VVC Recognized as Campus of the Year
Story By Brandon Chiz
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Victor Valley College was recognized as the 2008 Campus of the Year by the American Student Association of Community Colleges, in Washington, D.C. In spring the Associated Student Body representatives received the award which recognizes student advocacy on behalf of community colleges across the nation concerning important federal legislative issues. This is the second time VVC has been awarded this high honor and the first time the award has ever been given to the same college twice.

“We’re very proud. We got such a good reception being there. And it was really nice not only to be remembered but being recognized for all our goals we’ve accomplished and things that are happening at this school,” said ASB President Henna Mehra.

ASB went to Washington D.C. originally to discuss concerns for federal work-study, student loan interest rates, textbook prices and other issues facing students and came back winning the award against more than sixty colleges including 17 from California.

“It was really important for us to advocate and share the student concerns and issues, and present the priorities for our students.” Robert Sewell, Director of Auxiliary Services, said.

To be eligible for the award each school had to submit a portfolio to the ASACC to identify their local and community impact as well as school’s leaderships roles, and how effective they have been to advocate for the community and for the college.

During the trip to Washington the VVC contingent was led by ASB President Heena Mehra, Vice President Christina Zambrano and council members Mando Perez, Catalina Diaz and Magdalene Chavez. The VVC representatives met with Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Barbara

Nursing Enrollment Doubles in ’08
Story By Nancy Sexton
RamPage Reporter

The Victor Valley College Nursing Program has expanded greatly in the Spring 2008 Semester, according to Pat Luther, the head of the department.

There are currently 243 students in all phases of the nursing program, with 75 first-semester students, 61 second-semester students, 55 third-semester students and 52 fourth-semester students.

The funding resources that helped increase the number of nursing students this semester were from San Bernardino County and grants from the Chancellors office, according to Luther.

The nursing program has a partnership with St. Mary Medical Center and Desert Valley Hospital for the nursing students to work at those facilities on the weekends as student aides or student nurses, also known as Certified Nursing Assistants.

Luther does not think the nursing program will continue to expand as it has this semester, in spite of the waiting list of students wanting to enter the nursing program, because of the limited space and the equipment also being used by the Paramedic, Respiratory Therapy, EMT and Phlebotomy programs. A new building would help all the groups and programs.

Luther said, “I would like to thank the other college departments such as Financial Aid, Math, English, the Sciences, as well as the Disabled Students Programs and Services department. They do such a good job preparing the students before they come to us, which allows us to do a good job too.”

Daryn Dittemore is a first-semester nursing student at VVC. Her mother is a nurse and Daryn always wanted to be a nurse also. She spent two years on the waiting list before entering the nursing program. According to Dittemore, the program is difficult but she manages by prioritizing her time. She spends two or three hours daily in the lab and classroom, three to four hours nightly studying and 12 hours on Saturdays at St. Mary Medical Center, where she cares for a patient. She sometimes feels overwhelmed but benefits from
Survey Focuses on Campus Smoking

Story and Photo By
Bill Buttler
Co-News Editor

A recent survey taken by the Associated Student Body Council elicited some strong opinions from Victor Valley College students about issues of smoking on campus. Responses from 1,104 students from Feb. 9 through the 20 obtained between 8 a.m. through 7 p.m. presented a good sampling of students attending VVC.

A majority of 72 percent expressed a desire for designated smoking areas, while 64 percent reported wanting non-smoking areas. A group of 72 percent felt violators ought to be disciplined, although students stated ambivalence to the reporting of offenders, and 62 percent preferred smoking shelters not be built. Related options are being discussed on campus to determine what, if any resolutions will be recommended.

Those questioned in the survey included part-time, full-time and night-time only students. Non-credit students, financial aid recipients, those with and without ASB cards, vocational students and a diverse age group were polled, too, providing a good cross-section of opinion. Non-smokers and those who had smoked in the past were among those polled.

According to a release from ASB Advisor and Auxiliary Services Director Robert Sewell, 18 percent smokers and 51 percent past-smokers were among the 1,104 answering. A blanket ban on smoking was not preferred by the majority.

