Victor Valley College has submitted a new report, which is on the January 2009 meeting agenda for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. Hopes are high that the report will be accepted.

VVC progress reports have been plagued with problems or rejected by the ACCJC since 2005. Although the ACCJC voted to reaffirm VVC's accreditation that year, the reaffirmation was coupled with deep concerns.

2009 brings expectation for the elimination of rejected progress reports. Earlier rejection was due to incomplete response for some standards, extremely weak evidence and the lack of focus on the top three recommendations.

During meetings held in June 2007, the ACCJC reviewed a VVC progress report and the evaluation team's report and acted by putting VVC on warning status.

This warning was issued because of raised concerns regarding the ability of VVC to meet accreditation standards.

“There are three levels of sanctions: Warning, Probation, and Show Cause, with warning being the least severe of the three,” said Garman Jack Pond, Vice President of ACCJC based in Novato CA.

VVC is not the only California college to undergo sanctions. CCC was under careful review and on June 20, 2005 the ACCJC announced the decision to terminate the college's accreditation. According to the ACCJC decision, CCC was required to demonstrate that it had adequately addressed deficiencies in its compliance with eligibility requirements and standards of accreditation. Following a six-month study period, the ACCJC cited CCC as having a dysfunctional governing board, lacking student support services, and without the capacity to support institutional research and a comprehensive educational master plan. CCC's continued inadequacies of administrative staff are reasons why the ACCJC decided to revoke the college's accreditation.

Growing Efforts From Foundation felt Community Wide

Story By
Joan Beinschroth Paustell
News Editor

Although located in the Student Activities Center, the existence, efforts, and wide reaching effects of the Victor Valley College Foundation are not well known among students on campus. Established in 1975, the foundation is guided by a 30 member board of directors and operates as a 501(c)3 public benefit corporation. This status enables gifts to the Foundation to be tax deductible as charitable contributions.

When asked about the purpose of the Foundation, Executive Director Ginger Ontiveros said, “The Foundation raises money and makes friends to help the college serve our community.” To accomplish these objectives, the Foundation has established three goals: (1) make the Foundation board more effective in reaching out to the community, (2) tell the good stories that the college has to share, and (3) raise more money.
Letter from the Editor

One full semester later, we’re still standing. We’ve accomplished a lot this fall term, and in the process changed RamPage history. However, we know it wasn’t without any proverbial bumps in the road. Yet, in one semester this student publication went from “We have a school paper?” to several staff and students congratulating us.

Personally, I’ve had a conversation with one faculty member who told me “I used to just skim through the paper, but now I actually go through it page by page.” Having (huge) respect for this staff member, I was very flattered. We also had one student, write us saying she felt inspired by what we’ve accomplished with the paper at VVC. Needless to say, again, I was more than flattered.

So, as a RamPage staff, we hope to walk away with some bragging rights during the winter intersession. However, we know we can’t. At least, not by ourselves, because without the help of faculty and students, we wouldn’t even come close to what we’ve achieved.

In the end, we hope that within this last fall semester, we achieved a comprehensive summation of what has and will happen on this campus and in the community. The journey has been a lot of fun, mixed with a lot of stress, we just hope that we can maintain and grow the relationship we have with the campus and the community in spring. Because now, we’ve laid the groundwork for next semester which already promises to be great, and with little luck and a lot of help, we hope we can take this publication to the next plateau.

Brandon Chiz
Editor-in-Chief
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nadequate staff is only one of many concerns that VVC and CCC shared. “Inadequate staffing is leaving students without enough class sections.” Was reported by the Victor Valley Daily Press on May 16, 2007 “Some faculty and staff voiced concerns that the failed bond was evidence that Victor Valley College had lost the public’s trust, that the college is wasting money on fighting lawsuits and some staff grievances go ignored.”

CCC became the first “public” California College to lose its accreditation. When a college loses its accreditation it no longer qualifies for government funds. If the institution a student is transferring to recognizes only regionally accredited institutions, you may not be able to use your credits.

CCC was established in 1927 as a component of the Compton Union High School District. In 1950, voters approved a bond issue separating the college from the high school district.

On August 23, 2006, Compton Community Educational Center, formerly CCC, officially became a satellite location for El Camino College.

As for VVC, “We are accredited, and we will keep our accredited status,” said VVC Interim Deputy Superintendent Dr. Christopher O’Hearn, who is working toward removal of sanctions, warnings and concerns toward VVC’s accreditation status.

VVC brought in O’Hearn to crusade against ACCJC sanctions, by ensuring a more focused and informative progress report. In addition, O’Hearn was team chairman for evaluation teams sent by the ACCJC.

“He’s addressing these accreditation concerns very very seriously,” said Dr. Christopher O’Hearn

This new center of focus can be attributed to the accreditation and leadership background of VVC President Dr. Robert Silverman. “He’s made a lot of changes and is addressing these accreditation concerns very very seriously,” said O’Hearn.

Some changes are visible since Dr. Spencer departure. “This board now is much more open, their atmosphere seems so much better and the board is so much more receptive and Dr. Silverman is 100 percent more approachable,” said Margaret Kagy, Co-Operate Agencies Resources Education Coordinator.

Students can help with maintaining VVC accreditation by becoming dedicated and active members of committees. The visiting evaluation team can and will interview students at random.

“What will win is the student’s participation in college council and serving on committees,” said Silverman.

“One thing about accreditation, read carefully, do what they say and you don’t get in trouble. Colleges get in trouble when they think they know more than the accreditors,” said Silverman.

The ACCJC reviewed its evaluations team report and the college’s self-study report in June 2005; subsequently, ACCJC reaffirmed the VVC accreditation and required progress reports on seven recommendations.

O’Hearn is now one of VVC’s “big guns” previously O’Hearn providing several reports for the ACCJC; so, he really understands what’s needed.

