Rear Admiral Returns to Victor Valley College

Story By
Joan Beinschroth-Paustell
RamPage Reporter

Rear Admiral Ann D. Gilbride, Victor Valley College alumna, stopped at the college on April 21 as part of a three-day home town tour of the High Desert to educate listeners about the Navy.

Other stops on the tour were Granite Hills, Hesperia, Heritage and Apple Valley high schools as well as Sitting Bull Middle School, the Academy for Academic Excellence, and Soroptimist and Rotary organizations.

Gilbride spoke to a very small group of predominantly business students in the VVC Student Activity Center. Tailoring her speech to emphasize the economic impact of the Navy, she told the audience that 70 percent of the world is water, 80 percent of the world’s population lives on or within 200 miles of the coast and 90 percent of economic prosperity is based on the free flow of commerce, much of which is on the sea. It is the Navy’s job to protect the sea against both terrorism and piracy. Using a slide presentation, Gilbride spoke on the Arc of Instability, a wide swath through Africa and South America where low income, median age, life expectancy rates and a high male to female ratio contribute to world wide issues of extremism, civil war, famine, narcotics and rogue states.

Gilbride told the audience that while people think of the military as important in fighting wars, as important is their role in protecting the peace. Part of keeping the peace is establishing a positive presence in other countries throughout the world, which includes humanitarian assistance provided by the Navy such as tsunami relief aid and the hospital ship USNS Mercy.

In a brief interview after the presentation, Gilbride responded to the question of why someone should join the Navy by saying “If they are looking for a way to make a difference, it would be good to consider the U.S. Navy. Anything you can do in civilian life, you can do in the Navy.” She feels that the Navy provides "incredible

ASB Elections About to Begin

Story By
Jennifer Watson
RamPage Reporter

With the Associated Student Body elections rapidly approaching the ASB Candidate Forum on May 5 and 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. is a way for students to get informed about the candidates. An essential part of the voting process, the candidate forum is the only time the candidates have to openly campaign to the public.

Typically, during a candidate forum, the candidates debate on several topics to persuade students to vote for them. This year, however, is going to be much different considering that there are only four candidates total. Robert Sewell, director of Auxiliary Services, said the candidate forum is going to be a “low key” event.

The four candidates attending will be current Vice President Christina Zambrano and Roderick Gray who are running for president, current Executive Senator Lief Kofford, who is running for vice president, and current Public Relations Senator Magdalen Chavez, who is running for reelection.

The large turnout of candidates last year begs the question “why were there so few this year?” The problem according to Sewell, is that “about a dozen” showed interest, but only three turned in the required paperwork to make them eligible to put on the ballot. The students, who still show interest after the election may choose to be appointed to a position. There are 16 positions that need to be filled, and after the election there will be 13 open.

Students who want to join ASB but don’t have a particular position in mind can get appointed into an open office position, which, as Sewell stated, “is less stressful.” People who show interest before then can also do a write-

Continued on Page 5
Graduation Preparation Beginning

Story and Photo By
Karen Howell
Co-News Editor

Victor Valley College 2008 Commencement exercises will be held Friday, June 6, at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the gymnasium. Graduates may sign up for their ceremony preference based on available seating. Sign-ups began on April 29 at the Grad Fair.

Up to 10 tickets for friends and relatives per graduate are available but students are encouraged to take only what they need and “if two or four are needed, don’t take 10,” said Margie Sandello, coordinator of Student Services. According to Sandello, excess tickets will be made available at a date closer to graduation. Kendra Ullger, Bookstore Operations Assistant, said that graduates could call the Associated Student Body office in a couple of weeks to see if more tickets will be available.

“Because our biggest problem is weather, in order to have a covered location, we hold graduation in the gym,” said Greta Moon, director of Admissions and Records. According to Moon, past attempts to hold commencement ceremonies outdoors have had unpredictable results including unbearable heat and extremely strong winds. Last year’s ceremony was held at the Maverick Baseball Stadium in Adelanto because damage to the gymnasium floor was being repaired.

