Food bank opens to students
By Brian N. Williams
Reporter
The Student Government Association at Bakersfield College has started a new program that hopes to eliminate hunger among the student body. The SGA will be offering a variety of canned goods and other food staples by providing a food bank for its students to use as needed.

The Renegade Pantry officially opened its doors Jan. 28, with multiple new media organizations on-hand to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony and commencement speeches given by SGA senator and assistant to the dean Steven Newsom and BC president Greg O'Grady. Together they expressed their desires and visions for the program and its success.

“We can provide the opportunity for one student to stop in and know that it’s all right,” said O’Grady as he spoke about the needs of the student body reaching their educationally unsustainable levels.

With budgets being cut from community college special-focus programs such as Cul Works and IDDS, SGA board members sought opportunities to better serve BC students. The desire to start a student-run food bank began over the winter break with hopes to provide relief to students who may be affected by budget cuts or other circumstances hindering their educational goals.

“It’s our goal that no student will have to choose between books or groceries,” said Newsom.

Any student enrolled at BC can be eligible for the program. First, students will fill out a services form to be sent to the counseling center, an employee will be assigned to a student’s account, and a student will be sent a pre-paid, non-transferable food bank card, which can be used to purchase items at the Renegade Pantry.

The pantry is located in the Campus Center, off the BC cafeteria. It is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and students worked one on-one with customers.

Some students have already begun to participate in the program. “I’d like to use food bank,” said another.

Please see FOOD BANK, Page 4

Members of Bakersfield College’s Student Government Association and BC president Greg Chamberlain open the new BC food pantry for students at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 28.

Sterling Silver dinner shines light on BC
By Laura D. Strong
Reporter
Once again, supporters of the Bakersfield College athletic program came out to enjoy an evening of delectable food and wine at the second annual Sterling Silver Dinner on January 23, 2010 with Play-by-Play Manor Chef Wilson Bowman and BC Athletics Director Skip Bloxsom.

The event is held to support the Culinary Arts Program and the Renegade Fund. All proceeds from the event will go to scholarships to help students succeed in such programs. Stephanson’s and Blossom-Carter became acquainted with this service of cooking some wine vinegars, Stephanson proposed the idea in Blossom-Carter, and he agreed to be a part of the dinner. Supporting and appreciation of all vendors, pictures and more were auctioned off to benefit students.

The 90s were a golden age for sports. The BC football team was a powerhouse, and BC athletes were celebrated for their achievements on and off the field. The event was held to support the Culinary Arts Program.

Students served guests with appetizers and champagne, and some culinary arts students worked in the kitchen to prepare the meals. BC Chef DePiazza expressed, “It’s a fantastic opportunity for our students.”

Please see FOOD BANK, Page 4

SGA president Kristin Newton gives a cultural anthropology speech.

Hot Stove hosts baseball legend Tommy Lasorda
By Vincent Perez
News editor
Tommy Lasorda had laid red berets for the Bakersfield College 2010 baseball team Jan. 23 at the Kern County Fairgrounds during the 22nd annual Hot Stove dinner held by George Collins.

“Please to the year 2010, I may speak in tone of a million people,” he said. “And I’m going to tell you a million people how they should do and they’ll do it, but they won’t do it. I’m going to speak to the word’s BC is either going to be fun and America.”

Lasorda is a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and is one of only four in Major League Baseball history to manage the same team for 20 years.

Lasorda, former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, is well-known by many baseball fans, and is now well known for the attendees of the Hot Stove Dinner and the players of the Bakersfield College baseball team.

Lasorda gave powered speech that will come more than one press conference and eye-opening mention of his time as a pitcher, in which Lasorda recalled his team that was a young team and how he came to last week in the bullpen of the Yankee Stadiums years later as a professional baseball player.

Lasonia simply told the crowd to follow their dreams, possibly among his memories toward the BC baseball team.