Based on evaluation team reports, VVC must address seven areas identified as “deficiencies.” Although each recommendation is important, the first three are considered to be top priority.

Basic understanding of the first three recommendations:

Determine that VVC meets goals and decisions that will improve structured effectiveness by implementing an ongoing and regular cycle of evaluation, integrated planning, resource distribution, execution and reevaluation. Conduct important, timely and comprehensive discussions with all campus constituents, which identify student learning outcomes at course, program and institutional levels, ensuring student success and quality of programs and services.

Evaluate and address organizational structure and staffing needs: for example, technology support, risk management, maintenance, operations and human resources; subsequently, taking action to implement results and address the lack of sufficient staffing.

The remaining four recommendations are financial resources, purpose and function of campus committees, campus climate and evaluation of leadership roles.

Examples of progress made for first three recommendations:

New or revised Board Policies adopted in November and December of 2007: Board Policy 1201, Shared Governance; Board Policy 1202, Institutional Effectiveness; Board Policy 3250, Institutional Planning; Board Policy 4000, Standards of Educational Excellence.

New Board Policy 4000, Standards of Educational Excellence and Administrative Procedure 4000, Sustaining Standards of Educational Excellence. Five newly established benchmarks used to gauge and monitor students’ performance, which assist tutoring and supplemental instructional programs.

Project Synergy, a group of college-wide volunteers focused on reorganization efforts and staffing needs. The hiring or approval and budgeting for nine faculty, four administrators, and six classified staff.

For more information:

There are in-depth records of and accomplishments at http://www.vvc.edu/staff/Accreditationnew.htm. The 2008 Mid-Term Report contains links to detailed reports. To comment on this article or others visit VVC’s myspace.
Students Create Internet Bookstore

Story and Photograph By Michael Moore
RamPage Reporter

Communication studies students took an assignment out of the classroom to launch a book-swap Internet market place for Victor Valley College students.

Buying and selling used textbooks just got a little easier and more profitable for VVC students. The Internet page, www.vvcbookswap.com, run by VVC student Jo Fitts, brings local buyers and sellers together, free of any fees. "I plan to leave the site up and running indefinitely," said Fitts.

Finding a solution for a campus problem was one of the possible midterm assignments in Meredith Johns' group communication studies class. "We chose to find an alternative to over-priced used textbooks," said Jo Fitts about the group process. The group who had to identify, research and find solutions for the problem agreed that "a website where strictly VVC students can buy and sell their used books was the most simple and straightforward solution," said Fitts.

The student group, consisting of Jo Fitts, Hortencia Cervantes, Kenneth Knoechel and Philip Smith, presented their idea in class as a midterm. "I thought it was an excellent idea," said Johns, a part-time instructor at VVC. Johns found all required parts of the assignment in the group's presentation.

"I will definitely sign up," said Maria Hernandez, student at VVC. She heard about the web page from a friend. "I hope for some bargains for the spring semester," she said. This reaction is what the makers of the site hoped for. "The website will be successful if students actually use it," said Fitts.

Selling a book on VVC-book-swap requires a free sign-up on-line. After a book is posted, buyers are able to contact the seller through the system or through additional contact information provided by the seller. As the page sorts books by class subjects, potential buyers can easily find the right book. The exchange then is a matter of a meeting between the seller and the buyer. This system cuts out shipping and handling fees and eliminates waiting for delivery.

Currently the amount of books offered is small. With the end of the semester approaching, this might change quickly. "VVC-Book-Swap does not have a lot of publicity yet," said Johns, who predicts a great success for the market place. The page is ready to host, and the space for postings is almost unlimited. "I will keep the books from my major; the rest get swapped," said Hernandez.

Transfer Opportunities For Future

Story By Shushawna Moore
RamPage Reporter

Students preparing to pursue higher education need to determine their educational and career goals. Student can sit down with a counselor to put together an educational plan that they can follow. They can also take different guidance courses offered at Victor Valley College that can help them make decisions about their plans for college.

They can set up these meetings with Dr. David Miller, VVC school counselor, who is really familiar with the transfer process Miller is also an instructor for the highly recommended Guidance 105 class, Personal and Career Success. Dr. Miller says that students in the high desert community should consider other college campuses that are outside of surrounding areas. In addition students can meet with other counselors in the counseling department, which is located in building 55. There is also a transfer center here on campus located in Building 55 that assist student with setting up meeting with different college reps. Gabriela Quesada, Student Development Center Specialist, say the she is in charge of contacting the different Universities the bring them to VVC campus, so they can meet with students.

The career transfer center is designed to provide interaction with four year institutions for those students who wish to continue their education. VVC students need to get familiar with a few different forms on campus that deals with classes needed to get certifications, degrees, and transfer plans. The forms, that most students at VVC will be using are the IGETC, Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum, which is used at (University of California) or private Universities; Cal State Universities – General Education Breadth which is use for CSU; and the VVC AS/AA Degree Graduation Requirements.

For the most part, students who are planning to transfer to a university may do two things. They can transfer with the complete 60 units and the Golden four; which are prerequisites that are need to attend UC/CSU or student can transfer with less, but may be subject to additional requirements. Fantella Grimes, EOPS Counselor says that VVC students should also remember when they need to apply for their AA/AS degree from VVC because it is not done automatically.

Students must keep in mind the different deadlines for applying to different university and the fees associated with application.

At VVC there is a transfer workshop offered here on campus during the fall and spring semesters that is given by Fantella Grimes. The workshop is open not only to students who are in the EOPS Program, but to all student body.

There are many college options for different university the student may choose. In the high Desert, residents who would like to attend a college locally that offers Bachelor Degree opportunities can chose, Azusa Pacific, California Baptist, Chapman, and University of La Verne. Also, there are many UC, and CSU to choose form.
Annual Art Show Amazes Students and Faculty

According to Yvonne Hernandez, Senior Instructional Aide for the Art department, and a partner in organizing the annual event, “The works will be on display all week so anyone can come in and see the show.” Hernandez said “When students look at their work next to others’ they realize the importance of their own artwork. This way, the public can see what the students can do rather than the work going into the closet.”

