MUN Placed in Top Three Percent of Nation’s Best

Story By
Joan Beinschroth-Paustell
RamPage Reporter

The Victor Valley College Model United Nations team won two important awards, Outstanding Delegation and Outstanding Position Paper, at the recently completed National Model United Nations conference held April 22 through 26 in New York.

This is the fourth year in a row the VVC MUN team has received these honors, placing it in the top three percent of all colleges and universities that participated at the conference. Between 4,500 and 5,000 students, representing 209 schools including the London School of Economics, Texas Christian and Brigham Young Universities, were in attendance.

This year VVC MUN sent 15 students to the conference. They were Angela Allen, Joshua Burgamy, Richard Burgos, Roderick Gray, Stephanie Hanson, Brandi Hoberlund, Michael Huston, Natlie Leight, Abigail Myers, Sean O’Grady, Steve Peto, Ray Rangel, Chris Ruiz, Jonathan Slade and Joseph Soto.

When asked why VVC MUN has been so consistently successful, MUN member Sean O’Grady talked about the team spirit and stated that it is a matter of pride.

According to O’Grady, “We stand up and prove ourselves, our intellect and knowledge. The conference provides an opportunity for students from a small community college to show what they can achieve.”

A typical conference day began between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and went as late as 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. Representing the country of Azerbaijan, the team did not debate the representatives of other countries but worked with them to come up with a compromise solution on such international issues as poverty and debt. The team was assessed on its ability to present its arguments and influence the final outcome.

The VVC MUN team will be celebrating its achievements with a dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17, in the Student Activities Center.

Unofficial ASB Winners Announced

Story By
Jennifer Watson
RamPage Reporter

The unofficial winners of the May 8 Associated Student Body election are Christina Zambrano as President, Leif Kofford as Vice President, Tammy Brown as Inter Club Council Senator, and Magdalen Chavez as Public Relations Senator.

“I am shocked. I had a great opponent whom I respect, and he campaigned hard. I thought for sure he was going to win,” said Zambrano, the current Vice President and soon to be President of ASB. “It wasn’t until Friday at the ASB meeting that I heard the unofficial results. When I was revealed the winner, my heart dropped and my eyes swelled. It was at that moment I realized I am responsible for representing over 15,000 students.”

Zambrano wants students to know, “First and foremost, I am a student. I understand your concerns, and I welcome your comments. Please feel free to contact me. My office is always an open door.”

Chavez’s first order of business is to get students more involved and urges students to register to vote.

“It is very important that we as community college and university students are able to stand up to government officials. The best way to do that is to show them that we are voting and are ready for them to hear us.”
Students Encouraged to “See a Counselor Now”

Story By
Nancy Sexton
RamPage Reporter

Diane Wollan, as counseling chair in the Victor Valley Counseling Department, sent out a flyer entitled, “See a Counselor Now,” with recommendations to faculty and students. Wollan has been a counselor for seven and a half years and counseling chair for two years.

The main counseling department is in Building 55, the Extended Opportunity Program and Services Counseling Department and Disabled Students Program Services Counseling Department are in Building 50 all on the upper campus.

The best time to make an appointment in the main counseling department would be in the middle of the Spring or Fall semesters, approximately April and October. It is easier to come in to see a counselor before the Summer semester begins and new students arrive. However, students can still come in to see a counselor until June 20.

Students are encouraged to see their counselors regularly since changes may need to be made in their education plan due to changes with their goals or college requirements.

Wollan said, “We are here to serve students and we hope they see us on a regular basis.”

Students who qualify for priority registration need to see a counselor at the beginning of each semester.

According to Dave Chip, an office assistant in the DSPS department, “In order to provide the eligible DSPS students with accommodations, such as alternative testing, tape recorders, note-taking, Rascal Scooters (for qualified students to get around campus) etc., students need to see a counselor at the beginning of each semester. This will allow DSPS students an equal opportunity for the same quality education as any other student.”

Chip explained priority registration is for students eligible for the DSPS and EOPS-CARE programs and allows these students to register ahead of everyone else on campus.

Sherri Pierce determines the eligibility of students for the DSPS program, authorizes the different necessary student accommodations, provides academic counseling, and provides information to staff and faculty on campus and to community agencies.

