

The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Trees beautify BC Campus



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

The BC agriculture department plants the first of 49 trees that were planted on March 23 in honor of Bakersfield College's 100 years.

By Mayan Lara
Photographer

On March 23, eager volunteers visited Bakersfield College ready to help finish the green makeover, which started several months ago in November 2012.

As part of an ongoing celebration of BC's 100th year, 100 trees were planted around BC's campus. Half of those trees were previously planted last semester

while all the rest, but one, were planted this semester.

The volunteers who generously donated their time to planting these trees varied from BC students and employees to non-BC-related volunteers such as TransWest Security employees.

The volunteers were split into groups of five to speed up the planting process. Among the volunteers were BC president, Sonya Christian; chair of the agriculture

department, Lindsay Ono; and executive director at Tree Foundation of Kern, Melissa Iger.

BC students Paula O'Neal and Barbra Armas not only volunteered because they enjoy helping out the community, but are also majoring in horticulture, landscaping, and plant identification.

Brooke Antonioni, with TransWest, said it is "a company commitment to plant trees every

year in the city and the county," so they were delighted to help out when Iger called them up.

TransWest will plant 40 trees in the city and 40 trees in the county. They work with the Tree Foundation of Kern County and the County Parks and Recreation departments to identify where the needs are and also what kind of trees should be planted there.

Antonioni felt like it was a great opportunity to help plant

trees and teach life lessons to the many children that came along for the experience.

In total, TransWest brought along around 40 volunteers. These volunteers were not only employees, but also family members and customers. Their ages ranged from 6 months old and up. Ono plans to save the 100th tree, an Oak tree, for the Garden Fest scheduled at BC on April 20.

Astronaut at Levan Center

By Michelle De Leon
Reporter

Former NASA astronaut Jose Hernandez captivated a packed audience as he shared his story at the Levan Center on March 19 as part of the STEM, or Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics, speaker series.

Growing up in a migrant farming family in the central valley, Hernandez overcame adversity to achieve his dreams. In fact, he was not proficient in English until the age of 12. In his presentation, he began by noting what he wanted to focus on.

"What I wanted to share with you is not so much the destination but the journey," Hernandez said.

During a photo series that showed different parts of his life, Hernandez recalled different stories of his upbringing.

"I'm hoping that you see a lot of yourselves in those pictures," he said. "It's important to let you know this is where I came from."

He recalled eagerly watching Apollo 17 land on the moon in 1972 when he was nine years old on a black and white television.

"I was just amazed and mesmerized," he said.

He then came to the conclusion that he wanted to be an astronaut. When he first told his father about his ambition, he was nervous because his father was "very stern," he said. His father then invited him to the kitchen, which further increased his anxiety.

"The kitchen was where I did my homework and where we got disciplined," he recalled.

However, his father then shared a message that surprised him.

"You know what, I think you can do it," his father said to him, according to Hernandez.

His father gave him five steps to achieve his goal: First was identifying his goal; second was recognizing how far he was from his goal; third was drawing a roadmap with no shortcuts; fourth was getting an education and, finally,

fifth was applying his work ethic from the fields to achieve his goal.

From his experiences, he believed that parents play a valuable role in any child's success.

"[My parents] gave me the license to dream," he said. "They become an advocate for you [if you share your dreams with them]."

With his father's wisdom, he went on to pursue an undergraduate degree in engineering from the University of the Pacific and a master's degree from the University of Santa Barbara. In his career, he achieved numerous honors and distinctions.

"I'm here to tell you that it works," he said.

However, after NASA rejected his application to be an astronaut 11 times, he added one step to his father's list.

"[The sixth step is] perseverance in a smart way," he shared. "The best thing you can do is studying your competition...Navigate your way through, [thinking] 'What can I do so I'll have Please see HERNANDEZ, Page 9



MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

Central Valley native Jose Hernandez joined NASA in 2004 as an astronaut.

Vote for a new SGA

By Jazmine Montoya
Reporter

It's that time of the year again. Student Government Association elections are in full effect since the first of this month.

There are two candidates in the running for SGA president: Travis Tillis and Rudy Strong are the two potential candidates for the position. According to Tillis' platform provided online, he says students should vote for him because he would bring a creative vision along with a positive mental attitude and is willing to help his peers. Strong's platform says that he has the ability to be president because of his strong leadership skills.

As far as the other positions of SGA, they were uncontested. Elizabeth Gonzalez is running for vice president. Treasurer candidate Forest Barnes will be on the ballot as well. Alex Enciso is the candidate for general council and Danielle Miramontes is running for activities liaison.

SGA General Counsel member Nick Acosta says that it gets hard trying to get students to get involved.

"Student apathy is a kind of thing that governments always fight," Acosta said.

Acosta also said it's normal to have limited candidacy.

"It's usually either uncontested or maybe one other candidate, but we're always welcoming newcomers to apply to be a senator if students are interested in being part of student government," Acosta said.

Along with voting for SGA representatives, students may also vote for professor of the year. The professor with the most votes will be honored with a certificate from SGA and hold the title for a year.

When asked if they were Please see VOTING, Page 9

To Vote:

- Log in to your InsideBC Account.
- The ballot will appear on the main page.
- Voting runs until April 4.

Bakersfield soon to see 'The Birds'

By Patricia Rocha
Reporter

As their opening night quickly approaches, the cast of Bakersfield College's production of "The Birds" are excitedly rehearsing. Theater director Kimberly Chin is excited to see how the Ancient Greek play is challenging her students with its musical numbers, compelling characters and unique setting.

"They're coming together as an ensemble and I'm really happy with the result so far," Chin said.

Her students agree. Theater major Desiree Martinez feels the cast has really connected with their characters. At a petite 4' 11" Martinez is excited for her theater debut as a hummingbird.

"A hummingbird is very fast and kind of hyper, and I would definitely say that's me," said

Martinez. "This is my first ever theater performance. I'm really, really excited about it. I get really emotional when I think about it because it just feels like this is where I belong."

Theater major Jotae Fraser loves how different his lead character Pisthetaerus is to his past roles.

"It's a different character that I haven't had a chance to play," Fraser said. "I really like it be-

cause it's a different process. This is the first production that I've been a part of where it is such a huge cast and I really love, for me being the lead character, to have all the reactions and stuff that the birds give. It really helps support my character and really gives him that ultimate power."

Fellow cast mate Domingo Ramirez Jr. feels his character is particularly special for him be- Please see THE BIRDS, Page 9



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

Joey Little and Jotae Fraser run lines during rehearsal.

Kern County Raceway speeding to finish



MJ INGUIITO / THE RIP

A view of the half mile track is shown from the top of the officials' stands. The Kern County Raceway is slated to open April 20, but some delays may push it to an unknown date.



MJ INGUIITO / THE RIP

Construction workers pour and set gunite. The track will hold many events, including televised races on SPEED.

By Adam Cree
Reporter

A new racetrack is coming to Bakersfield this year, and it will be holding NASCAR events.

The Kern County Raceway is scheduled to open April 20 and the track will be sanctioned for NASCAR events.

The track will be host to "all comers," according to Steven Blakesley, the director of Marketing and Communications for the track.

The track will pit "drivers from different tracks" from all over California, said Blakesley.

The track will host pro-late model racing, or stock cars, to race fans, with about 650 horsepower, every Saturday.

The track will be a half-mile of pavement and the entire track has been sanctioned by NASCAR for their events.

It puts the track in an "elite status, among tracks," Blakesley

said. Only 118 tracks in the US have been sanctioned for NASCAR events.

The racetrack will have seating for 5,000, said Blakesley.

He also added that another 500 could sit in the suites.

Starting next year, the track plans on hosting races for NASCAR K&N West Pro Series and these races will be televised on "SPEED."

A media event is scheduled for April 13 before the track opens a week later.

The track is at 13500 Raceway Boulevard on Interstate 5 and Enos Lane.

The first race is scheduled to start April 20, but the track is still waiting for a permit from Caltrans to widen Enos Lane by a lane of traffic in each direction. Without that, the track's first race will be delayed until construction is finished.

The state of the permit was unknown.

The little punk rock gym with international appeal

On their rise to fame, Danish punk rock band Iceage gave Munoz Gym and their fans something to scream about



PHOTOS BY LUIS GARCIA / THE RIP

Elias Bender Ronnenfelt, lead singer of Iceage, shows the fans of Bakersfield what a taste of Danish punk rock is like. Iceage have been gaining fame from noted music press magazines such as Pitchfork and Alternative Press.



Milk Music lead singer and guitarist, Alex Coxen, left, plays with brother Joe Rutter on drums, right.



Left: Adrian Pillado, right, of Sea Lions is accompanied by a percussionist during a set at Munoz Gym.

Right: Elias of Iceage tries his best to sing in the packed crowd. Iceage is promoting their new album "You're Nothing."



First DRFTRS event opens to packed house

By Martin Chang
Editor in Chief

A new type of music has hit Bakersfield with the help of local artists associated with the DRFTRS music label. These musicians held their first show at Riley's Tavern on March 15 to a packed house.

Omar Oseguera, a local musician and DRFTRS founder, organized this first event.

Oseguera wanted the event to showcase the kinds of multi-genre infused electronic music that pushes boundaries.

"It is an event where we showcase producers and djs that are bringing the sound of hip-hop influenced electronic music up to date, to another level and even further," Oseguera said.

Oseguera, who played that night under his dj name Oso, thinks that this style of music is missing in Bakersfield.

Oseguera wants to use these DRFTRS events to broaden the town's tastes in multiple musical forms.

"We're bringing it to Bakersfield," Oseguera said. "No one really pays attention to that, so we're trying to do what djs should be doing, breaking new records and artists, as well as showcasing ourselves as artists at the same time."

Nick Brown, whose dj name is EqualStatus, played at the DRFTRS show and he thought the music that they are playing goes beyond "simple club music."

"It's not the type of music you



can just keep in the background," Brown said. "With our type of music we want you to have a good time, but we also want you to reflect."

The show was held in a sepa-

rate room away from the hustle and bustle of the main bar. With video projections on stage and blue colored lighting in the audience, a different vibe could be felt.



LUIS GARCIA / THE RIP

Left: EqualStatus plays his pad controller. Above: Oso wraps up his set for the first event.

Some were just hanging out and drinking, talking to friends. Others were listening, bobbing their heads and giving the djs their props by putting their hands up and "whoaing" in appreciation.

Both Brown and Oseguera were unsure of the turnout at their new show.

They were both happily surprised at the packed room they found themselves playing.

"I didn't expect that great of a turnout," Brown said. "We kind of came in expecting the worst, but the vibe was cool. We had people vibing out. We had people coming out on stage. People

came up to me. I really dug that. I didn't expect that at all, but that's definitely what we want to shoot for, to bring that electronic thing here. I want to be in an environment where people can reflect and really listen to what is being played."

Brown's friend Brandon Williams found the show and the music as a chance to escape.

"It was beautiful," Williams said. "It was great for your spirit. It was an enlightening type of experience. You really just let yourself go, and let the music be what it is."

It was the first time Brown had a chance to play his original mu-

sic and he relished the moment.

"That was my first time doing it," Brown said about playing his original music. "That was something I was almost dreaming about since I was a kid."

Another moment that stuck out to Brown was when he played a song in which he sampled Nintendo music.

"I dropped that Mario, Super NES type of beat. I didn't expect to get the reaction that I got. It was awesome. People really dug that beat."

The next DRFTRS event will be held during an art showcase on April 25-27 at 3604 Chester Ave.

Woman wins multiple radio contests

By Hannah Breeland
Opinions Editor

After months of trying, a woman wins it big. Alyce Gautreaux, a loyal listener to the radio station 94.1 Hot FM won the daily "Pay My Bills" contest, a grand total of \$366. However, it's not her first win from the radio station.

It all started on Dec. 20 when Gautreaux won \$187 from a contest where people guess within five cents of how much money the DJ has. "I was surprised it had even gotten that high."

