

# BC awarded 'Exemplary Program Award'

By Denise Gonzalez  
Reporter

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges honored two schools that received the 2009 Exemplary Program Awards for best exemplifying this year's theme, "Creating a Bridge to Transfer or Career."

Bakersfield College and Santa Barbara City College were the two schools chosen by the

California Community Board of Governors who in turn issued award checks for their respective programs.

In honor of the BC Academic Development program, Kimberly Van Horne took the initiative as the BC representative and submitted a proposal. The proposal to ASCCC included the numerous programs, workshops and courses that representatives work on in order to help students

on campus succeed in school work and future goals.

A check for \$4,000 was then awarded to be used within the campus program. This program has initiated well-designed strategies to assist students in their academic development needs. The program strives to help students prepare to transfer to four-year institutions and into career opportunities.

"We are extremely proud and

honored to win another state-level award for our department. The award is a reminder to the Kern County community and constituents across the state that Bakersfield College is committed to student success," said Van Horne.

Therefore, the ACDV works to improve teaching and learning by building study, reading, writing, information competency and mathematic skills.

"These new strategies allow students to focus on specific skills through special workshops and classes while continuing to address their broader academic goals," as said in a press release by BC president Greg Chamberlain.

Van Horne advocates how until all BC students are achieving their academic and career goals, the Academic Development department will continue

to develop curriculum courses and interventions that will serve to improve the students learning experiences.

Along with other representatives in the Academic Development department, Van Horne will continue to collaborate with the administration, student services and disciplines across campus because according to Van Horne, she positions students to be her number one priority.

## BC, CSUB collaborative STEM project helps students transfer



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Bakersfield College political science major Rocky Blatto has his transcript reviewed by Cal. State University, Bakersfield transfer and matriculation specialist Marisa Marquez in the Fireside Room on Jan. 21. The two-day event was sponsored by a science, technology, engineering and math transfer project between BC and CSUB.

## SGA blown away by high winds



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Bakersfield College Student Government Association president Kristi Newsom and senator Shawn Newsom hold down the gazebo covering in the Campus Center while maintenance workers try to tie it down Jan. 20. High winds during the first week of the spring semester almost uprooted the aging structure. The SGA is currently considering options on how to replace many of the older parts of the Campus Center.

## SGA sponsors 'Ask Me' tables

By Martin Chang  
Reporter

The Student Government Association of Bakersfield College organized Ask Me tables the first week of school in order to inform and help students in the new semester.

The tables were placed in strategic places to help the most students, such as outside the Fireside Room. At the tables, volunteers would help students and answer any questions they had. The tables ran from Jan. 19 to Jan. 21.

Also available to students were several pamphlets and handouts to aid students in the new semester. These pamphlets and handouts included information on location of classes, choices of majors, counseling, jobs available and financial aid.

According to Shawn Newsom, assistant to the dean of students and the organizer of the Ask Me tables, the goals of the tables were to help students new and old at the beginning of the semester. He says that the campus can be "really big" and knows how overwhelming a new semester can be for students, especially new ones. Newsom further stated he wanted students

to leave the tables with a smile.

One problem that was not expected was the heavy rain that occurred during the week. Because of the weather, the tables were shut down for a short time and the organizers did their best to work around the problem. Newsom and others "overcame and adapted" to the weather.

According to Mike Stepanovich, executive director of the BC Foundation and a volunteer at the tables, many of the students did seem a little flustered and stressed. Some students would come a few minutes before their classes and ask for directions. Most of the students were new to the campus and some were even accompanied by their parents. Stepanovich felt that he was helping students and saw a notable sense of relief from the students after he had assisted them.

When Newsom called for feedback, it was mostly positive. The only complaints had to do with the weather. Newsom felt that the tables were "very successful."

He felt that the tables accomplished exactly what they were meant to do which was help students at the beginning of this spring semester.

## Solar power to be added over parking

By Michael Wafford  
Reporter

Bakersfield College, in an ongoing effort to become more green, will be building a solar panel field.

Approved by the board of trustees in December 2009, the panels will be constructed over the northeast parking lot located on the corner of Panorama and Mt. Vernon Avenues.

According to Amber Chiang, director of Media Relations at BC, the field will generate up to one-third of the school's power once constructed while placing any unused power back into Bakersfield's power grid.

Through a series of rebates and incentives, the \$8.3 million project will be budget neutral, according to Chiang.

