

The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

A medley of music takes over

By **Mason J. Rockfellow**
Reporter

The Bakersfield College’s Performing Arts Department hosted a combined concert featuring the new BC orchestra and concert band, BC’s indoor drumline and the Golden Empire Drum and Bugle Corps, chamber singers, college choir, and jazz ensemble.

The concert, A Night of Rhythm, was held in the Performing Arts Center outdoor theater at 7 p.m. on May 2.

This was only the second performance in the new outdoor theater since it went under construction three years ago. Noteworthy was the grand re-opening performance by the Bakersfield Symphony and the BC college choir on April 25.

The Performing Art Department’s chair, John Gerhold, welcomed everyone to the new outdoor theater and then introduced the orchestra to start the event.

This year, the BC orchestra is back and has a new director, Lisa M. Buringrud.

Buringrud has accomplished a lot, from getting a master’s of music degree in instrumental conducting to being an author, a recording artist, as well as her ensembles receiving top musical festival ratings throughout the state, and she is also the music director for California City High School.

The orchestra and concert band performed seven pieces accompanied by choir director Jennifer Garrett on the harp. The pieces included “Concerto Grosso VIII, Op. 6 No. 8,” music from Disney’s “Frozen,” works from DreamWorks Animation’s “How to Train Your Dragon,” three pieces from the suite from “The Hobbit,” “Old Friends and The Adventure Begins,” “Song of the Lonely Mountain,” and “Dreaming of Bag End,” and the theme song from “New York, New York.”

Director Tim Heasley presented the Bakersfield College indoor drumline. The BC drumline consisted of: snare drums, cymbals, tenor drums, bass drums and a front ensemble. Every member was in matching blue uniforms, and each part of the drumline was playing in unison together, the cymbals players in the back even had choreographed spinning moves and hand motions that went on throughout their performance. The indoor drumline usually plays in gymnasiums against other drumlines so the stage was barely big enough for the BC indoor drumline, but they made it work.

The expansion of this program was the



PHOTOS BY JAVIER VALDES / THE RIP

The Bakersfield College Indoor Drumline performs “Lost in the Echo” directed by Tim Heasley during A Night of Rhythm held at BC.

Golden Empire Drum and Bugle Corps from BC.

The drum and bugle corps usually consists of percussion, brass, and color guard but the stage wasn’t big enough for the color guard to perform, so the color guard did not have a performance. The drum and bugle corps were dressed in matching red and white uniforms. The brass had choreographed motions to bring up and let down their instruments in a wave like motion, throughout the performance. The drum and bugle corps played short selections from their 2015 program. This program meets once a week until summer, where they rehearse daily. Last year, was the first year in competition for the drum and bugle corps.

The BC choir and chamber singers, led by Garrett, sang eight pieces for the concert in which one was not in the program and the first to be played a song called “Gloria.” The BC college choir, which is composed of music majors and non-music majors, performed followed by the BC’s combined men’s chorus, the combined women’s chorus, chamber singers, and ended with the combined choirs. BC’s own Edgar Sandoval, composed and

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Lisa Buringrud conducts the orchestra and concert band at the combined concert event, A Night of Rhythm. The concert marks one of the first BC Orchestra on-campus performances in recent years.

Career Day held on campus

By **Elka Wyatt**
Reporter

Over 100 employers showed up on April 29 for Bakersfield College’s Career Day, offering jobs and information about their companies to an estimated 2,000 job seekers.

The event, held in the Campus Center, was open to Bakersfield College students and the public. Its purpose is to let people know what jobs are available.

Carlos Benavidez, 35, a native of Bakersfield and a veteran, was looking for a job in law enforcement to support his family.

BC student Michael Dunn, 22, a broadcasting major, said he was basically looking for anything, while his friend, Sylvester Pollard, 21, also a BC student, majoring in law enforcement said he was interested in “anything physical.”

Another BC student Jonathan Radmer, 25, said, “I am looking for anything part-time to get me through school.”

Mister Gentry, 25, a culinary art major said he hopes to find a job working in a restaurant. He one day wants to do what his dad does, which is own his own restaurant.

Taft College students Kevin Stone, 25, a business management major and Jake Freeman, 21, majoring in business administration were both applying for jobs as part of their internship program. Stone works for Frito Lay in the marketing department and Freeman works for the human resources department of CRC, an oil company.



RHIANNON STROBERG / THE RIP

BC students and the general public apply for jobs and submit resumes to over 100 vendors at Career Day on April 29.

Some colleges were there informing students of career opportunities they could train for.

Tim Capehart of the BC Fire Tech program said that he was informing the public about the programs offered here at BC. They have an AA degree in the Fire Tech program and an AS in Wild Land

Firefighter. They also offer a certificate in EMT training.

“We have an in-service agreement with Kern County and the Bakersfield Fire Department to provide training to firefighters who are already working,” said Capehart. Big name companies, like Target,

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Students address goals and dreams beyond BC

By **Marcus Castro**
Reporter

As graduation approaches this year at Bakersfield College, students plan for their future.

A big question for students who are planning on graduating is what is next for them.

Alondra Lule, an 18-year-old English major at BC, plans on graduating in 2016. She then plans on transferring to University of California, Los Angeles or University of California, Santa Cruz to continue to go further in her major.

“I want to take more opportunities to study abroad and possibly get internships... I want to teach English as a second language,” said Lule.

Roberto Garcia, a 21-year-old history major at BC, is also planning on graduating from BC in 2016. After graduation, he is looking to transfer to California State University, Bakersfield to continue pursuing a degree in history.

“My plan as of now is to teach at a high school and then move up to teaching at a college level. Then I hopefully will get my Ph. D.,” said Garcia.

He hopes to start his career in teaching in Bakersfield then to later get a teaching job outside of Bakersfield.

“I’m looking to be teaching at a high school level, but if I can go further then maybe an analyst,” said Thomas Whitaker, a 21-year-old history major at BC. After graduation, Whitaker plans to transfer to San Diego State where he first plans to get a bachelor’s in history.

Gaby Cruz is a 20-year-old child development major at BC. She plans to graduate then begin looking for a job.

“I want to be a preschool teacher,” she said. “I’m thinking of going abroad, but I’m not sure where.”

BC’s commencement ceremony will take place May 15 in Memorial Stadium. The gates will open at 6 p.m.

Column

The new age of media and self worth

Brooke Howard | It's OK to learn the hard way.

In this relatively new age of Internet and social media, we tend to value ourselves by what persona we show online. Our self-worth is measured in likes and followers and we start to forget what is real.

Some real problems are coming out of this media age. Such as, a lack of social skills, lack of empathy for others and their self-esteem, and all around a bad self-image.

The other day, a friend took a picture of herself that really excited her.

She decided to post this picture on Facebook and add a cute girlish caption.

An hour later, my friend looked to see how many people liked her photo and a heartbroken look came across her face, she said, "It only got three likes, and that includes my mom."

Now, that might sound funny and lighthearted to you, but to her, that was the biggest blow to her, already low, self-esteem.

See, she measured her self-worth in how many people took the time to like her photo on Facebook, and she completely forgot about how many people turned their heads to look and smile at her that day.

Both sexes are being constantly shown a stream of photos that contain self-proclaimed perfect bodies, perfect hair, and perfect lives.

We start valuing ourselves against these brief posed and photo-shopped images and our happiness declines.

According to psychotherapist Sherrie Campbell, "When we look at social media, we end up comparing ourselves to what we see, which can lower our self-esteem.

On social media, everyone's life looks perfect but you're only seeing a snapshot of reality.

We can be whomever we want to be on social media and if we take what we see literally then it's possible that we can feel we are falling short in life."

This means social media is giving us a false sense of belonging and meaning to what is important in life.

We are making online connections rather than the real-life exchanges that make our lives truly important and exciting.

If you rely on communication solely from the Internet, you miss out on key things about the human experience.

In real life you see the smiles, hear the laughs and you can genuinely tell how much that person values you by their actions and words, not by them liking your photo on a social media source.

We have all heard, "Put down the phone and go outside."

So, I am not going to say that's the answer.

The answer is to choose now what is going to define our generation. I chose to understand that I love sharing photos of myself and the activities I am doing on social media. I am also not going to post about my struggles or rant on Facebook (that's what real-life friends are for).

I also understand what other people post is something we should celebrate, but not compare ourselves and our accomplishments to.

Relay for Life season has a good end

By Amber Hayden
Online Editor

With the Relay for Life season slowly coming to an end in June, the charity held its largest event at the Kern County Fairgrounds on May 2-3.

With well over a 100 tents and booths set up, the event kicked off at 9 a.m.

Relay for Life teams had already raised \$850,000 for the season as the event began. By the end of the event, that number had gone over \$1 million.

The last lap of the event took place on May 3 at 9 a.m. after which the total amount raised was announced.

The American Cancer Society received a check for \$1,090,681.67 from all the donations and work each team goes through during the Bakersfield Relay for Life season.

Laura Clayton, who along with her husband Doug, was admiring the bags set up along the walk area that read "In Memory of" or "In Honor Of."

"This is our second year, we're walking for my mom and his grandparents," said Clayton.

Clayton, unlike the others walking, was not part of any of the teams, but rather just walking to support the hope many have.

Among the booths set up was one from Wells Fargo Bank.

The bank has been setting up a booth for the past 14 years with those who participate in the walk, but mainly they are there for support, according to Catie Holsnbake.

"We're giving away items when people spin the wheel. We're mainly out here in support of everyone," commented Holsnbake.

Karen Jackson, of team I Love



PHOTOS BY MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Above: Nate Wren sprints to the finish line after running for a full 24 hours at Relay for Life on May 3 at the Kern County Fair Grounds. Below: Clint Rosdahl (left) and Dream Weaver walk with the Chive flag at Relay for Life.

Lucy, started participating in Relay for Life in 2010 in honor of her lifetime friend Shalona Pendly.

Jackson, with every year, hopes that one day there will come a time when people no longer fear the word cancer.

"Each year you feel different than the year before," Jackson said. "This year is more upbeat, and there is more of a positive feeling."

She's been asked over the years why she continues to work so hard to raise money despite knowing at the end of the season

she is tired. "My heart would ache if I didn't help," she said.

Jackson, like many other teams, sold raffle tickets for different items. Many of those items were donated by the community.

"The community really pulls together and helps, everything is donated except the "I Love Lucy" memorabilia," said Jackson.

Team I Love Lucy raised just shy of \$3,500 before the event had started.

"We aren't like the big teams who raised \$50,000, but every little bit helps," commented Jackson.



Damsel in Defense helping women's safety

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

As safe as we feel most of the time, sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we may need to be just a little bit more aware and cautious of our surroundings. This is when it helps to have a little something extra for protection.

Damsel in Defense offers a wide variety of protective gear

including pepper sprays and stun guns.

"I truly was gripped by the passion and the mission of this company," said Donna Ingram when asked why she decided to become an Independent Damsel Pro. "We equip, empower and educate women."

Ingram was representing Damsel in Defense at Bakersfield College's Career Day on April 29, looking to recruit new

team members.

Patty Clark had a tent set up at BC's Garden Fest on April 18 and was demonstrating and selling her products. She became an Independent Damsel Pro. when her daughter went to college.

"I wanted to make sure she had some sort of protection on her because she was going away to college and I've heard some scary stories," said Clark.

Both women agree that pep-

per spray is their most-sold item. In price, they range from \$12 to \$29.

Stun guns are also popular, according to Clark. Between \$57 and \$74, they are probably the most effective way to stop an attacker.

Ingram also added that they are now offering cyber protection including computer protection and technical support, social media monitoring and internet

safety alerts and education.

Damsel in Defense also offers a flashlight called "Road Trip." This is much more than a flashlight. It's magnetic so it sticks to your car, it's an alarm, has a tool to break out the window of a car and a seat belt cutter for if you are ever in an accident. This sells for \$29.

