nine children and a second store at Niles and Morning Drive.

"I've had people ask me over the years, 'how

can you make a living selling worms?' Well, I sell a lot of them," he said.

He got the idea in 1977 listening to his gambling buddies complain about not being able to find live bait.

"I thought I could provide it, and I did," he said. "Now all the guys I'm gambling with who are getting my money, they come down here and spend their money with me."

Though the shop sells a variety of fishing gear, people mostly come in for live bait.

And they aren't all fishermen. A lot of Bob's money comes from providing bait in bulk for school projects and keeping exotic pets like salamanders and geckos happy.

Still, he says, there's more to life than selling bait.

"I'm still a young man," he said. "I've got a lot of time, I think."

Young enough to be finishing up a culinary arts degree at Bakersfield College, where he is enrolled in an algebra class alongside students less than a third his age.

That's right, culinary arts. He said he and his son were planning to open a restaurant together in 1993, so they started taking cooking classes at BC. That fell through when his son became a police officer.

Bob, who said he's a "really good" cook, just decided to keep taking more classes. He doesn't see any end in sight to his quest to become what he calls an "educated businessman," whether he passes algebra or not.

"There's so many things I don't know that I want to find out about," he said.

And, if you can believe him, he'll be behind the counter of Bob's Bait Bucket every morning for a long time to come.

"(I'll retire) probably in the next 20 years or so," he said.

The joy of Iraq: sun, sand and bombs

the COLLEGE CURMUDGEON

I still can't believe my eyes. In the last few editions, The Rip has run a gigantic National Guard ad that makes the sleaziest used car sales pitch sound like the Sermon on the Mount.

If you took even a second to flip through the paper, you know which one I'm talking about.

Snake oil merchants, Internet scammers, fleecers of America, it's time to find a new line of work. You've been outclassed. There's a bigger, badder shyster on the block, and his name is Uncle Sam.

It begins with the MTV-esque slogan "Freedom Rocks" — which, aside from the fact that it doesn't make much sense, isn't a bad statement if you take it to mean that living in America is better than, say, living in North Korea.

After that, though, the ad sheds reality faster than Michael Jackson changes his face.

Take the people in the ad — the shiny happy people in the ad. Beneath the "Freedom Rocks" headline, six Atkins-thin twentysomethings in mall beach wear cavort on the sand, permagnins plastered on their faces.

They seem to be elated about something. I wonder if it's because they're bound for Iraq. I can understand the feeling. I'd probably be partying too, with strong mind-altering substances and even fewer clothes, if I was being sent to that Vietnam-like quagmire.

But no, these disciplined freedom fighters are overjoyed at the chance to go. That's right, this is no jaded bunch of hedonists. These idealists are partying on principle.

Dude, it's just like the ad says: freedom is sacred.

Take note, Iraqis. When you are free, you too will be able to afford the clothing, personal training and self-esteem therapy it takes to look and act like these folks. Money will be rolling in. Heck, you can

Seth Nidever
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

live like Uday and Qusay, the two sons of Saddam whose partying made the wildest American orgies seem like episodes of Mr. Rogers.

That is, until we bumped them off. Apparently, their crime was that, like Enron CEOs, they tried to hoard all the goodies.

The ad reminds us — in case we've confused the connection — that the Iraqis' freedom to party is our freedom to party. If they can't frolic on the beach too, they'll be lobbing weapons of mass destruction at us out of sheer envy.

So, we have to get rid of all the bad guys over there, who, like bogus parents, want to spoil all the fun for everybody.

Think of it as pre-emptive party planning.

Sure, some may have to die in the process, but with a goal like this to inspire, our National Guard fill-ins will be more dedicated than the GI's on the beaches of Normandy.

And all this, thank God, without a nasty draft.

The end result of their sacrifices will be the equivalent of a worldwide kegger, led and orchestrated by the United States and its legions of advertising firms.

If you happen to be one of those who gets maimed or killed, remember that it happened so the capitalist paradise of Joe and Jane Sixpack could survive and spread to the Middle East.

The Beanie Boys got it right, every year ago.

You've got to fight for your right to party.

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Due to budget cuts, this is The Rip's last publication for the semester. Our first issue in the fall is scheduled for September 24. Be sure to check our website throughout the summer for concert updates—www.therip.com

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A Win for the Kids

First-graders defeat BC baseball 99-0

Even with the home field advantage, the Bakersfield College baseball team did not stand a chance against the rowdy players from St. John's Lutheran, most of whom were missing teeth.

At the end of the afternoon on April 20, the scoreboard read 99-0 in favor of the visiting first-graders. The game is a yearly field trip for teacher Lynn Bumerts and her students during which they enjoy an afternoon of baseball and hot dogs with the 'Gades.

"It's always the best field trip of the year," Bumerts said. "All the kindergartners want to be in my class because they want to go on the field trip."



JULIANNA CRISALLI / THE RIP
Amruth Ravi, 7, smiles after arriving safe at first.



HUNTER ADAMS / SPECIAL TO THE RIP



RUBEN GARIBALDO / SPECIAL TO THE RIP

Above: Wyatt Weingarden, 4, runs to second base. BC players Ryan Giovanetti, left, and Chase Hoffman watch him.

Right: A BC player holds up the tee so Drew Millier, 7, can slide into home.



JULIANNA CRISALLI / THE RIP



IAN HAMILTON / THE RIP

Above: Ravi is helped to bat by a Bakersfield College baseball player during the annual St. John's Lutheran first grade field trip game against the Renegades on April 20.

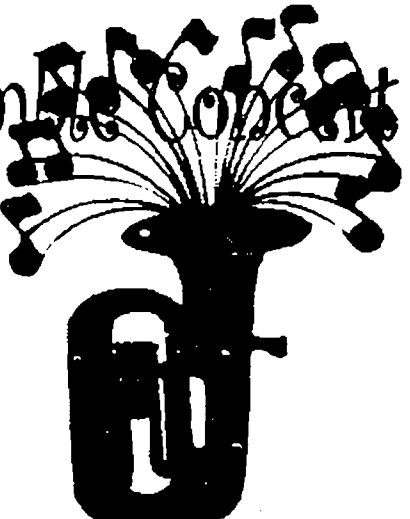
Left: A group of students wait in the dugout before stepping up to bat. This was the ninth year for the field trip.

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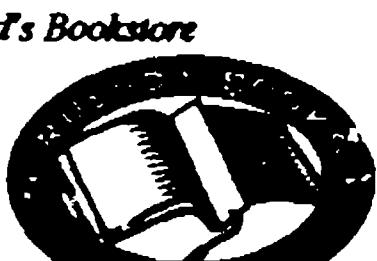


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