The project will lock in the school's power rate, as of the end of the semester, solidifying the

school's power costs for the next 20 years. Chiang went on to say that the panels will generate the equivalent electric usage of 293 homes per year by taking advantage of the abundant sunlight in the area. The field will be one of the few of its type located on a college campus.

Chiang said the panels will articulate, following the movement of the sun, to maximize efficiency.

Several students and faculty are anticipating the project, such as geology professor Natalie Burszty. "I think that this project is a really amazing step forward for the college," she said.

Aside from generating energy, the solar panels also have other purposes. They will work as covered parking for the northeast parking lot providing protection for cars.

Construction will begin after commencement in May.

## Administrator no longer on campus, may not return

By Anthony B. Ellrodt  
Copy editor

A main administrator of Bakersfield College is not on campus this semester, which has some students questioning the reason behind her absence.

Vice President of Instruction Mildred Lovato is on administrative leave according to Greg Chamberlain, president of BC.

"Mildred Lovato is on administrative leave due to personal and confidential reasons," he said.

Amber Chiang, director of Media Relations at BC, stated the administration will not comment on her absence.

"This office will not delve into Mildred Lovato's personal life, and that's what we'd be doing if we released information regarding her absence," she said. "Students don't need to know if an administrator is returning to campus. All the students need to be concerned with, is that their education and student services are moving forward uninterrupted."



Staff Editorial

# Suggestions for SGA budget

As of last December, Bakersfield College's Student Government Association had nearly \$750,000 in various accounts. This money, according to BC dean of students Joyce Coleman, accumulated because previous SGAs did not use it. SGA and Coleman want to spend this money on the students they represent, but money in some of these accounts can only be spent on specific areas of the college.

According to an article printed in the Dec. 2 issue of The Renegade Rip, SGA's accounts and balances are as follows: The TB150 account, or the student center fund, has a balance of \$561,286.05, which is to be spent on the student center, including maintenance, operation and renovation; the TA100 account, or the "SGA presents" account, has a balance of \$23,536.64, to be spent on activities like spring fling and homecoming; the TA200 account, or the representation account, has a balance of \$17,835.42, to be spent on SGA travel and conferences and "other costs associated with representing the students of BC;" and two interest accounts with balances of \$100,000 and \$143,998.69, to be spent on anything approved by the BC senate.

The current SGA has seen the mistakes previous SGAs have made in not spending this money in the past and are striving to do better by the students. In the Dec. 2 article, SGA president Kristi Newsom and Coleman mentioned some tentative ideas. The editorial board of The Renegade Rip would like to offer some suggestions to SGA on ways to spend the three-quarters of a million dollars that they have accrued.

A new gazebo for the campus center was an idea mentioned for the TB150 account, and we'd like to encourage that. The need for a new one was made even more evident since the recent storms nearly knocked the old one down. This new gazebo could be stronger and made with more reliable materials, and could last longer and be a better investment than the previous gazebo. Another idea for the TB150 account was new tables for the campus center. While that would be nice, we feel this money would be better spent elsewhere, as the tables are not in poor conditions requiring replacement.

SGA typically spends lots of money on events like Spring Fling and Homecoming, setting up slurpee tables, rock-climbing walls and the like. Those can be fun, but we wonder how many students actually use them. We suggest that they talk to students and find out if their investments are worth the cost. Also, many universities have concerts by popular bands on campus. We know it would be hard to get big bands like those schools have, but booking smaller professional bands is definitely possible. It would be a welcome change from the local bands that have performed here in the past, making students race for class not because they are late but because they want to get away from that music. Students would even pay for a decent concert at a good price, which could put more money into SGA.

A great deal of money from the TA200 is spent sending SGA to conferences. Students deserve to know what SGA learns at these conferences and to see that all the money spent is being put to good use. Supposedly these conferences are teaching them how to be a better SGA, which is great if they are learning and bettering themselves as student representatives. But no one knows what they do or how the conferences help. SGA could set up an open discussion with students and tell them what they learned and how they plan to use their new knowledge.

SGA could offer students an incentive for good grades. For example, students with a 3.5 grade point average could be given a gift certificate for the bookstore, or even free books for students with a 3.8 GPA. Free parking permits would be another great incentive to encourage students to study and do well in class. Slurpees and rock-climbing walls are nice, but students would really remember gestures like these, and they'd appreciate them more than food and games.

A few creative touches would add life to the campus, and also give an opportunity to showcase some of BC's artistic students. SGA could pay for the materials needed and find art students to add some color and freshness to BC. Another addition could be expanding the campus Wi-Fi, which is unavailable in some places.