About 1,100 students will receive their degrees this year and about 375 will participate in one of the two ceremonies, according to Sandello. Jaime Schmidt wants to attend because “it has taken me 12 years, and I deserve it after three kids.” Schmidt will receive an Associate of Arts degree and transfer to a four-year university in order to become an elementary teacher.

Honor cords will be available for those who possess cumulative grade point averages of 3.5 or better based on degree requirements completed through the Fall 2007 semester. A list of qualified graduates will be given to the bookstore sometime near the end of May and the cords may be purchased at that time, according to Sandello.

Diplomas will be available for pickup approximately 18 weeks after the end of the semester, according to the Commencement Information location at the VVC website. Additionally, graduates are asked to pay all fees in full and to make sure that Admissions and Records have correct mailing addresses.

The Grad Fair held on April 29 from noon to 6 p.m. in the VVC bookstore not only provided an opportunity for graduates to choose their commencement time but also a chance to purchase a package of cap, gown, hood and tassel for $47.99 plus tax. Other items available included announcements starting at $17.50 for 10. These items will continue to be available at the bookstore.

Fate of Humanities Center Still Uncertain

Story By
Melissa Gomez
RamPage Reporter

Victor Valley College is looking to expand the college presence in the Humanities Center on lower campus, which is predominately unoccupied due to the completion of the Advanced Technology Center.

According to Robert Sewell, director of Auxiliary Services, it is important to have relations with other college campuses.

VVC is currently communicating with “educational partners who are interested in a presence on VVC’s campus,” said Sewell.

Dr. Robert Silverman, president of VVC, has heard these rumors but says there are no firm proposals to confirm that it is true.

Colleges such as Azusa Pacific and Cal State San Bernardino are looking to expand in additional space in VVC’s Humanities Center.

According to Sewell, “Having a college presence is a benefit for our students looking to advance in our community.” Although it has not yet been determined when this advance will take place it has been rumored that VVC potentially may have new partners during the summer.

Dr. Silverman said that he “would like to rent the space which is not needed by the college at this time, but again, I have no proposal to review.”

Now that places such as the Writing Center, Basic Skills Lab and other classes are in the ATC, the Humanities Center is currently filled with Spanish tutoring classes and has signs on almost every door to notify students where classes and staff members have been relocated to.

The fate of the HC buildings is not yet clear. Staff members are hesitant to discuss the future of the buildings for reasons unknown.
**Paramedics Program Medical Director Passes Away**

**Story By**
**Bill Buttler**
**Co-News Editor**

Victor Valley College lost its Paramedics Program Medical Director Roger Earl Toop, MD, who died suddenly of cardiac arrest April 9 at Desert Valley Hospital in Victorville. A resident of Phelan, Dr. Toop was 63.

A memorial service was held April 28 at West Covina Hills Seventh Day Adventist Church, and he was laid to rest at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in West Covina.

Dr. Toop had overseen the VVC program since June of 2007 and was known by colleagues as “a very giving person” according to a pamphlet handed out at the memorial service. He was said to have always extended praise and appreciation to God for his recovery from cancer in the early 2000’s; also for his sons, Kenny and Dayton, and looked forward to spiritual reunion with his daughter, Kara, who preceded him in death in 1987.

Born Dec. 16, 1945 in Almonte, Ontario, Dr. Toop attended Almonte District High School before becoming an x-ray technician at Branson Hospital in Willowdale, Ontario. He attended Walla Walla College in Washington, earning a BA in Sociology in 1972 and a doctorate in education with a minor in philosophy. Barda is planning to further his education with a doctorate in education or administration.

Barda has been the Cross Country coach at VVC since 1998 and has taught in the Physical Education Department since 2000. He still competes in Cross Country at the national level and he was able to put himself through school with scholarships from the sport.