The show takes all semester to prepare for, but the final 2 days prior to the show, is when the art classrooms transform into a gallery of diverse works. Photography instructor John Reid said “some students see their name in print and this is the first time their work is shown. They’re jazzed about it!” Speaking of students, Art Instructor Richard Ripley said “The ones that act like they don’t care are the ones who bring their families.”

There was an apparent interest and support by students’ family members throughout the show.

During the 8-hour exhibit there was an influx of food and beverages also provided by the participating students for the guests to enjoy as they browsed the works that were displayed throughout the classrooms hallways and photography studio. Instructors were present to answer questions anyone might have regarding art in general and about classes offered in the VVC art department. The Student Art Show is held at the end of each fall and spring semester. For information regarding classes offered in the VVC Art department readers can log onto www.vvc.edu.

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“The ones that act like they don’t care are the ones who bring their families.”
PAC Concerts Rock the Season

Story and Photograph By
Jenny Guevara
RamPage Reporter

Three holiday concerts remain this December. Dr. Thomas Miller, Director of Victor Valley College’s Choral Music and Music Chair said, “Anyone who enjoys the music of this most musical of seasons will delight in sharing in any or all of these concerts.”

The Performing Arts Center will feature a Guitar Ensemble directed by Rich Sumner; Studio Singers and Jazz Rock Combo directed by Dave Graham and Beginning Band directed by Margaret Saarinen. The performance will include classical guitar works, jazz, pop, rock and traditional arrangements of holiday music.

Friday, Dec. 12, presents The College Singers, Master Arts Chorale and Sinfonia Orchestra, all directed by Dr. Thomas E. Miller. The songs that will be performed include J. S. Bach’s “Magnificat”, “Christmas at the Manger” by Mark Hayes, carols and songs of the season by Pfautsch, Britten, Miller, Childs, and Caldwell and Ivory.

Saturday, Dec. 13, The Brass Choir, the Flute Choir and Symphonic Band, all directed by Craig Pridmore and the Studio Band, directed by Dave Graham, will be performing. This evening will feature “Christmas music and the premiere performance of Dances of Innocence by Dutch composer JanVan der Roost who will direct this work commissioned by VVC in conjunction with Fullerton College and Excelsior School. The evening includes an audience Christmas Sing Along” said Miller. All events all begin at 7:30 p.m. and take place in the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $10 for adults and $7 for seniors and children, ASB cardholders get in free.

The music department of VVC has been intensely preparing for these holiday concerts. “Literally hundreds of hours of rehearsal [have been] put in by about 200 student/community members of 11 of the department’s performance ensembles,” said Miller. Miller said the program has received national and international recognition for its performance of groups. He expects to see continued growth in their program.

“VVC music performances generally receive warm response from the audiences. First time patrons are often pleasantly surprised to discover such a high degree of talent here in the desert and to hear such a wide range of musical styles performed effectively. As an example, the College Singers have an international reputation, having sung with major orchestras in the US and Canada, including the National Symphony in Washington D.C. To a large extent, they are a well kept secret here at home,” Miller said.

Upcoming Ideas For The Holidays

Story By
Jenny Guevara
RamPage Reporter

It’s the holiday season, and people are looking for fun activities to do without straying too far from home. There are plenty of activities throughout the high desert including holiday performances, local shows, recreation fun and much more.

According to Inlandarts.com, the Festival of Lights is taking place during the evenings at the Pedestrian Mall in Downtown Riverside. Until Jan. 4, 2009, this event features, “holiday decorations with more than three million twinkling lights along Mission Inn Avenue, ice skating under the stars, horse-drawn carriage rides, live entertainment and of course, Santa Claus.”

LifeHouse Theatre will present “Miracle on 34th Street” through Dec. 30. Performances are Friday through Sunday at 8 p.m. and matinees Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. Questions and tickets can be obtained at (909) 335-3037, ext. 21 or at http://www.lifehousetheatre.com.

The information on these events was provided by the following websites. For these and more holiday events visit:

http://www.themealofvictorvalley.com/events.asp
http://www.topix.com/events/victorville-ca
http://www.inlandarts.com
http://www.lifehousetheatre.com

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Faculty and College Fall Concert Keep it Classy

Story By
Roderick Allen Gray Jr.
Special To The RamPage

On Friday night November 7th the Spirit of Victor Valley College’s Performing Arts Center was brought to life in a series of eight Faculty Student Fall concerts. The fourth recital the audience consisted of an impressive crowd of young children to senior citizens that filled the auditorium for what was to be a wonderful night of traditional family entertainment. The room’s chattering buzz broke into a cheering round of applause as Music Department Chair Person, Dave Graham, introduced the evening’s Master of Ceremony, Dr. Thomas Miller.

Dr. Miller thanked the audience and went on to say, “The size of tonight’s audience just happens to be four times the size of those that attend Music recitals at Cal-State University San Bernardino,” said Dr. Miller.

Arrangements like, “Dies Bildness is Besauber Schon,” an aria from Mozart’s “Magic Flute”, Robert Schumann’s “Widmung,” and Franz Schubert’s “Danksagung an dem Bach” all four performed without flaws to the language. Composition number five was an Italian piece from Twentieth Century composer Aram Ilyich Khachaturian titled “Toccata,” “Meaning to touch, or how you are to use your hands,” explained Dr. Miller. An elegant work as reflected by the student Alisa Tarasyuk whose performance projected a mirror image to this piece. Piano student Sophia Vazquez once again returned to the line up and accompanied soprano vocalist Stephanie Salas in a charming rendition of Lerner and Loewe’s “Wouldn’t it be Wonderful.” Followed by student Daniel Reyes and an acoustic guitar piece that brought some pizzicato smooth jazz feeling to the evening with Hammerstein’s and Kern’s instrumental “All Things are You.” The opening fortissimo chord to the Fredric Chopin piece “Ballade No. 1 in G minor Variations on an American Folksong,” commanded the attention of the audience in such a dramatic fashion that I began to get the feeling that we were in for a fantastic performance by Dr. Linda Manasian professor of music at VVC.