"My whole purpose in this is if it helps one person, it is worth the while," said Clark.

Many more fun \$5 dates

By Darla Mangrum
Reporter

All semester long The Rip has suggested many ideas for going on inexpensive dates and this last edition of the semester is no different, but instead of one or two dates for \$5 or less here is a list of things you can do for free:

Take a bike ride along the bike trail.

Discover new places to take a break and just talk.

Take a walk downtown and window shop or check out the crazy nightlife on a Friday or Saturday night.

Take a walk around downtown and take selfies with and of each other as if you were tourists.

Speaking of downtown, the First Friday of every month between 5-9 p.m. in the Art District on 19th Street there is a free art show, vendors, and much more.

If you are into tattooing (or not) go watch a tattoo artist at work.

Have a romantic dinner at home, one person can prepare the meal and the other can bring dessert, then you can switch up the next time.

If you are into video games and are competitive, spend the evening playing one of your favorite games.

Then let the winner decide what he or she wants from the loser.

Have a potluck with friends and play board games.

Go play on the toys at a local park or playground and take pictures of each other doing so (Don't forget to actually act like kids again).

All summer long there is usually a park that will have free concerts or movies.

Find a park and enjoy a picnic dinner as you watch the show.

Enjoy your summer!

This issue's Top Ten Best Independent Movies on Netflix

1. The Giant Mechanical Man
2. The Music Never Stopped
3. Electrick Children
4. Charlie Countryman
5. Short Term 12
6. Silver Linings Playbook
7. The Story of Luke
8. Copenhagen
9. Mean Creek
10. Dummy

TWLOHA week discusses depression in some youth groups

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

The Beale Memorial Library on Truxtun Avenue will be hosting a special presentation of the film "To Write Love on Her Arms" on May 15 at 5 p.m. which is free to the public.

The film, formerly called "Day One", is a true story that inspired a global movement to bring awareness of the reality of drug

addiction, depression, self-injury and suicide among our youth.

Starring Kat Dennings, Chad Michael Murray, Corbin Bleu and Rupert Friend, the film chronicles the life of 19 year-old Renee Yohe, who battles with drug addiction, manic depression and self-harm, along with other issues in her life, five days before she enters treatment.

The non-profit organization of the same name was organized in

2006 in Melbourne, Florida.

It helps connect people to treatment centers, websites, books, support groups and other resources that may help those who are afflicted with these problems.

Jamie Tworkowski, who also wrote the story of Yohe, founded TWLOHA, the organization's acronym.

Celebrities and bands such as Miley Cyrus, Joaquin Phoe-

nix and Switchfoot have been instrumental in bringing the organization and movement to prominence through endorsements.

Other ways the organization gains notice is through social media, merchandise and information booths at concerts, festivals, schools, and universities.

With slogans like "Love is the Movement," "Rescue is Possible," "Hope is Real, Help is

Real," and "Stop the Bleeding," TWLOHA aims to give hope to those who are suffering.

Supporters consider September 10-17 "TWLOHA Week" with many of them writing the word "Love" on their arms and share stories of hope. In some regions though, November 13 is the day it is observed.

Anyone who would like more information can go to www.twloha.com.

Get up & Go

May 6

"Health and Wellness Fair" @ 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Located at the quad area between library and student services.

"World's Got Talent Audition Finals" @ 6-7 p.m. Located at the Performing Arts center. Tickets are \$2 at the door.

May 7-10

Rabobank Arena presents "Marvel Universe Live" hours vary upon the date. "Battle Over the Cosmic Cube", Thor's little brother Lokie is planning to destroy the universe by replicating the power of the Cosmic Cube. Tickets- \$25, \$30, \$45, and \$70.

May 10

"Applied Music Spring Recital" @ 4-7:30 p.m. Located at the Indoor Theater at the SPARC building. Two recitals will be performed by music majors, once at 4 p.m. and a select few will perform at 6:30 p.m.

May 11

Week of May 11 through the 14 will be FINALS!!

"Stress relief with Marleys Mutt's" @ 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Located at the Renegade Crossing.

May 23

"The End of Summer Dance Party" @ 6-10 p.m. Located at the Rabobank Arena. 94.1 and 93.1 present the end of summer party that is welcoming all students including high school students with a valid ID. Live performances from artist Kalin & Myles.

"Energy Academy" All day Saturday. May 23, June 20, July 18, and July 20. Chevron and KCHCC are inviting students of the ages from 17-20 to enroll in their energy program. To apply go online to the BC calendar and look up the event for the hyperlink to the application.

May 26

"History of the Eagle's" Live in concert @ 8 p.m. Located at the Rabobank Arena. Three hours of classic Eagle's greatest hits. Tickets range from \$47.50 -\$177.50.

June 4

"YG and DJ Mustard" @ 8 p.m. Located at the Rabobank Arena. Famed rapper YG (Young Gangtsa) and renowned South Central Los Angeles R&B DJ of Ratchet music DJ Mustard will be performing. Tickets - \$65, \$85, \$120, and \$200.

June 5

"Super Freestyle Explosion" @ 7:30 p.m. Located at the Rabobank Arena. Over nine performances will be live. Tickets - \$30.50, \$35.50, and \$40.50.

June 11

"Rome Sending off Concert" @ 7:30-9 p.m. Located at the Indoor Theater in the SPARC building. The chamber choir that will be touring in Rome, Florence, and Venice will be performing the songs they will be singing while on their tour in Europe.

June 24

Guitarist "Albert Lee" @ 7:30-9:30 p.m. Located at the SPARC building. Rock country six string twang legend who has been called "The greatest guitarist in the world" by famed Musician Eric Clapton will be performing at BC. Tickets- \$32/ \$17 students with ID.

July 14

"Dancing with the Stars Live" @ 8 p.m. Located at the Rabobank Arena. The top ten dancing with the stars contestants will be performing in 40 states while on the road touring.

July 15

"Anjelah Johnson presents Bon Qui-Qui" @ 8 p.m. Located at the Fox Theater. MADtv comedian Anjelah Johnson will be performing her famous character live and on stage.

August 12

"Fifth Harmony" @ 7 p.m. Located at the Rabobank Arena. Female group Fifth Harmony will be headlining with opening acts from Debby Ryant: The Never Ending, Natalie La Rose, and Bea Miller.

August 27

"Florida Georgia Line: Anything Goes Tour" @ 7:30 p.m. Located at the Rabobank Arena. Country music duo Florida Georgia Line will be performing with opening performances from Thomas Rhett and Frankie Ballard. Tickets - \$34.75 and \$54.75.



PHOTOS BY VANESSA A. MUNOZ / THE RIP

Above: Children dance to Mexican music while the boys show off their weapons dance skills. Below right: Captain of Aztec danza introduces his drum prayer. Bottom left: Monica Orozco and Xochitl E. Rivera both blow on a conch shell during the opening of their dance ceremony. Bottom right: "Folklorico Escuelas Unidas" dances first for the night.

Noche de Cultura held at BC

By Vanessa A. Munoz
Opinions Editor

M.E.Ch.A held its second annual Noche de Cultura (Night of Culture) on April 30 at Bakersfield College with five expected performances from Hawaiian dancers to Aztec tribal dancers. This night was to shed light on the different styles and traditions of costumes, dance, and music in the Mexican culture as well as some other cultures.

The celebration began with a few jokes and singing from members of M.E.Ch.A as they entertained the audience that waited for the performances to start. The members played some selective Mexican music as well, in order to divert from the hour that had gone by with none of the night's performers showing up.

As members rushed to entertain, Enrique Martinez, M.E.Ch.A member and event coordinator, tried to line up what performers were still available.

The first group of performers was the Grupo Folklorico Escuelas Unidas (Mexican Folk dancing), directed by Sylvia Guzman.

The dancers were older women who were dressed in very colorful and ruffled dresses. They danced to a variety of traditional Mexican music. Each woman had a specific color and style on their dress that displayed a unique design in the dance coordination as they twirled around and swung their dresses.

The second group, from the Folklorico Escuela Unidas, were children who showed off their dance and style skills. The group of kids did couples dancing, group dancing, and weapons dancing, all of which are common in traditional folk dancing.

For the last act of the night, it was the Aztec dancers of Calpulli Tedpan Tecuantitlan Danza Azteca, who showed up in full Aztec clothing and face paint. The captain, Ocelotl, had his face painted and a headdress that was full of different feathers. The other members were four women who dressed in full Aztec clothing and headdresses as well. Each woman wore a different design and color of dress.

As Ocelotl beat on a huehuetl drum, the women danced and did a ceremonial opening that is custom when starting a spiritual dance. The technique the women used to dance was intense.

Overall, the event lasted three hours.

The audience, which was supposed to pay, was allowed to watch for free because it took nearly an hour and a half for entertainers to show up. On the other hand, the audience got a dosage of two cultures that put on an entertaining show.

The M.E.Ch.A club will be doing a weeklong celebration for Cinco de Mayo at BC and would love for the school to participate in the festivities they have planned for each day of the week.



Child Development thankful at BC

By Darla Mangrum
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Child Development Center Program Manager, Danell Ward, has expressed her gratitude for all of the support that BC students, staff and the public have given the center.

"It is not easy keeping the center stocked with supplies such as, paints, paper, crayons, art supplies, etc.," said Ward. "These supplies are so important because children learn hands on. For them, doing is learning, and the center needs to keep the children supplied with plenty of learning materials."

Because of everyone's support, the center has raised some much-needed funds for the center. They raised \$4,600 at Gar-

den Fest raffling off gift baskets, \$304 through discount coupons from Cruz Thru car washes, and \$121 with the S.H.A.R.E. cards that are used at specific grocery store chains.

They also sold over \$1400 worth of books at their last scholastic book fair.

Ward is also grateful to professor Gayla Anderson and her students for planting gardens, covering the fences in bamboo, and supplying and putting up shade covers over the playgrounds for the children at the center.

These gardens have helped the teachers to find a way to teach the children about the drought. The children love to take their mist bottles and water the new plants without wasting water by turning on the hoses.

Ward would like to see more departments get involved in the child development center.

"Other departments at the college could really offer these young children some great hands-on learning experiences," she said. "The Agriculture and Horticulture departments could plant a garden for the children to take care of, or the Technology Department could help the children and teachers start an online picture blog to show to their parents."

The month of April has been a special month for the children at the center.

First, Capt. Luis Carlos Montalvan and his service dog, Tuesday, visited the children, and then the center celebrated NAEYC's Week of the Young Child April 13-17. On that week, Monday

was Music Monday with Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band, they made tacos with their families on Taco Tuesday, children built things together on Work Together Wednesday, they created art all day on Artsy Thursday and on Family Friday, families came together to share their family stories.

The Child Development Center has openings for the summer program for 2-5-year-olds.

They have openings in the state-need program and in the sliding scale for BC students program.

People interested in putting a child in the summer program need to get a hold of the center before May 15. The summer program starts on June 1, and the hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:15 pm.

BC's World's Got Talent

By Tyler Goucher
Reporter

Bakersfield College hosted its first World's Got Talent auditions on April 15 in the Performing Arts Center with a great turnout. With a wide variety of contestants that tried out, only 10 were selected to move on to the semifinals that were held on April 22.

The top six who were selected will move on to the finals, which will be held at the Performing Arts Center indoor theater on May 6. Paula Reynal, president of International Students Organizations and one of the lead organizers of the event, is hopeful that this will not be the last World's Got Talent event at BC.

"We are hoping to make this an annual event," Reynal said. "This is just a test to see how it goes and so far, it has gone very well."

Unlike some competitions that are only open to singers or dancers, World's Got Talent has been open to anyone who feels that they have talent, regardless of the type of talent they have.

"There has been a vast array of contestants," Reynal said. "We have had poets, dancers, singers, bands, rappers, and even glow-stringers."