He also has a master’s degree in education from Azusa Pacific University. According to Barda his education allows him to better serve the students and show them the value of education as it fits into society. Barda is planning to further his education with a doctorate in education or administration.

Barda has been the Cross Country coach at VVC since 1998 and has taught in the Physical Education Department since 2000. He still competes in Cross Country at the national level and he was able to put himself through school with scholarships from the sport.

Prior to Barda’s promotion he was the Upward Bound Coordinator for the VVC TRIO (Student Support Services) Program. This is a federally funded program that tracks 50 students through all four years of high school to help ensure their success in college. He enjoyed this position as it helped students.

Kevin is a high energy person and as such he accomplishes what he sets out to do.”

Janet Long is head of Student Support Services where Barda worked as Upward Bound Coordinator before becoming the College Recruiter.

Long said, “I worked with Kevin Barda for approximately three months. He was instrumental in the development of the relationship between VVC Upward Bound Program and each of the target schools. Through Kevin’s efforts recruitment of the high school students is well under way and progressing successfully. Kevin is a high energy person and as such he accomplishes what he sets out to do.”

Elizabeth Duarte has taken over Barda’s former position as Coordinator of Upward Bound.

**VVC Appoints Kevin Barda as College Recruiter**

**Story and Photo By**
**Nancy Sexton**
**RamPage Reporter**

Kevin Barda is the new College Recruiter at Victor Valley College according to an email sent campuswide by Dr. Victoria A. Hindes, dean of Student Services.

According to Kevin Barda, the college recruiter position is an outreach position to increase enrollment and to foster good relationships with the surrounding schools and community.

As the college recruiter, Barda will recruit students. His goal is to increase enrollment at the college and to see more students graduate from VVC and transfer to a four-year university.

Barda has a bachelor’s degree in sociology with a minor in philosophy from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.
VVC Hosts a Packed PAC

Story By
Brandon Chiz
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

The opening of the Performing Arts Center began with a prestige dinner and theatre performance of Guys and Dolls, a play made in the 1950’s.

In celebration of the reopening of the PAC, the Victor Valley College’s Associated Student Body and the VVC District Foundation helped create the Gala Grand Opening, a fundraiser which brought in $37,000 for the VVC Theatre program.

“We are a program to make friends and help the community and we felt that the Gala would do that, and tonight it did,” said Ginger Ontiveros, VVC District Foundation executive director.

The dinner was presented in the Student Activities Center that had been redesigned for the guests, changing the ambience into a classy reception hall including music and catered dining.

However, it took extensive planning for both the PAC and the Gala to be truly established, as Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services Deanna Murphy remembers.

“It has been about two years since the last play here,” said Murphy. “There was a board, and through that it became a group effort that evolved the Gala event into what it has become today.”

After dinner, attendees were treated with a grand red carpet entrance accompanied by the Fire Academy trainees standing in attention on each side of the carpet, honoring guests as they walked by.

“It’s been so exciting and wonderful! We’ve been constantly entertained. But most importantly it’s great to have the community come out and make this night successful,” said Linda Scott, a member of the Foundation.

The price of the dinner was the fundraiser which proved to be for a good cause. The event had many sponsors including the Daily Press, El Dorado Broadcasting, Cal K12 Construction and Sportsman’s Warehouse.

The Gala also had many important guests filling up the PAC to near maximum capacity, including Superintendent/President of Victor Valley College Dr. Robert Silverman.

“It’s nice to have events here again,” Silverman said. “It turned out to be a full and entertaining event and we’re glad that everybody came through and we’re able to enjoy this at VVC again.”

“We felt it was absolutely successful,” said Ginger Ontiveros, executive director for VVC District Foundation.”

Having a full PAC made the actors and actress of Guys and Dolls anxious with anticipation.

“It felt great and fun! You get to feed off the energy of the crowd, and utilize the length that we rehearsed for the show,” said Mark Dufrene, the actor who played the lead roll of Nathan Detroit.