The difference between regular counseling and DSPS, EOPS-CARE counseling is that DSPS, EOPS-CARE counseling programs are funded programs where money is set aside by the Chancellor’s Office and the State of California to assure that diverse student representatives with specific needs. For example, disabled students or educationally disadvantaged are helped in every way possible so they can succeed at college.

Heard Around the Lake
Interviews By Amberly Salvate, RamPage Reporter

“How has your approach to college changed with the change in the economy?”

“Gas money is a big issue, but my views about school have not changed.”
-Shadara Epps

“College has been forced to the back burner, it has become a second to getting a job. When you need money now, you’ll just have to go to school later.”
-Andrew Conway Klingfus

“The child care here at VVC is gone now, and it hurts a lot of people.”
-Tana Cooke

“It’s hard to get to school with gas being the way it is, so I’m just riding the bus more.”
-China Dobbins

“It’s hard to get books now, even a little book is like 80 to a hundred bucks.”
-Michael Lawrence

“I have to rely more on financial aid now because of the price of gas and books.”
-Vanessa Campbell
Rams Week started strong Monday, May 12 with the Club Fair and the Vendor Expo at noon in the Student Activity Center. Later that night the SAC was filled with students, new friends, food and an Academic Challenge hosted by Steve Toner and Robert Sewell.

“It seemed everyone involved had a wonderful time,” said Toner.

The teams were tested on their knowledge of logos, presidents on money, shapes, world geography, a scavenger hunt, math equations and comics from newspapers.

Brook MiKinny, a Victor Valley College freshman participated in the Academic Challenge with her co-workers from It’s a Grind coffee shop as the “Caffeine Cruisers.”

“I enjoyed the buzzer rounds the most. It’s a good escape from the last month of stress of school work,” said MiKinny.

The winner of the 2008 Academic Challenge was the IT Happens team.

The week continued outside of the SAC Tuesday with a boat race in the lake, a pie eating contest and a Music and Art Festival.

Wednesday’s big feature was the Dunk Tank that began at 10 a.m. to raise money for a general scholarship for VVC students.

Student Body President Heena Mehra volunteered herself for an hour of terror sitting above the cold water. Mehra said, “Spirit week is us (ASB) trying to get the students and facility to have a good time and get involved. It’s a way to give everyone a break from the typical nine to five long school day.”

Robert Sewell, Director of Auxiliary Services, was dunked several times within his first ten minutes of sitting. Robert Silverman, president of VVC, Patrick Malone, Brian Hatchel, Dee Snead and Margaret Kage were some of the others who participated in the all day dunking event.

The week ended with an Appreciation Breakfast and Mocktail Happy Hour from 3p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

Peace Spreads Over VVC Campus

Victor Valley College held its first ever Peace Awareness Day on May 13, behind the Student Activities Center from noon to 6p.m. It was organized by Julian Griggs with the help of the Associated Student Body.

Griggs expressed appreciation to ASB for helping fund Peace Awareness Day.

The purpose of the event was, “to get everyone happy and represent peace,” Griggs said. The goal was to “give peace a chance.”

Bracelets were sold for a dollar to help support the peace efforts.

Also there to help was band member Mark Pena from his self titled band, who said the money earned from the peace bracelets would be given to charity for world hunger and to the Victor Valley College music department for new instruments.

There were live bands throughout the day, including Julian Griggs and the Plastic VVC Band, Mark Pena and the Los Banditos Locos, Contagious, Better off Naked, Aulta and CIA.

Pena said they would like to have another Peace Awareness Day, although when they will have another one is unknown.

T-shirts were being sold for $5 dollars to support Jorden Darr, a friend of band member Pena, in his quest to spread the word about peace. Darr gave a speech about the war in Iraq and the school funding cuts that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger made.

Darr said, “No one seems to want to fight it.” Darr wants to use his clothing brand “Demise” to spread out messages about peace. He said, “I could go deface a building, but I would rather put it on a shirt.”
New Gymnasium Being Built on Lower Campus

Story By
Bill Buttler
Co-News Editor

Earth is being moved and blueprint designs are becoming substance as construction of Victor Valley College’s new gymnasium is underway on lower campus. The building is expected to be completed in May 2009.