Thus far, the event has been open to anyone who might want to watch. In fact, the finals will require audience participation to help decide who actually wins the competition.

"The finals will roughly take about two hours and will incorporate audience voting along with the judges votes," Reynal said.

The judges have been comprised of various faculty members, all of which come from a diverse background. "This will make for an interesting evaluation of the contestants," said Reynal.

Sponsored and funded primarily by SGA, the organizers of World's Got Talent were also able to get quite a few local businesses to sponsor the event.

"We got some local businesses to sponsor us such as Rosa's Italian Restaurant, Coconut Joe's, College Coffee & Donuts, City Sandwich, and McDonalds," Reynal said.

This was a major help as it contributed to the prizes that the top three contestants receive.

"The winners will win \$300 for first place, \$200 for second, and \$100 for third."

So far the semifinalists include the following: Quinn & Elizabeth (he plays guitar and she sings), Tucker (singer and guitar player), Tristen (singer), Cody (rapper), Cornell (singer and guitar player), and Rayven (singer).

"On the night of the finals, we will also be having guest performers, surprise faculty member performances, and performances from ISO executive members," she said.

Being that this is the first event of its kind for BC, Reynal and her team of organizers are hard at work to make sure this won't be the last year it happens.

"These types of events will hopefully not only inspire but provide a means for students to be more active on campus and also to become interested about events held on campus," Reynal said. "Moreover, it is a good way to promote diversity here on campus and foster new friendships."

Students preparing for finals week

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Reporter

As the spring semester comes to an end at Bakersfield College, some students dread finals week, some don't seem to mind it, some think it is a necessity to make sure that you have learned and retained the information, and some students shared other thoughts on the matter.

Kimberly Hulloo, 19, film studies major, said that finals don't really stress or have an effect on her.

"I think they should be worth 30 percent of your grade," said Hulloo, when asked what grade percentage a final should be worth. To help prepare for finals, Hulloo likes to drink some coffee and then she gets to studying.

Child development major Melissa Warick, 22, said that finals do stress her out. Warick does a few different things to help deal with the stress that is brought on by finals. Warick will go walking, read books, and paint to help with the stress.

As far as finals go, Warick doesn't even think there should be finals.

"No finals, just the regular work," said Warick.

Bradley Knabe, 22, chemistry major, said that finals are a very stressful time of the semester, but he also makes time for himself so that he doesn't just stress out the whole time.

"Yes, a million assignments, essays, and everything is due at the last minute, it's very stressful," said Knabe. "I make time to relax, watch TV, hang out with friends...try

and take time to not worry about what is stressing me."

Knabe said sometimes depending on the class the final is worth too much of the grade.

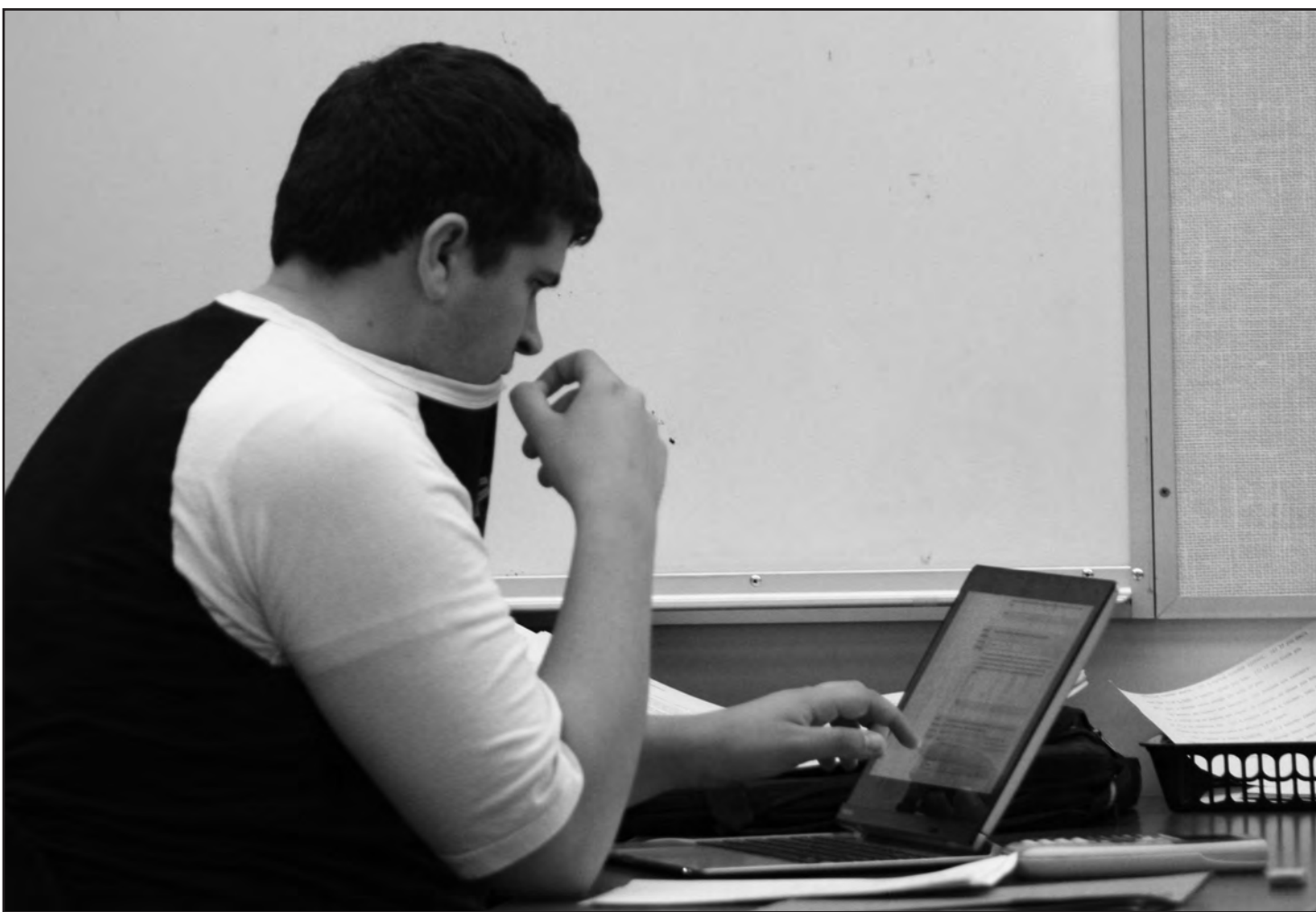
"I think 10 percent is fair, but when it gets to be 20 to 30 percent, I think it's a little ridiculous," he said.

Marco Macias, 19, biology major, said finals usually does bother him, but he's not feeling stressed this semester. Macias said he likes to work out and use cannabis to deal with the stress that is triggered by finals. Macias also said that he thinks that finals should be worth 60 percent of your grade, due to the fact that by the end of the semester you should know the material and if you don't then you haven't retained the information.

"I kind of like the difficulty," said Macias.

One student who isn't dreading finals week is Daniel Barajas, 20, psychology major.

"Not at all, I'm looking forward to it," said Barajas.



PHOTOS BY MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP

Above: Bakersfield College student and tutor Bradley Knabe studies in the BC Tutoring Center on his computer. Below: Melissa Warick reads a book in front of Bakersfield College's new Performing Arts Center outdoor theater.

**"A million assignments, essays and everything is due at the last minute, it's very stressful. [I try] and take time to not worry about what is stressing me."
—Bradley Knabe, BC student**

He also believes that finals are a test of the material you have been learning all semester long.

"Do you know your stuff or not?" Barajas said.

"I think they should be scaled higher...a good 40 percent...stuff like participation

doesn't matter as much," said Barajas, when asked if finals are fair and what percentage a final should be worth.

To help him study, Barajas reads his notes and material out loud to himself.

"I usually won't plan anything or go anywhere so I can focus on finals," said Karisma Normandin, 19, theater arts major.

When asked if finals are worth a fair percentage, Normandin said, "I think teachers are pretty lenient, at least the teachers I've had so far."

Normandin likes to study in the order of which final comes first so that she can take each one as it comes.

"I'll take it class by class," said Normandin.

Beck Elliot, 19, theater arts major, thinks that it's fair for a final to take a good chunk, but if it gets over 50 percent it's not fair anymore.

"I think it's fair and reasonable to take up 20 to 30 percent," said Elliot.



BC's best in state and sixth in the nation

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

Bakersfield College has been ranked number six in the nation and number one in California for graduates earning more than the expected pay scale for their metropolitan area.

In a study performed by the

Brookings Institute, a non-profit research institution, it was found that BC was ranked sixth in post-grad earnings evaluations, just behind other two-year institutions mostly based in the east coast. These findings were taken from government and private data sources.

"It means validation of hard

work of every student and employee at BC," said Amber Chiang, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at BC, when asked what this means for BC.

"The reality is this would not be possible without businesses in the community seeking to hire BC grads," added Chiang.

The set of data predicted that BC grads mid-career earnings were an average of \$56,957 when in actuality they averaged at \$67,200, which is 16.5 percent value added, giving BC a score of 98 out of a 100.

Chiang said that most of this is attributed to industry in the area such as agriculture and oil.

Several variables factor into these results such as curriculum value, alumni skills, STEM orientation, completion rates and the amount of student aid offered by the institution, as well as the metropolitan area.

"It really does show there is opportunity in Bakersfield and certainly at BC," said Chiang.

WESTEC: the new fast track to a career in law enforcement

By Victoria Miller
Reporter

Bakersfield College students can now obtain a career in law enforcement in less than five months through WESTEC.

WESTEC is an administration of justice training program that's collaborating with BC.

Chris Resendes, who has 30 years of law enforcement experience and works with WESTEC, explained what makes this program so important.

"It's perfect for someone just laid off or anyone in need of a career fast. I'm not

saying it's an easy fix, but our program provides certificates to students and gives them a successful career in law enforcement with benefits and a good pay scale."

Resendes states that Kern County is building a new jail between 2017 and 2018, which means there's going to be a high demand for people trained in law enforcement.

WESTEC, located on Lerdo Highway in Shafter, offers training in corrections and detentions, baton and firearms, weaponless defense, chemical agents, and security guard training.

There are also a variety of night and day

classes for student's convenience.

Resendes spoke about how the community is generally unaware of the academy.

"It seems like it's almost a secret that there's a legitimate academy with top notch trainers that's able to put people back out in the workforce in a few months."

Although not everyone is going to make it, training through the academy provides students with college credit, says Resendes.

"Students earn units for training at the academy, so their training is never useless," he said. "No one can take that away from you."

If students are worried about the costs of the classes, American Job Center has teamed up with the program and qualified applicants can have the majority of the training paid for.

Resendes says students should definitely consider the academy if they're in need of a career.

"If you want it, it's here for the taking. It can benefit your education," he said.

"If you're looking for a career, this is the place to come."

Students can go to westec.org to see the academy's training schedule and other program information.

BC community earns achievement awards

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Reporter

Twelve awards went to students and faculty members of Bakersfield College at the 2015 Student Leadership and Recognition Awards Ceremony.

The award ceremony was held on April 24 in the Campus Center’s Fireside Room in recognition of the nominees and winners’ merit this academic school year.

Master of Ceremonies Francis Meyer led the ceremony and first welcomed Zav Dadabhoy, vice president of Student Affairs. Next to address the room was Academic Senate president and social science professor Steven Holmes.

Holmes started off his speech with a joke and ended with some advice to potential and future leaders in the room.

“You guys are the future, you have the skills, and now you need to take those skills out into the world and continue to motivate and challenge others to follow you, so we can be a successful community. Congratulations again, to all of you,” said Holmes. Associate Dean Paul Beckworth also started out with a joke, then congratulated the nominees on being hard workers, leaders, and keeping their eyes on the road ahead of them and striving to move forward.