Other area schools are also addressing their smoking policies. Palomar College Staff Assistant in Student Affairs Marilyn Lunde said, “Palomar abides by the state regulation of prohibiting smoking within 20 feet of an open door or window.” She added at their school “six areas are being considered as designated smoking areas, but those await committee approval before formal adoption.”

Traffic Concerns Raise Questions Amongst Students

Story and Photo By
Tessa Willis
Photo/Online Editor

As many Victor Valley College students know, getting stuck in traffic at the Bear Valley Road and Jacaranda Road intersection is just part of being a student at VVC.

Many students, however, want to know what is being done about the traffic nightmare that has plagued the main entrance and exit to the school.

VVC student Stephen Patch said, “The light at Jacaranda really is a flawed design. I think by making the entrance from Spring Valley Parkway an exit as well, the traffic situation could be helped a lot.”

One solution proposed is to put a light at Bear Valley and Fish Hatchery roads to open up a main entrance and exit onto lower campus. This would also help the problem of making a left turn onto Bear Valley from the lower campus. Many students feel it is too dangerous to make a left turn at this intersection because of the heavy traffic on Bear Valley.

According to Chief of Campus Police, Jack Thomas, a stop light at Bear Valley and Fish Hatchery Road has been in the works for the past five years. The project, which is a coordination between VVC and the cities of Victorville and Hesperia, has never been put into effect as funds have been diverted elsewhere by the two cities.

Victorville city officials stated that the light has been designed, funds from state and certain formalities are the only thing holding up the process. If all goes according to plan, the light at Bear Valley and Fish Hatchery roads should be in place by the end of the year.

Many students have also voiced concerns about the crosswalk on Jacaranda by the new Advanced Technology Center.

To help drivers be more aware, plans for flashing lights to be put up at the crosswalk are in the works.

While these are not permanent solutions for the ever growing VVC, these are at least steps in the right direction to relieving the traffic congestion at the college.
Heard Around the Lake
Interviews By Melissa Gomez and Diana Cansino
“How do you think campus parking problems could be resolved?”

“Make more spaces. For example the areas that have dirt could be made into parking lots so it’s more convenient for people.”
- Clarissa Jones

“Adding more space would be nice. You have to come half an hour early before your class to find a spot, maybe a parking garage.”
- Sarah Estabrook

“Everywhere there’s dirt they need to repave it and put more parking”
- Ginger Swanberg

“More space! That’s the only parking problem I know!”
- Sarah Garcia

“More parking, a lot of dirt lots can be turned into parking spaces”
- Marian Ali

“For me I come to school early so I haven’t had an issue with parking”
- Carolyn Moore

Going Green: Solar Paneled Call Boxes Installed

Story By
Joan Beinschroth-Paustell
RamPage Reporter

Six solar powered emergency call boxes have been installed in parking lots throughout the Victor Valley College campus and have been operational for several weeks, according to Chris Hylton, Director of Maintenance and Operations.

The call boxes are located in parking lots 1, 6, 9, 12, 16 and 18. They are 9 feet tall and are topped by a 2 by 3 foot solar panel. For easy recognition during the day, they have been painted yellow, and at night they emit a bluish light to aid location.

A simple push of the button activates the system. Calls are put directly through to the campus police and can be made at any time of the day or night. Conversations are conducted by speaking directly into the speaker box. The location of the call box is listed above the speaker in case the caller does not know the parking lot number.

The solar powered call boxes, in line with the college’s desire to go “green”, were also the most economical to install. Conventional electrical powered boxes would have required extensive trenching. The solar cells require little direct light to remain charged and it is estimated that a call would need to last for several hours before the batteries would be drained.

The call boxes, which are widespread on other college campuses, were installed per VVC President Dr. Silverman’s instruction. The cost was $10,000 per unit.

The campus police have not yet received any calls from the system.
Representative from FIDM Presents at VVC

Story and Photos By Heather McBride
RamPage Reporter

On March 10, Franceska Hughes from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising led a presentation in the Student Activities Center at Victor Valley College to give students information about the institute and what it’s all about.

There was a short video about the school which included alumni telling about their past experiences with the school and what they thought about FIDM. The video also included clips from fashion shows and appearances from school faculty.

