



The Barbary Times



West Hills College North District Center Student Press

May, 2007

5th Edition

Semester of the Barbary



This semester the *Barbary Times* started out on the right foot. They had two editors, Manauri Marquez and Alison Miller. The journalism club had 17 members, from reporters and photographers to designers and editors. They had a semester of hard work and new experiences. The most important task was putting a newspaper together for the students of NDC. As is true in all clubs, the journalism club had some ups and some downs, but they always worked on putting their differences aside and coming up with great ideas in the end.

It was a semester in which they learned how to work together, listen, support, and trust one another. They learned from these experiences what the word LEADER really means. The journalism club became LEADERS who also understood when it was important to follow. All this shows that if you learn to work with others, you can accomplish great things for your community and for the real world. Yes, this semester *The Barbary Times* accomplish more than in the past semester. They worked harder, but that hard work paid off in the end.

Believe it or not, the club also had FUN this semester. The *Barbary Times* staff went on a trip to Santa Clara. Thanks to Marlese Roton and her husband Dan, this trip was possible. The club took a three-day learning vacation. The *Barbary* staff had a great time visiting UC Santa Cruz, two great newspapers *The Good Times*, and *The Sentinel*. They also visited *The Mystery Spot*, a bowling alley, The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, the movies, the beach, and the many shops.

The end has come, but not for *The Barbary Times*. The staff wishes to thank to those who are leaving and those who are coming back. They also wish to welcome next year's new-comers.



Hello to everyone! This is your friendly editor, Manauri Marquez, and yes, I know, it's too much to bear, but it had to happen. This is the final issue of the semester, and well, we worked hard on it, and we hope you'll enjoy it. We encourage everyone to join the class, which is IS7. Also, I'm happy to inform you all that The Barbary Times can now be located in the West Hills website, so go check it out when you have time. Thank you for reading, and have a great summer.

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West Hills Enrollment Passes 6,000 for First Time—Up 16 Percent in Past Year

Enrollment at West Hills Community College District surpassed the 6,000 student mark Tuesday for the first time ever, according to Chancellor Frank Gornick, who said that as of Tuesday morning (March 20th) 6,010 students were taking district classes—including 2,582 students who are taking at least one online class.

Gornick explained that the numbers are based on “headcount,” which is the number of people enrolled to take one or more classes. Today’s number is up 16 percent from just one year ago when 5,179 students were enrolled.

“This is good news for Kings County and the west side of the Valley,” Gornick said, “because studies show that community college students who earn a vocational degree or certificate typically see their annual wages jump from \$25,660 to \$47,571 three years after earning their degree—an increase of 86 percent. More students enrolled and earning degrees means more earning potential in our communities.”

Five years ago, at the beginning of spring semester of 2002, there were 4,600 student taking classes in the district. That number declined the following year in part because state budget cuts required a reduction in the number of course offerings, Gornick said. Enrollment dropped to about 4,400 in the spring of 2003 but has steadily increased since then.

West Hills offers classes at colleges in Lemoore and Coalinga and at North District Center, Firebaugh, as well as online. For more information, visit westhillscollge.com.

Yukwai Hung

Taking Risks in Life

Life is full of opportunities. At the same time, these opportunities require us to take a risk to catch them. If we are afraid to take a risk, the opportunities will slip away. For instance, when you go skiing, you risk breaking your leg in a fall; when you want to learn how to drive, you risk an accident. We can choose not to take the risk, but we also lose the opportunities to go skiing, learn how to drive, and so on.

Indeed, most people are afraid to take a risk, because they dislike bad things happening to them; they are afraid to lose something. Conversely, the persons who take a risk to catch the opportunities have a big chance to be successful at least.

When you drink coca-cola, have you ever considered how the Coca-Cola Company was born? It was the result of a risk taken by the founder, Asa Griggs Candler. Many years ago, an old doctor went to a little town. After he arrived, he entered a pharmacy. He talked with a youthful shop assistant. What will he do? Surly, he won't just talk with the shop assistant about something unimportant. He wanted to sell his prescription to the assistant. When they had talked for about one hour, the assistant paid 500 dollars to buy the prescription. He took a big risk to buy it, because he paid his entire savings for it. Who was the assistant? He was Asa Griggs Candler. A few years later, he used the prescription to mix something new, and in doing so, created Coca-Cola.