Even though a dinner and a theatre combo event is not common to the college, when asked if something similar might happen at the PAC again Ginger Ontiveros has positive hopes, “It was absolutely successful, and it might be sometime, but we hope to do this again in the future.”

For ticket information call the ticket center at (760)245-4271 extension 849.

Robert Sewell Wins First Amendment Award

Guest Submission By
Judith Pfeffer
Journalism Adviser

Robert Sewell has won the First Amendment Award of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges.

Sewell, director of auxiliary services at Victor Valley College and adviser to VVC’s Associated Student Body Council, was one of five people honored with the award, given annually since 2003. JACC, based in Oakland, is composed of journalism instructors from dozens of community colleges throughout the state.

The award was conveyed at an awards banquet April 5 that concluded the three-day annual convention. This convention, the most important event for JACC, was held at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in downtown Los Angeles; next year’s will be in March in Sacramento.

Sewell attended the dinner with his wife, Theresa, and with Judith Pfeffer, journalism instructor and student media adviser, who nominated him. Sewell and Pfeffer, plus the four other pairs of honorees/nominators, delivered brief remarks to the approximately 600 people there.

The First Amendment Award was created to recognize administrators at California community colleges who facilitate, in any notable way, the mission of the student journalists at their campuses.

Sewell’s assistance, for approximately the past eight years, has been of the concrete variety, with his staff handling the advertising and accounting functions for the RamPage and delivering the twice-monthly paper around campus. Moreover, starting about five years ago, he has provided the program with a small office in the Student Activities Center to use as a newsroom. The paper is printed on campus — Sewell is in charge of the Campus Print Shop — and starting this semester the RamPage has also been distributed by him via intracampus email.

This assistance frees the small staff and the part-time instructor/adviser to concentrate on the core mission of covering the campus and thereby maintaining the student media as a First Amendment public forum. The journalism program consists of the award-winning RamPage; an independent website established approximately one year ago at http://www.myspace.com/vvcrampage; and, set to debut later this year, video coverage.

The initial funding for video is being supported by a grant from the Victor Valley College Foundation.
Heard Around the Lake  
Interviews By Amberly Salvate, RamPage Reporter  
“What do you think VVC needs to improve or focus on?”

“Water at night. The sprinklers are always on during the day.”  
-Jeremiah Harvey

“I just show up, do my stuff and leave, so nothing really.”  
-Nathaniel Larson

“I’d like to see more classes and more class times.”  
-Lorenzo Morales

“More science classes. They fill up too fast.”  
-Anthony Berry

“Night classes should start later than 5:30 p.m. so people who work will have enough time to get here and find parking.”  
-Barbara V. Lowe-Lascelles

“PARKING!!!!”  
-Collette Washington

ASB continued from Page 1

in on the ballot. According to the Inner Club Council Senator Armando Perez, the following procedure should be followed:  
Write-in candidates must declare their intention to run for an office 48 hours prior to elections. Write-in votes will not be counted unless the candidate has submitted a written declaration to the Election Committee.

A write-in vote shall:  
a. Be clearly marked in the space provided on the ballot.  
b. Have the candidate's name clearly written on the line provided. The election committee will vote on discrepancies. Write-in candidates must have a minimum of 10 percent of the votes cast in the election to be elected to office.  
c. All write-in candidates must meet minimum requirements as stipulated in elections code.