After that, Gautreaux won Condors tickets and CSUB basketball tickets in January on the same day. Both were prizes for the contest called "Romeo's Dumb-Ass Question." The following day she won movie tickets.

"It's such a rush winning," Gautreaux said. "That's why I do it so much. I give most of the prizes I win to friends and family, besides the money of course."

Gautreaux's lucky streak continued in February, followed by an even bigger win in March.

"I won the family four pack tickets to Disneyland, along with movie tickets and lunch for my office," Gautreaux said. "I'm really excited about Disneyland. I am taking my son, who you can guess is excited."

"Beside the Disneyland tickets, winning the office lunch was a lot of fun. We had it on speakerphone so the whole office was participating."

"We had to answer five questions; we didn't know the third one so they hung up on us."

"We called back right away and luckily we got through. It was funny because after they asked us a question, Romeo heard me typing and he said 'you're cheating by Googleing it' but it didn't matter."

"We won and he delivered lunch to us personally." After winning lunch Gautreaux was determined not to call in for any contests for a while.



HANNAH BREELAND / THE RIP

Alyce Gautreaux has won multiple radio prizes, including Disneyland tickets.

"I had every intention of laying low until April to give other people a chance, but the one contest I have been participating in religiously since December was the "Pay My Bills" contest," Gautreaux said. "You just send them your bill either by email, fax, or mail. I have emailed and faxed my bills three times a day basically every day. In the emails I say please pay my bills and one time Randy responded to me saying, 'dang girl you

have a lot of bills.' I responded by saying, 'pay my bills then.'"

On March 29, after months of trying, Gautreaux won the "Pay My Bills" contest for her cell phone bill.

"I couldn't believe I finally won after all this time," she said. "My friends and family are excited but also a little jealous. I'm still going to enter for the 'Pay My Bills.'"

'Funk' contest sparks debate among music lovers

By Tyler Goucher
Reporter

Funk Volume, an independent label founded by rapper Marcus Hopson, recently hosted its fifth annual, "Don't Funk Up Our Beats," contest that ended with stellar results.

The contest is a huge opportunity for up-and-coming hip-hop artists to showcase their talent for a chance to get major exposure. They can also win up to \$2500 and an opening spot for a Funk Volume show.

In order to participate, contestants had to purchase and download one of Funk Volume's exclusive beats, record a music video for their original performance, and submit their entry to the official Funk Volume Facebook page.

With over 2,000 entries from all over the world, this year's competition was extremely difficult for both fans, and Funk Volume members to judge.

On March 11 the voting opened up for fans allowing people to support their favorite entries.

On March 24 voting ended, narrowing down the some 2,000 entries to 25 finalists who would then be judged by the Funk Volume team and narrowed down to the top 3 entries.

With so many talented submissions that made it into the top 25, many fans and voters were upset with the results of the top three.

Taking third place with his untitled entry from Denmark, rapper Eiqu showcased a relatively typical approach to the hip-hop genre and seemed to lack in lyrical content.

"He sounds like he's trying to sound like SwizZz," said voter Jarred Adams. "And he looks like Aaron Carter."

Some even pointed the finger at Funk Volume for making a poor decision for the third place finalist.

"This was an awful entry," said

Mark Mcauley. "You guys at FV need to get a decent ear for music."

Taking second place with their fresh approach to hip-hop, a duo from Alabama, Beamin and Timmy received all around mixed reviews.

Some fans thought that they deserved the first place spot like Facebook friend Dylan Sackaney.

"My opinion is that they are better out of the three entries because they both had equally great bars," said Sackaney.

Some voters, however, were upset that they had even made it into the finalists' category. "The entry was garbage aside from their flows," said voter Jeffrey Leung. "The first one is straight up 'gangsta style' (no ability), while the second is just forcing rhymes."

Taking first place with his gritty track entitled BEEF, rapper Street Light brought everything that Funk Volume was wanting contestants to bring to the table; a high quality pro-

duction, both visually and auditory, and most importantly, an extremely well written and well delivered performance.

Although some disagreed with the first place choice, most fans/voters were happy with the outcome. "He wasn't my first choice out of the top 25 but he's better than 99% of them," said voter, Jordon Levesconte.

"Street Light killed the competition this year!" exclaimed fan Issac Rangel.

Funk Volume's Don't Funk Up Our Beats Contest 5 has sparked major discussions and debates on the Internet with over 7,000 people talking about it on Facebook alone.

With such a great turnout, Funk Volume plans on hosting future contests that may involve bigger, more extensive prizes and massive exposure.

Be on the lookout for the next best rapper from Funk Volume's contests coming soon.

Dangers arise from new drug

By Tyler Goucher
Reporter

A new drug has arisen recently within the last few years, which has been a leading cause in the increase of drug-related hospital visits and overdoses. The drug in question is Spice or Synthetic cannabis.

Spice is a designer drug that contains legal herbs that are sprayed with harmful, synthetic chemicals. These chemicals are responsible for producing the marijuana-like effects that users crave. With prices ranging from \$10 to \$20 a gram, it is a relatively inexpensive way to get intoxicated, making it a cheap and addictive alternative to its illegal counterpart.

The manufacturers of these designer drugs are able to get away with selling them because the ingredients are constantly changing and the product's literature explains that it's not meant for human consumption, making it hard for the DEA to crack down on them. However, the DEA has been able to move many of the main ingredients of spice to the Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances Act. Some of these ingredients include: CP-47, JWH-073 and Cannabicyclohexanol.

According to one user, 19-year-old Jordan Basinger, spice is much more dangerous than what the manufacturers claim.

"Sometimes I freak out when I smoke too much cause my heart feels like it's beating out of my chest," Basinger claims. "But I continue to smoke it because it gets me high and I don't have to worry about failing drug tests."

This is yet another reason why more and more spice users are sprouting up. Most companies and corporations do not include synthetic marijuana as a part of their pre-employment drug screenings. To users, this is a loophole in the system that allows them to still get high while chasing the American dream.

Well, that chase will be short lived according to many doctors and scientists who have been doing extensive research on the long-term side effects of this dangerous designer drug. Just this month, Nephrologists at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, discovered that there is a direct link between long-term kidney damage and the use of synthetic marijuana. In the study, four test subjects were shown to have experienced many negative side effects after a nine-week period of continual use. Some of these side effects included nausea and extreme abdominal pain. After more extensive testing, doctors were able to find some type of acute kidney injury in all four of the test subjects.

Spice is not only linked to kidney damage, it is also known to cause seizure-like symptoms such as tachycardia. According to a former spice user, 21-year-old Tim Wombacher, his brother experienced seizure-like symptoms after only a small dose.

"I remember, not long after the smoke session, my brother started to hold his chest and acted like he couldn't breathe," Wombacher explained. "We were worried that the spice might have been laced or something." He went on further to explain how his brother was taken to the hospital and luckily came out of the experience alive.

These stories and others like them shed insight on the dangers and concerns of synthetic designer drugs and the impact they are having on society.

Singing up a storm as 50 people compete

By Martin Chang
Editor in Chief

From confidence building and making friends to expressing yourself, the contestants at Prime Cut restaurant's annual karaoke competition all get something different from their performances.

Over the month of March, 50 aspiring singers competed in the yearly karaoke competition at The Prime Cut restaurant. It all lead up to the finals on March 22, where contestants competed for bragging rights and prizes. In the competition, there is a winner and a runner-up and each singer is judged by a panel of five judges.

Jennifer Villagran, a 24-year-old hairdresser at Valley Plaza, won the runner up prize. For her, karaoke is a way to build confidence and get back to a lifelong passion.

Villagran has been a musician her whole life. She started singing at age 2 and had her first piano lesson at age 5. As she grew up, she became more serious by competing around town, singing in gigs and in local theaters. But at age 17 she faced a major set back.

"At 17 I lost my voice," Villagran said. "I had an inflamed vocal chord. I was doing musical theater. I was really involved, but then it just came to a halt. It was really hard going from belting Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey songs to not being able to whisper a song."

After about five years, her voice began to recover and was encouraged by friends to compete in karaoke and sing again. At first she was nervous to come back to singing.

"I was really shy at first and

super shaky because I wasn't sure what my voice was going to do," Villagran said. "If I was going to have a good night or a bad night, if I was going to crack, or if I wasn't going to crack. Being in front of people again, it was hard."

Yet after getting through those initial nerves, Villagran found confidence on the karaoke stage.

"[On stage I was] opening up and exercising more," she said. "It gave me a little bit more confidence back I think."

Villagran really enjoys the laid-back nature of karaoke.

"I'm a karaoke junkie," she said. "The thing I like about karaoke is that it's just for fun. Everybody is here to just have a good time. It's a good stress relief, ev-

eryone sings in the car, in the shower. It's how you express yourself. Being able to do it in front of a group of people and no one really caring if you suck or if you're great. I love it."

Villagran was surprised to win runner-up since she had forgotten about the competition and had to rush over to the restaurant.

"My friends and I were going to come for fun but they were going somewhere else because they had finals," she said.

That's when she realized she had to get over there quick.

"So I got here and picked a song really fast because I had no clue it was tonight," she said. "I was surprised to win. I thought I was going to lose flat on my face."

Maria Garcia, a preschool teacher, first got into karaoke as a way of bonding with her sister, Marina.

"Me and my sister started out just hanging out doing karaoke,"

"I had an inflamed vocal chord. It was really hard going from belting Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey songs to not being able to whisper a song."
—Jennifer Villagran
Runner up



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

Jennifer Villagran, 24, won the runnerup prize in karaoke.

Garcia said. "We used to sneak off and do it. Nobody really knew. I thought 'let's pretend we have a class this semester,' so she would leave her household and I would leave mine. We really didn't have classes. We would just karaoke together, that was how we got our sister time."

Often times their bonding became competitive.

"We were doing a Carrie Underwood competition for tickets, and I beat her," she said. "I didn't care about the tickets; I was just doing it because I wanted to beat my sister. Afterwards she

said 'wow you cheated,' then I said 'no sweetie I beat you.' I even gave the tickets away to my aunt."

Garcia tries to sing karaoke every week. She often sees the same people at competitions and enjoys the friendship and comradery with the other singers.

"We know each other, because we are probably at every karaoke place in town," Garcia said. "Everyone has their song that they sing and sometimes we do duets together. I think it's cool. It's always fun to socialize. It's a little karaoke world we have.



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

Willfredo Cruz, won this years karaoke competition at The Prime Cut restaurant by singing "Killing me Softly."

I thought Jen did incredible and I'm not easily impressed."

Garcia got sick before the finals, so she had lost her voice. She still had fun and made the most of the night singing Bruno Mars's "Locked Out of Heaven."

"I was not confident at all, but it was fun and people showed up," she said. "I love that Bruno Mars song. When I first heard the song, I listened to it for a day on repeat. I planned on just having fun singing it."

Willfredo Cruz, a CSUB graduate that works in insurance,

won first place that night with his version of "Killing me Softly." He explained why he picked that song.

"It has a lot of emotion in it," Cruz said. "It's a really popular song and everybody can relate to it."

Cruz puts that emotion into the words that he sings.

"When I sing, I let it all out," he said. "It's emotion pent up. You just want to get yourself out there. People come up after you sing and say 'I feel that. I relate to that. It gave me goose bumps.'"

New exhibits for the Bakersfield Museum of Art

By Ruben A. Perez
Reporter

The Bakersfield Museum of Art is now showing exhibits that showcase the parts of museums that people don't normally pay attention to.

The new exhibits showcase painter Matt Condron, photographer Harry Wilson and architect Randall Stout. Vicki Cruz, the curator of the show, took about two years to assemble the works of these artists to present it in Bakersfield.

"It started with Randall Stout, the architect, who's in the main gallery," Cruz said. "And he was sort of the hub for the other artists that are exhibiting with him and what I found so interesting about Randall is that he designs museum spaces and so I thought that was interesting, looking at architecture as art, but also that houses art so that's what really sort of attracted me to his buildings."