BC used to have a student lounge but it was shut down in 2007 due to illegal behavior. Perhaps SGA could reopen it, so that the students who do not misuse the room can enjoy it, but manage and monitor it better, so that bad behavior doesn't get it shut down again. Maybe SGA could even set up a way for outside private businesses, like various restaurants, to set up shop on campus so the students can have more options for lunch.

These are the ideas that we have come up with. We know SGA will have plenty of their own as well and we applaud them for striving to do better than the SGAs before them. We hope that this semester's students will get to see some benefits from all of this money.

# TV host feud causes kerfuffle

By Kelly Ardis  
Editor in chief

"The Tonight Show" has been the greatest tradition in late night television since its start in 1954. For decades, Americans have watched the show after the nightly news, staying tuned for some laughs before bed. It is truly a shame that

such a beloved show has been tarnished by the recent NBC drama, which ripped the show from its newest host, Conan O'Brien.

O'Brien only got to host "The Tonight Show" for seven months, but this short time provided more laughs than the prior 17 years with Jay Leno. But the purpose here is not to hate or blame Leno who, despite poor reviews from critics, did continue the show's success with viewers. This article is to show why O'Brien was superior.

On both "Late Night" and "The Tonight Show," O'Brien proved he can not only tell a joke, he can actually be funny. Leno's biggest laughs came from "Jaywalking" and "Headlines," and in both it was other people being funny, not him. But O'Brien used his natural humor in many skits. "Noches De Pasion" featured O'Brien as Conando in a faux telenovela, and "In the Year 2000" O'Brien and a guest predicted what life would be like in the future. Both of these skits relied on O'Brien's abilities as comedian.

Leno did receive better ratings, which is not surprising since he had 17 years to earn them, as opposed to O'Brien's seven months. Leno had a great following with the older crowd, where O'Brien's biggest following was young adults. But the older crowd liked Leno because they got used to them; certainly they'd get used to O'Brien, if NBC had given him the chance. In addition to his lack of time to prove himself, O'Brien was given a poor lead-in with the failing-from-the-start "The Jay Leno Show," which Leno was given when he decided he didn't want to retire after all. Given that he was so successful on "The Tonight Show," it's obvious that the second show failed because Leno couldn't stand on his own without the legacy of his previous show. His lackluster show led to bad ratings for NBC's local affiliates, whose news programs were suffering because of his lead-in. This in turn hurt "The Tonight Show." NBC had to look out for itself, which is how this whole mess got started.

Looking to cover themselves as much as possible, NBC executives planned to start "The Jay Leno Show" at 11:35 p.m., the timeslot held by "The Tonight Show" for 60 years. "The Tonight Show" would then be pushed to 12:05 a.m., which doesn't quite make sense given the show's title. In his official statement, O'Brien said this was the "destruction" of what he believed was "the greatest franchise in the history of broadcasting," and he wanted no part of its demise.

After dreaming of hosting the show for years, finally and rightfully getting it, and moving his family, his crew and their families from New York City to Los Angeles, he stepped down because he favored the show's integrity over his own job. He also said pushing the shows back would also push back "Late Night," which he said would be "unfair" to his successor Jimmy Fallon. While obviously upset over losing his dream job, on his final episode of "The Tonight Show," instead of saying one last "Up yours!" to NBC, he took the time to say how grateful he was for his time there. O'Brien is truly a class act.

However, O'Brien is also a great talent with a huge fan base. Team Coco, as his fans are called, will follow him to whichever network is lucky enough to pick him up. Who knows what the future will hold for O'Brien, but he's too great to fade into obscurity. He'll be back, ideally in September, when NBC allows him to start a new show on a competitor's network. Hopefully his crew will follow him to his next adventure too, because Max Weinberg, Andy Richter and of course LaBamba will surely be missed almost as much as O'Brien himself.

O'Brien's time on both "Late Night" and "The Tonight Show" has earned O'Brien enough faithful followers who will watch his show anywhere. This isn't the last we'll see of O'Brien, so now until September is just going to be one long commercial break.



SAMANTHA GARRETT / THE RIP

By Katie Avery  
Opinion editor

"The Tonight Show," the longest currently running and regularly scheduled TV show in history, has been thrust again into the spotlight when

a controversy involving two hosts flared. Host Jay Leno, who took over from Johnny Carson in

1992, told the world in September 2004 that he was retiring and passing the show on to someone else five years later.

NBC, the network in charge of "The Tonight Show," replaced Leno with late night star Conan O'Brien hoping he would fill the shoes of hosts before him. O'Brien was very popular and if NBC didn't promise him "The Tonight Show" in advance, they were afraid he might get snatched up by another network.