Candidate Forums  
Monday, May 5  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 6  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Elections  
Wednesday, May 7  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Thursday, May 8  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Voting Locations  
Science Building  
(Building 31)  
Student Activities Center  
(Building 44)  
Gym  
(Building 71)

News Briefs

Ram’s Week  
Ram’s Week will be May 12 through 16. The week will begin with a club fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., a vendor expo at the same time and an academic challenge at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday’s events include a music and art festival from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday will have a Recycled Fashion show 2pm to 3pm, and a Dunk Tank starting at 11 a.m. Thursday Drag Pageant 12 noon to 1 p.m. Drag rare 1pm to 1:30pm. Friday Breakfast 6 a.m., Luncheon 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Mock trail Happy 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

PAC Music Events  
Thursday, May 15 Music Ensemble, 7:30 p.m.  
FREE  
Friday, May 16 Strike Up the Bands! 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets: $10 General Admission, $7 Seniors/Children, ASB Cardholders FREE  
Saturday, May 17 Beethoven Festival, Choral Music 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets: $10 General Admission, $7 Seniors/Children, ASB Cardholders FREE  
Sunday, May 18 Strings and More! 2:30 p.m.  
Tickets: $10 General Admission, $7 Seniors/Children, ASB Cardholders FREE  
Tickets can be purchased at the VVC Box Office or by calling (760) 245-4271 extension 849
Classics Shake Rattle and Roll into VVC

Photo Essay By
Desiree Pena
RamPage Reporter

The Past Reflections Car Club held their 17th annual Shake Rattle and Roll car show Saturday, April 19. The show was held at Victor Valley College and featured approximately 125 cars. All proceeds raised will go to local charities.

Unusual Bird Appears on Lower Campus

Story By
Micah Silke
RamPage Reporter

A guinea fowl has made its home on the lower campus of Victor Valley College. This domestic bird, about half the size of a grown turkey, has been a VVC local for about a month.

“Just walk into the garden just about anytime, on any day and you’ll see that guinea fowl running around clucking up a storm,” said Andrew Billingsly, a student at VVC.

Since mid March the guinea fowl, which remains nameless, has been seen nesting in a tamarisk tree below the Desert Demonstrations Garden on the lower campus. No one is sure how the guinea fowl got there.

“It probably escaped from a bird exhibit and found it’s way down here where it stays big and fat and just cruises around,” said Robert Bennet, a teacher on the lower campus.

“It’s happened before that somebody will drop off a goose or duck. Guinea fowl are pretty big and noisy, anyway we’re happy to have her,” said Bennet.

The garden has made an exceptional habitat for the bird. Starla Underwood, the environmental specialist on campus, has been seen shooing her out of dangers way in the adjacent parking lot and back into the garden.

Unless someone comes to claim her, “she has decided that this is where she’s going to stay,” said Bennet. The large red hawks that frequent the area are the only real threat to this unusual campus inhabitant.

Photo By Robert Bennet, VVC instructor.
A guinea fowl has made itself at home on the lower campus of Victor Valley College.
VVC Tackles First Football Camp

Story By
Darryl Richie
Co-Sports Editor

The Victor Valley College football team is having the first 2008 Student-Athlete Success Camp for children and the community.

The camp starts Saturday May 3 through 4 for grades 1 to 5, May 10 through 11 for grades 6 to 8 and May 17 through 18 for grades 9 to 12. Parents, boys and girls are welcomed and there is no disability limitation.

It will cost $40 per camper and will be held at VVC from 8 a.m. to noon on the football field. Registration is on Saturday May 3 and Sunday May 4 from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. both days. The option to register online is available at www.vvc.edu/academics/athletics.

Campers will learn the fundamentals of football such as covering techniques, footwork, tracking and pursuit drills and ball handling.

The kids will also learn the importance of getting a good education. For instance, they will learn about the recruiting process, nutrition and training habits, SAT/ACT scores and the importance of academics.

“We are out in the community and about 15 to 20 of our kids are at schools reading to kids,” Defensive Line Coach Charles Walker said. “We started a study hall and we are looking for a very nice year.”

Former San Diego Charger Wide Receiver Mark Seay will make an appearance at the camp. Seay played in the NFL for six years and was coached by both VVC Coaches Dave Hoover and Charles Walker.

Walker said, “We are building a positive image in the community and we want the local kids from the schools and they get just as good a chance as anybody else.”