Stout's exhibit in the main hall is covered wall to wall with his original designs, scale models and large photographs of the museums that he and his teams have worked on over the years. His museums are all over the world and include the Art Gallery of Alberta, Canada and the Hunter Museum of American Art in Tennessee.

Wilson's exhibit consisted of black and white photographs of the area outside of museums.

"Usually the art of photographing inside of museums is prohibited so it really made him step outside of the museum walls and really examine the spaces around him, whether that be steps or the trees," said Cruz on the set by Wilson.

Wilson was also the former black and white photography teacher at Bakersfield College.

Wilson's exhibit actually came about by happenstance. "I was busy with other projects focusing on other subjects and at this point I realized I had several photos of museums and galleries that were accumulating and I decided



MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

Randall Stout's model of the Art Museum of West Virginia is now on display at the Bakersfield Museum of Art.



MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

Julie Morris views Harry Wilson's photos at the exhibit.

to see what I had and I realized a lot of images worked very well together.

"I thought 'I need to pay attention to what I'm doing here,'" said Wilson.

The photos in his set are arranged in a way that one piece flows into the next.

Having bicycles will connect two images and then they will connect by stairs, or a hallway or another detail most museum visitors overlook.

"I think it's really important to try to be open and receptive to what is actually there," Wilson said.

"To see what is there and respond to it, not a preconceived idea of what is there for me to see."

Condron's exhibit features what appear to be almost pho-

to-realistic paintings of chairs. Condron has a different view of his work.

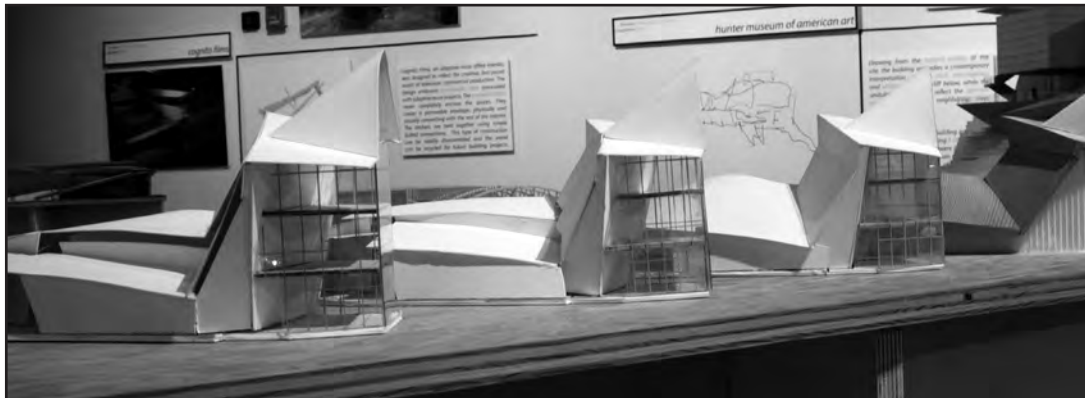
"I really don't tell people these paintings are about chairs, even though they seem to be featured heavily and are front and center in most of my work."

"My paintings, in my experience, in my feeling, are about the space that surrounds the central object."

"I want you to be in the image when you're looking at my work. I want you to be the occupant in the space," said Condron.

"I thought again that looking at that space around these chairs which was so beautifully done, technically with oil paint is just a beautiful tie with the other artists," said Cruz.

The exhibits will run at the museum until June 9.



Top: Stout also displays his work-in-progress models at the museum.

Bottom: Vicky Cruz, Bakersfield Museum of Art curator, put together the exhibitions.

MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

Complete Your Degree or Credential at University of La Verne's Bakersfield Campus

Available Programs Include

- Business Administration*
- Organizational Management*
- Public Administration*
- Health Administration
- Liberal Studies (Teacher Preparation)**
- Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential
- Special Education: Mild/Moderate
- M.S. Educational Counseling
- M.Ed. Educational Management
- Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership

* Also available Online

** Also available in Delano & Taft locations

Attend an Information Session
Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 10:00am



UNIVERSITY OF
LA VERNE
Bakersfield Campus

Call toll free at 877-GO-TO-ULV
degreeinfo@laverne.edu
laverne.edu

Kern County Regional Campus
1201 24th Street, Suite D-200
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Again
One of
America's
Best Colleges
U.S. News & World Report and Forbes Magazine

BC Homestuck fans speak of their fandom

By Robin Shin
Online Editor

The author Andrew Hussie is currently known for his webcomic titled “Homestuck.” According to knowyourmeme.com, “Homestuck” ranks as No. 3 on the top 10 fandoms of 2012. Those within the fandom calls themselves “Homestucks,” and they range from the estimation of youngest being in their early teens to oldest of maybe 30s and older.

“A game that four kids play. Four kids. 13 years old. Two boys and two girls,” answered Molly Faiella, 19, a BC psychology major, when asked what “Homestuck” was. “The game ends the world, and then they have to create a whole world.”

Faiella stated that she can relate to the webcomic due to the fact that there are hundreds of characters in the comic itself.

“There’s a character in there who has anxiety, and I have anxiety, so I can relate to that,” explained Faiella, “and they’ll react the same way I would react, or they’ll get into situations that I’ve been in, and they would react the way I reacted.”

“I think it’s so big [Homestuck] because it’s so relatable. There are so many characters that there are one or two you can relate to,” said Latrice Sebastian, 18, a BC computer science major. Sebastian only began read-

ing the comic for just a little over a month now and found out about it through her friends. She also stated that she likes how in depth-the comic is.

An example would be how a race called “Trolls” reproduces. The comic goes to show that they have to use a bucket in order for the sexual reproduction to progress. The buckets are then picked up by droids to be taken to the Mother of Trolls so that they can produce a larvae which will later grow up to become a Troll.

A d a m McInnes, 21, a BC computer science major, stated that he found out about “Homestuck” through the Internet and ended up investigating it.

McInnes has read the comic for a little over a year now and stated that to him, the comic is as he quoted, “a young man standing in his bedroom.”

McInnes then said, “Four kids play a game and blow up the world...universe shenanigans, leprechauns, Cherubs, other aliens, all sorts of things — who even knows anymore!”

“Homestuck” is a really big webcomic that involves a group

of kids and they go on a really amazing journey and this awesome universe with Trolls and bunch of other things,” stated Alex Delgado, 19, a BC psychology major. “It’s really addicting if you have time for it.”

Delgado stated that “Homestuck” is an interactive webcomic and that you can click on the pages and the readers can do all sorts of fun things. “It’s not like a regular webcomic, all the words are at the bottom and it’s really easy to follow but you have to pay attention to the little things because it comes up later, and it has a big meaning.”

She also went on to say that there are also games, mini movies and gifs that you can watch and play while reading the comic.

Hussie likes to interact with the readers by posting questions on the forums as to what a character should do or how the future storylines should be planned out.

As of date, Homestuck has uploaded over 6,000 pages.

On September 4, 2012, Hussie announced a Kickstarter in order to raise funds for a “Homestuck”

video game. The game is planned to start its development this year, and is expected to be completed by 2014.

Some fans stated that Hussie didn’t expect so much, but reached his goal of \$700,000 within 32 hours of announcement.

They then exceeded their goal by raising more than \$2 million. This estimation excludes the donations it received through non-Paypal donations.

One person who donated \$10,000 was a soldier who’s deployed in Afghanistan. He donated due to the fact that he said a Homestuck update was something he always looked forward to.

Instead of using the money for something for himself, the soldier decided that he would donate to the fandom he enjoys.

There were incidents where Homestucks got into trouble at conventions because the fandom’s size was too large and it started conflicts with other fandoms attending the event.

There were even incidents that happened between Homestucks such as one throwing a bucket at another’s head and supposedly causing a concussion. There are even times where the Homestucks receive death threats from other fandoms due to certain conflicts they face online, meets or at conventions.

As a fandom filled with mas-



PROVIDED BY GOOGLE IMAGES

Hussie created the many characters of “Homestuck.”

sive variation of fans, Homestucks go far as to reaching out to those who aren’t also part of the fandom.

Last year, a charity project was started by a small group

of Homestucks called The Can Town Project, which was formed in order to help local communities by distributing canned foods collected by those who participated.

No need to worry about tax refunds

By Mitchell De Leon
Reporter

For many people, taxes bring images of stressed individuals.

BC students with full-time or part-time jobs shared their perspectives.

Audrey Hutchins, media communications, worked as a concierge for Marriot.

According to Hutchins, she was able to receive a \$300 dollar refund by filing her taxes through Turbo Tax, a tax filing software.

“It’s more convenient to do it online,” Hutchins said.

Abbie Hyatt, liberal arts, shared the sentiment.

She worked as a bartender and found Turbo Tax convenient.

However, she said that she would be willing to use other services if she found filing taxes more difficult.

“If needed and if [filing for taxes] gets too complicated, I’ll use services like H&R Block,” Hyatt said.

“Turbo Tax is pretty easy. You just plug it in.”

Melissa Palos, a full-time nursing student with three children, said she had no experience filing for tax forms and had no plans to do it herself in the future.

“Numbers intimidate me,” Palos admitted. “[My family] usually use public accountants.”

H&R Block is one of the various tax services in close proximity to the BC campus.

Patricia Haney, H&R Block registered tax return preparer, shared her perspective.

“I assist students that do taxes,” Haney said.

“Most of the time students are claimed [as dependents] by their parents because they are still under age 24.

Most of the time students use the 1040EZ form.”

Bakersfield College Choir spring concert



BERNIE REJON / THE RIP

The Bakersfield College chamber singers performed many songs at their spring concert, including a piece of an acapella song. The Concert was held at the First Congregational Church on March 17.

New steps are being taken to ban smoking on campus

By Graham C Wheat
Features Editor

The proposed smoking policy at Bakersfield College has taken yet another step on its journey to the Board of Trustees and becoming an enforceable policy campus wide.

The spearhead behind the policy, Student Government General Counsel Nick Acosta, said his meeting with Faculty and Department Chairs on March 22 went well, gaining approval

from the committee.

Acosta was happy about the questions raised by the meeting.

“They did ask a lot of questions. Some of the questions they asked were ones that needed to be asked now as opposed to later,” said Acosta.

Acosta stated that the paramount questions were ones of the policy languages and the issue of funding for signs if the policy does indeed move forward.

“One of the biggest road

blocks we are meeting is the funding for signs. With the state of BC, we [FCDC and SGA]

“One of the biggest road blocks we are meeting is the funding for signs.”

—Nick Acosta,
SGA Counsel

are wondering where the money is going to come from, “ said

Acosta.

Acosta said that clever ways for that funding were arising such as overflow from Public Health agencies in Kern County that support the policy at BC.

Acosta stated that he had been in contact with people who can help in that avenue.

Another issue that arose said Acosta was the specific language of the plan and whether to make a district-wide or campus-only policy.

He stated that a district lawyer

would be looking at the policy.

Acosta said that he would like to make the Board of Trustees meeting this month and has plans to compile and present some informal electronic polls to the trustees from committees such as Administrative Counsel, who have not yet had a meeting with the policy presented.

“The reason we want to try and get the polls, even informal, is so that we can have some information to take to the Board of Trustees,” said Acosta.

’GADE FEEDBACK “Do you plan on voting in the Student Government elections?”

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

Compiled by:
Graham C Wheat / The Rip



Brandon Allen,
Automotive
Technology:
“Probably, yeah. I like to take part in everything.”



Edgar Munoz,
Music:
“No, I don’t really vote.”



Eric Berg, History:
“Not particularly. I don’t even know who is running.”



Eddie Sanchez,
Engineering:
“This is the first time I have heard anything about it”



Shamsan Aljabi,
Pre-Med:
“Of course. If I am allowed to vote, I will.”