Since NBC promised the show would be handed over to O'Brien in 2009, there was nowhere for Leno to go. They basically kicked him off the show to make way for a younger, fresher host. Unfortunately, when they brought O'Brien on, the ratings were not nearly as high as they were with Leno and NBC suffered. Leno, in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, said he really had

no intention to retire; he just planned on taking his talent to another network. NBC refused to let him out of his contract and instead offered him his own show, which wasn't a success either. So NBC was now suffering a loss on both fronts.

To remedy the problem NBC decided to push back the time of "The Jay Leno Show" so that it pushed back "The Tonight Show" into a late-night spot. Leno told Oprah that when the network proposed moving "The Jay Leno Show" to the new timeslot, he asked NBC if O'Brien would consent to it, and they said he would.

When O'Brien refused to move "The Tonight Show" to a later spot, NBC decided to offer Leno "The Tonight Show" again, and let O'Brien out of his contract instead.

Not only was it a bad decision to replace Leno in the first place, it was also unfair for the network to pull the plug on O'Brien when they had a contract allowing him to do the show. Either way it is wrong for the public to blame Leno simply for taking his job back. If you had your dream job and had essentially been kicked out, wouldn't you take it back if it was offered to you again? NBC offered Leno the job; he didn't walk in and demand it back. He doesn't have the power to pull the strings at NBC, and he was not responsible for what happened.

TV is a cutthroat business. Those that don't prove themselves immediately are thrown to the dogs. O'Brien had seven months hosting "The Tonight Show," not the longest run, but still he should be thankful that NBC didn't pull the plug immediately when the ratings looked bad. NBC tried to make amends by keeping them both on the air and it was bad business with both shows.

So Leno now looks like the bad guy in all this because he took a chance and accepted the invitation to return to "The Tonight Show." Meanwhile O'Brien, the so-called victim, is crying all the way to the bank. NBC paid O'Brien out of his contract, and generously, I might add, so they could offer Leno his show back.

Leno's ratings have been consistently outstanding, bringing NBC more viewers than O'Brien did in his seven months on the show. NBC made a lot of stupid decisions but in the end they made the only choice to cover their losses.

Leno is getting on in years, let's face it, and when he finally does retire (for good), "The Tonight Show" will again need a host and O'Brien can take over then. That is if he still wants to. With all the hype that this drama has created he is sure to be flooded with offers from other networks to do pretty much whatever show he wants, so I do not in the least feel sorry for him.

## 'GADE FEEDBACK "What is your favorite social networking site?"

Editor's note: 'Gade Feedback is a feature that asks students their opinion on various topics.

Compiled by:  
Annie Stockman / The Rip



Daniel Munoz,  
digital arts:  
"Myspace; the space."



Jerry Kammerzell,  
business:  
"I can talk to friends without calling them."



Jenny Vazquez,  
registered nurse:  
"Myspace, because you can make new friends."



Katherine Flores,  
criminal justice:  
"Myspace, it's the only one I know how to use."



Vincent Berardini,  
law enforcement:  
"Myspace because I don't know how to use Facebook."



Winner of the 2003 and 2008  
JACC Pacesetter Award



The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes, printed by Bakersfield Envelope & Printing Co. Inc., and circulated on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters.

The newspaper is published under the auspices of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, but sole responsibility for its content rests with student editors.

The Rip is a member of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

## The Renegade Rip

### EDITORIAL BOARD

**Editor in Chief.....**Kelly Ardis  
**News Editor.....**Vincent Perez  
**Sports Editor.....**Michael Morrow  
**Copy Editor .....**Anthony B. Ellrodt  
**Multimedia Editor.....**Gregory D. Cook  
**Opinions Editor.....**Katie Avery  
**Magazine Editor.....**David Karnowski

**Adviser .....**Danny Edwards

### STAFF

**Reporters:** Samantha Garrett, Denise Gonzalez, Laura Liera, Alma N. Martinez, Mateo M. Melero, Julian Moore, Natalie Rodriguez, Lauren Strong, Rigo Villalobos, Michael Wofford, Brian Willhite  
**Photographers:** Joe Bergman, Frank Bruce, Martin Chang, Joseph Cota, Ryan George, Annie Stockman, Jofel Tolosa

### Write The Rip

Letters should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by a signature and the letter writer's identity must be verified.

The Rip reserves the right to edit letters, however, writers will be given the opportunity to revise lengthy or unacceptable submissions.