Lasorda was more scenes at monuments. So serious, in fact, he kept his team on the field to yell at the people in the back who were yelling back.

However, Lasorda was the words of wisdom for the BC baseball team. Remember, they have the name on the front of your shirt. They don’t have your name on your shirt,” he said.

Lasorda spoke proudly about his BC baseball team before his speech.

“Those young men, I spoke to them today. I wanted them to get the feel of the game. I wanted them to feel that they’re going to have fun. I want to do them and believe that they’re going to do the right thing, that they’re going to do the right thing. I want to do them and believe that they’re going to do the right thing.”

The crowd, with a standing ovation, applauded Lasorda later as he left the field.

Please see LASONIA, Page 4

Fellow Dodger pitchers and manager Tommy Lasorda spoke at the Bakersfield College Renegade baseball team for the BC Hot Stove Dinner at the Kern County Fairgrounds Jan. 23.

Serrano’s raise challenged by BC students
By Katherine J. White
Columnist
During Kern Community College District Chancellor Sandra Serrano’s Bakersfield College Nov. 30, 2009 open forum talk, she said that the RCCD board of trustees determined that she was the lowest paid chancellor in the state, and that qualified her for a $28,200 raise, a three-year time of most severe district budget cuts. Serrano was making $52,750 a year before gaining this raise, which she herself applied for and supported by the board.

However, when other districts were paying about the same, she argued. They are not the lowest paid chancellor in the state. As a result, a by a board of trustees who are currently at annual salaries of about $25,000 which indicates she is not the lowest paid chancellor in the state. With the raise, the Serrano raises $28,200. This figure does not include the $28,200 raise in her retirement contribution.

Serrano’s raise in base salary and retirement contribution are occurring during a string of protests during BC class offerings. According to Amber Chang, BC director of media relations, 125 sections were cut from the spring 2010 schedule. As a result, some BC students disappear of the chancellor’s raise.

“It is our right the way things are going,” said James Jasper, 25, music and computer graphics major. “The chancellor got a raise and this is what the BC students had to say about it at all. It shouldn’t be big cuts, but the cuts really have to be cut. As long as things around campus that need to be working.

Amelia Momand, 20, science student was one of the students.

“No one should ask for a raise,” Momand said. “I get really frustrated. We don’t have what we need and not what you request.”

Mike Miller, 25, social science major, thought the administrator doesn’t need to talk about it.

“All I know is that she received a raise during the recession, and not during. If we have a raise during the recession, and not during the give the people what they need, and not what they want.”

There were groups of people to agree and disagree with Serrano’s raise. Some students said that the chancellor shouldn’t be big cuts, but the cuts could be small cuts, but the cuts could be small cuts.

Several students were slightly more individual.

“Someone is doing business, and Serrano wouldn’t disagree with that,” said John Godell, 24, biochemistry and president of the academic senate.

“Every time I talk about business and other businesses, it was found that at BC, every dollar to the payroll and not to the compensation. There is a lot of labor in other industries.”

It is true, but the economy changes and they care.

“In terms of what is spent overall, the chancellor’s changes are a lot too much,” Godell said.

Please see LASORDA, Page 4

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The Renegade Flip
Indie band 100 Monkeys drives Bakersfield bananas

By Kelly Angius
Editor in chief

Instead of being confused by one instrument like most bands, the members of 100 Monkeys take turns playing different parts. They showed off their multitalent abilities in Bakersfield at Chencho’s on Jan. 26.

Consisting of Ben Graupner, Jackson Rathborne, Ben Johnston and M. Lawrence Abramson, whom they call Uncle: "100 Monkeys in band," Los Angeles and towns all over the country. This band has been together since 1999 and has only been a full band for a year and a half, according to Rathborne. In addition to being musicians, many of the members of 100 Monkeys are actors.

"Ben, and myself in high school. "I met Uncle in L.A., and I made a film with Uncle Larry," said Rathborne, who played lawyer in the “Twilight” films. "We just kept in touch and kept jamming. Eventually, the jamming became more generalized, and we became more official."