Prompted by events like the 1994 Northridge earthquake in Southern California, seismic retrofitting of school structures has taken precedence over other projects, resulting in primary funding from the state. California is contributing $3.6 million of the cost, and VVC is paying the balance of the $7 million required.

The money had been allocated prior to the state’s recent financial woes and is not being taken from other projects financing.

“Dr. Silverman and staff of VVC are excited about the new building,” said VVC Director of Facilities, Construction and Contracts Steve Garcia.

When upgraded and operating, the gym will feature a dance studio, an adaptive physical education facility, an open-air courtyard, interactive classrooms, lockers and showering areas. Faculty offices are featured just inside the front entry and lobby.

The current main gym, Building 71, will continue to house athletic events, including basketball and volleyball, while the old gym, Building 74, near the foot of the hill near the elevators, is slated to be converted into an extra parking area.

According to Garcia, various means of insuring ground stability, upon which the structure would stand, were studied. One thought was of driving solid pilings into the ground, affording a steady floor. Ultimately, the decision was made to extract earth 15 feet deep and mix and refill it with soil and clay as a tough underlay.

“A seismic retrofit of the old gym (Building 74) was originally planned to meet standards. On surveying the ground, it was determined that project would be too costly,” said Facilities Construction and Public Information Administrative Secretary Michelle Messer. Water from the lake leaks into the ground, creating a softened soil. Instead, a seismic replacement was implemented. The state required us, then, to demolish the old gym, as unsafe, but allowed us to take the ‘footprint’ of the old building and find a suitable place on campus to rebuild the house athletic events, including basketball and volleyball, while the old gym, Building 74, near the foot of the hill near the elevators, is slated to be converted into an extra parking area.

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Local Kids and Parents Enjoy First Student-Athlete Camp

Story By
Aaron Banuelos
RamPage Reporter

The first annual 2008 Student-Athlete Camp was a success for the first two weekends and is expected to do well for the last weekend, May 17 through 18 for grades 9-12.

The camp started May 3 through 4 for grades 1-5.

Coaches didn’t know how many kids would turn out, but according to Coach Walker about 60 kids showed up.

Walker said, “It was a good bunch of kids and the parents seemed happy to have attended the event.”

About 65 junior high school kids attended the May 10 through 11 workshop. Football coaches had the kids give a special Mother’s Day thanks to their mothers for bringing them to the camp.

Walker added that Mother’s Day weekend was a perfect day for camp because of the family environment that seemed to make it special for the mothers that took their kids.

The junior high camp was slightly different; the kids had a choice of which positions they wanted to play, and practices emphasized each kid’s needs.

Campers were taught the fundamentals of football, such as footwork, pursuit drills, ball handling and technique. They were also taught the importance of being a student athlete.

This fundraiser was a great opportunity for both kids and football athletes to get involved with the community. Football players from last season and the upcoming fall season were involved with the camp.

Everyone involved showed great energy and the players kept the campers engaged in the activities. More involvement has been implemented in the football curriculum.

One of the things that Head Football Coach Dave Hoover has the football players doing is visiting the schools in the High Desert area and participating in P.E. and reading to the kids.

The camp will help promote Ram Athletics and should improve recruitment in the future. Parents will be able to see the Victor Valley College Athletic Program which should attract more interest to the school.
Hometown Fair Entertains High Desert Residents

Story and Photos By Desiree Pena
RamPage Reporter

The San Bernardino County fairgrounds held the annual San Bernardino Fair May 10 through May 18. The 2008 fair was themed “Hometown Pride Shared Countywide” and was the 61st anniversary of the fair.

People of all ages went to the fair and there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Victor Valley College student and fair attendee Jessica Lopez said, “I like that there’s something for everyone at the fair, you can have fun no matter who you are. Personally, the funnel cake is my favorite thing about the fair.”

VVC student Jennifer Luna agreed, “It’s a bit of everything for the whole family, no matter what you like you’ll find something to do there.”

On May 12 gate admission was free to everyone. This was sponsored by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. Attendance for last year’s fair and provisional events was more than 500,000 people. The fair attracts a broad cross section of visitors.

A series of concerts and events were lined up for the week featuring well known Christian rock band Hawk Nelson and country music star Tracy Lawrence. The Phat Cat Swingers, a well known local band, also made an appearance. The Dodge Pro Am Bull Riding Challenge and a demolition derby also took place.