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

### How to reach us

-Address: Bakersfield College,  
1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305  
-Phone: (661) 395-4324  
-Web site: www.therip.com



Video Game ‘hyper-sexualized,’ ‘thrill ride’

By Michael Wafford  
Reporter

From the incomprehensible story to adding combat, “Bayonetta,” available for the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360, never aspires to be anything more than an adrenaline-packed thrill ride and it does not disappoint.

“Bayonetta” is the story of an amnesiac witch named Bayonetta who must confront a seemingly endless army of angels while also discovering her past. To do this, she is assisted by a bartender

GAME  
REVIEW

★★★★★

who resides at the Gates of Hell and provides her with an array of weapons to aid in her quest. Sound weird to you? It did to me until I killed a part-angel, part-dragon, part-statue, part-chicken beast with a giant bird formed from Bayonetta’s hair and realized that this game is completely insane.

“Bayonetta” is nonsensical in the way only video games are able to get away with, and it embraces this fact taking every element of the story to its illogical extreme. The result is an entertaining, and utterly confusing, mix of campy dialogue, snappy one-liners, bad romances and endless references to other video

games.

As you may have expected, the story isn’t the main draw of “Bayonetta,” the gameplay is. The action-oriented play style is filled with depth but never forces the player to become an expert at anything to complete the game.

The control scheme is simple. You shoot, punch, kick, jump and dodge with each action allocated to a button. Dodging is the biggest factor in the game as nearly everything you encounter can be evaded and successfully dodging an attack initiates a “Matrix” inspired mode called “Witch-Time” where time slows for everything on screen except for you. If all of this is too much

for players, there are two modes of play, Easy and Very Easy, that allow you to perform everything listed above with one button. For more hardcore players, there are a variety of unlockable difficulties and weapons to keep them coming back to the game, with nearly every one of these unlockables radically changing the game. The combat always feels satisfying and there is rarely ever a dull moment with the game only dragging in a few areas, but they never last long enough to distract from the overall experience. The game is a little short, taking me around ten hours to beat, but the unlockable difficulties make the game worth replay-

ing if you enjoyed the combat the first time through.

From the hyper-sexualized ladies to the stylized angels, everything in the game is drenched in the kind of cool you only see in cheap fantasy movies. The character designs are creative and the cut-scenes are always set up well. The only possible downsides are that everything seems to be as sexualized as possible, be it Bayonetta spinning around a pole to turn a gear or simply losing clothing to perform a powerful attack. Some of the in-game cinematic scenes suffer from an odd style that features spoken dialogue while still pictures move as if they were part of

a film strip. The effect isn’t bad, it’s just uninteresting compared to the other in-game scenes of characters using motorcycles as weapons or using missiles as surfboards.

It’s been reported by several gaming publications that the PlayStation 3 version of “Bayonetta” suffers from slow-down issues that do not effect the Xbox 360 version and it does impact the game enough to make it an inferior version.

The game isn’t the most approachable one out there but for anyone with a little patience, a taste for the absurd and a love for over-the-top action, “Bayonetta” is worth a try.

Italian joint close to BC, tasty food, low prices

Gregory D. Cook  
Multimedia editor

A dingy strip mall directly across Mt. Vernon Avenue from Bakersfield College’s Memorial Stadium is not the first place I would think to look for a good Italian restaurant, yet that is precisely where you can find one.

For the last two years, L.A. Pizza Veloz has been serving up a variety of pizza, pasta and sandwiches. The restaurant is a transplant from Beverly Hills, Calif. and in my humble opinion we are lucky to have them.

The restaurant is open from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. most days, later on the weekends. While they offer a surprisingly varied menu of dinner entrees such as linguini primavera with shrimp, chicken carbonara, and a full menu of pizzas and calzones, of particular interest to BC students is their lunch special. And that is where I will focus this review.

Weekdays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., patrons can choose from 14 different pasta dishes or six types of sandwiches. The price is \$5.99 and the portions are generous to say the least.

As my companion and I entered the 65-seat dining room, we were greeted by the kind of relaxed, casual atmosphere that should proceed a good Italian meal.

The dining room was decorated primarily in red, with humorous signs (Free beer tomorrow) hung on the walls and even a small shrine of sorts to BC football.

The service was prompt and friendly, and within three minutes we were eating the green

RESTAURANT  
REVIEW

★★★★★



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Patrons of the L.A. Pizza Veloz Italian restaurant eat lunch Jan. 30. The restaurant, located right across from the Bakersfield College’s Memorial Stadium on Mt. Vernon Avenue, offers lunch specials for \$5.99 from 11.a.m. to 3.p.m.

salads that come with the lunch pasta dishes.