'Bioshock Infinite' a great addition to a great series



This is a scene from the video game "Bioshock Infinite," where Elizabeth, above, has just witnessed Booker Dewitt, the protagonist, killing a couple of the many antagonists within the game and accuses him of being a monster.

By Alana Garrett
Reporter

Ken Levine has done it again with his new addition to the "Bioshock" series, "Bioshock Infinite."

GAME REVIEW
★★★★★

"Bioshock Infinite" is excellently crafted, filled with amazing graphics and has an epic, unforgettable story line.

Unlike its predecessors "Bioshock" and "Bioshock 2," that were set in the dimly lit and dark underwater hallways of Rapture, "Bioshock Infinite" is set in the city of Colombia.

Colombia is a bright and colorful city that floats in the sky, with a wide-open world. Colombia makes the player feel as though they have a lot more freedom than in the tight closed hallways of Rapture.

At first glance, Colombia seems like a utopia in the sky, with its bright colors and happy citizens, but you learn early on that the city has been established on pre-civil war principles and ideals.

When the game begins, the year is 1912 set before the original "Bioshock," and you take on the role of the main character of Booker Dewitt.

Dewitt is an ex-Pinkerton agent who is told he can settle his debts by bringing a young woman named Elizabeth to his employers in New York.

When Dewitt does go after Elizabeth, he finds she is locked up in a tower like a princess from some Disney movie.

Dewitt finds that Elizabeth holds some strange powers that even she can't understand.

Along their journey, they face many obstacles including being chased by Elizabeth's protector,

Song Bird.

Song Bird is a fierce, giant, mechanical bird that was programmed to feel betrayed if Elizabeth ever left.

Dewitt and Elizabeth both try to understand her powers and escape from Colombia.

The graphics in the game are great and really shine through in first-person.

The characters seem legitimate and not your typical character with Booker having his own unique troubled past, and Elizabeth having a personality that is mature but almost child-like at times.

The enemies have unique designs and attacks that keep you on your toes.

The weapons provided in the game are excellent and allow you to deal with almost any enemy.

As you follow the story, you see the bond between Dewitt and Elizabeth grow stronger.

At times you may even find yourself growing close to the characters and cheering them on to defeat an enemy, or find a way out of their situation.

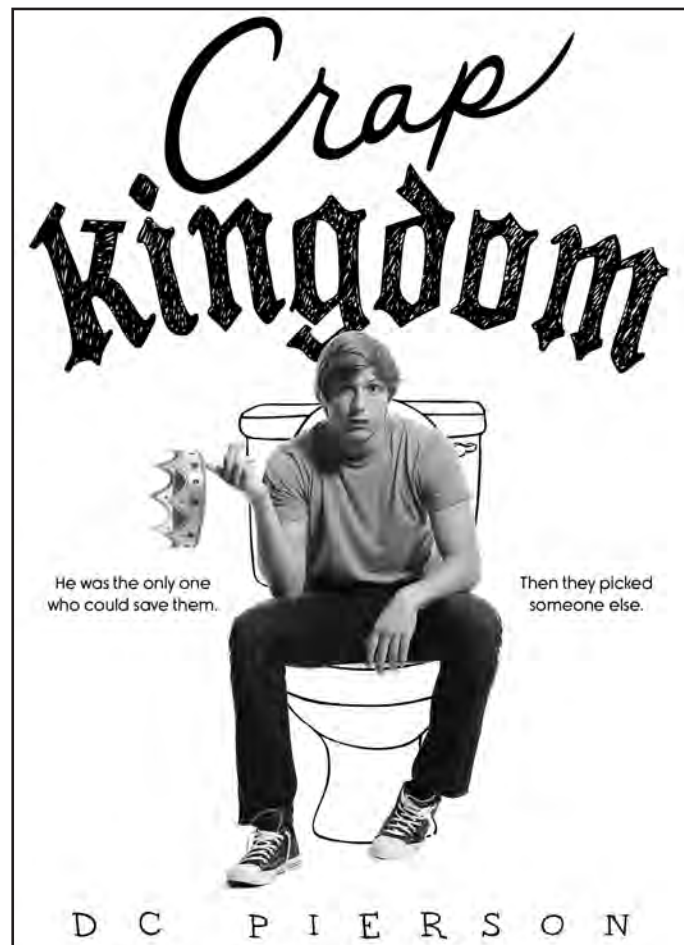
At the end of the game, I felt a sense of loss that it was over, and felt as if I had said goodbye to two of my closest friends.

The game's story was so well crafted I wanted to pick up my controller and start the game over again.

And for the PS3 players who miss the dark city of Rapture or Big Daddy, the PS3 version of the game included the original "Bioshock."

"Bioshock Infinite" is a must-have for all gamers. It has a great story, deep characters, and a wonderful soundtrack, not to mention amazing graphics.

Ken Levine deserves kudos; he took his already great series and crafted it into something even better.



PROVIDED BY GOOGLE IMAGES

Hilarious take on typical adventure

By Ruben A. Perez
Reporter

DC Pierson is back with his newest novel "Crap Kingdom" and it is hilarious. "Crap King-

BOOK REVIEW
★★★★★

dom" is a take on the classic tale of going to a mythical land and finding out you are the only hope to save the kingdom. This isn't your usual fairytale though.

Tom Parking isn't the usual tormented kid but still wants to be the hero in some strange kingdom.

Unfortunately he's just too normal and lives too regular of a life to have something that

special happen to him. However he does find himself as the chosen one of a not-too-exciting place.

The portal to this world is a used clothing donation bin in a Kmart parking lot. Everyone including the king seems to just be content on being depressed and the princess likes to wear fake mustaches.

This book is absolutely hilarious. I was literally on the second page when I started laughing.

"Crap Kingdom" is a young adult novel that's 300 pages but it's a pretty easy read and one that you're not going to want to put down.

It's a great read for casual and eager readers alike. Read it and you won't regret it.

7-Eleven gets exclusive Ben & Jerry's ice cream

By Alana Garrett
Reporter

No longer just a place to get Slurpees or Big Gulps, 7-Eleven has just received an exclusive ice cream flavor from Ben and Jerry's. The new flavor, Nutty Caramel Swirl, is an ice cream filled with peanuts, chunks of fudge and caramel. The ice cream has a nougat taste and a nice texture.

ICE CREAM REVIEW
★★★★☆

When I took my first bite, my mouth was filled with flavors of sweet fudge, crunchy peanuts, and sweet but salty caramel.

The flavor was delicious but reminded me of a Snickers candy bar. Every bite I took had a peanut, fudge or caramel. Finally after about my

fifth bite, I got a scoop of just nougat ice cream.

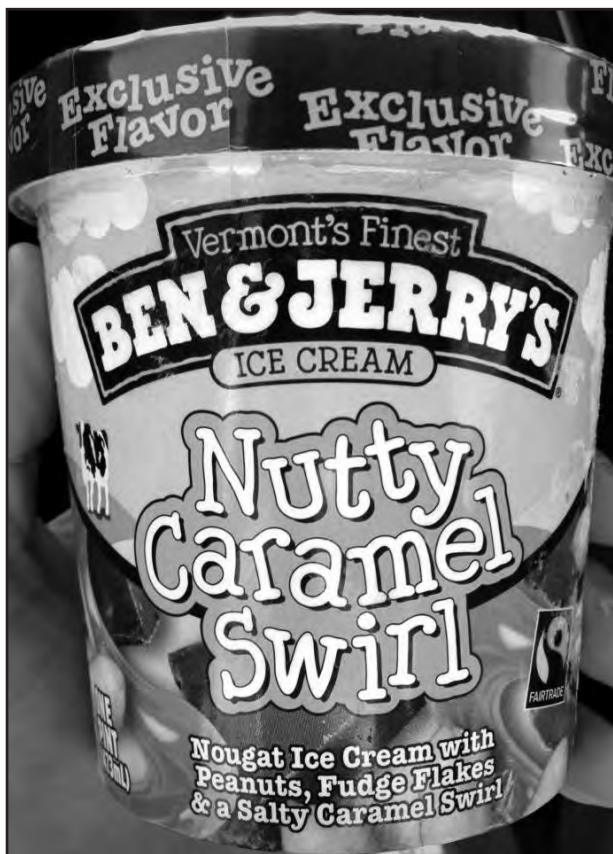
The flavor wasn't too overwhelming, but was in fact a little weak. It could have been stronger and almost seemed like an off-brand Snickers ice cream.

The peanuts in the ice cream weren't very salty but it was the caramel that had the salty taste. The fudge was sweet and did not have too much of a chocolaty taste.

Overall, I feel the ice cream is great for peanut and caramel lovers, but isn't going to be able to compete with Snickers brand of ice cream.

Snickers ice cream actually has a similar taste but with a lot more flavor.

I don't think Nutty Caramel Swirl will last long, but I think everyone should at least try the 7-Eleven exclusive while it's still around.



PROVIDED BY GOOGLE IMAGES

The new 7-11 exclusive ice cream "Nutty Caramel Swirl" lack the punch of a ice cream Sinckers bar.

By Ruben A. Perez
Reporter

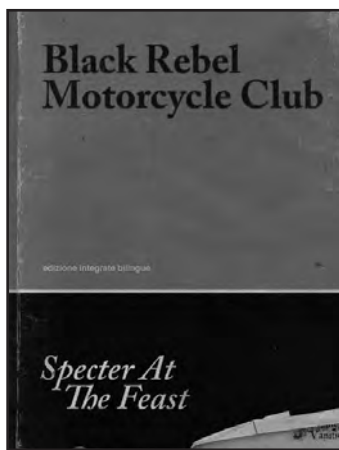
Black Rebel Motorcycle Club is back with their sixth album "Specter at the Feast." The album is pretty great with a few flaws.

"Specter at the Feast" starts off slow, then gets intense, then comes to a clean finish. The first four songs are slow and good but "Returning" and "Lullaby" don't sound like the rest of the songs.

ALBUM REVIEW
★★★★★

These two songs sound more like they were written by The Brian Jonestown Massacre. It's not that surprising though because the lead singer and songwriter, Peter Hayes, used to be in The Brian Jonestown Massacre. Not that it's a bad thing though. The songs work perfectly with each other.

After the first few songs, "Specter" gets faster and the intensity of the lyrics go



PROVIDED BY GOOGLE IMAGES

perfectly with it. The ending of "Specter" is pretty slow but has the same rock attitude.

"Specter at the Feast" doesn't rely on catchy hooks or over-produced beats. Black Rebel Motorcycle Club made a straight up rock 'n' roll album the right way.

At no point in the album does it leave you disappointed or wanting something else, except maybe another Black Rebel Motorcycle Club album.

This album is great for fans of the band and people that want real rock 'n' roll.



First place general excellence CNPA 2011

Winner of the 2003 and 2008
JACC Pacesetter Award

The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes, printed by Castle Print Inc. and circulated bi-weekly on Wednesdays.

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 Journalism Association of Community Colleges, California Newspaper Publishers Association, and Associated Collegiate Press.

The Renegade Rip

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor in Chief.....Martin Chang
Photo Editor.....Luis Garcia
Online Editor.....Robin Shin
Features Editor.....Graham C Wheat
Opinions Editor.....Hannah Breeland
Sports Editor.....Jason Reed

STAFF

Reporters/Photographers: Samantha Briggs, Adam Cree, Priscilla Dauven, Mitchell De Leon, Alana Garrett, Tyler Goucher, MJ Inguito, Mayan Lara, Jazmine Montoya, Robert Mullen, Ruben A. Perez, Bernie Rejon, Sharida Rejon, Patricia Rocha

AdviserDanny Edwards

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
-Website: www.therip.com
-Email: ripmail@bakersfieldcollege.edu

Staff Editorial

SGA correctly shows a government at work

Voting, whether it is on a national level or voting for local representatives, has always seemed like a lowest common denominator popularity contest.