This story shows us how important taking risks is. If Asa Griggs Candler had been afraid to lose his money and refused to buy the prescription, he could not have created Coca-Cola. However, he took a risk to catch the opportunity and became a successful businessman.

Many people may also know about Youtube.com. The success of Youtube.com also shows us we must take a risk to do something we think deserves it. At first, the two founders of Youtube.com didn't know whether it would succeed. Builing a website to share videos is not easy. The two founders were without jobs at that time. Now, Youtube.com is the largest video share website in the world.

Taking a risk doesn't mean we must take risks to do everything. We must think about whether it deserves the risk before we do it. We may fail; nevertheless, taking a risk actually helps us to be successful in the long run. Therefore, we must take risks often in life.



Teen Pregnancy

Oskar Casarreal

A report done over several years has shown that 1 million teen pregnancies happen each year. But why? Although teen pregnancy and birth rates in the U.S. declined significantly during the 1990s, approximately 1 million American teenage girls still get pregnant each year. That is the highest rate of teen pregnancies of any nation and eight out of ten girls are not even ready to be mothers.

In this small community, we have all seen young girls becoming mothers. They are our family, friends, and neighbors. But why are these girls making the most important decision at a young age? I interviewed a student from West Hills College NDC who was a 17

year old when she got pregnant, and now she's 18 and a single mother.

She told me that she was 17 years old when she decided to have intercourse with her boyfriend who was way older than she was. When she found out that she was pregnant, she didn't know what to do or who to turn to. She didn't want to drop out of high school and not finish her education, so she decided to transfer to the adult school because of her pregnancy and lack of credits.

When the question was asked if she regretted getting pregnant at a young age, she paused and thought about it. She said, "I love my baby, but I would say that if I wouldn't have got pregnant I would have graduated with my friends in high school and not graduated from adult school, and I would have gotten a diploma with more meaning."

What makes young girls think that they are ready to enter a serious relationship and start having intercourse at a young age? She said that, "Most girls are blind, believing that the guy they're with loves them." She was one of those girls who end up giving everything she had to a guy who only used her and took advantage of her. She admits that her excuse was "I was in LOVE."

"What happened to the father after you told him that you were pregnant?" I asked. She answered with anger toward him, saying "He didn't believe me, he denied his own baby. He told me that it was my responsibility and in a period of weeks I found out by his family that he left to Mexico, leaving me in charge of our baby. So now I am a single mother."

"How is life with a child to look after, and while trying to get an education?" I asked. She smiled and said me, "It's not all bad. I'm 18 years old, and I proved myself by raising my baby alone. My baby is two years old, and we have received my parents' support all the way, which I'm thankful for."

"What would you tell the other girls who are pressured or are about to have intercourse at a young age?" I asked. She replied with "Don't be blinded by love, and don't let Sex pressure ruin your young life, and most of all, your relationship with your parents needs to be strong. Also, if you're not ready to take the next step, don't take it. Most of the guys out there are only using girls and taking advantage of them!"

Ezequiel Gastelum

West side Agriculture

The west side of the San Joaquin Valley became rich land in the 1960's after the state water project was made available. Most of the farms around the Firebaugh and Mendota area plant corn, melons, bell peppers, honeydews, tomatoes, and cotton. Increasingly, vegetables and fruits are grown, and this helps thousands of seasonal farm workers in this community.

Many NDC students even work on ranches such as Stamoules and Pappas doing seasonal work to help out while we are studying. Stamoules Produce is one the biggest companies in this area. This ranch hires a lot of us from West Hills College and from Firebaugh High, Mendota High, and even los Banos and Dos Palos High. Many students work for that company in seasonal jobs. Many of us even have parents working there full time. We look forward to our highways becoming busy and our towns filling with people again, such as it always is in the spring and summer.



The Falcon's View



Surely, no one ever told you this would be easy. If anyone did, I suggest you write that person a nice long letter to set him straight. If that seems too subtle, a brisk slap to the back of the head will do. Use your best judgment. By now you know that a college education is sometimes tedious, often inconvenient, and frequently exasperating. Now, near the end of the year, nearing finals, you may even get the feeling that it's hopeless. Know this: Every student experiences her own variety of hell. This is nothing new. Expect more of it the further you go in college. Deep down, however, you understand that this is only part of the picture—and not the important part. You do understand this, don't you?