The dynamics and range of this particular Chopin piece fulfilled the total range of sound and quality, from adagio to vivace and back. The audience was in such amazement with Dr. Manasian’s performance that the slightest whisper could not even be heard. It was an excellent source of family entertainment and the perfect showcase to display the enormous amount of talent on our campus and in our community.
In a new generation that blurs the lines between a saint and a sailor, ink has gone beyond the lines of rough jailbird clichés. Yet, the prejudice still bleeds through. What do people hear when your skin speaks? By Desiree Pena
with me, or, I can be a realist and say it was, in fact, the lady on my wrist. These ladies had defined me by my tattoo. Trust me; this is relevant, this will make sense eventually.

Ten years into the future, Kat Von D and Mike DeVries will be seen as the Picassos’ of the generation. A bold and drastic statement, but with the tattoo industry booming, it may not be so far-fetched.

If we look to the entertainment industry, celebrities like Angelina Jolie and Tila Tequila create fame from their tattoos, alone. Tattoo artists like Josh Woods and Chris Garver are now idolized and even seen as iconic for their contributions to the art world.

But then there are some who absolutely, positively, for lack of a better word, don’t care for tattoos. There are even some who judge and act on those judgments based on one’s ink collection.

Brittany Anderson calls herself “a huge art fan.” Her favorite artist is Kukula. Anderson is also a tattoo fan. All her tattoos are images from Kukula. She currently has a half-sleeve and a large piece which is yet to be completed on her back. Anderson was an employee with Starbucks for three and a half years and was recently fired for violating dress code. This dress code violation was due to her tattoo, which ends at her elbow, peeking past her work shirt. Anderson feels that this termination was not due to her “dress” code violation; it was her first write up. But, rather she feels it was based on the sole reason that she has tattoos.

Reyna Jimenez is a 21 year old stylist at Elements Hair Studio. Currently, she has five tattoos: a hibiscus flower on her left wrist, her name in a crown on her right foot, a dagg-er in a heart on her left calf, another hibiscus behind her right ear, and the LA Ink logo on her hipbone (this one done by Kat Von D of LA Ink). Reyna believes her profession is one of the least-conservative of professions. However, Jimenez claims that she feels discrimination from society. She explains that while in beauty school a client was hesitant about allowing her to cut her hair. “She said she didn’t know if I was going to do what she wanted me to do because my tattoos gave the impression that I was wild, said Jimenez. She continues, “After I explained that she was my client and I was working for her she agreed to sit down. When I was done with her hair she said, ‘You’re a lot different than I thought you would be.'”

Why are some defined by the ink on their body? Chris Burnett might have some insight. Burnett, a tattoo artist at Art Junkies in Victorville, said what takes the average person a couple of minutes to express themselves takes one with tattoos triple that time just to dismiss preconceived notions. This seems to be the consensus from many with tattoos.

Burnett has been a tattoo artist for the past 12 years. Much of Burnett’s body is covered with ink; he has tattoos on his arms, legs, stomach, back neck and even his head, starting from the hairline. Burnett says he constantly feels prejudices from the community. “Whenever I drop my kids off at school I always wonder what my kids’ teachers think I do. They probably think I’m some dead beat dad.” However, Burnett is the total opposite; he doesn’t drink, he doesn’t party, usually votes conservatively. “He’s the father of three children and does the same things as any dad. The tattoo business is his job. Burnett is the type to have an opinion about everything, but his opinion is always rational; it always makes sense, and some find his logic surprisingly real. “Great minds will always be trampled by the simple minded.’ I think that’s Napoleon,” commented Burnett. Insightful, at the very least.

Aric Taylor, a tattoo artist for the past 14 years elaborates, “The business is opening up a lot more now. Now it’s not uncommon to see firefighters or police officers come in and get tatted.”

Burnett laughs, “It always kind of gets to me when real preppy girls come in wanting tattoos. They were the ones who made fun of me in high school and now they want to look like me!” The industry has changed quite a bit. In the past it had always been more underground. You would never see a tattoo shop on the streets, now the drive down Bear Valley Road has 20 shops alone.
liest appear on the Egyptian and Nubian mummies that date from about 2000 B.C. But if they have been present for so long, why is there still such a negative perception?

Christina Rosenau, co-owner of Art Junkies, said that society’s gender roles have a great deal to do with the attention a tattoo receives. In the current society it is acceptable for a woman to have a small tattoo on a feminine body part like on an ankle or the back of the shoulder. However, it is found inappropriate for a woman to have tattoos that are visibly seen or, to have too many, like that of a sleeve.

Victor Valley College’s Associated Student Body Vice President, Leif Kofferd has a tattoo of a surfer on a surfboard on his left forearm. “The stigma might come from a religious basis. It’s from the idea that the body is a temple, and by putting on a tattoo you’re defiling your body,” said Kofferd. This idea comes from the book of Corinthians in The Bible.

Kaitlin Sandoval has worked at Art Junkies for a year and ten months and explains that she has been in the “tattoo world” since before she could walk. Her mother is tatted from neck to toe with images including Uma Thurman’s ‘Poison Ivy,’ a sleeve of flowers, dragons and skulls.

What exactly is this “tattoo world?” Sandoval explains that this world is home to her, it’s an entire culture. Taylor adds, “Sometimes when you put a group of people in a room together, especially if they have something in common, like being excluded from society because of the way they look, they are just bound to bond.”