Elections bring out the worst and most polar sides of people. The constant pandering and sensationalism that accompany campaigns can be sickening and ultimately result in leaving a bad taste in the voter's mouth.

We divide ourselves and categorize ourselves into politically made boxes that only serve to further segregate a community.

What does that pandering and those incessant soapbox speeches accomplish? More now than ever, those political tools have become dull and ineffective.

What is promised is usually never delivered and is only lip service to appease some small voting population. A political figure will always alienate some group and result in a less than proper representation. What we call a democracy is a derision of its true nature. There is no funding, contribution, promotion or support of any political campaign

that will ever result in your voice being heard. However, there is a silver lining in all of this. There is a place where people can actually have their voices heard, and see in action, a political process with measurable results and reactions. One can even freely participate and influence this political process.

At the community college level, Student Government Association is truly a representation and barometer of its students. The programs they enact directly affect the student population.

Take for example, The Renegade Food Pantry. Students, and family alike, can alleviate their food bills or eat if they have no food bill at all. It is direct action from SGA, that must only clear minimal bureaucratic hurdles to be enacted and does measurable good for the community.

Because this is government at an intimate level, your discordant or supportive voice can actually be heard. This is why elections in a small setting matter. The people you are voting for are tangible, not figureheads

for special interest groups. These representatives can be accessed and have the time to listen and respond accordingly.

Perhaps the most promising thing about government and elections at the community college level, is the ability to become the voice of the students. It doesn't take years of political science to enter this arena. People don't need millions of ill-gotten dollars to be known as a politician. If you have an interest in being part of the process, you simply show the drive and perseverance

to be nominated.

The election process, too, is a better representation of democracy at these close settings. There are not months of slanderous TV commercials that divide the campus. The candidates simply assert themselves and you make a decision without being led to believe a certain way.

Let your voice be heard during this semester's voting process, which is taking place now through April 4. In today's world of politics, this is the only time it will be heard.

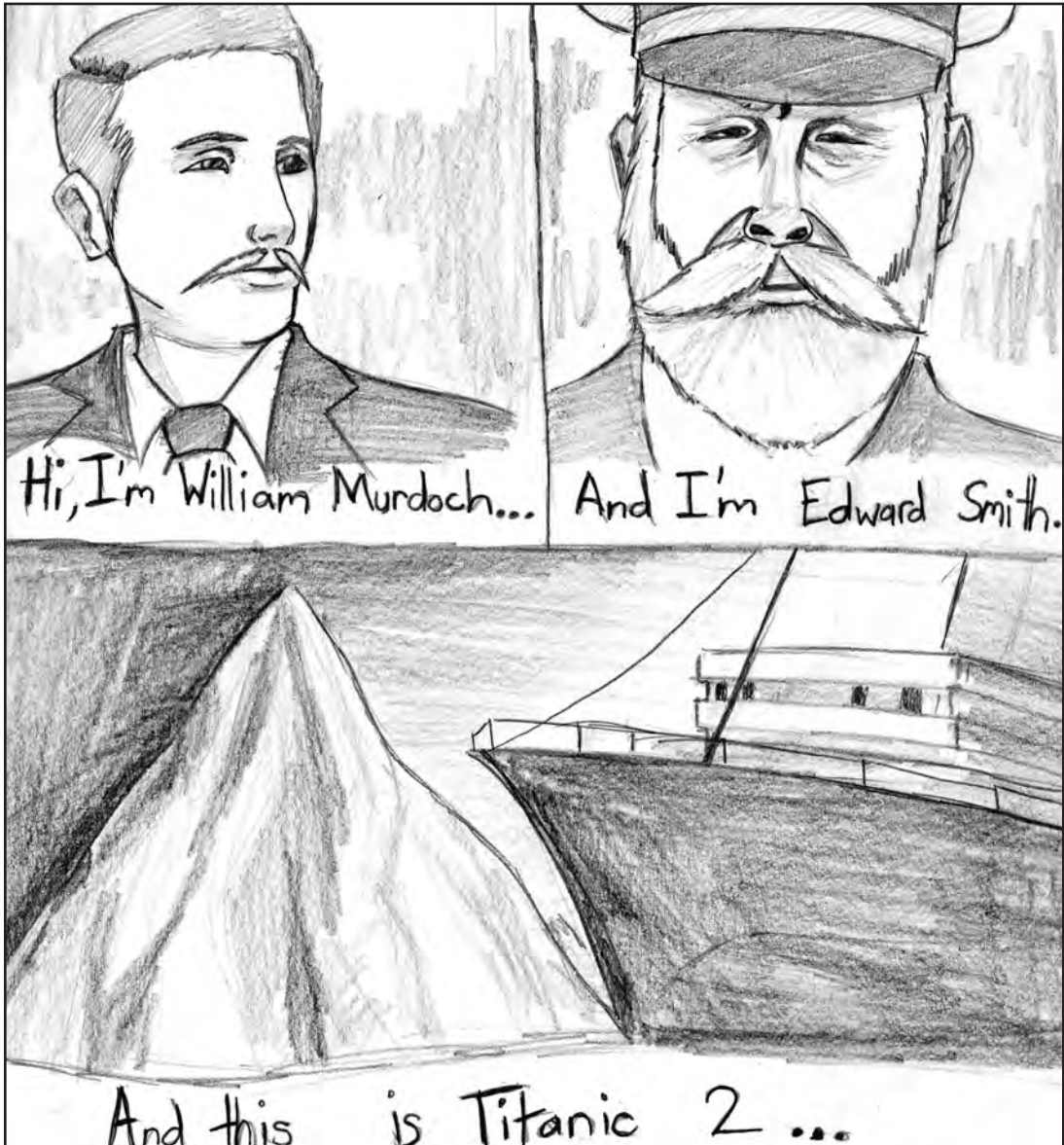
Billionaire plans on building Titanic 2

By Adam Cree
Reporter

Time to man the lifeboats and panic. An Australian coal billionaire, Clive Palmer, has announced that he is going to build a replica of the original Titanic. The new Titanic will be named Titanic 2 and will be an almost duplicate of its namesake, except for a few minor features such as, more lifeboats and easier access to them, a diesel generator and more efficient prow design.

Access to the lifeboats is made possible by adding doors to the second class deck and fire stairs to third class. There will also, reportedly be double the lifeboats for the same amount of passengers.

The ship's propellers will be built much smaller, but will be more efficient in the water. And because the ship's rudder will be much smaller and underwater, the one you see on the rear of the ship is only for looks. Finally, the ship's boilers will be replaced by a massive diesel generator, which means the smoke stacks planned for the Titanic 2 will be purely cosmetic as well. The Titanic 2 is expected to launch in 2016 and its maiden voyage will be from Southampton to New York later that year. Hopefully, William Murdoch isn't the First Officer because that was the original route of the Titanic's



ADAM CREE / THE RIP

maiden trip to the ocean floor. But surely, the billionaire who is funding the boat has thought of ways to improve safety over the last Titanic. Unfortunately, that billionaire might be a few flood compartments short of unsinkable himself. He once attempted to turn his personal golf course into "Jurassic Park." In 2010 he started the company Zeppelin International, with the desire to make a commercial Zeppelin. That went nowhere. With safety in mind, Palmer has contracted a Chinese shipyard to actually construct the boat. This shipyard only has ex-

perience making cargo vessels. Nothing can go wrong there. They might even take the time to weld the hull instead of bolting it in place.

"Nothing has been done about the icebergs in the Atlantic. But that's okay," said Palmer at the press conference announcing the ship. Icebergs will be a thing of the past by 2016.

Palmer has said that he's received offers of \$1 million for a ticket. With an interior that is (mostly) a replica of the original, the rich will sail in style. The interior wood paneling will be Veneer, so that the ship meets

modern fire standards. Sadly, the new titanic will probably be less fire resistant than the original. It is not lined with asbestos, one of the few truly fire-proof materials man has discovered. I refuse to ride in a boat where they take the hazards of fire more seriously than their tempting fate in the worst way possible. Everything, from the name of the ship, to the route it will embark on, to the billionaire who's funding the construction seems destined to fail.

Hopefully, the new ship is a titanic success instead of a titanic disaster.

Personal problems with the new pope

By Ruben A. Perez
Reporter

If you haven't been paying attention to what's happening with the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI retired and was replaced after two days of deliberation, by Pope Francis.

I don't know if anyone remembers when Pope Benedict XVI was elected, but I do. I was in the eighth grade at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School, and we had been learning the rules of being the new pope because John Paul II had died. When the papal conclave had finally chosen a new pope, Sister Juanita ran into our class during our Garces entrance exams, beaming with excitement, announcing that we had a new pope.

We were all so excited because our religion was getting its new leader and we got to take a break from our exams to watch the unveiling of the new pope. The whole school gathered around televisions and watched as Cardinal Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI.

As I understood from Sister Juanita's religion class, a new pope is elected after the old pope dies to lead, until that pope dies and then they elect another. That's how Sister Juanita taught me and that's how it has been working since about the time they invented the position of pope, I couldn't even fathom the idea of a pope retiring. This isn't golf. This isn't a presidency. This is the position of the Pope. It's like being the leader of a gang, the only way out is in a box. Cardinal Ratzinger, I'm addressing

him as that because he is no longer the pope, retired because he said he was too tired to lead the church. What happened to the Lord giving strength to those that ask? I'm not saying I thought he was all that great though, with the whole "condoms cause AIDS" bit. I'm also a gay man and a feminist so I have many disagreements with the Roman Catholic Church. I do believe that he should have stayed though.

The pope is supposed to be a symbol of strength and guidance to Catholics worldwide. I'm not saying that Ratzinger was great, but he had one of the most important positions in the world, and he just says "I'm too tired."

What kind of message of quitting does that send? I also kind of have a problem with the new pope. I'm not saying he's a bad guy. It's great that there's finally a non-European pope. It shows some progress. He's firm in his beliefs, which sometimes clash with mine, but he seems like he'll be a "no nonsense" kind of pope.

My issue is that he was elected on the second day of the papal conclave. This isn't kickball where you have to pick someone quickly. It's deciding who will lead one of the biggest religious groups in the world. That is a ridiculous amount of pressure for someone to have. It took them weeks to pick Ratzinger and look how that ended up. If they picked this guy in two days, how good can the decision making really be? Unfortunately, we won't know until it happens. I guess we just have to hope that things will be better.

Lay's is having a competition to pick its new flavor

By Samantha Briggs
Reporter

The Lay's snack brand has recently released three new chip flavors, Cheesy Garlic Bread, Sriracha and Chicken & Waffles. These flavors are the three finalists of the Lay's Do Us a Flavor contest. In the summer of last year, Lay's had a contest to find a new chip flavor and the winner will receive \$1 million. Over three million Lay's lovers submitted on Facebook, including me, but I guess my ham and cheese potato chip wasn't to their liking.

Now that Lay's is down to the three finalists, it is up to America to decide which chip becomes an official Lay's flavor and which creator wins one million dollars. You have until March 4 to vote for your favorite flavor on Facebook.

Chicken and Waffles

When I first saw Lay's Chicken and waffles, I thought it would taste absolutely disgusting. I have a deep hate for foods that are both sweet and salty. Eating pineapple pizza should be criminal. The chip was

CHICKEN & WAFFLES
★★★★☆

thin and a yellow color. As I took my first bite I could taste a mixture of brown sugar and rosemary chicken. Those are two things I would never want to combine.

I couldn't eat another chip. I can honestly say I have never tasted anything like it and I hope I never will again.

Sriracha

The sriracha flavored chip made me nervous because I usually stay as far away from spicy foods as possible, and that includes the peppery red sauce. Luckily for me this chip didn't taste a thing like sriracha sauce.

The chip was indeed spicy and tangy, but I didn't taste any of the sriracha inspiration. Although these chips are entirely too spicy for me, it reminds me of something my family would eat while watching the Super Bowl. Over all, it is a pretty decent chip if you have a bottle of water handy.

