

# WILLIAMS

By **JULIA KENNEDY**

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It was a spring night in the Bakersfield College cafeteria, but the feeling of a New York City street corner prevailed.

To the beat of techno music, a circle formed around young men in loose clothes and shiny sneakers. Cheers and rhythmic hand-clapping kept them going; when one dancer stopped, another glided across the floor, his torso springing into action like a garden hose injected with a sudden jet of water. There were jumps, flips, backspins. Some eventually feigned exhaustion with a final sprawl on their backs, a hand draped poetically across the face. Breakdancing was back.

Some say it never left, but merely went underground for a while, and this event — with DJs and live bands — was proof.

Although the mainstream fad of breakdancing, or "b-boying," disappeared after the late '80s, it is still popular among those who do it, including people in Bakersfield.

These men, most in their early 20s, many of whom say they learned from older family members, breakdance for hours every week. For some of them, breakdancing is more than entertainment or exercise. It's a venue for the presentation of their message. And within the past year, many have

*The free-form style known as breakdancing is popping up again, often as a tool to spread God's word*

back that bounce off the floor.

"We go on the floor just feeling the music and just freestyle off the top of our heads," said Manny Gomez, 22, a breakdancer who is part of the Fluid Intelligence crew in Bakersfield.

He and the other members of Fluid Intelligence embrace an entire hip hop culture, which they say is different from rap music played on popular radio stations.

Although it may be impossible to truly define without living it, a common theme of this culture is an emphasis on positivity in the face of daily urban life. Its faces are "b-boying," rapping (or "MCing"), mixing beats and chords on records (or DJing) and writing graffiti.

"It was meant to be ... a voice of a people in a struggle," said Cisko Cisneros, 25, who writes rap lyrics and is part of the Fluid Intelligence crew, which includes break-dancers, DJs and MCs. "It was an inner city voice that was made to uplift and encourage."

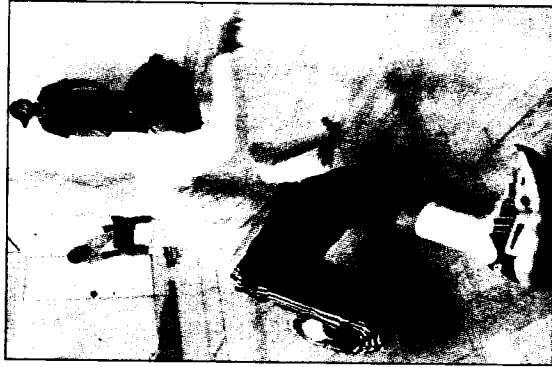
Fluid Intelligence, as well as two crews from Foothill High School, New Born Teens and Seeking Heaven Crew, also choose to emphasize Christianity. The groups are not affiliated, but each shares a love of b-boying.

"What's going to make Bakersfield kids separate from everybody else ... (is that) we're using Christ as our foundation," **Please turn to BREAKDANCE / E6**



**Joseph "Rubber" Behill and Michael "Lox" Rodriguez bust some moves with friends at the Bakersfield park.**

witness a "freeze," where the dancer holds his body in a contorted position. There are "flairs," or spinning on one's hands while keeping the legs straight out, and "diamonds," which make a dancer look like he's got springs on his



**Jose Ramos of the Fluid Intelligence executes a spin at a recent practice session.**

started taking that message to the public — a mixture of unity, love for urban culture, peace and Christianity.

It is just as much a skill and an art form as a message, however. Watch a dancer spin on his head;

# Hollywood

By **MATTHEW GUREWITSCH**

N.Y. Times News Service

The Shakespeare thing. Is it out of control? Like lemmings. Hollywood's bankable are rushing

will not be "Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more," but rather "Our revels now are ended."

In a review of the current "Midwinter" N.E. 44.