The band’s music comes from the phenomenon where an individual’s learned behavior is shared by the rest of the group instantaneously. "It’s the idea of a collective consciousness, the way that idea spreads subconsciously,” said Rathborne, and Abramson said that that: "We jam with so many people. Anyone who’s there is a 100 Monkey."

That collective consciousness is present when 100 Monkeys performs an improvised song, their favorite songs to play at their concerts.

"You never know what’s going to happen," said Graupner. "Sometimes it’s awesome, sometimes it’s not."

At their concerts, the band asks the audience for a topic for them to improvise a song about. "The topic at the Bakersfield show was ‘mountainous.’ The band decided to play a song about a specific mountain, Johnson’s. Rathborne made up the lyrics on the spot and sang about how ‘you always want what you can’t have.’ Like Johnson’s mountain."

"It’s really spontaneous," said Rathborne. "The crowd gets to hear songs that no one has ever heard before and no one will ever hear again, because someone records it. It’s like a black tape."

Recently, 100 Monkeys has been playing shows all over California, and in most cities, their opening bands are local, which they said gives them a chance to be “at the forefront of the indie scene and meet new bands. Graupner said his favorite part about touring is meeting new people. “Playing these really minute shows, it’s great to meet almost everyone,” said Graupner. "It feels like you have a million friends.”

While some fans of the band buy their tickets well in advance of the concert, the band said sometimes people will come out on a date’s advice. They said fans are usually “really happy.”

"The shows have been so much fun. The audiences are amazing. People come out and always have a great time,” said Rathborne. "If you love what you do, other people will love it too. It’s the 100 Monkeys effect.” Rathborne said the band’s set list is always changing, as are their fans, as no one 100 Monkeys concert is exactly like the one before. Their one steady name for 100 Monkeys concert though is: "Fun, love and happiness," said Uncle Larry on what he can expect from a 100 Monkeys concert.

If their concert major Audrey Estes attended the concert at Chencho’s. She said the reason she came to the show was to see Rathborne.

"Jackson Rathborne is here, and I wanted to hear his music live,” she said. "I loved the concert, it was absolutely fabulous. They have such different range of different sounds.”

100 Monkeys has been touring across the U.S. since the day after Christmas, but Rathborne said the group is going to be very busy in February. "We’re taking a short break in February to record a song and make a music video, then tours again March, April, and May. "We’re going to be really busy,” he said.

In April, the band is performing at the Spencer Bell Legacy concert in Dallas, then doing a series of dates in December from Austin to California. They know their music by regularly performing some of his songs, including “The Monkey Song” and “February in One,” which they played at Chencho’s.

"A short time ago, I was over my head. He was a great musician and a genius. He was a huge inspiration to all of us,” said Rathborne. "That’s the wonderful thing about music, that immortality.”

Reggae sensation Eek-A-Mouse fills Fishlips with excited fans

By Lucy Baisa
Assistant editor

Eek-A-Mouse, an internationally known reggae musician from Jamaica, gave a concert for a packed audience of Fishlips and Grill on Saturday, Jan. 26.

Bakerfield College student Jason Pitton, unacknowledged, said he was looking forward to the concert. "It’s the first time I’ve heard of him so I’m excited to see what he’s like."

Many audience members were new to the reggae music scene, saying they heard about Eek-A-Mouse from a friend or they decided to go just because it was something to do on a Saturday night.

Maurice Molineaux, 25, a sound engineer for Eek, said his father has been playing reggae music in the band for the past 13 years. "I’ve only been working for them for a few years; I’ve grown up around him and his music. Molineaux said he likes Eek’s music because he enjoys being in Bakersfield. "We just get here, but there are really good people here and I’ve got no complaints."

Rory Williams, 36, was working the merchandising coming off of the bar and said he likes Eek’s music. "He’s definitely not ordinary, but I just keep hoping he’s a lot of people like him too, I hope it’s packed."