Cheesy Garlic Bread

The cheesy garlic bread chip is by far the most boring of the flavors. I've had garlic flavored chips and cheese flavored chip before so I wasn't sure what would make this flavor so unique

and deserving of the one million dollar grand prize.

As I opened the bag I got a whiff of the garlic smell but not the

GARLIC BREAD
★★★★☆

cheese. The chip is light and crisp and I initially tasted the garlic, as well as a buttery flavor.

It wasn't until I ate the second chip that I

began to taste a distinct cheese flavor.

This flavor was probably the most safe and tastiest of all of the flavors. It is very simple like most of Lay's chips.

It reminds me of my favorite Lay's chip flavor, sour cream and onion.

I could definitely see my friends and I enjoying them over a movie.

PRISCILLA DAUVEN / THE RIP

Perspectives

Perspectives on life and what makes us who we are.

Page 8

The Renegade Rip | www.therip.com

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

The family force

By **Mitchelle De Leon**
Reporter

At eight o'clock on most nights, my father taps my door and announces, "Time to eat." We then heat our dinner, which my mother prepares hours earlier. My brother groans, suggesting that we should have eaten by seven. My father turns on the warm lights directly above the table, illuminating our once peach-colored carpet, now a shade of gray. I place matching glassware and silverware on our wooden, thrift store table. Then we eat.

My family holds one rule sacred: We always eat together. This rule comes with the assumption that eating together strengthens our familial bond. But due to her night-time job, my mother leaves a gaping hole in our routine. She acts as the joker, conversation starter and non-stop chatterer. Without her, that familial bond does not even exist. Without her, my father, brother and I face the reality of three distant individuals sharing a meal for the sole reason of following an established routine, one that brings both monotony and stability.

Long ago, after unspoken deliberations, we had concluded that words risk arguments and misunderstandings. Conversations lead to abrupt endings. Therefore, silence engulfs the dining room.

This kind of silence demands an audience.

It is less awkward than the silence between two strangers who wake to find each other's bare anatomies under the same blanket after a drunken soiree, but it does not comfort me like the silence between friends lying on mildly damp grass under glowing constellations.

Rather, this one behaves like a domesticated lion gnawing on one's foot for affection.

If one ignores the lion for too long, its teeth start breaking the surface of one's skin.

The beast within it tastes blood, and a tale too disturbing to tell ensues. It haunts us past the dining room. In long drives in a car with a broken stereo, in trips to Home Depot, its pulse thuds, and its breath chills any signs of fraternal and paternal warmth.

To relieve ourselves from further discomfort during dinnertime, we use the antidote to all things dull and quiet: entertainment, namely movies. By pressing the "On" button of a remote control, the cacophony of the television and clashing utensils wafts the tension past our consciousness, filling the gap between us with the illusion of contentment but without addressing whatever issues we face. In those moments, the soundtracks and dialogues captivate us.

The unpleasant parts of our history escape us as we laugh, hold back tears, jump in excitement and shock and gasp in horror. Movies unite us. In fact, movies are part of our history. Whenever someone asks me of my favorite movie, I always respond with "Star Wars," not because of the movies' quality or whatever wisdom I have gained from them, but because of the experiences the three of us share through those movies. When George Lucas released the first of the six movies, which we now call "A New Hope," in 1977, I picture my father as a 15 year-old experiencing the childish awe that also struck me when I first watched the movie as a child in the '90s.

I recall clapping and hollering with my father and brother when Yoda drew his light saber to battle Dooku in "Attack of the Clones" then proceeded to fight in a way best described as "badass." John Williams blared into our ears, likely leaving us impaired. But at least when we're deaf, we can partly blame it on his brilliant soundtracks. Together, we would sink in our seats when a badly burned Anakin finally became Darth Vader in "Revenge of the Sith" in 2005. Although we had been waiting for that transformation for many years, the end signaled our return to reality.

Silence uncovers reality.

Is it spring yet?



ROBIN SHIN / THE RIP

Spring is a great time for nature photography. A BC student enjoys the spring weather in the campus center in the Bakersfield College campus.

A place to call home

By **Robert Mullen**
Reporter

I was born in Bakersfield. I was raised here for most of my life and even after I moved up to Frazier Park, Bakersfield was still home, and I still visited just about every other week. I was incredibly excited moving back here for college and still feel right in this city, as opposed to a small mountain town that never really charmed me.

Some people find it strange that I actually enjoy living in Bakersfield, especially when it seems that so many people can't wait to leave. But if you stop to think about it, this is actually quite a great city to live in, in my opinion at least. I'd say I've travelled quite a bit.

I've been to Waikiki, Florida, Washington D.C., and just about every city or town in California. Heck, I've been through L.A.'s soul sucking traffic so many times that I couldn't even make a deal with the Devil. Through all that time, in all those places, I never once felt like they offered a real home.

I love it here. Most of my fondest memories are about this town. I've seen the lights at night coming down the Grapevine, I've driven from one end of town to the other while enjoying the warm summer air and some classic rock, and I've spent lazy Saturdays catching a movie at the

marketplace with my family. I've spent Sunday evenings at the bookstore and countless evenings hoping with all my heart that a fight would erupt at a Condors game.

I even love our weather, no matter how much I curse when I work in the summer. Eight months of the year, we're just about the best place to be.

And while I've long since grown sick of snow and ice and any temperature below fifty degrees, I fondly remember waking up to hear that school was cancelled and enjoying the four hours that the snow was actually snow.

Hell, I even love the people; I've always found we have the perfect mix of down to earth work ethic, friendliness and California lazitude. You can't beat the fact that we've got everything, be it food, movie theaters or more classy live venues, bowling alleys, golf courses (both mini and standard), aquatic centers, museums, book stores, a Hockey team and of course the best Basque, Italian and Mexican food in the world.

Sure it may not be the greatest place when you're a twenty-something rearing to travel the world, but as a little kid, or an adult trying to settle down and start a family or make a living, it's all right.

And to those eager beavers itching to go out and experience the world I must say this. At least we're not Fresno.

Much more than I was expecting

By **Samantha Kelly**
Special to The Rip

I was intrigued when I saw the ladies of the Muslim Student Association at a booth applying henna and informing students about their traditional headscarf, the hijab.

Noticing my curiosity, I was greeted by the friendly faces of the MSA. They told me about the henna and asked if I was interested in wearing a hijab around for a day.

I was elated. I have been interested in the head covering for a while now. After I had my daughter, I noticed that walking around Walmart grocery shopping was not the same.

The gawking, stares, and unwanted interest by males became irritating. Sometimes dodging eye contact with the creepy guy in the aisle gets old. I had often mused if a headscarf could be the answer to my problem. This was my chance!

The women were interested in asking ladies to try wearing the hijab around for a day and hearing about the experiences. I was definitely game. They wrapped the scarf and pinned it in place.

As I had the henna done, I thought about how I was feeling. "I feel like a lady," was the first thing I had said. I had a new feeling of purpose, sophistication, and femininity.

I left and promised I would return with the scarf and my thoughts. Walking across campus my stroll was peaceful. Guys passed with neutrality. I didn't feel eyes following me or have to lower my gaze while passing. I felt

so relaxed.

Whatever natural self-consciousness I harbored melted away. I felt free. Men looked with respect, and women with friendly curiosity. It was everything I was dreaming of.

I made a point of picking my daughter up before I returned the scarf. When we arrived at the booth, a woman was putting henna on her daughter. While I talked about my experience, she asked if my daughter would like to have a design done. I was so grateful and happy to give my daughter that new experience. Talking to the other women was so easy.


I felt like the hijab helped us all connect with open faces and open hearts. We talked about children, and I offered to write about my experience.

It was as if covering our heads and presenting our faces eliminated differences and helped accentuate our common bond as women.


This idea of sharing the hijab experience with other women has touched me deeply. Actively and compassionately encouraging someone to truly walk in your shoes changes lives and attitudes.

I would never have been able to truly understand the beauty of the hijab without this experience. Nor would I have ever experienced it without the encouragement of my fellow Muslim students. Covering up helped me find my true beauty, the intentions in my heart and soul.

Samantha Kelly, a food science major at BC, wrote this letter to the editor and is a special addition to The Rip.



**THIS MOMENT
BEGAN WITH
A CHOICE.**

**CALIFORNIA
NATIONAL GUARD** 
NATIONALGUARD.com

He chose to make a difference. Chose to get a degree.
To learn new skills. And it was all made possible by the
National Guard.

EDUCATION BENEFITS • SKILLS TRAINING • PART-TIME SERVICE

Contact Staff Sergeant Frank Diniz at 661.472.3303
I-800-GO-GUARD

Two BC students lost in car crash remembered



LUIS GARCIA / THE RIP

A memorial is erected to honor the two men who were lost during the car accident on March 16. The memorial is on the southeast corner of University Avenue and Columbus.

By Graham C Wheat
Features Editor

Family, friends, and teachers alike were fondly remembered Leonel Del Toro and Severo Ramirez.

On March 16, the two Bakersfield College students were killed in a car crash at the intersection of University and Columbus.

Leonel Del Toro, 33, and Severo Ramirez were friends and both were on their way to a BC club activity when the accident happened. There was a viewing for Del Toro on March 20 at Hillcrest Cemetery and Funeral Service at Our Lady Of Guadalupe church on March 22.

Coming from a large family, Rosa Del Toro, sister of Leonel,

described him as a family man with many passions.

"He was thoughtful yet outspoken," said Rosa. "He loved football. He wanted to play football for BC and he got that opportunity." Leonel was a member of the state championship Renegades football team.

Rosa said of her brother, "He was very dedicated. He always tried his best to do well in school. It was a little bit of a challenge for him, but he never stopped trying. His focus was to get a degree in psychology and one day coach football."

She further elaborated on Del Toro's kind nature.

"His girlfriend said that he worked out for football and was really sore, and had sec-

ond thoughts about going to the MECHA club car wash, but he still went," said Rosa concerning the day of the accident and events leading up to it. "He didn't make it, but he was on his way to help others. He was always thinking about others."

Del Toro left an impression on teachers at BC, too.

Dean Sampley, American Sign Language professor, was close academically and personally with Del Toro.

"He had such a great heart, and was so expressive, I loved him like a son," said Sampley of her time spent with Del Toro. "He was a great communicator, always persistent. Leo lit up the room when he entered it."

She reminisced of time spent having deep conversation in her office, and even having Thrifty Ice Cream with Del Toro. "I encouraged him, but he inspired me."



Del Toro



Ramirez

SGA holds blood drive on campus

By Jazmine Montoya
Reporter

The Student Government Association was pleased with the turnout for the Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive held March 12-13 at Bakersfield College.

SGA Legislative Liaison Rudy Strong, who was in charge of the event, said he was happy with the results.

"It went great. I expected to do around the same amount as last year but we did a lot better," he said.

Between both days the drive

was put on, over 300 students registered.

Out of those 343 students, over 200 students' blood was able to be used.

Which is 36 more students than last year.

Strong explained it was a good outcome, considering how the number of students registered for this spring semester was down from last year, due to budget cuts and things of that sort.

BC is also a part of a national contest, along with other colleges and universities, to see which school can get the most students

to donate.

"Last year we placed fifth in the nation, and considering we got more than last year we should do really well," Strong said.

Unfortunately the SGA won't know of those results until at least another two months due to the fact that it's an ongoing process.

Strong says he's hoping for the best.

"It was a long and tiring process," Strong added. "But I'm thankful for all the students who came out."

"Overall it was a great drive."

Drumline bangs out a beat



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

Jesus Navarro, left, and Edgar Feldt, right, perform in the BC gym on March 21.

THE BIRDS: BC students tackle a Greek classic

Continued from Page 1

cause this is his first theater role and he feels he's perfect for it.