“You guys have accomplished something because of your own work ethic,” said Beckworth. The last speaker before the award presentations was BCSGA President Alex Dominguez. He told of his appreciation of all his colleagues, the people he had a chance to work with and how he has appreciated their dedication

to BC. Dominguez also gave a challenge out to all the leaders in the room and told them to spread their knowledge and their skills to better the community.

The first five awards that were given out were the Student Leadership Individual Awards followed by the Student Organization Awards, The Samuel W. McCall Outstanding Professor of the Year Award, the Grace Van Dyke Bird Leadership Scholarship Award and the Alumni Association Honor Scholarship Award.

The Student Employee of the Year Award went to Robert Ruiz from the Counseling Center.

The next award was an award that has never been given out at BC and that is the MVR (Most Valuable Renegade), which is given to an intercollegiate student athlete who showed great contribution to the quality of life for their teammates, and the MVR Award went to Renegade wrestler Jack Murphy, who had a perfect wrestling season.

The Event of the Year of the Award went to the Faith and Culture, event put on by the Muslim Student Association and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

The Muslim Student Association took home the Student Organization of the Year award.

Susan Pinza, adviser of the BC Tutoring Club, won the Outstanding Student Organization Advisor award.

The Samuel W. McCall Outstanding Professor of the Year Award went to Steven Holmes.

BC director of student life Nicky Damania had the honor of closing the award ceremony. He said he is looking forward to working with the new SGA student officers.

CAREERS: Students seek jobs

Continued from Page 1

Bolthouse Farms, and Jack in the Box accepted applications from prospective employees.

Matthew Carbajal and Gloria Esparza of GEO Group, a private organization that hires for correctional and detention centers were on hand to assist those who were interested in that field.

Camila Padron of the California Department of Public Health are looking to hire a Health Facilities Evaluator Nurse.

“We wanted to come out and tickle the ears of the nursing students. Many of them think they have to go to work in the hospitals right out of school,” said Padron.

Samantha Brown, District Manager of Social Services of LifeSteps said that her organization provides social services for people that live in affordable housing.

Cindy Phillips and Susan Bowman from Brighthouse Networks said that they were hiring Sales Reps and Installation Technicians in Bakersfield.

Stephanie, who is the hiring manager for Michael Kors in the Outlets at Tejon Ranch said that they were hiring part-time salespersons, part-time sales associates and part-time cashiers.

Susan Hoffmann, an Executive Unit Leader with Avon recruited several sales representatives.

Denise Crawford of BC Workability said that Career Day was a success. She counted 106 employers who had tables set up in various places in Campus Center, including the Fireside Room and the cafeteria.

“Everybody seems to be positive and the employers seem to be happy with the turnout,” said Crawford.

Virginia Martinez from Bolt-house Farms said that she thinks Career Day was successful and about 100 people had left their resumes with them.

The State of California Department of Water Resources got a lot of interest from individuals who wanted to leave their resume, but they only take applications and resumes online. Mike Sierra, one of their employees, said that they handed out about 200 fliers.

Albert Garza from Golden Empire Transit said that they did not take any applications but they let people know that they were hiring for Coach Operators, a Utility Worker and a Mechanic Trainee. They also handed out free bus passes and route information.

Many people who came to the event were dressed for interviews and had their resumes ready to hand to prospective employers.

MUSIC: Students perform at BC

Continued from Page 1

played the piano for the song, “She Tells Her Love.”

There were two songs performed that had soloists. The piece “Still I Rise,” had soloists Abby Baker-Lizaola, Julie Foth, and Caley Mayhall and “Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit,” had solos by Brady Allred and Caley Mayhall. Garrett dedicated the piece, “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” to her best friend and younger sister, who recently was diagnosed with leukemia.

“I just want her to know that she’s always been there for me, she’s always been one of my, what I like to think as my bridge over troubled water, and I want to be that for her also, so this is dedicated to my little sister.”

The last performance of the night was the BC jazz ensemble led by Kris Tiner.

The group performed a set of five compositions by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, and even played an extra Ellington piece, “Feet Bone.”

Tiner was explaining to the crowd how Ellington pieces are hard to play and that he has waited for the talent to come through the BC jazz ensemble to have a complete set, and knew that the talent was there but many of them would be moving on and transferring after this semester, so now was the time to do it.

“I have been waiting on the perfect ensemble with which to do that and we have a fantastic group this year. I knew this was the moment, we had to get it done,” said Tiner.

Student Leadership and Recognition Awards

The Student Employee of the Year Award
This award is given to a student employee that has shown exceptional contributions to their office or department.
Winner: Robert Ruiz

Most Valuable Renegade Award
This award went to a student athlete who has shown a significant contribution to the quality of life for their fellow athletes.
Winner: Jack Murphy, BC Wrestler

The Renegade Spirit Award (Individual)
This is given to a student leader who shows initiative in school spirit and helps bring BC to life through their involvement on campus.
Winner: Devany Hunt from the BC Student Nursing Association.

The Service Award
This is given to a student who embraced civic duty to their community and beyond
Winner: Gabby Caraballo from the Renegade Pantry

The President Leader of the Year Award
This award is given to a president leader. The individual has a history of positive and significant accomplishments resulting in major contributions that enhance the quality of life at BC.
Winner: BCSGA President Alex Dominguez.

The Event of the Year Award
This award is given to a student organization that sponsored an event that promoted social interaction among students, along with the effectiveness of planning, publicity, and execution of the event.
Winner: Faith and Culture.
The event was put on by the Muslim Student Association and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

The Renegade Spirit Award (Organization)
This award is given to a student organization that brings school spirit and enthusiasm to the BC campus through their programs and activities.
Winner: The BC Nursing Association.

The Student Organization of the Year Award
This award goes to a student organization that is organized, active, and continually strives to make an impact and influence on campus.
Winner: The Muslim Student Association.

The Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award
This award is given to a student organization advisor who is a vital part of the organization and shows dedication to the mission of the organization.
Winner: Susan Pinza of the BC tutoring club.

The Samuel W. McCall Outstanding Professor of the Year Award
This award is given to a BC professor who was chosen by the students.
Winner: Social science professor Steven Holmes

The Grace Van Dyke Bird Leadership Scholarship Award
This award is given to a freshman who show the highest standards of overall accomplishments, in leadership, citizenship, service, etc.
Winner: Miranda Cramer

The Alumni Association Honor Scholarship Award
This award is given to a sophomore who shows the highest standards of overall accomplishments in leadership, citizenship, service, etc.
Winner: Michael Esqueda



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Hall of famer talks and rocks the theater

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

Chris Hillman, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, gave a lecture and performed with The Desert Rose Band on April 23 at Bakersfield College.

Hillman, 70, gave a lecture on his musical background and his experiences as a musician in the '60s and beyond.

Hillman was an original band member of The Byrds, whose chart-topping singles include "Mr. Tambourine Man" and "Turn! Turn! Turn!". Hillman discussed working with the writer of "Mr. Tambourine Man," Bob Dylan.

"We got a demo of Dylan's," he said. "We recorded the song with Dylan's blessing."

Hillman discussed the rapid change of barely being able to support himself financially to becoming a member of an influential band. He also discussed how his life could have gone in a completely different direction. He played out of passion and didn't worry about the money. He said that as a teenager, he contemplated attending UCLA.

"I could've gotten into UCLA with a 2.8 GPA," he said. "Now, I couldn't park my car there with that GPA."

Hillman also discussed his aversion to the phrase, "Sex, Drugs and Rock 'N' Roll."

He believed that the phrase trivialized the music and the artistry behind the music of that period.

"Yes, it was true," he said. "[The phrase] is a convenient way to describe that era,"

He said that musicians during that time who used drugs often destroyed their career.

Hillman discussed how horrible he felt drugs to be, then and now. He believed that it did not make the music of that period any better, and he viewed heavy drug use as hedonistic pleasures.

"I'm not preaching to you about drugs," he said. "When drugs came along, it got ugly, real ugly. Look what it's doing in Mexico."

Hillman discussed his departure from The Byrds in 1968 and how he became a member of the Desert Rose Band.

He said when the group formed he was leaning away from electric instrumentation. He said that the group earned a record deal without looking for one and that they enjoyed their career together as a band. A highlight as a member of the Desert Rose Band was working with Reba McEntire.

While Hillman discussed his different successes as a musician, he addressed the importance of an education as well. He said that when young musicians come to him for advice, he tells them to follow their passion but to have a backup plan as well. Hillman never intended to achieve as much musical success as he did. He said the odds of finding success in the music industry are very slim and earning a four-year college degree is important.

After his lecture, Hillman



PHOTOS BY MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP

Chris Hillman, former member of the 1960s band The Byrds, and current member of the Desert Rose Band, speaks to Robert Martinez's History of Rock 'n' Roll students in the Bakersfield College indoor theater on April 23. Hillman performed later in the evening with the rest of the members of the Desert Rose Band.

led a question-and-answer session with students. One student asked about his favorite music by newer musicians. He said that he still prefers to listen to older music, including Frank Sinatra and Duke Ellington, although Hillman did mention one band from the '90s that he does enjoy.

"Blink-182! I love that band,"

song."

The band played many different songs, and they joked that it was difficult to pick out songs to play because they had 97 different tracks to choose from.

When they finished performing, the audience gave the Desert Rose Band a standing ovation.

The concert and the lecture

were presented by Guitar Masters, a local organization dedicated to bringing talented guitarists to venues in Bakersfield. The founder of Guitar Masters, Rick Kreiser, said that he personally knows John Jorgenson, a

band member of the Desert Rose Band and a multi-Grammy winning musician. Jorgenson was vital to bringing the group to Bakersfield.

"The Desert Rose Band plays very few dates each year, and I consider it an honor for them to include Guitar Masters and Bakersfield College on their concert schedule," Kreiser said.

The Desert Rose Band's performance at BC's indoor theater was the first time Guitar Masters came to Bakersfield College. Kreiser said that he hopes BC takes full advantage of the indoor theater and utilizes it to attract new artists of every genre to Bakersfield.

"I'm not preaching to you about drugs. When drugs came along, it got ugly, real ugly. Look what it's doing in Mexico."

**—Chris Hillman,
Desert Rose Band**

he said. "I love their take on lyrics."

When the Desert Rose Band performed in the indoor theater of BC's Performing Arts Center, the audience was a blend of older fans and students. The band played an acoustic set and performed with several different guitars and mandolins.

The Desert Rose Band played songs from their discography and several songs from The Byrds. When the group performed "Turn! Turn! Turn!" Hillman gave the song a special introduction.

"This song is dear to my heart," he said. "It's life, it's black and white. It's very much a beautiful



"Students, faculty, and the entire city of Bakersfield should be extremely proud of the new Performing Arts Center at BC," he said.

Guitar Masters, which started as a hobby for Kreiser, focuses on providing gifted musicians of all genres a chance to perform in Bakersfield. Kreiser said that the venue is key to the performance as well to ensure an optimal lis-

tening experience for the audience.

"The music is never secondary in our shows," he said. "Rather, it's the reason we do them at all."

Guitar Masters will host Albert Lee, a guitarist specializing in country rock, at the indoor theater at BC as well. Lee has performed with The Everly Brothers and The Crickets, and has recorded

for Bo Diddley, Brad Paisley and Emmylou Harris.

Lee will have a full band performing with him. The concert will be held on June 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the performance are \$17 for students with a student ID and \$32 for general admission. For more information on Guitar Masters and upcoming performances in Bakersfield, visit guitarmasters.org.



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

John Jorgenson (left), Chris Hillman and Herb Pedersen (right) members of the Desert Rose Band play a set at the indoor theater at Bakersfield College on April 23.



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Chris Hillman, lead vocalist of the Desert Rose Band, talks to the crowd between songs at BC's indoor theater.