When asked how long she had been attending the fair another VVC student, Marie Ramirez, responded, “All my life! I think the atmosphere is my favorite part, going there just puts me in a happy family mood.”

Bigger and Better Cinco De Mayo Celebration Hits VVC

Story By Breanna Aguirre
Co-Entertainment Editor

The 35th Annual Cinco De Mayo Celebration presented by the High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Victor Valley College, kicked off around the lake once again on May 3, with more fun, people and entertainment.

The festivities began at 10 a.m. and carried on until 6 p.m. A large turnout of people enjoyed the offered entertainment and food, despite high winds. People still lined up for popcorn, tacos, nuts, funnel cakes, rice, beans, and other delicious treats. One vendor even sold out of food.

Some of the sponsors for the celebration included Wal-Mart, Charter, Desert Valley Medical Group, Desert Community Bank and others. K-Frog 103.1, CBS radio, and 94.3 the Duck, were just three of many media partners of the event.

There was continuous entertainment including raffles and prizes, face painting, dancing, bingo, main opportunity drawing and live music from new and returning bands.

Returning bands and performers included Music Formula, Mariachi Aguila Real, Latin Express, Flamingo and Carlos Rosas y Su Alianza.

Treasurer of the HDHCC Rosalie Uloa-Reed commented on the success of the event, saying “It’s a lot better. There seems to be more people that stay longer and there are three different bands going on at the same time. Music is the biggest improvement this year.”

Another addition made to the festival was the Art Exhibit of painter Rodolfo Escalera. His striking works of art were displayed and shown by Rodolfo’s surviving wife and son, who were invited for the first time to the event by Executive Director Vickie Cabriales. An Escalera biography and timeline were distributed with the viewings of his art.

There were new faces to the event as well as others who were no strangers to the occasion. Former Victor Valley College student Melissa Olvera used to attend the Cinco de Mayo festivals. This year was her first time back since she attended VVC in the 90’s. “It is way better than when I used to come. It’s prettier and much more organized.”

For more information on this event, you can visit www.thehispanicchamber.com, or contact Executive Director, Vickie Cabriales at thehdhcc@yahoo.com.
Spring Dance Concert Arrives

Kim Hill
Co-Entertainment Editor

Coming to Victor Valley College’s Performing Arts Center on May 30 and 31 at 7:30 p.m., the Spring Dance Concert is sure to be entertaining. With varying choreography, including Jazz and Ballet to Tap and Theatre Dance, this concert will appeal to almost everyone.

Choreography comes from the dance classes by David Rodriguez, Karla Franco, Nancy Helms, and Lynn Guardado. Students from those classes will be performing the various numbers.

The students performing seem to enjoy dancing and practicing for the concert.

When asked about what she liked the most about the whole concert and the dancing, dance student Cece Galvez said, “I love the excitement, the classes, performing, everything.”

Not only is it fun for them it’s also hard work. Another performer and student, Danielle Wallace, said, “It’s a lot of hard work but it’s worth it at that end.”

Not only are the performers excited, so are the teachers. They seem to enjoy the atmosphere, the energy, and knowing what will become of the show. No one seems concerned about how the show will turn out.

Lynn Guardado said, “It’s a fun family show. I don’t think anyone will be disappointed going to our shows.”

General admission is $10 for adult and $7 for seniors and children. A.S.B. card holders can get in for free.

For more information, call (760)245-4271, extension 849.

Thoroughly Modern Millie an Old-Fashioned Treat

Joan Beinschroth-Paustell
RamPage Reporter

Standing Room Only Productions, Inc. brought the musical Thoroughly Modern Millie to the newly refurbished Performing Arts Center for an eight performance run beginning May 2. SRO’s mission statement is “to encourage young people to discover and ignite their creative gifts in the performing arts.”

The play opened with the definition of modern, “characteristic of one who is advanced in style, thought, or demeanor – up to date,” displayed on screens on either side of the stage. These same screens also provided translations for some of the “Chinese” spoken and sung by characters Ching Ho (Miguel Castellano, 19) and Bun Foo (A.J. Lucero,15) throughout the play.