So what’s to happen in the future? Co-owner of Art Junkie’s in Victorville, Mike Demasi, has a theory. “Honestly, what I think is gonna happen, because there are so many people getting tattoos from now to the next 10 years, its gonna be accepted a lot more, and our kids are gonna grow up and their not gonna like tattoos. They’ll be like, ‘I can’t believe you did that,’ and then it will come around again. They won’t be so into it but they won’t discriminate against it either.”

Prior to heading out to Art Junkies Tattoo I was at a friend’s house. As I walked outside, I saw a group of young children playing tag. However, this game was a bit different. Let’s call it “Category Tag.” Whoever won the previous game would call out a category. For instance, “everyone with brown hair,” or “everyone with red on their shirt” and whoever had said hair and/or shirt had to run from “It.” Everyone who didn’t was safe for the game. Trust me; this is relevant, this will make sense eventually.

“What takes the average person a couple of minutes to express themselves takes one with tattoos triple that time just to dismiss preconceived notions. This seems to be the consensus from many with tattoos.”

As I left the shop on my last day of interviewing, I thanked all the artists for their time and conversation. As I made my way toward the door Burnett yelled after me, “Don’t discriminate against anyone with tattoos today!” My reply was a mere “Ok.” I have to admit, I didn’t really know how to respond to this. I didn’t know how he meant for it to sound or how he didn’t mean for it to sound. But regardless of how he meant it, I knew there was a little part deep inside him that had preconceived notions about me and my character.

And then it hit me. Was I being profiled? Was I being accused of judging those with tattoos because I lacked tattoos? Everything that he needed to know about me was shown at first glance or rather, everything he wanted to know about me. I was how he wanted to see me. Like the old saying goes, “You see what you want to see.” And despite of what is really there, people will always see different, if they want to.

Then it really hit me, we are all judged, and yes, sometimes even discriminated against, regardless of how we look or how we don’t. The kid wearing all black with hair in their face is maybe an emo kid. The girl with penciled in eyebrows is maybe a chola. But maybe they’re not. It’s like a game of tag, it all depends on who’s “It” for the day. And whoever isn’t “It,” just has to wait until the next game. Trust me; this is relevant, this will make sense eventually.
The people suffering from Truman syndrome believe that everything and everyone in their lives are part of or “in” on the reality show.

Although most people cannot relate to those suffering from Truman’s syndrome, a lot of people may believe that they like those of the people they idolize on television. They may watch shows like “The Hills” and believe that all girls in Los Angeles who have amazing jobs at big name companies, drive nice cars and have drinks every night at Les Deux. Although there are some girls who do live this life people should know the harder side of living in a big city. Shows such as “The Apprentice” and CWTV’s “Stylista” show the hard work needed for its contestants to succeed. These shows may have the ability to get viewers interested in a certain industry and strive to achieve a goal.

Despite the discovery of Truman syndrome in recent years and the rise in people idolizing reality stars, it is clear to see that the trend of reality television shows is here to stay.

The rise of the cultural phenomenon of reality television began in 1973. “American Family,” followed a family living in Santa Barbara, California. Listed as number 32 on T.V. Guide’s “50 Greatest Television Shows of All Time,” the show followed parents Bill and Pat while they went through a divorce. Their son Lance is credited as the first openly gay character on television. When “The Real World” premiered in 1992, it was a show unlike any other. The show featured seven strangers who were moved into a mansion, and cameras rolled as the roommates from different backgrounds learned to live with each other. Sometimes there would be heated arguments between cast members, and some even found love on the show. “The Real World” revolutionized television by not only getting people to talk about real life issues, but also desensitizing its viewers when it comes to problems such as anorexia, suicide, alcoholism, and disease. With viewer ship up 73 percent from the series premiere, it is safe to say that MTV’s longest running show will continue to air for years to come.

With more than 50 reality shows currently being fabricated, it may be easy to get drawn in to all the hype. According to The Daily Mail, psychiatrists have begun documenting cases in which patients believe that their own lives are being followed by cameras. They identify the condition as Truman syndrome. Dr. Gold, a psychology and philosophy professor at McGill University in Canada, tells The Daily Mail that the condition does not necessarily cause completely normal people to think that cameras are following them around. Instead it advances a persons’ psychological illness or changes it. London researchers have even cited a case in which a man believed that everything in his life, including the news, his psychiatrist, and his medicine were actually part of a false world created for reality television, and he was the star. Some patients have also been known to believe that they are “secretly being filmed for a T.V. contest.” While psychiatrists often see people who may think that the people close to them are imposters, the people suffering from Truman syndrome believe that everything and everyone in their lives are part of or “in” on the reality show.

Although most people cannot relate to those suffering from Truman’s syndrome, a lot of people may believe that they like those of the people they idolize on television. They may watch shows like “The Hills” and believe that all girls in Los Angeles have amazing jobs at big name companies, drive nice cars and have drinks every night at Les Deux. Although there are some girls who do live this life people should know the harder side of living in a big city. Shows such as “The Apprentice” and CWTV’s “Stylista” show the hard work needed for its contestants to succeed. These shows may have the ability to get viewers interested in a certain industry and strive to achieve a goal.

Despite the discovery of Truman syndrome in recent years and the rise in people idolizing reality stars, it is clear to see that the trend of reality television shows is here to stay.
Find ‘em Hot, Leave ‘em Wet: A Night at Ricky’s

Story By
Brett Diaz
Photos By
Evan Spears
RamPage Reporters

Every Sunday night at Ricky’s on Hesperia Road in Victorville, people gather to see performances by young ladies, but the catch is that they aren’t really ladies.

Or are they? Inside Ricky’s, pictures of male and female models are posted on the walls. The black lights keep the mood low key, music plays at a very enjoyable volume for dancing. Two pool tables take up the back corner of the room to provide some other entertainment. Although Ricky’s is “18 and up”, they sell alcohol. More importantly, Ricky’s sells alcohol for very good prices.

