New program offers LGBTQ community a ‘Safe Space’

By Brian N Willhite

As an effort to make Bakersfield College a more comfortable environment for all students, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals, the Student Government Association has initiated the Safe Space program for professors, staff, and students.

A meeting was held on Feb. 7 and was a discussion-based orientation that identified issues and terminology among the LGBTQ community to better acquaint the individuals participating. The information given is also a form of education for LGBTQ students by bringing awareness, allowing conversations, and providing tools to interested students as opportunity to educate, as a positive opportunity, with an ally who is trained to be receptive and understanding in matters concerning sexuality and gender identity.

Topics that are discussed, including what constitutes homophobia and the differences between intolerance and acceptance, seek to point out that even good intentions may still be inappropriate. The inter­personal perceptions of gender and gay culture is presented on an “attitude scale” and is designed to educate individuals of the different levels of attitudes toward LGBT persons. More specifically, the chart helps the participants identify where they currently stand on the scale as well as where they would like to be.

Another topic that participants discussed at the meeting was the concept of heteronormative privilege. This designation implies that, in a heteronormative society, heterosexuals take their sexual identity for granted, eliminating those that do not fit the spectrum. The concept illustrates the differences that LGBTQ persons encounter on a daily basis such as the “normality” of relationship statuses and how they can affect employment benefits or the constant feeling of social commentary with phrases like “But we’re just friends.”

Participants were also informed of statistics relating to students in the LGBTQ community. The study reported on situations, among other issues like assault and homophobic remarks, verbal harassment of LGBT students were at 64.1 percent and 74.2 percent of LGBT students who report feeling unsafe at school.

Those in attendance felt that the program is essential at Bakersfield College because not all LGBTQ students feel that they are safe to express themselves like heterosexual students do without any anxiety or discrimination.

Please see SAFE SPACE, Page 4
Lisa Project at the Bakersfield Heart Hospital on Feb. 10.

By Sandra G. Ward

Members of the community were invited to take a visual journey through the world of a low-income family that has suffered from the torment of child abuse, said Bakersfield College art student Lisa Project art exhibit, The presentation is part of the Bakersfield College Outreach Initiative that seeks to educate people about child abuse.

The 20-minute presentation gives visitors an audio and visual presentation of abuse through a child's perspective. When entering the exhibit visitors are provided an audio device that allows them to listen to a narration of each individual story while viewing the stories. The rooms that realistically resemble the environments of these true-life victims portrayed in the projects.

Visitors then are given an opportunity to view several areas where students of abuse cases that have occurred here in Kern County. "It takes only a minute to get through this exhibit," said local project organizer Juan Domínguez.

The exhibit is free of charge to the public. It was created and produced by local area educators who want to make people aware of abuse, travel to communities in Kern County to gather medical, legal, and local organizations for the exhibit. By invitation, the exhibit has not been shown to the general public in the past.

The Lisa Project Exhibit, named after Lisa Jackson, a local resident of abuse, travels to communities in Kern County to gather medical, legal, and local organizations for the exhibit.

An audio display of the faces of abuse as part of the Lisa Project at the Bakersfield Heart Hospital on Feb. 10.

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First Friday puts local talent on display in downtown Bakersfield

By Matthew J. Petersen

First Friday was in full swing on Friday, Feb. 10 along Eye Street, Bakersfield. A local restaurant, Veli, put on a pitchfork of handmade delicatessen, paintings, and sketches, as local artists and musicians gathered to display and potentially sell their art.

Wearing a pow’rful red suit, the Eye Art Club displayed a collection of past and present student art in an attempt to raise funds for new display cabinets. "I want someone there to be a bump of student artists being up on Fine Art Hall 2, with the belief in it, and we’re coming around and just add, just put it on the student art," said BSE member Chris Hardin.

He continued, "It’s said to be the oldest art club on campus and it’s hard to run a student organization, but I’m proud of it.

Lisa Project at the Bakersfield Heart Hospital on Feb. 10.

KAYLA BRENNER/TH RCPR

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BC manager of maintenance and operations
Paula Br hoy holds her pet rooster Feb. 5, 2011.

By James Lyons
Copy Editor

If you walk near the Lemonien Court at Bak erfield College, you may have had a chance to see the manager of Maintenance and Operations, Paula Br hoy. There are over 200 cutouts of birds of all kinds, owning four chicks, two hens and one rooster. Every once in a while, one of her pets will make a visit to Bak erfield College. She explained that about once a week her husband, Kevin Yelchik, comes to pick her up and will sometimes bring one of their pets with him. When she does, she said, “I get to show them off.” So I’m walking out the door.