The other part of the picture—the reason we put ourselves through the rigors of a college education—is the wonder, the joy, and the pride we experience along the way, combined with the end rewards. The challenges of higher education can make you lose sight of the real fruits of your labors. When things seem darkest, therefore—when it seems to make no sense at all to continue the madness of pursuing an education—that is when it is most important to simply keep your eyes on whatever task lies immediately before you and forget about the rest.

This is an exercise in faith. Faith gets you through. Make it a habit to step up your work ethic whenever your situation seems worst. Do it whether it makes a lick of sense or not. Don't trouble yourself looking for the light at the end of your dark tunnel—because looking for it almost ensures you will not see it. Rather, there will simply come a time when you find yourself squinting in the brilliant light and know that you have indeed emerged from your darkness. Understand, too, that there's another tunnel coming, and know that it's okay, because you know what to do: Just get busy, plain and simple.

This whole thing you're doing will frustrate, exhaust, and flat-out depress you at times. And it is among the most wonderful things you will ever do in life.

I've heard people say that if they'd known what they were in for, they'd never have done it. Well, I'm telling you what you're in for, and deep down, you know it's true: adversity, and plenty of it. But you're a Falcon, my friend, and Falcon's just never give up. Quitting isn't an option, okay?

That is the Falcon's view.

Maricela Lara

What is love?

Love is special, it sets you free, love is real, that it's so sweet, anything is possible when its love you really keep, love is a bond between two, so strong and weak, love is honest, love is calm, love is anything you want it to be love is you and me.

Life Is Like A Roller Coaster
By Amanda Trujillo

Life is defined as “a particular type or aspect of people’s existence. I’d like to think that life and roller coasters are similar because they come in different shapes and sizes. They both can be short while others seem so long. They can be smooth and relaxing like the ride “Small World” at Disneyland. You know this ride, it’s the one you take when your feet are swollen and have time to kill. You sit back and ride around in a little boat and are entertained with music by little wooden figures. I’d call this the “Pampered Life.” These people get to sit back, enjoy life and watch other people do things for them. Another kind is one that’s right in the middle. It’s not too scary or too boring, just like the ride “Pirates of The Caribbean” which is also a ride at Disneyland. This is an exciting ride where you also sit back, laugh at the men trying to bribe a dog to give them keys, are bombed by a pirate ship, and have your stomach turn when you go over two hills (well mine does). I’d call this the “Ideal Life.” This life is when you still get to sit back and enjoy it but every once in a while you hit a rough patch. It can completely throw you off track but all you can do is get up, laugh about it and realize “that’s life.” Finally, last but not least tricky, scary, bumpy, and sometimes thrilling just like the “Zipper” which is a common ride at the carnival. In the beginning it is nice and slow, then out of nowhere you suddenly find yourself flipped over and slammed against the criss-crossed metal all in one motion. It feels like forever especially when you’re terrified but really it’s only for about three minutes. I’d call this the “Rough Life.” This life starts smooth or rough and gets a whole lot worse by the minute. It’s like no matter where you turn there’s no hope. With support this life can turn around, maybe not a 360 but in the end you can find a way to make things better. Life is crazy, scary, exciting, and much more but all we can do is take it one step at a time and hope for the best. We all go through different things and sometimes have better lives than others but life is like a roller coaster because you go fast, slow, over hills, and through tunnels. At least with the end of the ride you know you’re safe again, unless you trip when you get off of the ride. Other than that everything is okay. We only live once and sometimes it’s good that we take chances. Like when I took a chance and rode the “Zipper” for the first time. Sure I was scared but when the ride stopped I got off and was glad that my sister told me to suck it up.

Semester in Review By: Suzie Gutierrez

Wow! This semester went by really fast, and it was fun. It was full of fun-filled events. From a famous comedian visiting to the Falcons Basketball team going to the championship, we had great events we even have a leadership class here at NDC.

This semester we had a group of students travel to Costa Rica. I’m sure that was fun! The leadership class went to Santa Cruz, and they had a lot of fun too. We have a club called Chicano Theatre, sponsored by the TRIO Program, and they traveled all the way to Palmdale. A famous comedian by the name of Ernie G came to visit. He had a show in Firebaugh, and the next day, he came to hang out with the students at the college. We can’t forget about athletics. Even though they’re in Coalinga, we’re still a part of it. Our basketball team went to the State championships this year! You should be excited about that! Oh, and of course we can’t forget that we started having FUN FRIDAYS! So come join us!