On this Sunday night, Nov. 30, around 50 people attended one of the great draws of Ricky’s bar: the drag show.

Three acts performed for the show, Monique Michaels, Amanda Flahive and emcee, Ms. RaChelle Wilson.

Monique performed first in a latex dress that she simply must have been poured into, and a blond, large “do topped the outfit.

Amanda Flahive is a live singer, and in a nod to just how open the atmosphere at Ricky’s is, she is a real woman. Flahive’s soulful jazz vocals were excellent and very entertaining.

RaChelle Wilson was both performer and emcee for the event. Her energetic dance and playful banter evoked much attention and laughter from the crowd. In one instance, Reporter Evan Spears’ profuse use of flash photography provoked a reaction from the crowd, someone said, “Just hit him!”

To this, Wilson remarked, “If I was gonna hit you, I would have taken this off cause someone said, ‘Just hit him!’”

Everyone in the club erupted in laughter to this light-hearted barb.

The most attractive part of Ricky’s is its “positive” atmosphere. “This is one of the few bars that is completely open,” said Monique Michaels.

When asked why she chooses Ricky’s over other bars in the area, Kirsten Martinez said, “It feels safe and the workers are so sweet.”

The positive, supportive attitude of the people at Ricky’s is personified by the drag queens who perform.

When asked how they got their start, both Wilson and Michaels answered, “A dare.” For Wilson, it all started 13 years ago. Wilson was at an amateur drag night, and was challenged by a friend when they said, “You don’t have the guts!” Wilson took the challenge seriously and started her career shortly after.

Michaels also started at an amateur night two years ago. Interestingly enough, the dare Michaels got was very similar to Wilson’s when at an amateur night, a friend dared Michaels by saying, “You don’t have the balls to do it.” Of performing Wilson said, “I’m an entertainer. I want to make people smile.” And Michaels was emphatic in response and said, “If someone has a dream, go for it.”

Ricky’s is the sort of place anyone looking for a good time would do well to visit. The drag show is held every Sunday from 10:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Ricky’s open door policy makes it a great place for anyone seeking fun any night of the week. Also important for VVC students and college students in general, Wednesdays are now College Night, with no cover for those with a valid student ID.

Love. Life. Lust. With Layla

HO HO HO!!! It’s the holiday season, and no one wants to be alone. But, just how far is one willing to go in order to be a couple for the holidays? I’m talking about the good old holiday hook-up.

You know, that person you begin dating around Halloween in order to have someone to kiss under the mistletoe. Well, a close friend of mine (we’ll call her Donna) has acquired a holiday hook-up (Erik) and is already trying to avoid the New Year’s Day kiss. Erik was extremely funny at the Halloween party and the perfect gentleman at Thanksgiving. However, the December chill has revealed a few not so good assets.

You see, Donna is not the lovey-dovey type; her idea of romance is remembering your name the next morning. Erik, on the other hand, is excessively jealous, possessive, and very needy. As you can guess, finding a happy medium in this fling is a full-time job.

So, when Donna came to me seeking sympathy, I laughed in her face. I told Donna this was her fault too. The holiday hook-up (Erik) and is extremely funny at the Hallowe’en party and the perfect gentleman at Thanksgiving. However, the December chill has revealed a few not so good assets.

This all could have been avoided if Donna laid out the game plan for Erik in the beginning. Ultimately, I believe someone will end up hurt or upset. The moral of the story kids…when is comes to sex…COMMUNICATION IS KEY!!!
A Colorful Look At Fashion 2008

Story By
Kristie Ponce
RamPage Reporter

This year has been filled with fashion trends that will either stand the test of time or wither away faster than it started. Everyone can remember those gladiator sandals every girl wore during the summer, Kanye West's signature sunglasses, and t-shirts with scarves.

In June, Kanye West introduced a new and different style of sunglasses in his video premiere of "Stronger." These glasses are usually painted a neon color and have plastic bars that go half way down or all the way down the glasses vertically. These glasses were a big hit and are still selling strong today.

A trend that hurts the body more than the eyes is the guys skinny pants. Skinny's, as they are also called, have transitioned from the women's section into the men's section of clothing throughout this year and this trend has yet to die down even though it seems that it hurts men that carry any sort of pride. Not only do these pants reveal more than some care to see, they also ruin the hopes of those who'd wish there was more to see.

A-list celebrities were being photographed at the beginning of summer wearing gladiator styled sandals which started the gladiator sandal craze. Stores everywhere were selling the sandals to women across southern California. This fashion craze was a good one because the sandals were comfortable, cute, and refreshing compared to the traditional sandals. Unfortunately, it seems that these sandals will be replaced with something new next summer.

The transition from summer to fall has created a stir with scarves by pairing them with simple plain colored t-shirts. T-shirts were given a sense of flare and style for the briefest of moments before the winter season overturned this fad.

One of the biggest fads that lived for only a couple of months was known as the Sarah Palin's glasses fad. Although these glasses were usually thought as the sexy librarian glasses, moms everywhere grabbed these glasses off the shelves quickly forcing the store to reorder more pairs after it was flooded with orders for these glasses. After John McCain lost the 2008 presidential election, the glasses went unnoticed in the media.

Fashion hasn't stopped at the clothes but has continued with the hair. For some reason, America has fallen in love with Amy Winehouse's signature poufy hair. The top half of her hair is rounded up high leaving the rest of her hair down and her bangs parted to the side. This style can be pulled off by some but not by all. It is unclear why she is looked up to as a trend setter but it is clear that she doesn't really care about it.

This winter, women's pants suits are growing popular and so are sweater dresses. It will be hard to say what will be in style next year, but hopefully people don't look back at 2008's fashions and laugh.

Come Sing With Us!