The title character, Millie, played by 18 year old Chelsea Franko, is a small town girl who travels to New York City to find a husband, but not love. The opening number set the pattern for the songs throughout the performance. The singing by all the performers, especially Franko, was quite good. Unfortunately, the orchestra was frequently off key and competed in volume with the singers.

Millie takes up residence at the Hotel Priscilla, which provides the play’s running joke. Managed by Mrs. Meers (22 year old Angela Madrid), the boarding house for women is a front for the white slavery trade. Residents with no family mysteriously disappear. As this is a musical comedy, the audience was forewarned of the disappearance of the next victim with ominous flashing lights and Mrs. Meers telling her, with a heavy Chinese accent, that it’s “sad to be alone.” It’s hammy, but it gets the audience involved.

Sets for the play were minimal and simple but effective and quickly brought into place. Costumes for the extensive cast were all appropriate for the “Roaring 20s.”

Standout numbers from the first act were “How the Other Half Lives” with Millie and Miss Dorothy (Theresa Mantei, 18) and “Speed Test” with the performers cleverly singing and tap dancing while at their typewriters. The highlight of the second act was “I’m Falling In Love” featuring Jimmy (Zachary Nolan, 17), Millie, Trevor (Robert Blomker, 20), Miss Dorothy and Ching Ho.

Thoroughly Modern Millie is an old fashioned story where the girl follows her heart and finds Mr. Right, the damsel in distress is rescued, evil is punished and everyone has a happy ending. While this production was not without flaws, by the finale the audience was in enthusiastic support of the performers, giving the cast a standing ovation.

Correction

The May 2, 2008 edition of the RamPage contained errors within the article “Fate of the Humanities Center Still Uncertain.” The Foreign Language department is making full use of the Humanities Center buildings and holding regular French and Spanish classes Monday through Saturday and will continue to teach on the lower campus through the summer. The Foreign Language Lab is also still running in 80-11.

University/College Graduate Pride Day

May 29 Victor Valley College will have its first University/College Graduate day. Students are encouraged to wear their university or college logo wear in an effort to encourage students to complete their educational goals.

Auditions for A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Harvey

One day only auditions for “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “Harvey” will be held on May 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, room 128. Prospective performers for “Harvey” will need to read from the script. Monologues for “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” will be provided for memorization. Monologues can be picked up in the library or from Ed Heaberlin.
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.
1st Annual Students’ Choice Awards

Faculty of the Year and Staff of the Year!

The ASB Council is proud to introduce, the 2008 Students' Choice Awards winners & nominees
All were recognized
Friday, May 16, 3pm - 5pm in the Student Activities Center,
at a special dessert luncheon.

The ASB Council asked the VVC students, to choose a VVC Faculty and Staff Member who has made a difference in their life. Sixty-three nominations were received, identifying a VVC Faculty or Staff Member with a brief reason for nomination.

Each nominee was recognized, with two (2) Faculty & two Staff (2) receiving special recognition for their devotion to education and student success.

The 2008 Students' Choice Awards were coordinated by current ASB Vice President Christina Zambrano and newly elected 2008-2009 VVC Student Body President.

2008 Students’ Choice Award—Staff Members:

Scott Mulligan—VVC Printshop
Sam Miller—VVC Custodial Staff

2008 Students’ Choice Award—Faculty Members:

Stephen Toner - Math Faculty
Sandy Visser—CDC Faculty

2008 Nominees:

Jackie Augustine-Carriera, Tom Miller, Jaye Tashima, Dave Holtzendorff
Patricia Wagner, Steven McDevitt, Sandy Visser, Lynn Guardado
Robert Johnson, Thomas Turner, Stephen Toner, David Rodriguez
Eugene Tashima, Lisa Harvey, James Comer, Carol Golliher
Dino Bozonelos, Serina Harvey, Patrick Malone, Jeff Ridge
Thomas Gummo, Henry D. Young, David Hoover, David Graham
Sam Miller, Lisa Cripps, Kathy Mata, Shirley Gonzalez
Terrie Armstrong, Deanna Murphy, Ray Navarro, Rhonda Alexander
Joy Von Ins, Eartha Johnson, Peggy Mayer, Scott Mulligan
Amy Wilkin, Nancy Wilkett, Patricia Witt, Robert A. Sewell