According to Hughes, FIDM is the best school in California for fashion because of its strong ties to the fashion industry. She says the school serves as a wonderful creative outlet for students who are very creative and may not have fit in at any regular schools.

“FIDM is a really different college, but it’s a wonderful fit for some people who may not have always fit in at any traditional school,” she said. “A student of FIDM must be good at producing on deadlines, must be creative, have a passion for the industry and of course, be a high school graduate.”

FIDM has a total of 16 different majors all having to do with design and most having to do with fashion, except for the business management major. Their majors range from Fashion Design to Footwear Design and Graphic Design and even Jewelry Design. The programs at FIDM range from two to four years depending on what program a student is attending, and what type of degree they wish to achieve. FIDM even has a career placement program with job placement ranging in the 90 percentile.

FIDM alumni have gone on to find prestigious jobs in the industry such as Pam Levy, founder of Juicy Couture, designers for GUESS?, Nautica and Z. Cavaricci, and many of its graduates find jobs at places like Billabong and Hurley. Graduates of FIDM have even designed clothing and costumes for movies and shows like Clueless, Enchanted, Friends and Chuck.

FIDM holds events twice a year for prospective students. In the Fall there is an open house and in the Summer there is the event titled “Three days of fashion,” where students are invited to tour the school. Students who want more information on FIDM should go to www.FIDM.edu for more information.

Small Business Day Coming to Hilton Garden Inn

Story and Photo By Jennifer Watson
RamPage Reporter

Small Business Day is planned for Wednesday, March 26, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn sponsored by the Desert Community Bank and the High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In attendance will be the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center, U.S. Small Business Administration and County of San Bernardino. Open to small business owners and those looking to start a small business, this is an opportunity to learn how to become successful at owning a business.

Louisa Miller of the Inland Empire SBDC stated there is going to be an area with an expo and an area with a seminar. Attendees of the event will learn about business plans and marketing. Presentations about SBA lending and finance and international trade plus information on government and local contracts will be given.

Attendees will learn about business plans through two one hour simultaneous seminars, one in English and one in Spanish. Concepts include what is in a business plan, how to develop one, the statistical facts and monetary uses of a business plan.

The fundamentals of a business plan are important for small business owners. Miller said lenders require a business plan for funding.

SBA lending and finance information will be given by representatives of the DCB through presentations. Information will include what types of finance are available to small businesses and where to properly obtain aide.

Information will be given by the HDHCC for marketing a business through the media. Attendees will receive information on the procurement of government and local contracts. There will be presentations on international trade and economic development by representatives of the County of San Bernardino and the SBA.

The event will be held behind the hotel in the conference area. For those who attend the admission is free and there will be a free complimentary continental breakfast. For further information or to register for the event refer to the flyer on www.vvc.edu or call Beverly Williams at (760) 243-2140 extension 1004. For Spanish call (760) 241-6661.
Men’s Baseball Gains First Win in Conference

Story and Photo By
Heidi Randolph
RamPage Reporter

The Victor Valley College Men’s Baseball team gained not only a win, but also a little more confidence in a home game on March 15, at noon and 2:30 p.m. against Antelope Valley College in a double header, losing 4-3 in the first game and winning 5-4 in the second.

The Rams took an early lead in the first inning of the first game. Helpless errors in the late innings by the Rams caused Antelope Valley to gain a 4-3 lead in the top of the ninth inning.

While the snow fell during their 30-minute break between games, Alan Brace said, “It is the entire team and general errors that needs improvement. Overall we just simply have a lot of strike-outs.”

The Rams added another loss to their record, as the growing team failed to come back.

“The Rams gained momentum. Quick 3-and-outs ended the game, leaving the Lady Rams trailing 3-0. The Rams gained momentum from a double, hit by Carolina Olivaress. In the third and fourth the Rams scored 3 runs making the score 3-3. One of those runs came from a homerun hit by Anita Espinoza. Espinoza is one of the clutch players whom the Lady Rams hoped to rally behind to steal the much needed win.

COTD came back to score one more run in the fifth, giving them back the lead.