VVC - Women’s Choir
Music 130 - Monday & Wednesday
2:20 - 3:45 p.m. in Music 1

Women of all ages are welcomed!
Including High School
Jr’s and Sr’s
Director: Patty Yancey
Top Ten Song Singles

1. Beyoncé — “Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)”
2. T.I. — “Whatever you Like”
3. Beyoncé — “If I Were A Boy”
4. Katy Perry — “Hot and Cold”
5. Pink — “So What”
7. Britney Spears — “Womanizer”
8. Akon — “Right Now (Na Na Na)”
10. Jason Mraz — “I’m Yours”

Top Five Movies

1. Four Christmases
2. Bolt
3. Twilight
4. Quantum Of Solice
5. Australia

Top Five Albums

1. Kanye West — 808’s & Heartbreak
2. Taylor Swift — Fearless
3. Guns N’ Roses — Chinese Democracy
4. Beyonce — I am… Sasha Fierce
5. Ludacris — Theatre Of The Mind

Horoscopes

March 21– April 19
Aries
On the 15th, spend the day cooking literally or figuratively. Be ready to take on a new project on the 20th. On the 25th, an old idea strikes you in a new way. Put on your party shoes on the 31st!

April 20 - May 20
Taurus
On the 10th, a love note is waiting for you. Plan your party outfit on the 28th and then celebrate on the 31st!

May 21– June 21
Gemini
On the 17th, somebody could misinterpret you, stay away from unnecessarily complex discussions. On the 23rd, slow down and the answer to the deeper questions will come to you.

June 22– July 22
Cancer
On the 15th, you shine and you sure light up the room! On the 23rd, emotions are intense. Find balance on the 28th. On the 31st, have a great night out with friends!

July 23– August 22
Leo
On the 15th, you achieve something important. Romance keeps things interesting on the 20th. On the 30th, don't let a little complaint fester.

August 23– Sept. 22
Virgo
Really soak up the season with ice skating or snowboarding. On the 30th, try a new look. Plans could change quickly on the 31st embrace the change!

Sept. 23– Oct. 22
Libra
On the 25th, try to push beyond a few of your old emotional limitations. Somebody gives you a kiss on the 30th so, on the 31st, kiss them back. Happy New Year!

Oct. 23– Nov. 21
Scorpio
Treat a stranger kindly on the 17th. On the 29th, clear up any misunderstandings to prepare for an excellent new year. Tap into your dreams on the 31st, make them a reality!

Nov. 22– Dec. 21
Sagittarius
On the 16th, take a trip. It will get you in the holiday spirit. On the 31st, take some time to reflect on the year past, and then celebrate the one to come!

Dec. 22 – Jan. 19
Capricorn
You accomplish something major on the 17th. Pat yourself on the back and give yourself a treat! The 27th is a charmed day. Your intuition leads you to just the right party on the 31st!

Jan. 20 – Feb. 18
Aquarius
On the 23rd, if you're ruminating on your career, go ahead and put those thoughts on the back burner. On the 28th, you make an important connection.

Feb. 19 – March 20
Pisces
Square up your accounts on the 20th. Once that's cleared away focus on finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list. You're in for a lucky day on the 25th. Avoid conflict. On the 30th, exercise.
Sudoku

V X D J E V T R Y F M G L Y O Z C W C K
A U V I L N O F A V I L I H P E R L O C
U T S R I F Y K D D A R K W L P A X U O
J A N U A R Y M I B N F E E I T A P N L
T H G I N D I M L G D E B W S I A H T C
R E S O L U T I O N S R L Y O R N F D Y
Y E A R G A J A H X A E R A T R V Y O E
N T R B Y V K D B T T C S Y C A K L W A
U E S G Y H N U E K X Z U M L C L S N R
U C W Y W A L P D U H F Z G E T B J D S

Word Search Puzzle: Happy New Years!

BALL
CLOCK
FIREWORKS
HOLIDAY
MIDNIGHT
RESOLUTIONS

CALENDAR
COUNTDOWN
FIRST
JANUARY
NEW
YEAR

CELEBRATE
CRYSTAL
HAPPY
KISSES
PARTY
YEARS

Word Search Courtesy of
www.newyearsday.com

Sudoku puzzle courtesy of www.sudokuvillage.com
Dial M for Ninja by Evan Spears

Let the plundering begin!

Nothing is likely to save you!

CRUNCH

SPLASH

SPLISH

Woo!

Yeah!

We didn’t die!

Right on!

The end! See you in the Spring!

Created by Brandon Chiz and Evan Spears
A SEMESTER IN SPORTS

For Additional Pictures Visit
Myspace.com/VVCRamPage
Dwight Gordon is a well recognized basketball player for Victor Valley College. His future looks promising.

“He is our best player at VVC and in Southern California. I can see him going really far and playing in Europe somewhere. That’s how talented he is,” said Assistant Coach Warren Ellis.

The 20-year old sophomore has been playing for VVC for the past two years but he has played the game most of his life. Gordon has impressive stats, which include scoring double doubles in points and in rebounds. Several interested Division I colleges, including the University of Riverside, Montana State, University of Irvine and Portland State have taken notice and have already started calling about him.

Gordon will continue to play for VVC until he gradates in 2009. “He is a tremendous player. He works hard and pays attention to details,” said Head Coach Tom Dudgeon.
American Media Too Self Centered

Column By
Kristyn Johnson
RamPage Reporter

What is it about the news that turns people off as soon as something bad passes across the screen? It seems that whenever a catastrophe happens, no one wants to hear about it.

A.J. Liebling once said, “A newspaper should comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” The truth of the matter is that the news is not on to fill up T.V. time, nor are newspapers printed just so that gas stations can take that extra 25 cents from your wallet. As long as we consider ourselves people that live on earth, we should be in-tune to what it is that is happening in our world, good and bad.