The salads were your typical green salad, nothing special here except for the notable freshness of the ingredients. There was no hint of brown around the edges of the lettuce and the cucumbers and tomatoes were crisp and flavorful.

The normal selections of dressings were available. My companion had the Italian dressing, which tasted exactly as should be expected. I had the blue cheese dressing and was surprised to find that it was more of a creamy blue cheese, rather than the more traditional style with pieces of blue cheese mixed in.

Our entrees arrived at the table just as I swallowed the last bite of my salad. My companion ordered the beef ravioli with pink sauce, and I chose the beef tortellini and topped it off with a creamy pesto sauce. Both entrees were served hot, and all of the pasta components were cooked to a perfect al dente.

I was very pleased with both the pink and the pesto sauces we were served. The pink sauce seemed to be a gentle blending of alfredo and marinara sauces that managed to keep the creamy richness of a good alfredo while adding the tanginess and subtle sweetness of a properly made

marinara.

The pesto sauce was a particularly pleasant surprise. All too often, pesto sauces are simply made from throwing a handful of basil, garlic and a cup or two of olive oil into a blender, resulting in a lot of sharp individual tastes fighting among themselves in the sauce, but that was far from the case at this establishment.

My beef tortellini were paired with a creamy pesto sauce. The cream base served to blend the competing tastes within the sauce into a perfect harmony of flavor and also helped the sauce coat the pasta evenly.

The pasta dishes also included a couple of pieces of garlic bread, and this addition, no more than an afterthought at many restaurants, was one of the high points of the meal.

After the meal I spoke with owner Carlos Delgado after we had finished our meals and he informed me that they bake all of their own breads and create all of their sauces from scratch.

Since no review of a restaurant named L.A. Pizza Veloz would be complete without at least a mention of pizza, I also sampled a pie. While L.A. Pizza Veloz offers many of the traditional pizza toppings and combinations that most people are used to, they also offer pizzas topped with in-

gredients such as spinach, fresh basil, barbecue chicken and even chile verde.

The pizza I tried was cooked evenly, with no bubbles in the crust.

They advertise their pizza as “New York style”, but the crust I got was notably thicker than a true New York pizza. It was generously topped with quality ingredients, distributed evenly around the pie. I noticed a subtle sharpness in cheese as well as a hint of smokiness which I believe comes from adding a little cheddar and provolone cheeses to the normal mozzarella that most pizzerias use.

But the true star of any pizza is the sauce, and here, once again, L.A. Pizza Veloz did not disappoint. Instead of the normal tomato paste based sauce you find on most pizzas, the sauce on this pizza was a thinner, pureed tomato sauce. The sauce was sweeter than it was tangy, and the spices were subtle enough that it complimented the flavors of the toppings rather than overpowering them.

From the prompt, friendly service, to the generous portions of delicious pasta, pizza and sandwiches, I would definitely recommend L.A. Pizza Veloz to anyone looking for a great casual Italian meal.

Killer angel movie too over-the-top

By Katie Avery  
Opinion editor

“Legion,” the newest apocalyptic action thriller, which premiered in theaters Jan. 22, simply did not live up to all its hype.

The stage of “Legion” is set when God, once again, loses faith in mankind. He sends his angels to possess and take over human beings so they can kill a baby who will, according to some obscure prophecy, grow up to lead mankind away from darkness. The archangel Michael, who holds onto his faith in humanity, goes against God’s orders, falls from heaven and seeks to protect the unborn child.

This premise seemed very exciting. Who would’ve thought a movie could work where angels are the bad guys? If done properly, this was going to be a film celebrated for its inventive and original ideas.

The problem is, the most important part of the plot doesn’t make sense. God sends his angels to possesses humans and force them to attack the protagonists. Why couldn’t the angels, who are much stronger than humans, kill off everyone without even a struggle? Answer: Because then we wouldn’t have a movie. So basically the entire story structure is based on completely illogical battle orders from a supposedly infallible deity.

Plot inconsistencies aside, the movie isn’t a total loss. The special effects used to demonize the villains are very well done. When Gladys, a sweet little old lady, turned into a demonic villain the tension and fear in the audience was palpable. One of the scariest moments occurred when a child falls prey to possession. The filmmakers turned the cute and seemingly innocent into the creepiest monsters making the audience feel like

MOVIE  
REVIEW

★★★★☆

nothing is safe.