Marriage equality rally held in Bakersfield

By Amber Hayden
Online Editor

With the Supreme Court moving forward to a decision on marriage equality, members of the community rallied in front of the Stockdale Fashion Plaza Center in support of equality.

Jamie Weddell is hoping that with the ruling, there will be normalcy between one class versus another. "It would mean everything, to know it's normal and we don't have to classify ourselves as a different class," she said.

Weddell has a 7-year old daughter, Jessica, who she says is very proud when someone asks about her parents and she is able to tell them she has two moms and not just one.

"It shouldn't be a gay mar-

riage, it should just be I'm married," Weddell said.

Dustin Marquez, who was holding a sign of two hands making a heart with the words "Hearts not Parts" written on it, is hoping for a time when he and his partner will no longer feel like second-class citizens and won't have to explain their marriage to anyone as well.

"My kids shouldn't have to suffer my heartache," Marquez commented.

The ruling as far as marriage equality is concerned, though, looks like it won't come until sometime in June.

Which leaves many wondering what will happen now that it's left in the hands of the Justices of the Supreme Court.

According to Kaylin Schull,

she sees it like there is still one person always trying to bring in some form of religion when that isn't the case.

"They want to bring in Christianity when it shouldn't even be involved," she said.

Even despite the off comments coming from across the street from members of the Bakersfield High School Drillers baseball team, it wasn't stopping any of the members of the rally.

Horns of cars that passed by honking in support of marriage equality would generate screams from each member letting them know that there was one more person supporting their rights as members of the community.

"Two dads or two moms are better than none," said Marquez.



PHOTOS BY AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Left: Jamie and Jessica Weddell rally with Dustin Marquez. Right: Kaylin Schull, Ady Rodriguez and Ginger Booker hold signs up during the marriage equality rally on April 28.

Drug prevents HIV infection

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

Although a drug that prevents HIV was approved in 2012, several organizations in Bakersfield that serve high-risk communities believe that Bakersfield is too uninformed of Truvada, the brand-name pill.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Truvada for preexposure prophylaxis. PrEP means that the pill can be taken as a preventative measure against HIV, but must be taken daily. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in the United States, men who have sex with other men are the population most highly affected by HIV. In Bakersfield, community experts believe that these populations are still highly unaware of Truvada as a preventative measure.

"Its release befuddles me," said Whitney Weddell, the chairman of the board for Bakersfield LGBTQ. "There have been no giant PR campaigns, not even in the LGBTQ community. Gilead, the company that produces it, should have made this drug much more public right away." Another major subpopulation highly affected by HIV is young people. Individuals under 30 are

especially susceptible to HIV and represent the highest infection rates in the U.S., according to the CDC. Robert Petersen, a PrEP advocate, came to Bakersfield College in March to give a presentation on Truvada and preventive measures against HIV. Petersen hopes more sexually active individuals could be made aware of Truvada.

"If more people knew about Truvada and knew it was available and effective, we could see a significant decrease in HIV infections," he said.

According to an article in the Bakersfield Californian, Kern County ranked the 12th highest number of HIV cases out of 58 counties, in 2013. Although Weddell is an advocate for the LGBTQ community, she believes all sexually active individuals should take preventative measures against HIV.

"This drug prevents infection from HIV," Weddell said. "Why is this not being shouted from rooftops and featured on TV and having doctors prescribe it for every sexually active patient? I don't understand it."

One problem with the drug is that some doctors in the medical field aren't aware of the drug and may not prescribe it to patients.

Petersen believes that some general practice doctors don't know about Truvada. Although doctors specializing in infectious diseases are aware of the medication, doctors who have more access to the general public may not be as informed, according to Petersen.

Audrey Chavez, the founder and president of Bakersfield AIDS Project, is hopeful that her organization can better inform others on ways to prevent HIV infection. BAP will hold a community forum on Truvada and will produce articles on the medication in the future. The forum will include a presentation by Dr. Frank Lang, a local professional familiar with PrEP, representatives from the Kern County Health Department and patients who are using Truvada. Chavez said that she is aware of individuals in Kern County using Truvada regularly and they are healthy and HIV-free. "I believe every individual has the right to make informed decisions to protect their health and prevent the acquiring of HIV," she said. To attend the forum on HIV prevention, contact BAP at 661-872-9090 or text the name of the attendee and a contact phone number to 661-742-3611 with the word PrEP to receive details.



PHOTOS BY MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Left: Dan Arvizu, Director and Chief Executive of U.S. Dept. of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, discusses topics involving STEM. Right: J. Goosby Smith talks about inclusion at the Equity event at Bakersfield College on April 23.

BC holds an equity conference to educate both students and faculty

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

Bakersfield College held a conference on equity so that educators could better serve students in Kern County. The conference was held in the Levan Center and topics discussed included equity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics knowledge, the classroom and the equity gap experienced by students at BC.

Dan Arvizu, who works for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado, was a keynote speaker at the conference and discussed certain populations that are typically underrepresented in the STEM workforce.

He briefly discussed his own experiences as a minority working in the STEM field. A concern Arvizu discussed was the growing gap in STEM-related knowledge in the United States. "We've got a large fraction of our population that is getting left behind," he said.

Arvizu addressed the importance of STEM knowledge even in fields not typically associated with STEM.

He discussed the importance of community colleges leading students toward STEM, especially students that are underrepresented in those majors.

After his speech, Arvizu led a question-and-answer session and some educators questioned how to entice students into

STEM majors when there are a large number of general education courses that must be completed.

Janet Fulks, a professor at BC, discussed how many levels of math she had to complete as a microbiology major and wondered if students may be disheartened to major in the sciences when there are so many general-education classes that must be taken first.

Although Arvizu didn't have solutions, he felt that it was important to discuss these issues to solve them.

There were several different speakers and breakout sessions at the conference, and it ended with a discussion led by several BC students on how to make the BC campus more equitable to all students.

Wesley Lyons, an army veteran, presented his experiences serving the U.S. and how BC should provide more services to veterans and others who may suffer from panic attacks and other mental health issues that could affect a student's education.

"[I have] no mental health or physical ailments that plague my profession," he said. "But there should be a dedicated mental health professional for those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder."

The veteran's lounge does wonders for students who have it the worst."

Tania Bernal, another student

at BC, discussed her experiences as an undocumented student struggling to pay for school independently while trying to understand the benefits she has as an AB 540 student.

She said that enrolling at BC was difficult and there were several political obstacles prohibiting her education.

"I had to work three jobs just to pay for my books and tuition," she said. "I come from a low-income family and do not qualify for financial aid because of my immigration status."

Bernal said that she hopes BC will offer more cultural awareness programs in the future to promote diversity on campus. She also said that she wishes there were more resources to help AB 540 students understand the process of attending BC with their status and to help students that have a deferred action status.

Catrina Aguilar presented on her difficulties finding a scribe on campus and Sarah Alame discussed the acceptance she received from the BC community as a practicing Muslim.

"BC does provide a safe environment for those who practice their faith," she said.

A planning committee headed by Odella Johnson, the Interim Director of Equity and Inclusion at BC, organized the conference. She said that it's part of her mission to support student success at BC and to decrease equity barriers for students.

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J.P. Morgan Chase

Editor's Note:

It is the end of the spring semester of 2015 and to celebrate, The Renegade Rip has decided to let our staff express themselves by writing on subjects they feel passionate about or angered by, or any topic they feel like sharing their opinion on. We hope you enjoy the diverse opinions offered by our staff and appreciate the perspective of your fellow peers in The Renegade Rip's last edition of the semester. Thank you.

Baltimore: City of mayhem

By Kevin Phillips
Reporter

The city of Baltimore has faced rioting for several days now. The riots began because another young, black man was left dead by the hands of the police.

The man, Freddie Gray, was placed in custody for making eye contact with the police and then running. He did not break the law, so why did the police chase him? Some might say, "Why did he run?"

No one knows, but typically young men will run when they see the police because they are scared of what the police might do to them.

Gray somehow ended up with a broken spine, several broken ribs and then later died from his injuries. There was no explanation for his death from the police or city officials and today there is still no explanation for the death of this man.

That's what caused the community to start marching peacefully: to learn the reason for the young man's death. And when they received no answers, they

marched to city hall to speak with the mayor in hope of some answers, where they were met with people making racial remarks toward them.

These types of occurrences are not new to any large city in America. The city in the last four years has had over 100 people win judgments or settlements in court for police brutality. And those are just the cases that won. Imagine how many cases never even made it to court.

When you have this many cases of misconduct, you would think that someone in charge at the police force would say, "Hey what the hell is going on here? There are too many of these cases coming to my desk!"

With all of the misconduct, you would think someone would start looking into it. But no one has, so now we find the city of Baltimore in an uproar.

But the same police that are asking for the community to calm down are the ones that have caused the situation to begin with. As much money that has been spent on settlements, it could have been used to help

improve the community.

The community is asking the officials what they should do, and are getting no answers. Although violence is never the answer, it did get the attention of the country and force people to take a look at what is going on in Baltimore.

You hear people talking about the burning of a building in the media, but not about a man's life. The building can be rebuilt, but they can't bring back that young man.

So was the violence a bad thing? Yes. But did some good come out of it? Yes, after this incident, all of the gangs stopped fighting and had a truce. Now it's a matter of how the media will put the spin on this.

Most of the time when you bring up police brutality the police bring up black on black crime from thugs and stray from the topic. OK, we know that it happens, but we don't expect that from the ones who are supposed to protect and serve us.

A lot of this comes from unfair practices in the community. Yale University did a field experiment

showing just how much race plays in the job world and in just about everything.

Some students at Yale made resumes exactly the same, but the only difference was the name on the resumes. The one with the black sounding name, Dante, was overlooked at a rate of 50 percent over resumes with the name David on them.

Now, this went on with loan applications, as well as the black population serving more time for the same crimes than the white population.

So the people who don't want to see the truth won't see it no matter how you bring it to them.

This country spends millions of dollars on wars and sending robots to mars but can't invest in our public schools. That doesn't help things.

So if we want these types of problems to end, we have to pull them up by the root of the problem. The roots are jobs, education, housing, and making a more even playing field by investing in our communities across this country. The problem needs correcting from the core.

Women at fault for their inferiority

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

For many decades, men have been at fault for women's inferiority, but women are at fault as well.

When it comes to the feminism movement and women's advancement in society, people say that women have made it far. The reality is, women haven't made it nearly as far as they need to.

One of the reasons that men are at fault for women's subjugation is that men have controlled nearly all of history. Through this, men have preset women's societal roles as the lower sex of humanity.

This is a problem, but the problem is also at the fault of women because they accept the inferiority that has been set for them by men.

Women lack organization in society as they are spread around among men. There are areas in society that they are together, but when it comes to getting together for something that will effectively partake in trumping their inferiority, they are not together in an organized fashion.

The definition of femininity makes women be perceived as weak; it makes women believe they must put their beauty before their brains because that is the only way they can get a man and be taken care of.

Women have been trained through their childhood to believe this definition of femininity through the toys they are given and the roles they are taught by the roles they grow up seeing.

Most girls play with toys that involve them cooking, nurturing, cleaning, and applying make-up. This teaches them from an early age that these are their roles.

Women cover their identity with make-up because they believe that their natural self isn't good enough to expose. The fact that women are accepting of this by still using make-up shows that they constitute their inferiority.

Until women stop accepting and constituting their inferiority, they will continue to be inferior, and I one day hope to see women fighting against their subjugation as a whole.

The moral dilemma of having an abortion

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

I am opposed to abortion being used as a form of birth control. I am, however, not opposed to abortion for health reasons or products of incest or rape.

When there are so many other options for birth control, abortion should never be one of those options. It's all part of being responsible. If you can't have sex responsibly, you shouldn't be having sex.

I was 23 when I left my first husband who was abusive and addicted to meth. I had three small children and found out a fourth was on the way.