Recently, there was an attack made on the people of India and there was news coverage while it was happening and even now the aftermath of this event. The attacks happened the same time as Thanksgiving, which consisted of people being more concerned with watching football and stuffing their faces. Coming back to reality on Monday, I asked about five people on campus if they heard about the attack. To my surprise, each of those people had no idea that anything had even happened.

This reaction was not only shocking but, it made me realize that there are many people not only in the college realm that do not “keep up” with the news but, there are even other people that could care less about things that are outside of their “bubble”.

With an audience that mixes kindergarten, college, and middle-aged people, it is hard to determine what exactly they will watch when they turn on the T.V. or when they fold open a newspaper. The underlying reason that they do is because of their need for entertainment. If their favorite show is not on or if the news is not featuring courageous work on being more like that, willing to sacrifice for our fellow peers. Every once in a while we hear about someone sacrificing their all for others. It should truly humble those of us who go through our humdrum lives with self centered tunnel vision.

Irena Sendler died recently at age 98. During World War II, Sendler worked in the Warsaw Ghetto as a plumbing and sewer specialist. She chose to do this because, being German, she knew what the Nazi plans were for the Jews – all the Jews.

Sendler managed to smuggle infants out in the bottom of the tool box she carried. She also carried a burlap sack in the back of her truck to hide and take out larger children. She trained a dog to bark from the back of the truck when Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto. The soldiers didn’t want anything to do with the dog, and the barking covered the children’s noises.

Sendler smuggled out and saved 2,500 children and infants. When Nazis finally caught her, they broke her legs and arms and beat her severely. Sendler kept a record of the names of all the children she smuggled out. This list was kept in a jar and buried under a tree in her back yard.

When the war was over, Sendler did what she could to locate any parents that survived to reunite the families. Most of the parents had been gassed by the Nazis, so their children were placed in foster homes or adopted.

This courageous woman was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize last year, but lost. Incredibly, Al Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize for doing a slide show on global warming. Rather sad because Al Gore is still living and could do the global warming slide show anytime, while this loving woman who sacrificed so much and saved so many is now gone without the reward her fellow citizens of this world could give her.

How fantastic to know that a wonderful person like Sendler was part of the human race. Are there any more people like her around today? Can we each
Ontiveros said, “provide scholarships, grants, equipment, develop partnerships to expand educational opportunities, give students the opportunity to have memorable college experiences, even help build buildings.” As stated on its web site, the Foundation works to “build relationships that equip Victor Valley College to improve our community through education.”

Stuff You Don’t Want To Miss

- Hall of Fame Gala Feb. 7, 2009 at the Hilton Garden in Victorville is the VVC District Foundation’s biggest annual fundraiser. The gala is intended to honor a VVC graduate for his or her achievements or service after his or her time at VVC. The Hall of Fame online auction begins in January where anyone, including students, can bid on items.
- Scholarship application period is scheduled to start Dec. 19 and will end mid March next year. “There’s a lot of opportunity for students to apply (for scholarships). Not enough students know about it,” said Ginger Ontiveros, Executive Director of the VVC District Foundation.

The Foundation from Front Page

The Foundation is heavily involved in providing scholarship opportunities for VVC students. While it does raise money and provide scholarships itself, its primary function is to connect donor organizations with deserving students. As part of this effort, it helps organizations develop scholarship criteria for students. The Foundation receives the scholarship money, makes sure it gets transferred properly and acknowledges the donor.

The Link is the result of a request by Ontiveros for a donation from the Daily Press. Published every two months and distributed by The Daily Press, The Link is designed to inform the general public about VVC programs and activities. Submissions to The Link come from all over the college.

The Foundation has also worked closely with Dr. Prem Reddy, a long time friend of the college. Dr. Reddy is the largest individual donor to the college, gifting over $2 million, which includes a single donation of $1 million for the Health Science Department. Reddy’s past donations have helped to save the paramedic program by providing the college with funds to continue and recertify it. Dr. Reddy, together with Desert Valley Hospital, has taken the lead in the weekend nursing program, enabling a doubling of enrollment numbers for nurses.

The Foundation has also facilitated the receipt of such other donations as fire engines from the City of Victorville and laptop computers to be used for basic skills programs from Verizon. According to Ontiveros, “one of the most unique gifts we have ever gotten” is a 727 airplane. Received from Fed Ex, the plane may have a future in an aviation program. In all cases, the Foundation works to coordinate an organization’s gift with the college’s needs.

When asked to summarize what the Foundation does, some sort of fun-filled news brief, then their initial reaction is that “nothing is on”.

If Liebling was right and a newspaper should comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable then the goal that he imagined is not being reached. Not in the sense of the newspapers or the news media failing, but the fact that the people in this world have desensitized the importance and purpose of news sources, unless of course it is a tabloid.

CORRECTION

In the previous edition to the VVC RamPage, we made a grammatical error within an Article.

A quote that said, “I think it’s the funniest class on campus and the students will back me up” said course instructor Steve Nelle.

It should have read

“I think it’s the funnest class on campus and the students will back me up” said course instructor Steve Nelle.

Also, both “Principles of Animation” and “3D Max Fundamentals” are offered during the spring, summer, and fall semesters for 3 units each. should have been changed to, “Both Principles of Animation” and “3D Max Fundamentals” are offered during the spring and fall semesters, with “3D Max Fundamentals” also being taught during the summer semester as well.

Each class is worth 3 units.

On behalf of the Rampage Editorial Staff, we apologize for the error.
Classifieds

Students Wanted For Journalism Class
The Victor Valley College RamPage is looking to fill 2 positions for independent study course
-Advertising & Marketing Director
Handle client relations/sell ad space/oversee ad layout
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Create ads and artwork/oversee layout of newspaper

This is a 3 unit class/no pay involved
Please contact Judith Pfieffer at pfiefferj@vvc.edu

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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.

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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.

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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.

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