Defense from both teams seemed to be the focus for the latter part of the game. The Lady Rams struggled in their offensive game and never regained momentum. Quick 3-and-outs ended the game, handing the Rams another loss. The final score was 4-3, keeping the Lady Rams searching for their first conference win.

After the game Lady Rams Coach Donell Thomas praised her team on a good tight game.

Thomas said, “The team continues to learn and get better,” and notes that defensive errors made the difference in the game.

Lady Rams Softball Remains Without Win

Story and Photo By
Aaron Banuelos
RamPage Reporter

College of the Desert managed to take the lead in a close game against Victor Valley College’s Lady Rams Softball team, winning 4-3 in a home game on March 19. The Lady Rams were coming off a hot streak that had them 3-1 in their last two tournaments.

The Lady Rams trailed in the first two innings, resulting from mental errors and lack of defense. It started with the first batter from COTD hitting a double. Two strategic bunting plays brought her in, making the score 1-0 at the bottom of the first. With a quick 3-and-out the score remained the same at the top of the second. COTD scored two more runs in the second inning, leaving the Lady Rams trailing 3-0. The Rams gained momentum from a double, hit by Carolina Olivaress. In the third and fourth the Rams scored 3 runs making the score 3-3. One of those runs came from a homerun hit by Anita Espinoza. Espinoza is one of the clutch players whom the Lady Rams hoped to rally behind to steal the much needed win.

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Home Games for April

Men’s Baseball
05-Sat. Barstow College D-H, Victorville, Noon & 2:30 p.m.
10-Thurs. Chaffey College, Victorville, 2:30 p.m.
19-Sat. Rio Hondo College D-H, Victorville, Noon & 2:30 p.m.
24-Thurs. Cerro Coso College, Victorville, 2:30 p.m.

Women’s Softball
09-Wed. Barstow College, Victorville, 3 p.m.
11-Fri. Rio Hondo College, Victorville, 3 p.m.
18-Fri. San Bernardino Valley College, 3 p.m.

Women’s Tennis
03-Tues. Rio Hondo College, Victorville

Away Games for April

Men’s Baseball
01-Tues. High Desert Mavericks, Adelanto, 7 p.m.
03-Thurs. Barstow College, Barstow, 2:30 p.m.
12-Sat. Chaffey College, DH, Rancho Cucamonga Noon & 2:30 p.m.
17-Thurs. Rio Hondo College, Whittier 2:30 p.m.
26-Sat. Cerro Coso College, DH, Ridgecrest, Noon & 2:30 p.m.

Women’s Softball
02-Wed. Mt. San Jacinto, Menifee, 3 p.m.
05-Sat. Porterville, DH, Porterville, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.
16-Wed. College of the Desert, Palm Desert, 3 p.m.

Men’s Tennis
10-Tues. Palomar College, San Marcos, 2 p.m.
12-Thurs. Grossmont College, El Cajon, 2 p.m.

Women’s Tennis
05-Thurs. Mt. San Jacinto College, San Jacinto 2 p.m.
AKC Dog Shows Held on VVC Soccer Fields

Story and Photos By Desiree Pena
RamPage Reporter

The Apple Valley Kennel Club’s 26th and 27th Annual American Kennel Club Dog Shows took place at the Victor Valley College soccer field on March 8 and 9. The club, which was founded in the late 1960’s, holds two back to back shows each year with obedience and rally trials.

People come from all over to participate in the show. Sandy Kendall brought her six-month-old Siberian Husky, Trai, to his first dog show. However, she has been showing other dogs for 15 years.

Bill Buell, the handler of Jenny, an Irish Wolfhound who won the best in her breed, is an example of dog shows being a family tradition. He is 65 years old and declares to be “born into it”.

While some dogs are competing some owners are shopping at the booths dedicated to their beloved pooch. There are stores like Shear Delight Scissors and Pooche’ Pet Boutique where man’s best friend can wear their favorite football, baseball and basketball jerseys.

While a competition is in action, the atmosphere is quite friendly; it is like a big family and everyone is enjoying each others’ company.

As Marlene Perez, who was working the information booth at the show, said, “If you are into dogs, you come to these and you will have friends.”