"My role is the peacock, and it's a bird that's very flamboyant and sassy...very fashionable and not afraid to tell you what you're doing wrong," Ramirez said about his over-the-top character. "It's just really fun because I think I'm like that but I'm scared to actually be like that so I'm glad that my character is like that because I get to just go full out and be fun."

Ramirez is also glad his love of dance will show in the play's choreography. Chin spoke on what it has been like for her students to learn these musical numbers.

"Some of them have never danced at all," Chin said. "I find that inspirational that they're able to challenge themselves in

this way. I'm really proud of all these students."

In order to get an authentic Athens feel, the performances will be held in what is known on campus as "the huddle," located outside of the gym and stadium entrance.

"The athletic department has been very generous and said that they would allow us to use their swim benches," Chin said. "Just like Greek theatre, you didn't have these plush cushy seats...so we're trying to give audience members as close to an ancient Greek theater feel as possible."

There are a few challenges because of the location, but Chin is optimistic it will only make the production stronger.

"Many of these students have never performed on a stage," Chin said. "Getting them to project and having to challenge

themselves through the environment, that's something we are really working on."

Martinez is hoping the weather and concrete setting won't be too much of a challenge.

"It's going to be on concrete so we have to do some dancing and us, as the birds, we're sitting on the floor a lot," Martinez said. "It might get uncomfortable at times, but the show must go on, right?"

Fraser thought the setting was a brilliant idea.

"I can't wait to get out there and really get that whole feel going on, like, 'OK every body, we're here, we're in Greece, we got the birds,'" Fraser said. "I just think it's going to be amazing."

The play will be held in the huddle on April 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28.

VOTING: Student apathy big problem for SGA

Continued from Page 1

voting or not, the majority of students said they were not taking place in elections this year because they were not aware it was happening. Ramon Gonzalez said he wasn't aware the election was taking place.

"Maybe that means I should be more involved in what's going on on campus because I had no idea," Gonzalez said.

Although student Michelle

Cornado did not want to voice who she was voting for, she did say she was planning on voting this year.

"I didn't get to vote last year so I want to do my part and vote this year," said Cornado.

Current SGA President Danitza Romo says she's ready to welcome the soon to be new president, whoever it may be.

"Overall it's been a really good experience for me. I just hope

whoever comes in next moves forward with the great amount of improvement that SGA has done this year because there's always room for improvement," said Romo.

Elections are running until April 4. Students can vote by using their insideBC login and then they will be greeted with a ballot on the main page. Results will be tallied and posted on either April 8 or 9.

Briefs

- Lisa Harding will be hosting a transfer workshop regarding students interested in going from RN to BSN. April 8 at the Levan Center at 11 a.m. Admission is free.
- On April 9, the Belvedere Cocktail Lounge is hosting Taco Tuesday. The event will begin at 6 p.m. Cost is \$1. For more information contact (661)325-2139
- American country music artist Tracy Lawrence will be performing at the Crystal Palace April 10. Two shows, one night. First show is at 6:30 p.m. and second show will begin at 9:30 p.m. General admission tickets are on sale for \$53(does not include dinner) and reserved seating tickets start at \$44. General admission tickets are standing only. For more information contact (661)328-7560
- On April 12, BC Foundation is putting on their annual Red and White Wine and Food Festival. The event will be held on the lawn area to the north of Memorial Stadium. Wine and food will be served from 5-7 p.m. and jazz entertainment will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$50 if purchased in advance and \$60 at the door. For more information contact (661)395-4800
- On April 17-18, CSUB representatives will be on campus hosting an onsite admittance event. The event will take place in the Fireside Room from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Remember to bring transcripts and a completed csumentor.edu application.
- Sue Granger-Dickson will be hosting a Major vs. Career transfer workshop on April 18 at the Forum East at 2 p.m. Admission is free.
- Natural Options will be hosting "Laughter Yoga" on April 3, 6-7 p.m.

HERNANDEZ: Astronaut visits Levan Center, tells of his own experiences

Continued from Page 1

higher probability of success next time."

He studied the qualifications of past astronauts. After taking flying lessons, getting an advanced scuba diving certification and even learning Russian, he finally joined the 19th class of astronauts in 2004.

In 2009, he fulfilled his lifelong dream when he boarded Space Shuttle Discovery as the flight engineer of mission STS-128.

He thrilled the audience when he described the experience alongside a video of the event. He recalled that the shuttle launched at midnight after three attempts.

"The vibrations are violent like the whole thing's about to fall apart," he said jokingly. "[I thought], 'What did I get myself into?'"

As the flight engineer, he was one of the two main robotic arm operators. He described himself as the "taxi" of the astronauts on the space walk with his duties as flight engineer.

While traveling 17,500 miles an hour around Earth on the International Space Station, he experienced 45-minute intervals of daylight and nighttime. However, he said the size of the space station posed a unique challenge to astronauts.

"Losing equipment in the space station is like losing a needle in the haystack," he recalled.

On the fourth day of the mission aboard space shuttle Discovery, NASA played a song called "Mi Tierra" by Gloria Estefan. Hernandez said that the song had a lot of significance to him.

"'Mi Tierra' has a lot of meaning. [Estefan] wrote it with

the emphasis of her homeland Cuba, but 'mi tierra' is also 'my earth,' so my interpretation was more global, and the fact that she was Latina was important to represent our Latino culture in space," he said.

In fact, Hernandez's mission marked the first time that two Hispanic Americans were on the same crew. He stressed the importance of diversity in space shuttle missions.

"Any time that we have efforts such as space travel, it should represent what America is, so the more diversity you have, the more different perspectives you can get in to a problem with respect to solving them."

During the mission, he shared his experiences through his twitter account. He was the first NASA astronaut to have a bilingual twitter account. For every English tweet, he wrote a Spanish translation. On Aug. 29, 2009, he shared his first tweet in space.

"Settling in and realizing my dream...Micro G is great. Finished setting up the computers and ready for bed! Don't need pillow!" he wrote on his twitter account @Astro_Jose29.

On the same day of his presentation at BC, he also shared his story to students participating in the 25th annual Kern County Science Fair. He believed that sharing his story to students was important.

"If I was able to do it in spite of the humble beginnings I came from, you should be able to do it as well, so it's a process of empowering [students] and making them believe that anything's possible if you set your mind into it."

"A lot of people are losing hope that the American dream is attainable, but if people like

myself tell their story and tell them look, if you follow this simple five step recipe that I shared, that my parents gave me, you too can reach the American dream. You just have to be willing to work hard for it."

Yasmin Gallegos, chemical engineering major, was one of the BC students at the Levan Center. For her, the event was inspirational.

"It was amazing because I aspire to be an astronaut much like him where he didn't really decide until later like high school," she added.

Hernandez currently works as a consultant for the aerospace industry. In 2011, he unsuccessfully ran for a seat in Congress. He said he hasn't closed the door to a future in politics.

"I'm contemplating whether to run again," he said.

Past speakers for the STEM speaker series include Reed Timmer from "Storm Chasers" and Deanne Bell from "Smash Lab." Both shows aired on the Discovery Channel.

STEM Director Rageshwar Goldberg shared BC's philosophy in choosing STEM speakers like Hernandez.

"For the STEM speaker series, we try to find a speaker that can open people's eyes beyond the stereotypes within STEM, beyond Einstein in a white lab coat kind of picture, to show [how to achieve] a STEM career, [how to enter] into a profession, what inspiration goes into it [and] what work goes into it," Goldberg said.

The STEM Colloquia, which are separate from the speaker series, will feature a professor from Fresno State University will discuss how cow pat and rat pee impact air pollution on April 9.

Norwood takes first in four races

By Jason Reed
Sports Editor

The Bakersfield College track and field men's and women's team continues to stay in the top three throughout the course of the season. On March 16, BC hosted the Bakersfield Relays, which featured three other schools. The women took first place in a meet for the first time this season. The men once again finished in first place in the last meet of the season at Bakersfield College.

Nine BC runners won multiple races for the Renegades. Men's runner Michael Norwood stood out for BC, winning four races during the Bakersfield Relays. Sterling Fuggett, Tejera Dial and Natalie O'Dwyer each won three races for BC. Nicole Lewis, Elizabeth Sanchez, Ensley Davis, Davis Loustalot and Justin Evans finished the last Bakersfield meet of the season with two first place finishes each.

"They had very good performances, both teams," BC head coach Dave Frickel said on his team's performance. "We had some outstanding marks. They just continue to do well and it was a great way to finish up in our final race of the season at home."

"Overall it was a good meet and everybody is continuing to improve."

BC women dominated the ranks with a score of 204. Second place Saddleback College finished with 107, while third place Antelope Valley College scored 91. College of the Canyons took first place in one event on the day and finished in fourth overall with the score of 73.

O'Dwyer ran four races and took second in only one. Her (O'Dwyer) only second place finish came in the 200-meter run, trailing her teammate Nicole Lewis. Lewis took first place in the event with the time of 25.48. O'Dwyer also ran the 100-meter for the first time this season and took first place at 12.61.

O'Dwyer then participated in the 1500-meter run, along with



MARTIN CHANG/ THE RIP

Bakersfield College runner Natalie O'Dwyer warms up at practice. O'Dwyer took first place in three events in the Bakersfield College Relays on March 16.

Jade Gridiron, Molly Fitch, and Nicole Lewis. The women were able to finish first with the time of 49.09. In O'Dwyer's final race of the day she ran in the 4x400-meter relay with Tejera Dial, Elizabeth Sanchez and Molly Fitch. They took first place at 4:09.21. BC earned 18 points in the event, due to the fact that they raced each other with the second BC running group taking second and earned eight points.

Tejera Dial won the 1500-meter run at 4:59.34 and the women's triple jump with the distance of 36.6 feet. Elizabeth Sanchez won the 800-meter run with the time of 2:29.56. Other notable first place winners were, Ensley

Davis, who took the women's high jump with 4.10 feet. Alicia Torres won the women's shot put with the distance of 37 feet.

BC men took place in the relays with the score of 170. Saddleback pulled out the first place win scoring 181 points. Canyons took third with 152.5, while Antelope finished fourth with 115.5 points.

Michael Norwood finished first place in four events, helping his team earn 40 points. Norwood won the 100-meter dash with the time of 10.86. He would then go on to run in the 200-meter dash and took first place at 21.91 seconds. Norwood then participated in the men's 4x100 along with

Walter Hunter, Sterling Fuggett, and Justin Evans. BC took first place in the event with the time of 42.38. Norwood's final race of the day came in the 4x400-meter relay. That event also featured Fuggett, Evans and Davis Loustalot. The men finished with the time of 3:20.82 and BC also gained five more points in the event with another set of Renegade runners participating. Fuggett won the 400-meter with the time of 49.43 and Loustalot then won the 800-meter at 1:54.67.

The Renegades next scheduled meet will take place April 9-10 in the Southern California Multi's Meet at Cerritos College.

BC gets its biggest win of the season with 14-4 victory

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

The Bakersfield Softball team beat Santa Monica College 14-4 on March 26, putting up 14 hits, including a homerun by CJ Sagasta and a grand slam by Kassidi Ward in the fourth inning. Following this, BC lost both games of a doubleheader against Citrus College 8-0 and 9-0, bringing their season record to 3-22.

Head coach Sandi Taylor notes that some of this season's difficulties have to do with the relatively young team she has. "Experience can't be replaced by anything other than experience. The key is that you're learning from these games and trying to apply how to change them," said Taylor.

Taylor says it's easy to cover up mistakes when you win a game, but that the problems are clearer and easier to see when you lose. "It's like rubbing that scab off every time an inning starts, and you get pretty

tired of that happening," Taylor said.

"I don't think we have one area that's weak, we just haven't been able to keep it on track. One day we'll have better than average pitching and one day better than average defense, one day we'll have better than average at hitting, but you've got to have better than average at everything and we haven't been able to put that all together," said Taylor.