Athletics Director Jaye Tashima is excited about the Student-Athlete Success Camp.

Baseball Finishes on Sour Note

Story By
Heidi Randolph
RamPage Reporter

The Victor Valley College Men’s Baseball team ended their season in a home game on April 24 with an ugly 13-0 loss against Cerro Coso College and with an overall record of 10-30-1.

Although they lost to Cerro Coso before earlier in the season the Rams walked away with a positive attitude and a good approach for next year.

According to Head Coach Robert Smith his recruiting is in full swing and is already preparing for the Rams’ 2009 season.

The Rams won more baseball games this season than they have the last two seasons combined.

The coaching staff agrees that this season has prepared their young, returning players for next season in many ways.

Smith said, “The 15 returning freshmen have grown to be a tight group and like family.”

Alan Brace is one of the returning players for next season.

Brace said, “For me personally the season ended decent. I had a good batting average, and we were a good team.”

Many of the season’s young players were recruited from Sultana High School including 6’ 4” Louis Martus who is one of the Rams’ pitchers.

Martus said, “The whole team from high school is here, and we want to make history together, and show VVC that we can play.”

Along with that positive outlook, Andrew Anthony said, “I didn’t know what to expect this season, but I gained more confidence for next year.”

As for the non-returning players, Luke Mullinax, Mike Davis, Blain Lloyd, Adrian Bartec and Eric Wickham are all going their separate ways.

Before Thursday’s last home game the five players were announced and recognized.

Luke Mullinax said, “This season ended good, not what I wanted it to be, but I can’t complain.”

Mullinax plans on either going to Chico State or University of Las Vegas and he talks with their baseball coaches every two weeks to see how the progress of transferring is coming along.

Sports Schedule

Men’s Golf
May 7 State Championships-SCGA

Men’s Track and Field
May 10 Southern California Finals, Bakersfield, 8 a.m.
May 16-17 California State Championships, Cerritos, TBA

Women’s Track and Field
May 10, Southern California Finals, Bakersfield 8 a.m.
May 16-17 California State Championships, Cerritos, TBA

Construction has begun for the new Adaptive PE Center on lower campus. The new facility will include a dance studio and adaptive physical education area.

The project is state funded with additional funding from the District.
San Dimas Wide Awake for Asleep In Every City Show

Story and Photo By
Desiree Pena
RamPage Reporter

The Home Brew Coffee shop in San Dimas, Calif. was the place to be Saturday, April 26. A line-up of five bands played. Among those bands was the High Desert’s own Asleep in Every City. AIEC officially came together at the end of January 2008 and have been steadily and rapidly gaining a strong fan base in the last couple months.

Among the five members of the band, two are Victor Valley College students and one is a VVC graduate. Current students are bass player Andrew Soliz and drummer Genarro Samarron. Guitarist Nate Blagg, graduated from VVC in spring of 2007 and has been accepted to Cal Poly Pomona. He will start summer semester and will major in Business Administration.

AIEC’s music can be described as a “blend of energetic experimental rock with a post-hardcore edgy feel,” said Blagg.

“It’s catchy and raw,” said Soliz.

What can be expected from an AIEC show?

Soliz said to expect “high intensity, flailing guitars. Expect to rock your face off and have an overall good time.”

That is exactly what was displayed at The Home Brew that night. The band started out with “There’s no Escape,” the first song off their EP “The Only Way Out.” The crowd went into a fury of dancing and singing, an obvious sign of approval.

This was AIEC’s second show but their presentation was anything but amateur. They took the stage as third in the lineup and presented a very natural and entertaining performance.

AIEC is a group of humble guys trying to make their dreams come true. “I’m going to set my sights to north and press on,” said Samarron. Hard work, persistence and dedication are the key to pursuing any dream, and this dream is no exception.