Top Ten Classic Shoes

By: David Ruvalcaba



Over the years, there have been many great shoes created, but only few remain classics, and I have created a list of the top ten. “What makes the shoes on this list classic?” Well, the Reebok Question I’s broke the sales record for all Reebok shoes, and have been released five times since 1996. The Converse Chuck Taylor shoes have been around since the late 1960’s, and their popularity has not diminished. Some shoes on this list are a bit less popular, but to shoe enthusiasts, they are well recognized. For instance the PF Flyers might not be well recognized, but they revolutionized the shoe industry by influencing shoes like the Chuck Taylors. And who could forget their importance in the film *The Sandlot*, as Rodriguez attempted to escape from the beast? A classic shoe will always be popular no matter what decade it is or what new styles are popular. My top ten are as follows:



1. *Nike Air Max 90*
2. *Pf Flyers Original*
3. *Converse Chuck Taylor*
4. *Vans Classic/ Slip-On*
5. *Reebok Question I*
6. *Jordan XI*
7. *Converse Super Star*
8. *Reebok Classics*
9. *Nike Air Max 95*
10. *Nike Air Force I*

Learning Community Heads

West



Fifteen people (12 students, 2 instructors, and 1 bus driver) left at 8am last Thursday morning (5/19) for a field trip that included a drive through Los Gatos Canyon, a hike through the caves at Pinnacles National Monument, and a visit to the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas. The WHC Coalinga Learning Community’s annual field trip was one to remember.

The sights included wildlife such as wild turkeys, deer, antelope, California condors, woodpeckers, magpies, bluejays, and tule elk; the sight

of the Bracero plane crash, the Amaro ranch, home of the great great grandson of Joaquin Murrieta (El Guero); the great rocks, cliffs, caves, canyons, and waters of the Pinnacles National Monument; and the many literary and agricultural exhibits at the National Steinbeck Center. Along the way, they stopped for lunch at The Veranda restaurant in Tres Pinos, where they were treated to a fine home-style meal followed by complimentary fresh-made Chocolate Chewies.

Everyone present had a wonderful time and learned a great deal on a field trip they will not soon forget.

A Student Experience

David Ruvalcaba

As an elementary school, middle school, and high school student, I always had great academic expectations. I always believed that I would end up at a university because of my academic performance. I was always involved in activities that gave me a chance to visit and experience the various colleges of not only California, but also the East Coast. As a sixth grader, I attended a summer program at the Fresno State campus for migrant students who excelled. In middle school, I visited many UC campuses such as Berkley, Davis, Santa Barbara, Irvine, and Los Angeles as part of honor roll trips. In high school, I got the rare opportunity to visit the majority of the Ivy League Colleges: Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, and Brown. Attending all these colleges had a great impact on my life. Before graduating I thought, that the worst I could do was attending Fresno State. Things do not always turn out as expected.

My senior year was beginning to wind down. Due to various circumstances, I knew that I was not going to be able to attend the majority of the colleges I had once thought about attending. In a way, I began to give up and my grades began to slip, but not to a great extent. Being in honors and advanced placement classes was painful for me because I would hear that many of my peers were going off to UC colleges. I thought to myself, "This is unfair! I have a better academic history than they do, and more extracurricular activities too, but I can't attend these colleges." I did not even apply to any major college because I could not attend.

One day, a short man with a Spanish, Mr. Rubio, accent walked into our economics class to talk to us about West Hills Community College and the C.A.M.P. program. I did not pay much attention, because I never thought I would be at West Hills College in Firebaugh. To get out of one of my classes, I signed up for a placement test for West Hills College without any intention of attending. I didn't know that after you take the placement test and apply to a college the counselors pulled you out of class just to talk to you. So there I was in my AP history class, when an office assistant walked in with a pass. My teacher announced my name and said, "A West Hills counselor wants to see you in the library." That was such an embarrassing day, because I was ridiculed by my peers. Throughout the rest of the semester, Mr. Rubio kept checking in and talking to me about West Hills, but I was sure I would never attend.

I graduated with the intention of going to Fresno State University. I began working in the fields during the summer, and on my first day of work I received a call from the administration office asking if I was still going to attend the college. It turns out that they never either never received my application or lost it, and I had to complete another application if I was to attend. The only way I would have been admitted was through the C.A.M.P program, so I took a day off and attended a meeting. I was told that I had to turn in a bunch of paperwork by the following day if I wanted to attend Fresno State. It was simply impossible for me to turn in the paperwork, because some of the documents I needed were inaccessible because school was closed. That day, I thought that I would not be going to attend college during the fall semester. I continued to work that summer, and my plan was to continue working until the season is over because I had nothing else to do.