Someone suggested that I get an abortion. There was no way that was going to happen. To me, it was the equivalent of putting a gun up to one of my other kids' heads and pulling the trigger. It's murder.

My daughter was born, on my birthday, no less, reminding me what a gift a child is. Never once have I regretted my decision to keep her. Even though being a single mom was hard, having to live with a decision like that would have been much harder.

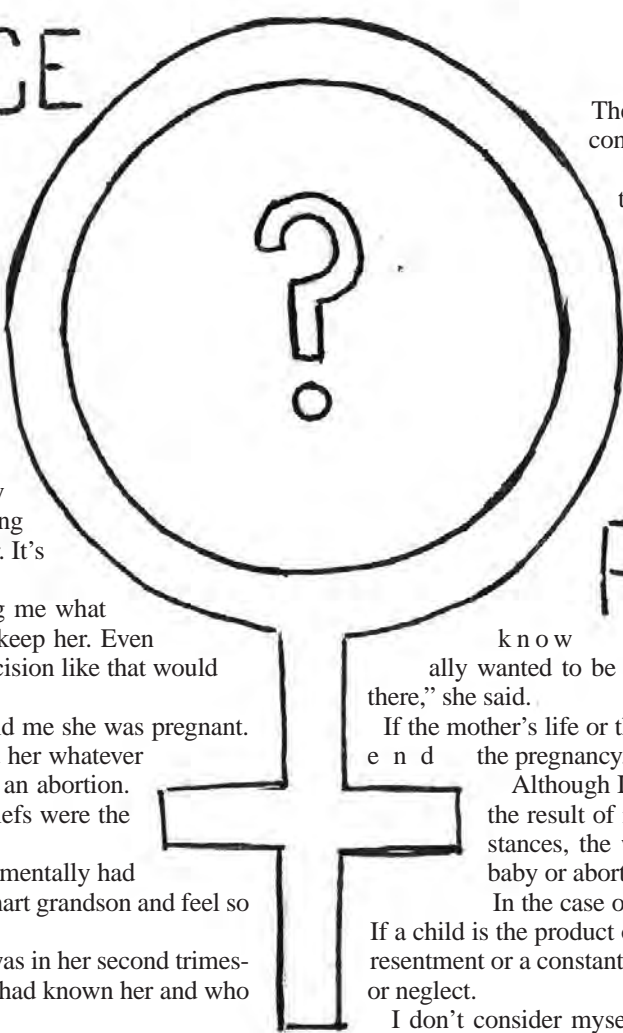
Fourteen years later, that same daughter came to me and told me she was pregnant. As hard as it was to go against what I firmly believe in, I told her whatever she decided to do I would stand by her -- even if she wanted an abortion. She decided to keep the baby, and I was thankful that her beliefs were the same as mine.

In all honesty, I am not sure how I would have dealt with it mentally had she chosen to abort the baby. I look at my sweet, handsome, smart grandson and feel so blessed to have him, though the situation was far from ideal.

One girl I knew asked me for a ride to get an abortion. She was in her second trimester and had already had two other abortions in the short time I had known her and who knows how many more before I met her.

I adamantly refused to take her. She would have to find someone else. Of course she was mad at me, but I didn't care.

PRO CHOICE



There are some circumstances that some women cannot control, and abortion is the only moral answer.

My cousin became pregnant and found out through tests that her baby had developed brain cancer and would not live but a few hours, if that, after birth. Faced with a moral dilemma such as that, she aborted the baby.

She desperately wanted a child but didn't want the baby to be born to know nothing but suffering only to die within a few hours.

The day she went for the abortion, as she was walking into the clinic, she was harassed by anti-abortionists. She said she couldn't remember a time when she felt so bad.

They didn't know my story. They didn't know that I really wanted to be a mother or end the pregnancy."

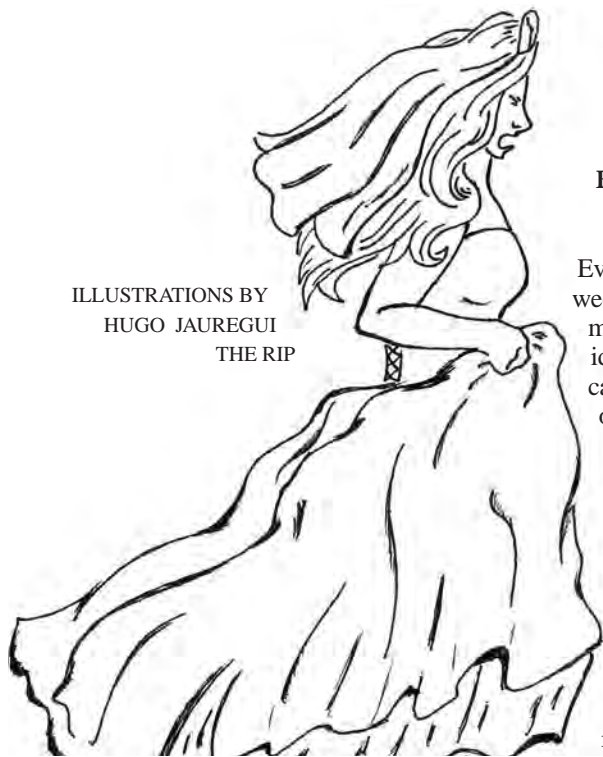
Although I have never known anyone who has been pregnant as the result of incest or rape, but I believe that in either of those instances, the woman should have the right to choose to keep the baby or abort it.

In the case of incest, the baby could be born with many problems. If a child is the product of a rape, the woman may see the child as a source of resentment or a constant reminder of the rape, which could lead to child abuse or neglect.

I don't consider myself pro-life or pro-choice. I am not quite sure what I would call my stance on abortion.

Thankfully we live in a country where we can voice our opinions.

PRO LIFE



ILLUSTRATIONS BY
HUGO JAUREGUI
THE RIP

The mentally draining idea of marriage

By Rhiannon Stroberg
Reporter

Every girl dreams of her perfect wedding. Well, every girl except me. I've never really liked the idea of marriage simply because I have witnessed plenty of failed marriages, and I am not necessarily sure that I want to be bound to one person for the rest of my life.

Isn't love enough? Why is it necessary in society's standards to marry the person you love or the person you have a child with? There are so many questions that plague my puzzled mind in regards to this specific topic.

A headache usually follows after my thought process runs through the advantages and disadvantages of marriage.

The main issue about marriage that I absolutely hate is the process of ending one. Divorce -- as I understand -- is a difficult situation for both spouses, especially if there is no prenuptial agreement involved.

Also, when you marry someone, your credit is shared with theirs and once you file for divorce, it can put a slight damper on your credit which is incredibly devastating if you are looking to rent or buy another house after the divorce is complete.

When I was younger and naive, marriage seemed very idealistic for me. At the time, I was beyond head over heels

for my boyfriend, Daniel Flores, and I wanted so desperately to be his bride.

When I was reflecting on my old posts on Facebook, I stumbled across a post in which I expressed my wants to be married to Daniel by saying, "I can't wait to be his blushing bride."

After reading that, I became extremely embarrassed about my past self's desperation to be married, especially since I am completely against it now.

It's bothersome that I was so ignorant about the now taboo topic. I am most certainly too young to make such a hasty decision that I believe to be life changing and life consuming.

There's a reason why most marriages end in divorce. It is physically and mentally draining to even think

about wanting to live a never-ending repetitive life with one person. I am all about excitement and adventure and there seems to be nothing exciting and adventurous about being bound to one person for life.

I am not saying that marriage is bad for everyone; I am basically saying that marriage to me seems very depressing and unrealistic.

It seems to be such a cliché to marry someone just because you have a child with him or her.

Isn't having a child with someone binding enough? I'm sure with time, I might change my mind, but for now.

I strongly believe that marriage is a death sentence I am perfectly fine with by not having my life being categorized and defined by a piece of paper.

The Renegade Rip

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The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes, printed by Reed Print in Bakersfield, and circulated on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper is published under the auspices of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, but sole responsibility for its content rests with student editors. The Rip is a member of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and the California Newspaper Publishers Association.



Column

Bands, garages and the grunge

Vanessa A. Munoz | Nessa's Music Rant

As my last column of the semester, I would love to give credit to a certain genre of music that I feel and acknowledge as the gateway for anyone wanting to get into rock music. Grunge and underground garage bands have long been a gateway genre of music that can take the ethnic minority and have them loving rock music.

When it comes to garage bands, you can appreciate the band and their music more. The reason for this is because the band members are usually your friends and/or family. So the acceptance of their music comes from the acceptance of them as people. Grunge music has always shown an acceptance of the non-normal and misunderstood adolescent.

Most of the time there is a misconception on what type of people would listen to grunge rock music. Usually the image is of a poor hygiene, pierced and tattooed individual who drinks, smokes and has angry parent issues. If you actually were to see the majority of audience that embraced grunge music and garage bands, you would see that it was the middle-class people, and who are the middle class people? Those of ethnicity were the majority of middle class especially in the '90's when grunge music was at its peak.

Grunge music focused on self-expression. Whether the message was sad, mad, angry, depressed, or an act of self-discovery, grunge made it possible to express yourself without feeling judged or misunderstood. Because of this, the middle class had no problem soaking up the new music with the new style. Grunge made you feel like you could be comfortable to be yourself and not have to follow a trend of music just because others of your race were dressing and listening to a certain fad of music themselves.

Bakersfield has a variety of underground bands and musical artists who will play at almost any local venue. Some of these places are BRyders, Jerry's Pizza, Vinny's bar, Rockstars bar, and The Mint bar all of which span from South Union and Pacheco to White Lane, to downtown Bakersfield and onto the northwest off Olive Drive.

Most of the bands aren't looking for money or a huge fan base (not at first), but to be able to have the opportunity to express themselves in their music and to have anyone listen is always appreciated. The love that is given to these garage bands is amazing especially when you witness how much support the fans do have and give at every show.

No matter if it is a rock show, rap show, or just another cover band showing support, it helps bring in media, money, and revenue to the city and venues that showcase these bands and their talents for the public to attend. Fans of garage bands can't help but be the loudest people at the bar or venue. So support your local underground music scene because you never know who will make it and who just needs the support. Grunge music inspired artistically, expressed depressively, was poor fashion with a huge statement, and emotionally diverse for all to appreciate and had to begin somewhere and that was in a neighborhood garage by a group of friends.

Technology: good vs. evil

By Hugo Jauregui
Reporter

What is technology in our day and age? Some would say it's iPhones, touchscreen tablets, laptops, having a phone on your watch, or cars that parallel park themselves.

A lot of people call these things high-tech or next generation technology, but they fail to realize that they are more than technology; they are more on the realm of commodities, wants not needs. The fear here is that these commodity items may be used for alternate uses some being not so beneficial.

Such items make our life easier but they don't change a country for the better, they change it for the comfort of a human being.

Changing a person's comfort level is not making the world a safer place to live in or ending world hunger.

What I consider to be real, world-changing technology is what allows us to venture into the stars, or enables us to purify polluted water in a third world country.

Making renewable sources of energy available to all and protecting our environment, this is what I consider technology that changes the world for the better.

But there is also technology, which sole purpose is destruction and its focus is on the submission of the weak for the benefit of the powerful.

A drone may be entertaining to fly and show off with a group of friends to have a good time, but its purpose that serves for amusement can also be switched, and the same drone can be used to drop a bomb on a neighboring country.

Or, by taking advantage of its lightweight size, might be used to spy on anyone and avoid detection by almost any type of radar technology, proof of this is the recent bypass of security by a drone in the White House.

A toy to some may be a very resourceful weapon to those with ill intentions towards our country and citizens.

Certain government agencies also develop pieces of technology with a military purpose, one being a self-operating humanoid robot eerily nicknamed "PetMan."

This robot has about the same mobility of a human being and is able to lift three to four times its body weight.