Future shows will be on May 11 at The Wire in Upland, Calif., May 16 at Karma Nightclub in Victorville, May 25 at Angel’s Roadhouse in Apple Valley, and June 8 at the Vibe in Riverside. For booking and information email Andrew Soliz at constantevolution777@yahoo.com or go to their MySpace at www.myspace.com/asleepineverycity.

Asleep in Every City performs at the Home Brew Coffee Shop in San Dimas, Calif.

Illusion Looks for Big Break in High Desert

Story By
Breanna Aguirre
Co-Entertainment Editor

Local rapper Skyler Barroso, who goes by the alias Illusion, is quickly becoming a memorable addition to the High Desert’s Hip Hop scene.

With four successful CD releases and two more on their way Illusion has been able to land several shows and has opened for some familiar artists including Mims, the Pack and KRS-one.

The rapper is looking forward to a memorable but busy summer with the release of his two new CDs. The first is a solo project titled “Victim of My Imagination” and will be produced by Head of the Official. The CD will be released July 18, 2008.

The second CD, “The Recipe,” is a project in combination with local artist and former Victor Valley College student Andy Ortiz, also known as AO. The CD has no release date yet but they’ve released the single “That’s Cool.”

“It’s gotten a good response from the listeners. I have high hopes for the future, I can feel it,” Illusion said.

Illusion is also working on producing the new CD by artist Esteban Vargas, who played with The Ying Yang Twins last October.

Illusion will be working on many projects this summer, so shows shouldn’t be expected anytime soon from the artist.

“As of right now we are trying to hold back on shows. We are just trying to get the music done.”

Illusion says that he aspires to be a superstar and confesses, “I don't make music to make ends meet, I do it to make them overlap. Everybody has to eat, I’ve just got a bigger appetite.”

Illusion’s recent CD, “The Teacher’s Edition,” can be heard and purchased on iTunes or check him out at www.myspace.com/illusionnoisepollution.
Students React to Controversial Album Title

Following the controversial title release of Nas’ upcoming CD, “Nigger,” we asked students what they think.

In a survey, 60 students at VVC were asked if they felt offended by the CD title, if they thought there was a message behind Nas’ CD or if it purely publicity and if they think racism exists at this campus. Surprisingly 65 percent of the students do not feel offended by the CD title.

Nas, refers to his usage of the word as ignorance; most students believe that is what he means. A little more than half the students that took the survey believe Nas is using it purely as a publicity stunt, while the rest believe there is a message behind his music.

Nas has a blunt, straight message behind his music. He speaks about real issues that many of us try to ignore.

I think Nas is being clever on exposing his message. Celebrities need publicity to sell. Controversy is necessary, so if you ask me it is strictly publicity. Is there a message though? Yes. Is it the smartest way to awaken awareness on the issue? Probably not. I mean we need a better, educated way to expose the truth. Especially if we are living in a society where white supremacy exists, I say this in the most respectful way, we need to be smart on how we send a message. We don’t need more ignorance, we need the right type of attention.

66.67 percent of students believe racism does exist at this campus. We are aware racism still exists. All kinds of minorities experience discrimination, and not all people are racist.

A possible solution can be to figure out what we are going to do about it and what the core of this issue is. Perhaps, in order to have a better understanding and acceptance of other races and cultures we need more emphasis on sociology and history education.
Economy Hits Students Where it Hurts

Opinion By
Ivanna Alay
Opinion Editor

It appears the U.S. economy has come to a halt. An increase in foreclosures, bankruptcies, decrease in U.S. currency value and budget cuts for our education has us alarmed to what many economist are referring to as a recession. Other political figures (President Bush) simply believe we’re just in slow motion. For right now we can only wish for the best.

However how does this halt affect us, the students, especially in the High Desert? I’m sure plenty of us have complaints about the kind of stuff we have to deal with. So allow me to say it out loud.