The concert began at 9 p.m. with local band Deejay Sean playing a reggae set. A crowd of people were inside and ordered drinks. Eek-A-Mouse’s backing musicians played a few songs to warm up the crowd and check the equipment before Eek-A-Mouse finally came on at 11:30 p.m.

Eek started his first song singing in the crowd, and slowly danced his way toward the roof, singing with the fans as he went. Once there he invited people, mostly women, to dance on stage with him. His songs, including popular “Ganja Smuggling,” which features the vocal stylings of his famous father, had the crowd dancing and singing along. He continued to play music with his band until the late hours of the morning.
**FEATURES**

**Guns ’N Hoses hits ice for first time**

By Alina N. Martinez

Eight weeks ago, at Bunn's Books at the Marketplace, the Random Writers Workshop had their first meeting. The workshops are guided by author Nic Belardes on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. Belardes was born in San Jose but later moved to Bakersfield. He has worked as a creative writer of TV commercials and television commercials for TV shows and networks.

Belardes purchased two books so far: the idea for this workshop came to an anonymous person who wanted help with a manuscript. He says, "When I see a problem in my life, I decide to write about it in a book that fills a niche that I didn’t know existed." He always has a notebook and pen with him at all times. "I have a passion for storytelling," he said. He recently finished a book titled "Random Blues." His latest book is "Random Thoughts." He is currently working on a novel titled "Random Thoughts II: The Next Chapter." Belardes has written over 20 novels and is currently working on three. He is known for his unique storytelling style and ability to captivate his readers with his vivid descriptions and engaging characters.

Belardes says, "I have a love for storytelling and I want to share that love with others. I believe that anyone can become a writer if they put their heart into it." He is a dedicated and hardworking writer who is always looking for new ways to improve his craft. Belardes is a member of the California Writers Association and the National Society of Black Writers. He is also an active member of the Bakersfield Community Book Club, where he leads discussions on a variety of topics.

Belardes encourages aspiring writers to pursue their passion for storytelling. "The beauty of writing is that it has no limits," he said. "Whether you want to write about love, loss, or adventure, there are countless stories waiting to be told. So grab a pen and start writing. You never know what you might discover."

Belardes shares his beliefs and experiences with his students, encouraging them to write from their heart and to never give up on their dreams. "Remember, writing is a journey," he said. "It’s about being true to yourself and following your heart. So keep writing, even when it’s hard. Because with every word you write, you are creating something beautiful."
**FOOD BANK:** SGA provides goods

**LABORATORY:**

**Moms raise dough for Haiti**

**The Bakerfield Fox Theatre**

**The Rip**

**Kern County Assessor**

**Supervisors discuss plan for 2010**

**NEWS BRIEFS**
Domestic non-resident students see fee increase

By Anthony R. Effordt Reporter

Students are aware of the increase in tuition and fees at Bakersfield College, but they may not be aware of all the fees in fees for non-resident students.

Non-resident students are broken into two categories at BC. Domestic non-resident students and international non-resident students. Domestic non-resident students are charged $320 per unit plus the $60 per unit fee as part of their non-resident tuition and fees. International non-resident students have to pay $240 per unit, the $26 per unit fee for a total of $266 per unit fee. The capital outlay fee covers equipment and materials bought by the district in connection with the student's education.

The district Board of Trustees however, has just approved a measure that will increase fees for domestic non-resident students, but drop fees for international students.

The new structure will drop the $3 per unit fee to $2 per unit fee starting in the 2010-2011 school year. Students are already concerned about the changes, and the new fees will affect many of their already uncertain situations.

"Now I know that I have to come in school a lot earlier than what I was in high school because it is a serious decision when it comes to parking," Rodriquez continued. "I already accommodate every student who goes to college to go as early as possible. Most of the time the high school is completely empty so in high school we can find a good parking spot."