Paul Bettany, who played the fallen angel Michael, gave the best performance. He pulled off the right attitude to make his character work and stood out among the mediocrity.

Adrianne Palicki who played pregnant girl Charlie, and Lucas Black, who played her intensely loyal companion Jeep, gave passable performances as well. However, the over-the-top intense dialogue was poorly written and, for the most part, poorly delivered by the cast.

The creepy ice cream man/mutant advertised wildly in the trailer was a huge letdown. Not to spoil the surprise, but this character dies half a second after being introduced.

The least they could do is give this character a bit of screen time. They made the audience think this chilling bit of CGI was an important story element when it didn’t even last long enough to advance the plot. This is largely unimportant but it brings into question the motives of these filmmakers and what they will do to get butts in the seats.

The intensity of the loud, boomy music was great and kept me on the edge of my seat until about halfway through the movie. It was like hearing your favorite song played on the radio 16,000 times until you never want to hear it again. We get it. The movie is dramatic, but if the composer uses the same exact theme for every fight scene and creepy moment the whole movie becomes repetitive and boring.

The movie ended but didn’t really finish. One would expect the climax of the film to be the biggest action sequence, probably featuring a giant angel-on-angel battle. Instead the whole ending was small bursts of action laced with cheesy overdramatic dialogue. I left the theater wondering, that’s it?

“Legion” is definitely not worth a \$10 movie ticket. My advice see it when it arrives at the dollar theater.

New OK Go album big disappointment, ‘difficult to understand’

By Ryan George  
Reporter

OK Go’s latest release may be considered by the band as a “dance album,” but it cannot be much more than that. While listening to “Of the Blue Colour of the Sky” and reading the lyrics along with the music, my head kept spinning, and not in a pleasant way. But I suspect that

ALBUM  
REVIEW

★★★☆☆

may have been the point.

OK Go is most noted for their low budget music video for “Here It Goes Again,” also known as “The Treadmill Video,” with 49,411,001 views on YouTube alone as of Jan. 22, that definitely put them on the map.

The album does have its high points at least. The technical use of instruments and computers to make a very electronic vibe to the music is great in itself, but the electronic sound should not have been put to the vocals of the singers. Some of these lyrics overlapped with the techni-



COURTESY OF CAPITAL RECORDS

cal mix make it very difficult to understand, and I come from a background of listening to heavy metal and scream-o

bands, and can understand easily.

The albums cover-book does give some insight and definitely interest into the albums reasoning of why the album is the way it is: inside, several pages are filled with colorful graphs, with no real understanding of what they are until further along in the book.

The graphs, and title of the album, are “...excerpt[s from] the book [by] General A.J. Pleasonton’s The Influence of the Blue Ray of the Sunlight and of the Blue Colour of the Sky published in 1876...” which brings me to these questions: why

the heck are they basing an album on a book from that long ago? Where and why on earth did they read this book? None of the before-mentioned questions are answered in OK Go’s album cover-book, or on the bands website, OKGo.net.

In the end, I can see this album making hundreds of millions of YouTube fanatics making parodies of the music videos to come, some of which already have, and maybe hear these songs at a dance club being mixed by a DJ, or a gamer on a future version of DJ Hero.

BC BRAINS “What does ‘photovoltaic’ mean?”

Editor’s note: BC Brains is a feature that asks students a question to test their knowledge of all things trivial.



Tino Chavez, mechanical engineer: “Maybe more cameras and more security in school.”



Jackie Frias, psychology: “Someone who’s super photogenic”



Clivon Carter, criminology: “Developing a picture.”



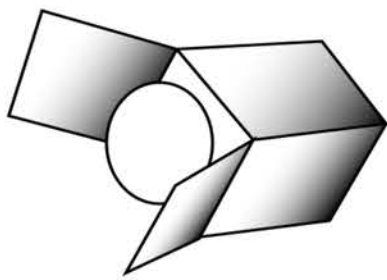
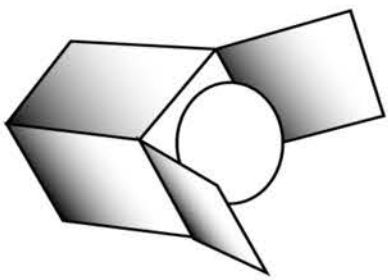
Michael Hernandez, psychology: “Having to do with some camera, light density, or outer space.”



Richard Rivera, criminal justice: “Something at a stripclub.”