We commute to school with gas prices at almost $4 to the gallon. We pay for our school supplies, and over-priced text books that sometimes we don’t even use. Many of us work, and in the High Desert we don’t have many huge companies where a good amount of income can be obtained. All we see is commercial such as retail stores and restaurants. We don’t live in a big city where busses run every 20 minutes. We are expected to become the future, but we have no financial support.

It’s hard being a student, we have families to support and we have other finances to take care of, but it’s safe to say that in the High Desert life is hard. A couple of years ago students received a lot more money from the state or F.A.F.S.A. and tuition fees were a lot cheaper. That little bit of money a small portion of us received was helpful.

Now in California alone $4.8 billion in education funding is being cut within our school districts. They are now taking programs from the high school students, despite the drop out rates that increased within the last couple of years.

What about those looking into transferring to a four-year university. Do we want to commute down the hill or in the long run is it better to live in school housing? I mean it’s ridiculous. There is a bigger gap between middle class and high class that we admit to. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

Let’s talk about this tax rebate President Bush approved that some of us are looking forward to. But honestly is it going to a vacation or shopping spree? All I got to say is bills, bills, bills! Let’s get real; we need to come up with a plan to lower our expenses. Times are hard, let’s learn how to maintain our finances in these hard times. Try reading the Wall Street Journal, Money Talk. We have to educate ourselves about the economy.

I think the economy is suffering because of how long our troops have been overseas. Our nation has been at war for more than five years. We have lost more than 23,000 U.S. troops in this war, which excludes innocent civilians and other casualties. The petroleum issue derives from the middle-east. The Gulf War was never over.

So do the math, our economy is suffering because of the Bush Administration. This statement is bold, but somebody has to say it.

www.myspace.com/VVCRamPage

Go to our MySpace and:
*Submit a guest article
*Tell us what you think
*Give us tips
*See additional Photos
*Share story ideas
*Read more articles

Missing Reporter!

The RamPage will be needing new reporters for Fall 2008. Are you a reporter at heart? Join the J108 Fundamentals of Journalism class for 4 units and find out.
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.
5th Annual

MONDAY
MAY 12th
5:30 - 8:30PM
IN THE
STUDENT
ACTIVITIES
CENTER

AWARDS &
PRIZES
FOR TOP TEAMS
WITH OTHER
FUN STUFF
THROWN IN!

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE ENTRY FORM

NAME OF TEAM: ______________________

TEAM MEMBER #1 ______________________
TEAM MEMBER #2 ______________________
TEAM MEMBER #3 ______________________
TEAM MEMBER #4 ______________________
TEAM MEMBER #5 ______________________

CONTACT PERSON ______________________
PHONE NUMBER ______________________

Fee is $5 per team
A team consists of at least:
one (1) VVC Student & one (1) VVC Staff or Faculty
three additional team members

ENTRY FORMS DUE May 9th to Auxiliary Services
May 15–7:30pm  Music Ensembles! Guitar Ensemble, Jazz-Rock Combo, Studio Singers & College Band
May 16–7:30pm  STRIKE UP THE BANDS! Studio Jazz Band, Brass Ensemble & Symphonic Band play band favorites.

May 17–7:30pm  CHORAL MUSIC! Beethoven Festival to rededicate the PAC. College Singers, Master Arts Chorale & Sinfonia. The Ocotillo Wind Quintet, “Consecration of the House” Overture & Chorus, Egmont Overture, Kyrie/Gloria from the Mass in C major, Choral Fantasia with Dr. Linda Minasian, pianist.

May 18–2:30pm  STRINGS & MORE! College Orchestra, Preludium Strings & Beginning Strings.
SPRING DANCE CONCERT

Artistic Director:
David Rodriguez

VVC Dance Faculty Members:
Karla Franko, Lynn Guardado,
Nancy Helms, David Rodriguez

A program of diverse dance works
will be presented that will include ballet,
jazz, modern, tap and theater dance.

MAY 30th 7:30pm | MAY 31st 7:30pm

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Adults $10
Seniors / Children $7