She notes that she has athletic players, but that athleticism isn't enough to have a great season if there are multiple problems that continue to stack. Injuries and illnesses have hurt the team, coupled with their inexperience at the college level and tough league action. Right now the team stands with 13 players, with the possibility of losing another before the season is through.

Regardless of the team's current record, Taylor believes her team can grab some wins before the season is through.



MAYAN LARA/ THE RIP

BC shortstop Brittney Roberts hits the ball to the outfield in a game March 19 against Glendale College.

BC tennis teams looking forward to WSC tournament

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's Tennis team finished their regular season play with a default against Glendale College on April 1.

The women lost their match against Ventura College 7-2 on March 22 and lost their match against Santa Barbara City College 5-4 on March 21.

"We had a couple close ones with Santa Barbara and Ventura too. We're suffering with our numbers a little bit. We have six players this year, and unfortunately we've had some injuries, and it's taking its toll on us," said head coach Terri Lynott.

They suffered another loss on March 19 against Santa Monica City College, 8-1, but beat Glendale 5-4 on March 12, winning all their doubles matches and two singles.

The men's team has continued to struggle, wrapping up their season with a loss against Glendale 9-0 on April 1, and 7-2 on March

12. The men beat L.A. Peirce 6-3, on March 19, winning two doubles and four singles, but lost to Santa Barbara 7-2 on March 21, and 9-0 against Ventura on March 22.

"It has a lot to do with the competition we're dealing with; some of the teams are extremely strong, and very deep," said Lynott on the men's win.

Both teams will play in the Western State Conference tournament April 5-6 in Ventura. Lynott is hopeful that the women's record will help their seeds in the main tournament draw and thinks that the men's team will be able to compete pretty well.

She says she's hopeful that some of her players may make it to the state championship.

"When you look at the top 16 in the conference, I have several players from the men and women's [teams] that I think could make it that far," said Lynott. Both men's and women's tennis teams lost at Ventura earlier in the season and are a combined 0-4 against them.



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

Luckian B.R. Campos returns the ball in a match against L.A. Pierce College on March 19. BC beat Pierce 6-3 in its final home match.

BC softball scores

March 12
L.A. Mission 6, BC 3

BC scored three runs in the first inning, putting up five hits including two runs batted in by Kelsey Best and one by Kylee Rice.

March 14
Canyons 10, BC 2
Canyons 7, BC 1

In the first game, BC scored a run in the fourth and sixth inning with three hits, including a homerun, by Brittney Roberts. In the second game, BC made three hits including an RBI by Brooke Charles and scored one run in the seventh inning.

March 16
Saddleback 10, BC 0

The Renegades were held to two hits.

Riverside 10, BC 2

BC managed four hits including two RBI's by Brittney Roberts. Both runs were scored in the first inning.

March 16
Santa Barbara 12, BC 0

The Renegades were held to one hit by Kelsey Best.

March 17
Cerritos 21, BC 5

BC had eight hits, including RBIs by Brittney Roberts, Kelsey Best, Heather Rayhill and two by Shelbe Pennel. BC scored five runs in the fifth inning.

March 19
Glendale 11, BC 3

BC had five hits and RBIs by Katie Hoffman and Morgan Peterson. BC scored once in the third inning and two in the sixth.

'GADE FEEDBACK "Are you excited for a NASCAR level racetrack in Bakersfield?"

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

Compiled by:
Graham C Wheat / The Rip



Tyler Poulson,
Arcitecture:
"Yeah I guess, but I dont really watch it."



Richard Villanueva, Child Development:
"Heck yes! My friend is getting a job there."



Alec Hamm, Computer Science:
"I don't know anything about NASCAR."



Brandon Rivera, Engineering:
"I know there are a lot of NASCAR fans here, so good for them."



Rafael Morales, Undecided:
"Yes and no. No because it might hurt taxpayers, yes because it is a big attraction."

BC baseball scores

March 14
Merced 3, BC 1
Merced College scored each of its three runs in the first, third, and fourth innings. BC starting pitcher, Brad Lindsley threw seven innings for the Renegades, allowing three runs on eight hits. Merced pitcher, Russell Longworth pitched a complete game for his team, giving up just one earned run, striking out 12 BC batters. The loss gave BC its second straight lost after an eight-game winning streak.

March 16
BC 10, West L.A. 3
Darion Nunn pitched six innings for the Renegades and struck out seven batters as BC rolled over West L.A. College. Center fielder Kyle Nixon went 4-for-5 batting and scored two runs for BC. Designated hitter, Luc Pomaes and third basemen, Nick Sakowski each had two RBIs for BC.

March 19
BC 7, West L.A. 3
With this win, BC swept the two-games series against WSC rivals West L.A. Justin Kelly pitched 7.2 innings for BC, allowing two earned runs and struck out 10 batters to give his team a lift over West L.A. Kyle Nixon and Nick Sakowski had two runs apiece. West L.A. pitcher Jamaal Moore remained winless as a pitcher, dropping to 0-5.

March 21
Canyons 10, BC 5
College of the Canyons jumped out to a 3-0 lead and never trailed in the game as it took the first of two at home against BC. Canyons catcher Alex Bishop had four RBIs for his team, going 3-for-5 batting and scored two runs. Justin Martinez and infielder Cole Hallum scored four of their team's five runs.

March 22
Canyons 6, BC 4
BC struggled at home against Canyons, losing the two-game series. The loss also gave BC its second two game losing streak. Canyons also gave Glendale possession of first place in the conference and did themselves a favor, tying with BC with second place. After taking a 2-0 lead, BC would then allow three runs in the third inning, giving Canyons a 3-2 lead before tying it in the bottom of the inning. Canyons would then go on to outscore the Renegades 3-1 to finish the game. Quincy Quintero went 4-for-5 batting with four RBIs and scored a run to lead his team to a victory.

March 26
Sequoias 8, BC 7
BC dropped its third straight game against College of the Sequoias and failed to gain ground against conference leading Glendale College. BC was struck out seven times. Sequoias jumped out to a 3-0 lead, but BC would then go on to tie the game at six apiece. Sequoias then scored two runs in the final two innings of the game. Second basemen, Erik Williams had three RBI for the Renegades on 2-for-5 batting. Matt Cota and Nick Stoll each scored two runs for Sequoias.

March 27
BC 6, Reedley 2
With the win, BC snapped a three-game skid. Pitcher Ryan Stapp took the mound for BC and he struck out six batters over the course of seven innings, and allowed just one earned run. Justin Martinez had three RBIs for BC and went 3-for-4 at the plate. With the win BC improved to 18-7.

Renegades fall 1-0 to Saddleback College



PRISCILLA DAUVEN / THE RIP

Bakersfield College third basemen Luc Pomaes swings the bat in a 10-5 lost to College of the Canyons. BC has dropped five of its last eight games after an eight games winning streak.

By Jason Reed
Sports Editor

The Bakersfield College baseball team started 15-2 in its first 17 games of the season, including an eight-game winning streak. Since then, BC has dropped six of its last nine games, with its latest loss coming against Saddleback College March 28, falling 1-0 in a non-conference game. Saddleback pitcher Evan Manarino pitched a complete game for his team, allowing one hit, striking out five BC batters and allowed just two runners to touch base. BC's first hit didn't come until the sixth inning when catcher Justin Martinez singled to right field. "You got to tip your hat to him, he did a good job," BC head coach Tim Painton said on the opposing pitcher Manarino's performance. "If we're going to be a playoff team that's what we have to beat; this kind of had a playoff feel, knowing that they are a good club. We had an opportunity to face a very good pitcher today and we just didn't get anything done offensively."

Manarino improved to 7-1 on the season. BC pitcher Darion Nunn took the mound for BC. He pitched 7.1 innings, giving up one earned run and struck out four batters. BC dropped to 10-4 in the Western State Conference and 18-8 overall. The loss also put them two games behind Glendale College (12-2) for first place in the conference. Earlier in the season, BC beat Glendale on the road. "I thought Nunn did an outstanding job on the mound for us," Painton said on his pitcher's performance. "Their pitcher came in with one of the best ERA's in the state and proved why he is as good as he is. He pitched very well against us." BC played L.A. Valley at home April 2, and the result can be found on therip.com. BC will start a two-game series against WSC rival Citrus College. BC is now 18-8 on the season, and tied for second place in the WSC at 10-4 The first game will take place at Citrus, April 6, and will end at BC on April 9. The Owls are 4-10 in the WSC.



PRISCILLA DAUVEN / THE RIP

BC pitcher Darion Nunn pitches the ball in a March 21 game against College of the Canyons. BC finished the regular season 1-4 against the Cougars.



Locations throughout the Central Valley

Close to work. Close to home.

ENROLL NOW!

- 18-month degree completion programs
- Designed to fit your busy schedule
- Evening classes for the working adult

fpu.edu/bakersfield



11000 River Run Blvd. | Suite 200
Bakersfield, CA 93311

North Fresno Center 559-453-3440 | Main Fresno Campus 559-453-2016
Bakersfield Center 661-617-4500 | Visalia Center 559-302-4100 | Merced Center 209-354-5900

Fun at Scottish Games and Gathering



PHOTOS BY ROBIN SHIN / THE RIP

A local couple attending the 18th Annual Scottish Games and Gathering listen to the performance by Banshee in the Kitchen.

By Mitchell De Leon
Reporter

For anyone who enjoys Pixar's "Brave," finds pleasure in the sound of bagpipes or wants to see men wear kilts in person, the 18th Annual Scottish Games and Gatherings was the perfect event.

The Kern County Scottish Society hosted the event at the Fair Grounds on March 23.

With a \$16 ticket, visitors saw Scottish heavy athletics which consisted of the stone throw, weight for distance, caber toss and hammer throw.

Live music stages, pipe bands, Highland dancers and various vendors were among the many activities that created the atmosphere of celebration for Scottish culture.

Over 20 Scottish clans joined the event. One of them was the McPherson Clan. The clan has over 20,000 members worldwide according to Rod Schreckengost, a clan member.

"They associate it as best as they could through applying. It had to do with the land where everybody lived," Schreckengost explained. "Certain families lived around there, so they associated with them. That's how they formed the big clan."

Schreckengost works as a consultant for the construction industry, but he still finds the time to participate in various Scottish gatherings. "Our association here in Southern California has a lot of events together," Schreckengost said. "I've been twice to the international gathering at Scotland."

The largest of these gatherings is the Cowal Games at Dunoon,

Scotland. Outside of Bakersfield, different areas host their own Scottish Games and many individuals attending the event came from other parts of California.

The Golden Coast Pipes and Drums, one of the groups of bagpipe players, came from Camarillo.

The group had been participating in the event for five years. Walley Boggess, a retired chemistry teacher at 72 years old, was one of the group's bagpipers. He explained how to operate the instrument.

"You blow in the bag and you squeeze the bag with your elbow and by blowing and squeezing and blowing and squeezing, you maintain a constant pressure.

The air you put in the bag is forced down the chanter, which makes the music," Boggess explained. "There are only nine notes, no sharps or flats. It also goes up to those things that lie on our shoulders called drones. The shorter drones play an octave higher."

Stephanie Scott, a t-shirt seller at the event, said it was her first time at Bakersfield's Scottish Games. Like Boggess, she came to support the event from outside of Bakersfield.

Scott, who is originally from Woodland, watched her son Dustin as he competed in the caber toss. She explained how the game worked.

"The object is to turn the caber all the way over to flip it and get it to 12 o'clock [position]," Scott said. "If you do not flip it, you get a degree mark."

Scott had been participating in Scottish gatherings for "about 10 years," she said, finding time between two part-time jobs.



Traditional Scottish meals, such as meat pies, were popular choice at the gathering.



A group of attendees dress like Scottish citizens as they sell the event programs.



A member of the Orange County Highlanders throws the weight for distance.



Some of the members from the band Golden Coast Pipes and Drums enjoy the games.



A re-enactor demonstrates to attendees how they made fire in the olden days.