Compiled by:  
Annie Stockman / The Rip





# THE SPOTLIGHT



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Above: Brett Neal, of The Daliens, performs at The Dive Bar on South Chester Avenue in Bakersfield on Jan. 30.  
Right: The Daliens, a local country music band, perform at The Dive Bar on Jan. 30.

## Honky-tonk band 'spirit of Bakersfield'

By Brian N. Willhite  
Reporter

Classic country music comes alive with local troubadours The Daliens. Covering artists from the golden age of country like Buck Owens and Merle Haggard, these "08ers" pay homage to the spirit and music that influenced a genre.

Coming together in the latter half of 2009, The Daliens have made it their mission to bring real live honky-tonk music back to Bakersfield's bars and clubs as they did Jan. 30 at the Dive Bar in south Bakersfield. Skipping original music in their set list, the band sticks with time-tested, classic music from country pioneers and local legends.

"We play a lot of music from our influences like Hank Williams, George Jones, Billy Mize, Johnny Cash and Red Simpson. We're trying to capture that old country sound. We're obsessed with that old country twang," said lead guitarist Bryan Calande.

Calande and singer Brett Neal started playing music together a few years back, but The Daliens weren't complete until they added drummer Virgil

Swartz and Brett's wife, Silvia Neal on bass. The group found common ground in playing music that's stripped down to its roots, while honoring classic country icons.

"Everybody loves this kind of country. It's the music we all grew up with," said Brett Neal.

The band does not have any recordings of original music, nor have they written any as of yet. "The band is still in its infancy, so who knows what will happen," said Calande about the future of the band's music. In the meantime, the band is currently out playing live shows and turning each venue into a genuine honky-tonk.

The band even pays tribute to Bakersfield in their name by calling themselves The Daliens, a term dubbed for the residents of Oildale.

Oildale, as well as Bakersfield, are both known for having a history associated with country music and its culture, hence the slogan on their MySpace page, "The spirit of Bakersfield, the pride of Oildale."

More information, including show times and contact info about The Daliens can be found at [myspace.com/thedaliens](http://myspace.com/thedaliens).



## Gallery gets new location, name

“The purpose for the new location is to continue the same idea concept, same goals and to concentrate on the many talented local artists.”

-John Moore, co-owner of new Basement

By Denise Gonzalez  
Reporter

Two artists are now joined together to bring out the beauty of downtown Bakersfield's artistic atmosphere.

Deon Bell and John Moore have collaborated to reopen and reconstruct what has been well known in Bakersfield as The Basement, at a new location. The new art building is now located on the corner of Chester Avenue and 20th Street. The grand opening is expected to be in March.

The new building is spacious and both stories of the basement will be used.

"The purpose for the new location is to continue the same idea concept, same goals and to concentrate more on the many talented local artists," said Moore.

A new name that has not been released yet will be released by opening day, although Bell and Moore will still appreciate the nickname "The Basement." Local aspiring artists, and anyone interested in art, also might find the new location convenient.

Many events are expected, such as the artistic vintage feel of what downtown Bakersfield used to be, and a more comfortable atmosphere.

Moore wants to bring back the older environment from what downtown Bakersfield has to offer.

The lower level is being set up first and is spacious with fascinating architecture and brick walls and archways. The lighting is dim with paintings running along

the room and spaces for new artists wanting to showcase their work.

Both Bell and Moore want to keep the basement of the new building as original as possible due to its true beauty of how downtown Bakersfield should be appreciated.

The Basement will continue to showcase all the local artists own work along with both of the owner's own paintings, sculptures and drawings displayed throughout the gallery.

Many buyers do purchase local artist's work and therefore, Bell and Moore highly suggest that artists should take in their paintings for display.

"My advice to local artists is to keep painting whenever you can and have your work displayed," said Bell. "This indicates that people are ambitious on expressing their art."

Live entertainment will continue to be performed but will be limited due to more concentration that will be given to the artist.

Bell and Moore will have a variety of workshops for those interested in classes concerning art.

Since Bakersfield's art scene and its people are limited to a place of socializing, the new location will be open daily for all ages for those interested in art.

Events will continue such as movie nights, fashion shows and artistic expression.

The main concept for the new location is to keep the downtown art scene alive and continue for years to come.



## Virtuoso shows artists at Element

The Virtuoso Art Show took place Jan. 22-23 at The Element Lounge. It featured artists of different kinds, including photography, painting and musicians.

Left: Joey Pisillas has been playing guitar for 7 years. He played a set Jan. 22.

Below: Greg Ross plays the guitar Jan. 22.

PHOTOS BY DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