The fall semester was approaching, and one day I got home early from work and decided it was time for me to just give in to West Hills. I had no other option. I had never seen the campus, but when I saw it, I thought, "This is it?" I immediately looked for Mr. Rubio, who would register me for classes. I was not happy attending West Hills because none of my friends attended this campus. I was what we young people call a "loner" for the majority of my first semester, and I was not liking it at all.

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A Students Life

always studying, always growing, always changing, always knowing
between the juggling of family, school and friends it seems as if this circus of a life will never end
but there comes a time when we will look back and say it has been our faith, hard work and perserverance that has
brought us to this time and place where we will decide to go on running life's beautiful race.
not knowing what each curve might throw our way, only knowing we must stay in and go all the way.

Rainbow Orellana

A Student Experience

The turning point in my experience was the C.A.M.P program. This program really opened up many doors for me and has played an important role in my college experience. Through this program, I got a chance to meet and interact with many people. Mr. Rubio always came up with new ideas and events to keep students busy and entertained. Through this program, I finally realized that I was part of something major. It was similar to the feeling you have when you're with family. I felt as if I fit in, and the other members in the group made me feel comfortable and accepted. I became great friends with people whom I had never talked to in high school and other people whom I had not previously met.

Not only was West Hills fun, but I also enjoyed the academics. All the instructors made me feel welcomed, and they challenged me. Many of my teachers like Mrs. Sanchez, Mrs. Valgeirsson, Mr. Wiest, Mr. Wanderer, and Mr. Wilson, brought up a whole different level of what we often consider or expect out of "the simple general ed." classes. It was quite a surprise, yet a reasonable challenge I was willing to take. Thanks to all the instructors, I am now prepared to take on a new challenge. "Once you go here, you can go anywhere!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Finally, I would like to conclude by thanking everyone who my West Hills experience possible. I would like to give a special thank you to Mr. Rubio for being a great mentor and counselor. I would like to thank all the instructors for their time and dedication. And I cannot forget to than the journalism club and Mr. Skaggs for sich a wonderful semester in the journalism club.

Death; It's Not Just in the Video Game

Juan Rubalcava

This past week, on Tuesday, Jonquel Brooks, 19, was arrested after a series of "intense phone calls." Police say the shooting took place on Monday, May 7th accros the street from the Bulldog Stadium in an apartment complex where four individuals were having a dispute over a Playstation. Two men were wounded and one was killed, all just over a video game console. Police identified the two wounded men as Fresno State student Roderick Buycks, 19, and Drew Pfeiff, 22, who is not enrolled at the university. Authorities identified the deceased victim as Brant Daniels, 19, who had moved from the LA area to attend State but was not a current student.

I interviewed L. Vang, professor here at WHCC and at Fresno State. She stated that she "felt scared" and "wished classes were cancelled for that day," fearing for her safety and that of her students.

There has been a confrontation between the university and the editors of The Fresno Bee because the Bee reported in its front page, "The Fresno State Shooting" just because it occurred accross the street from Fresno State, but still not on university property. Would you consider a similar act on Ninth and O St. as the West Hills Shooting? Of course not.

For all you videogame fans, I hope you know about the latest 2007 edition of the Madden videogame. This year's cover features the Seattle Seahawks' star running back Shaun Alexander, whose 5.1 yards per carry rushing average in 2005 got the Seahawks to their best season ever and their first Super Bowl appearance.

When asked what he thought about the Madden curse, Alexander stated in a tv. Interview that he didn't believe in it or that it supposedly affected previous players on the game's cover.

For example, in 2003, St. Louis Rams running back Marshall Faulk, who led his team twice to the Super Bowl, was cursed by an injured ankle, and the Rams missed the playoffs with a disappointing 7-9 record. In 2005, Madden NFL featured Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis. Lewis had a career-high six interceptions, but in 2004, just after signing the contract with Madden, Lewis failed (for the only time in his NFL career) to record even a single interception and sat out the final game of the season with an injury as the Ravens missed qualifying for the playoffs.

What fate awaits Alexander? I guess we'll only know next year. Well, maybe he'll be the one to break the curse.