The current description of this certain robot's tasks and responsibilities is to aid military personnel by lifting heavy ammunition crates or any type of heavy labor.

But what is to stop any programmer from erasing these tasks from the robot's operating system and replacing them with picking up a machine gun and shoot?

I don't see it very far off that these so-called "PetMan" may replace all of our military, call me paranoid but the evidence



ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO JAUREGUI

doesn't lie. At the pace technology advances, having the latest phone or trendy piece of technology may not be our biggest concern in the near future.

Drugs may change minds

By Tyler Goucher
Reporter

Our minds are often plagued with thoughts and memories that have the ability to confuse and hinder our day-to-day processes.

Depression and anxiety can result from our inability to cope with these interferences, which can lead to people hurting themselves or in some extreme cases, committing suicide.

I am an advocate of using hallucinogenic drugs to help people deal with certain psychological problems that other drugs or treatment programs have failed to cure.

Not that a mushroom trip is going to make whatever it is that haunts you disappear from your memory, but it might help you confront your issues head on.

In my experience with experimenting with hallucinogens, I realized just how powerful these substances could be when it comes to the human psyche and the concept of self.

Without any preconceived notions of what it was going to be like, at age 19, I tried a drug called Salvia.

Upon exhalation, I was catapulted into a bizarre two-dimensional trip that had little to no meaning to me in the state of mind that I was in at the time.

What it did do to me though, was open my mind and broaden my perspective when it came to what these hallucinogens were capable of doing.

After my first experience with Salvia, I became increasingly interested in other hallucinogens and thus began my journey into my own brain.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO JAUREGUI

From cannabis to psilocybin mushrooms to lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and to many others, my mind has been expanded and my understanding of self and the meaning of life has evolved into something that is only describable to those who have had similar experiences.

One hallucinogen that changed my life more than any one before it was Dimethyl-tryptamine, or DMT.

After having researched DMT for a couple years and reading several trip reports on websites like erowid.org, I felt like it was an experience I needed to have.

To give a little bit of a back-story on DMT, it is considered to be the most potent and extreme hallucinogen known to man.

With roots that go back thousands of years to indigenous tribes making a concoction known as Ayahuasca.

The chemicals that make up DMT are believed to exist in every living organism on planet earth.

In other words, many believe that we harvest DMT inside of our own brains.

Now people have speculated on what this actually means, but after years of research and my multiple experiences with DMT, my theory is that DMT is what induces dreams when we enter our REM during the sleep cycle.

So dreams are really just subconscious hallucinations caused by the release of a chemical that is harvested in the pineal gland in the center of our brain. I know it sounds crazy, but then again it's just a theory.

Going back to what I actually experienced while under the influence of DMT, every-

thing that I had done before paled in comparison to the sheer madness of the trips that this insane substance made me have. First off, there was no wait time to the blast off.

As soon as I inhaled, my surroundings began to melt and everything I was looking at began to warp into geometric patterns and shapes.

The color spectrum that my eyes were used to was now multiplied by a thousand and I started to visualize colors that had previously not existed.

The moment I felt like it was too intense for me to handle, it got even more intense.

At one point I was shot into a wormhole and transported to a universe I can only describe as otherworldly.

What I saw and felt was beyond beautiful and yet terrified me to the point of never wanting to return. It was like I was given a peek behind the curtains of the show we call life.

Now I can't exactly explain what these trips have done for me psychologically, but I can say that a lot of painful memories and experiences I had when I was younger have been confronted and squashed through the use of these substances.

If it wasn't for hallucinogens, I know for a fact that I wouldn't be the person I am today. I feel like they have made me a more empathetic human being and have ultimately given me a unique perspective on the crazy world that we live in.

I believe with the right intentions and under the right circumstances, hallucinogens could prove to be a powerful tool in treating psychological conditions.

Staff Editorial

Best in the state, BC has more to offer

With graduation just weeks away for some Bakersfield College students, a good piece of news just arrived. According to studies done by the Brookings Institution, BC was not only just named the best community college in California, but also the sixth best in the entire nation.

These studies were mostly based off of alumni and shows that BC graduates make around \$60,000 per year and tend to pay back debt easily.

Now, a good factor in these studies is that Bakersfield is a hub for many big markets such as agriculture and oil.

BC is also well known for its nursing program that brings thousands into the well-paid medical industry every year.

With that, we should all feel a sense of pride to be a student at the proclaimed best community college in California. This means we beat out any Los Angeles schools with huge budgets, any community colleges from San Francisco and all of the schools from San Diego or Sacramento.

This should help boost our school spirit and bring more people to appreciate the opportunity to put on our resume that we attended California's best community college.

BC provides us with the resources we need such as the classrooms, the teachers, the counselors and an option for a four-year degree in some fields with more to come.

Now, as we hear this information our brains might wander to the classrooms we sit in and the number of absent and dropping classmates throughout the semester.

It's always a mystery as to what happened to 50 percent of the students, maybe a serious sickness or family emergency. But, in other cases, it's just sheer laziness.

Why even attend the first day if you are just going to give up when it gets hard later? That's what college is; it's hard. That's why students that graduate with a simple AA earn a million dollars more in their lifetime than students that don't complete their AA degree.

It's a self-fulfilling prophecy that is getting in the way of most students success at BC.

When you limit yourself through a narrow mindset you just hinder your abilities to be successful at life. Most students always have something to complain about when it comes to our city and our school, but, as we can now see in studies, we have the best community college in California.

Take this huge resource, even if it's just the title that you went to the best community college in California and sixth best in the nation, and use it to your advantage.

Heavy books, heavy prices, bring heavy worries and lighter wallets

By Victoria Miller
Reporter

The fact that our campus bookstore is more expensive than mostly any other book vendor makes students question why.

To most students, it doesn't make sense that we are asked to pay so much for a necessary item to succeed in college on our own campus.

I guess the extra expense is supposed to be a convenience cost because students don't have to travel further than the campus for their books.

However, I disagree because going to the campus bookstore is anything but convenient.

A trip to the campus book store anytime during the first two or three weeks of the semester is enough to drive a person insane.

The line is out the door and everyone is in a hurried frenzy to get what he or she needs and get out as soon as possible.

Except no one gets out until they've spent at least a half an hour waiting in line because the place is such a chaotic mess.

This should be enough reasons to refrain from buying from Barnes and Noble on campus and buy elsewhere.

Barnes and Noble also boasts about buying textbooks back.

This is comforting to students who pay hundreds of dollars on

books until they try to sell their books back.

Most students are appalled when they are offered only a tiny fraction of what they originally paid or that the store is not buying the book altogether because of newer editions, regardless of the condition of the book.

The unnecessary extra cost students are spending on books is only benefiting an over a billion dollar corporation.

Barnes and Noble is highly benefiting from its college locations while students are paying the price.

Students should save their money and buy or rent elsewhere.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO JAUREGUI

Records broken by track and field

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

Another Bakersfield College track and field record has been broken. This time it was broken by the women’s 4x100-meter relay team on May 2 at the Southern California preliminaries at Cerritos College.

Kyra Saunders, Tyra Saunders, Nicole Lewis, and Zariah Marr are the athletes on the 4x100-relay team that broke the record. They placed fourth in the race with a time of 47.66 seconds and qualified for the SoCal finals. The record that was broken was 33 years old and the time was 47.77 seconds.

The BC women had a fair amount of athletes qualify for the SoCal finals.

Kyra qualified in the 100-meter dash, placing third, with a time of 12.17 seconds. She also qualified in the long jump, placing fifth, with a distance of 16.66 feet. Kyra went on to qualify in the 200-meter dash, placing second, with a time of 24.93.

Lewis also qualified in the 200, placing seventh, with a time of 25.12.

Lewis qualified in the 400-meter dash, placing seventh, with a time of 58.13. Leah Theroux qualified in the 800-meter run, placing third, with a time of 2 minutes 18.54 seconds.

Here are the other BC women that qualified for SoCal finals: Tyra (100), Jessica Campbell (1,500), Paola Silvestre (3,000 steeplechase), 4x400-relay team, and Marilyn Quintero (discus).

The BC men had a hard time at the SoCal prelims as few qualified for the SoCal finals.

Juan Calderon qualified in the 800-meter run, placing third, with a time of 1 minute 57.84 seconds.

Here are the other BC men that qualified for the SoCal finals: 4x400-relay team, Dillen Littles (discus), and Nathaniel Vinson (javelin).

In order to be in the SoCal prelims, BC athletes had to qualify in the Western State Conference finals on April 24.

The BC women had many athletes that qualified for SoCal prelims.

Kyra qualified and took first place in the 100, 200, and long jump. In the 100 she had a time of 12.15 seconds.

In the 200 she had a time of 24.83. In the long jump she had a distance of 17.19 feet.



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Nicole Lewis (left), Tyra Saunders, Kyra Saunders, and Zariah Marr are the athletes on the 4x100-meter relay team that broke the Bakersfield College women’s 4x100 record. Lilliana Portillo (right) had to be replaced by Marr on the team.

Tyra qualified in the 100, placing second, with a time of 12.46. She also qualified in the 200, placing ninth, with a time of 26.23.

Lewis qualified in the 200, placing second, with a time of 24.97.

She also qualified in the 400, placing third, with a time of 58.91. Lewis qualified in the long jump, placing sixth, with a distance of 15.74 feet.

Theroux qualified and took first in the 800 with a time of 2 minutes 19.43 seconds. She also qualified in the 1,500, placing fifth, with a time of 4:56.61.

Campbell qualified in the 800, placing third, with a time of 2:21.79.

She also qualified in the 1,500, placing third again, with a time of 4:46.56.

Silvestre qualified in the steeplechase, taking second place, with a time of 12:17.10. The 4x100-relay team qualified, taking first place, with a time of 47.91.

The 4x400-relay team qualified, taking second place, with a time of 4:01.30. Quintero qualified in the discus throw, placing third, with a distance of 114.23 feet.

Here are the other BC women athletes that qualified for SoCal prelims: Lilliana Portillo (400 hurdles), Sha’Nya Terry (shot put), and Marisol Abundes (discus).

The BC men had quite a few qualifiers as well.

The 4x400-relay team qualified, placing second, with a time of 3:19.05. Edgar Llanes qualified in pole vault, placing fourth, with a height of 14.37 feet. Tristan McGee qualified in the long jump, placing fourth, with a distance of 22.04 feet.

Here are the other BC men athletes that qualified for SoCal

prelims: Marjon Francisco (400), Calderon (800), Christopher Moreno (1,500), Daniel Aguirre (1,500), Brandon Hernandez-Segura (400 hurdles), Richard Timmermans (steeplechase), Jessie Hodges (high jump), Chikerrian Garret (hammer throw), and Vinson (javelin).

The BC track and field athletes that qualified in the SoCal prelims will be competing at Cerritos College on May 9 in the SoCal finals.

Whoever qualifies there will move on to compete in the California State Championship on May 15-16.

Column

Big things coming

MOHAMED BAFAKIH | Going beneath the shield

As golf and track and field wrap up their respective seasons, it leaves me to recap this calendar year of Renegade athletics and look toward what is to come.

I had the pleasure and pressure of covering seven different sports over the course of the last eight months.

It was an interesting year with a lot of new coaches, a new athletic director, tons of records broken, and a talented class of freshmen.

In the fall, we saw our football team start off the season losing badly to Riverside, 51-3, but even worse, losing starting running back Curtis McGregor to a broken arm.

Regaining postseason eligibility seemed to motivate the guys as they finished with a six-game winning streak en route to a 23-10 bowl victory over Chaffey that was as bizarre as it can get. How bizarre? Well, BC kicker Parker Campbell won Offensive Player of the Game. Yes, the kicker accounted for 16 of the team’s 23 points.