Play Preview: Guys and Dolls Returns to VVC

Story By Amberly Salvate
RamPage Reporter

Guys and Dolls hits the stage next month at Victor Valley College. April 17 will be the first of eight shows, which will run Thursday through Sunday for two consecutive weeks. Shows begin at 7:30 p.m. with matinees each Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free for students with an ASB card, $10 for general admission and $7 for seniors and children under 12.

This production will be the first theatrical performance to take place in the Performing Arts Center since the remodeling and new additions. Director Ed Heaberlin, who has directed countless plays at VVC, comes together with Dr. Thomas Miller and David Rodriguez to put on this timeless classic.

Guys and Dolls has appeared on the VVC stage before, and now its back again with new fresh faces.

“Guys and Dolls is the perfect American musical,” Heaberlin said when asked why he chose this particular play. Guys and Dolls was written by Abe Burrows, Frank Loesser and Jo Swerling in 1950. It's based on Damon Runyon's short story “The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown.” Guys and Dolls first opened on Broadway in 1950 and played over 1,200 performances in its initial run. It has since then been revived in hundreds of cities and numerous countries.

The play revolves around Nathan Detroit, the organizer of the oldest established floating crap game in New York and his psychiatrically sick fiancé of 14 years, who is pushing for the altar. Nathan bets a fellow gambler, Sky Masterson, that he can't make the next girl he sees fall in love with him. The next girl Masterson sees happens to be Miss Sarah Brown, a pure at heart Salvation Army type reformer, and the stage is set for a hilarious evening of complications.

With a cast of more than thirty, great vocals and extensive choreography, Guys and Dolls is sure to be a hit.

“It's the kind of play where you could come having the worst day of your life and leave thinking you've just had the happiest day in the world,” said Angela Calderon, one of the cast members, taking on six roles of her own in this production.

The play has just the right mix of romance, comedy and fun that Victor Valley students need.
GENERAL INFORMATION

The RamPage is a newspaper published as an educational exercise and First Amendment Public Forum by students at Victor Valley College in Victorville, Calif. Issues come out approximately twice a month in the two full-length semesters, generally each February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December, for a total of 14 issues each calendar year.

The views expressed by the RamPage are not necessarily those of VVC, its board of trustees, its administration, its faculty, its staff, its Associated Student Body Council or its students.

The RamPage welcomes press releases, story ideas, letters to the editor, guest articles and guest editorials. Submit proposed items to the on-campus mailbox of RamPage Adviser Judith Pfeffer — clearly marked as being submitted for publication. Or, email them to VVCRamPage@hotmail.com or mail information to RamPage, Victor Valley College, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395 or leave a message at 760-245-4271 extension 2773.

ADVERTISING

The RamPage generally accepts as advertising only 8 1/2 - by -11-inch flyers as inserts. The cost is $100, which covers insertion/distribution of 1,500 copies. The cost and responsibility of designing, reproducing and delivering the 1,500 flyers to the RamPage is borne by the advertiser.

To discuss display advertising options or to purchase any form of advertisement, call Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services Deanna Murphy at 760-245-4271 extension 2707.

Acceptance of any advertisement in the RamPage does not constitute endorsement by the paper, college, district, board, council or student body.

The RamPage reserves the right to reject any material — advertising or editorial — that it deems to be not in keeping with the standards of the paper.
Opening Gala Headline Event!

Red Carpet Events
Your Seat is Waiting

Guys & Dolls

Story by Damon Runyon
Book by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling
Music & Lyrics by Frank Loesser

Directed by: Ed Heaberlin
Musical Direction: Dr. Thomas Miller
Choreography: David Rodriguez

"an evening of high spirited entertainment"
"quoted as being one of the greatest musicals ever written"
"a fantastic mix of comedy and truth"

April 17 7:30PM
April 18 7:30PM
April 19 7:30PM
April 20 2:30PM
April 24 7:30PM
April 25 7:30PM
April 26 7:30PM
April 27 2:30PM

Gen. Admission - $10 • Seniors & Children under 12 - $7
ASB Cardholders - FREE!

Victor Valley College Performing Arts Center
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Ticket Info: 245-4271 Ext. 849