Depending on the day, he’ll bring either one of their roosters, ducks or parrons. When one of her roosters is brought out in public, they are given salt and pepper to eat. They can be seen walking on the lawn. They are usually carried; the leach is just to keep them from running away if they are out on the ground and happen to get startled by something.

Br hoy is a bird enthusiast and has cared for various types of birds for 10 years. Her two roosters are named Flower and Peaco. Br hoy, said, “was named after the skunk in fluffs, because when he was a little baby he had a stripe all the way down his back. Now he’s a lot bigger and seems so.”

Originally wanting a large rooster, Br hoy explained, “It takes a lot of care, and I wouldn’t care for them that much. So the next best thing to a big fluffy rooster is a big fluffy chicken.” Along with the small amount of upkeep they require, Br hoy explained, “They’re sweet animals, and they’re not loud and curt.”

Br hoy explained that usually people have a bad understanding of roosters. “They think they’re mean ani­mals,” she said.

She explained that roosters are quite delightful pets as well as being helpful. By letting their roosters roam in the yard during the day, they help minimize unwanted insects. Another benefit, she explained, was that they also get eggs from their two hens, which they eat. Although she does keep her two roosters outside most of the time, when night falls, her pets are given diapers to wear and brought inside. They wear their diapers to elimi­nate odors that might occur in­doors. She gets small diapers that are especially made for chickens from a website called chickenlu­diary.com.

Along with the occasional visit to campus, Br hoy also brings her pet roosters to world-shoe shopping at Barnes Market and also brought them to the Garson Fist in the Bakersfield Mall last year.

Her rooster, Peaco, has even been in parades.

In public, Br hoy said people usu­ually give similar reactions to her and her pets. They ask, “What’s that?” Or a question, which she always enjoys to answer.

She said that most people are afraid of her roosters at first, but after a while they warm up to them.

Melodrama pleases crowd with Western themed production

By Monica Bolger
Superior

As the lights dimmed and the curtain dropped, the Gaslight Melodrama Theatre transitioned to a time where adventure cow­boys, mustachioed sheriffs and ditsy cow­girls roam the saloons and think it’s great how the sto­ry unfolds.

Heidi Green.

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Bray holds her pet rooster Feb. 5, 2011.

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Changes ahead for elections

By Melisa M. Mahler
Supervisor

In order to provide training and support for student and faculty officials, the Barnard-
College Student Senate and the Gay
Straight Alliance have scheduled
a session starting Feb. 3.

In preparation for the upcoming primary elections, the Student Senate and the Gay Straight Alliance have scheduled a session starting Feb. 3.

The Gay Straight Alliance will be providing training through the Inaugural Gay and Lesbian Allies Program. The Gay and Lesbian Allies Program is designed to aid campus members in communicating with students who may be at risk of or in situations involving sexual orientation and identity. The Gay and Lesbian Allies Program is intended to help students better understand the importance of the Safe Space program and to feel more confident when talking to others about sexual orientation and identity.

The Gay and Lesbian Allies Program will be held from 4-6 p.m. on Feb. 3 in the Firestone Room, and the Gay and Lesbian Allies Program will be held from 4-6 p.m. on Feb. 3 in the Firestone Room.

Gay/Straight Alliance

GSA chapter opens at BC, reaches out

By Amber L. Tropino
Supervisor

President of the proposed Gay/Straight Alliance Matt Guenther was a student at Santa
Barbara City College in 2004, when he was first inspired by the organization.

Matt Guenther, a nursing student and President of the Gay Straight Alliance at Barnard College, sits and reads a magazine in the Campus Center on Feb. 14.

"I do not see it," said Matthew Morgan, the student president and chair of BC's Equity and Diversity Committee. "I do not see it," said Matthew Morgan, the student president and chair of BC's Equity and Diversity Committee.

Matthew Morgan feels that the program would be very beneficial for faculty to help students understand their students who are going through. He was also concerned at the percentage of students who have benefited from the program, and he believes that the program is important for the students who have benefited from the program to be involved.

Matthew Morgan also emphasizes that it is essential for the students to have a support network for the students who have benefited from the program. Matthew Morgan also emphasizes that it is essential for the students to have a support network for the students who have benefited from the program.

GSA meeting will be held from 4-6 p.m. in the Firestone Room, and the Gay/Straight Alliance meeting will be held from 4-6 p.m. in the Firestone Room.

For more information, please contact the Gay/Straight Alliance at gaystraightalliance@bc.edu or visit the website at www.barnard.edu.

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