With All-American freshman Derrick Vickers returning, it will be interesting to see if the Renegades pick up where they left off. With an anticipated return from McGregor and the development of the freshmen as well, I think BC football around quarterback Tarek Yaeggie will find success. Defensively will be questionable after losing several players to transfers.

On the mat, it was great to see former Renegade Brett Clark take over this program. He brought toughness and it rubbed off as Jack Murphy completed a perfect season.

Women’s soccer started hot on the road, including an upset victory over 17th nationally ranked Feather River, but it seemed that the chemistry went down the stream.

On the hardwood, it was something spectacular each night. Whether it was watching two conference MVPs play back-to-back or seeing history being set on the women’s side, I enjoyed every step. However, I expect the roles to swap. The women’s team will see four first-team all-conference starters and conference MVP Nakia Page depart, which means big shoes will need to be filled.

For the men’s hoop team, leading scorers Deandre Dickson and Jameik Riviere are returning and adding the team’s leading scorer from two seasons ago, Lawrence Moore in the mix, gives BC offensive firepower.

For spring, it was really an unusual path for certain sports. Softball, under first-year head coach Christie Hill, started the season 6-0 but went 12-20 for the remainder of the season probably in large part due to the substantial amount of fielding errors.

Sticking with the diamond, it was another long year for Tim Painton and the BC baseball team, but take my word: next season will be special due to the effectiveness of the returners.

Underwater, it was a remarkable season for sophomore Lexi Zimmerman but with a load of freshmen, it will also bring back a key batch of returners such as Sara Klang and the anticipated return of Andrew Hargis after being a medical redshirt.

Track and field freshman Kyra Saunders broke a 35-year-old record in the 200 once held by Thea Parrish.

Men’s golf and both tennis teams struggled, and saw two of their coaches leave in the middle of the season. 2014-15 was a good year, but I think the best is yet to come.

Choi doesn’t qualify for state

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

Bakersfield College men’s golfer Jeremy Choi was expected to go to state but did not qualify in the Southern California Championships on May 4.

Choi shot a 77 in the first round and an 81 in the second round totaling 158. That score was not enough to push him into the state level competition.

“It’s OK, it was a good season,” said Choi.

Choi was the only player on his team to make it to the SoCal Championships this season.

In order to make it to the SoCal Championships, Choi had to qualify in the Western State Conference finals at Rancho Vista Golf Club in Palmdale.

Choi scored a 70 in round one and a 78 in round two. He led the team as usual as the team tallied up a two-round total of 809 shots and took eighth place.

College of the Canyons placed first in the tournament with a two-round team score of 726.

Other BC men’s golf scores: Jerran Walter (83-82), Bowdey Carrol (80-85), Jarrett Buntley (86-79), and Tal Pruett (84-84).



VICTORIA MILLER / THE RIP

Lexi Zimmerman led both of the Renegade swim teams at the state championships at East L.A on April 30 - May 2. Zimmerman finished third out of 18 swimmers in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:26.79.

Zimmerman sees success at state swim meet

By Mohamed Bafakih
Sports Editor

The 2015 Bakersfield College swim season capped off at East L.A. as head coach Matt Moon managed to qualify 10 swimmers to the state championships.

The women’s team finished 16th overall out of 36 schools with 56 points and the men’s side finished 21st overall out of 31 schools with 32 points.

Once again, Lexi Zimmerman led the way with 29 individual

points.

In her BC finale, Zimmerman competed in three events: the 200 individual medley, 100 breaststroke, and 200 breaststroke.

Zimmerman took third out of 18 swimmers in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:26.79.

In the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke, Zimmerman took 10th and 11th.

The only other women’s swimmer that participated in an individual event was freshman Sara Klang.

Klang took 16th in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5 minutes 30.36 seconds.

Although they were the only two swimmers to represent in individual events for the Renegades as a whole, the relay teams made up for some of the missing action.

The men’s side and women’s side competed in the 200, 400, and 800 freestyle relays with times that dropped.

It wasn’t enough to keep them in contention with the other schools who managed to

qualify more than 20 swimmers and competed in nearly 80 total events as opposed to BC’s 10 swimmers and 11 entries.

Golden West College’s men’s team went for the three-peat as they qualified 16 swimmers who combined for 555.50 points.

Santa Rosa’s women’s team finished first with 14 swimmers who racked up 424.50 points.

With half of the BC swimmers qualifying to state as freshmen only means the experience will be something to build on going into next year.

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

MEN

2014-2015

WOMEN

1. Jack Murphy, wrestling



The 197-pound sophomore sensation led Bakersfield College wrestling with an undefeated record of 23-0 on the season without giving up any takedowns. Murphy capped off his BC career with a state championship victory over Cerritos' Oscar Martinez. This was the first individual state championship for a BC wrestler since current assistant coach Joe Espejo won it back in 2004. Murphy's expected to attend an NAIA school.

2. DeAndre Dickson, basketball

Standing tall at 6-9, the freshman swingman led Bakersfield to its first playoff appearance in four years averaging 18 points (11th in state), 11.8 rebounds (3rd in state) and 2.5 blocks (7th in state). Dickson was also named MVP of the Western State Conference – South Division and SoCal All-State First Team for the 2014-15 season.



3. Derrick Vickers, football



A key part of the 2014 Bakersfield High state championship football team, the flashy 5'11 all-purpose freshman led the Renegades' football team with 1,609 all-purpose yards (146.3 yards/game). Vickers, a 2014 First Team All-American selection, posted a performance to remember in Week 7 against Moorpark where he caught seven passes for 145 yards and five touchdowns in a 50-47 victory.

4. Cesar Luna, wrestling

Battling the challenges of being a Marine Corps Reserve and a Bakersfield College wrestler, the 174-pound sophomore, Luna, managed to end his tenure at BC with a third place finish at regionals and fifth place finish at the state wrestling championships.

5. Dominic Frasch, football

Alongside Vickers, the multidimensional all-purpose defensive back led the Renegades' defense in interceptions (5). Frasch was named MVP in the Clifford & Bradford Insurance Western State Bowl game against Chaffey, and also an All-California First Team Defense selection for the year.

6. Allan Winans, baseball

BC baseball's sophomore pitcher brought a great skill set to the mound in his last season as a Renegade. Winans pitched 94 innings overall (9th in state) and finished 5th overall in conference with 52 strikeouts. He will be transferring to play at Division-1 Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina.

7. Khalin Smith, football

Getting set to take his size and talent to play football for the Vandals of Idaho University, the 6-foot-5, 245-pound All-California First Team Offense selection from Vallejo, Calif., was ranked eighth in the nation by Gridiron.com for JUCO tight ends.

8. Hanz Harker, baseball

BC's baseball freshman Harker has shown his skills with a bat this season. His 55 hits overall (15th in state) and batting average of .382 overall (19th in state) led all BC batters. Harker hit 18 doubles overall which was third best in the state.

9. Juan Calderon, track/XC

Calderon is a sophomore on BC's track and field and cross-country team. Calderon went to State in cross-country placing 76 out of 213. He has qualified for the Southern California finals in the 800-meter run with a time of 1 minute 57.84 seconds.

10. Jeremy Choi, golf

Choi has been the standout player on the Bakersfield College men's golf team all season long. The sophomore's conference average score, last checked on May 3, is 77.78. His total conference score, also last checked on May 3, is 701.

1. Kyra Saunders, track and field



The 19-year-old freshman on Bakersfield College's track and field team has made history at BC this year by breaking the 200-meter dash record with a time of 24.78 seconds. Saunders was on the team that broke the 4x100-meter relay record with a time of 47.66. Her personal record in the 100-meter dash is 12.05. Her PR for the long jump is 17.19 feet. She has qualified for the Southern California finals in the 100, 200, and long jump on May 9. Saunders must do well there in order to qualify for the California State Championships.

2. Nakia Page, basketball

Western State Conference – South Division MVP and SoCal All-State Second Team selection, Page led the Renegades' women's basketball team to a record-setting season that ended with an outright conference championship and a trip to the third round of the regional playoffs – snapping nearly a quarter century drought in the program's history. Page averaged 17.8 points, 7.7 rebounds, and two blocks on the season.



3. Lexi Zimmerman, swim



The sophomore swimmer capped off her BC career with a third place finish at state in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:26.79. Zimmerman holds school records in the 50 and 100 breaststroke. She will be attending school in the fall at California State University, East Bay where she will also swim.

4. Jessica Campbell, track/cross-country

Campbell has been a top mid-distance runner on her track and field team all season where she runs in the 800-meter, 1,500-meter, and the 3,000-meter. Also a member of the BC cross-country team in the fall, Campbell went to State and placed 38 out of 197 with a time of 19 minutes 15.8 seconds. She has qualified for the Southern California finals in the 1,500 and must do well there in order to advance to the California State Championships.

5. Claesey Tarver, basketball

Carrying heavy minutes due to her two-way abilities, Tarver averaged over 25 minutes per game for Paula Dahl, averaging 12 points. A First Team All-Conference player, Tarver was also a finalist for the Most Valuable Renegade award at the 2015 Student Leadership and Recognition Awards Ceremony.

6. Alex Avila, softball

BC softball's sophomore center fielder Avila has shown great discipline this season when stepping up to the plate. Avila lead the BC softball team offensively with 66 hits overall (10th in state), 55 runs overall (7th in state) while holding a batting average of .478. Avila also led in stolen bases at 13 in conference (9th) and was only caught stealing twice in conference (5th).

7. Leah Theroux, track/XC

Theroux was the Western State Conference Champion in the 800-meter run for BC's track and field team this season with a time of 2 minutes 19.43 seconds. She went to state in cross-country and placed 72 out of 197 with a time of 19 minutes 56.0 seconds. Theroux has qualified for the Southern California finals in the 800. She must do well there in order to advance to the California State Championships.

8. Sara Klang, swim

The freshman out of Garces was a vital piece of the women's swim team. Klang finished in third in the 500 freestyle and 200 butterfly at the conference meet which qualified her for the state meet.

9. Victoria Pyle, soccer

The Week 1 Western State Conference Athlete of the Week led the Renegades' soccer team in goals (8), points (19), and game-winning goals (3).

10. Tyler Herring, volleyball

Herring was a sophomore on BC's volleyball team. She was 17th in the state in blocks (85) and 8th in state in block assists (62). Herring scored 334 points, which put her at 37th in state.

*Selections made by Mohamed Bafakih (Sports Editor), Marcus Castro (Reporter), Mason J. Rockfellow (Reporter) and Elias C. Ahumada (Photo Editor)
-Honorable mentions can be found on therip.com-



PHOTOS BY MARIA MAYA / THE RIP

Conductor Ron Kean directs the Bakersfield Symphony at the Noteworthy event.

Grand opening was a hit

By Kevin Phillips
Reporter

The official grand opening of the Bakersfield College Simonson Performing Arts Center took place April 25 with a musical celebration.

For over 60 years, this building has been a beacon for art and culture in our community, and it has hosted several events already this school year. So this event was held to celebrate the modernization of the facility into the 21st century. The evening opened with the Bakersfield

College chamber singers, under the direction of Jennifer Garrett, with the "Star-Spangled Banner," arranged by Darmon Meader.

The Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and the BC Choir joined in to celebrate the opening of the new facility, which is known as SPARC. Garrett conducted the choir and chamber singers, which will be going on their international tour to Rome, Florence and Venice this summer.

BC music professor John Gerhold had his close friend, retired professor Ronald Kean, conduct

his latest piece. "There is nothing that brings me so much joy then to watch my friend conduct one of my compositions," Gerhold said about Kean.

Kean said he loves the new building, and he would come back to perform any time. The composition that Kean conducted was "American Mass," which took four months to compose.

To conclude the evening, Kean conducted his friend's composition, "Joyful Noises." As people were leaving, they were saying how much they enjoyed the event.



Orchestra members perform "American Mass" at BC's outdoor theater on April 25.

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