Campus Fire Sparks Response

Story by
Editor Evan Spears
Reporters Ana Rosales and Monique Hoover

A brush fire occurred on VVC campus in a landscaped area adjacent to the Student Activities Center on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. “The call went out at 14:38 (3:38 p.m.) and the fire department arrived at 14:45 (3:45 p.m.),” said Officer Art York. “I responded to a ‘flag-down’, which is me getting flagged down by a student in the area, while on another assignment on the other side of campus,” said York.
York said the seven-minute response time was excellent, especially since the fire unit that arrived was the second one called. He said the first truck that was to come to VVC initially was stuck on another assignment.

The fire fighter in charge of the operation was Captain A. Clawson of Station 314 in Victorville. While Clawson said the cause of the fire was possibly an improperly disposed of cigarette, the cause is “currently under investigation,” said Clawson. The fire was in a 20 foot by 20 foot area with high vegetation and got hot enough that it was ‘licking the side of the building’ so the building was hot to the touch.

Student Cesar Rivera was in the area when the fire started. “I was standing right there with my friends, and I heard a loud swoosh. It took me a couple seconds to realize what was going on. Then I saw the fire and ran to the police station,” said Rivera. Rivera says he did not see anything out of the ordinary or any possible fire starters.

“We were sitting across the lake when I saw some smoke,” said student Michelle Collazos. She said it took the fire department about eight minutes to arrive on the scene. “I thought it was a barbeque, but as the smoke got thicker, I arrived to the conclusion that it was a fire and not a barbeque,” said student Raul Arroyo. Both Collazos and Arroyo ran to the scene of the incident to see what was going on.

Major Traffic Trap

Traffic on the Victor Valley College campus is on the rise. “As the High Desert continues to grow, the traffic will inevitably grow as well,” said Whitney Mariano VVC student.

According to a group of 15 students outside of the Liberal Arts building, they say that they have to plan for an average of about 15 minutes just for time spent on campus to account for the traffic. Some said that they do not believe it is fair for some teachers to lock the door after class starts when traffic is so bad.

“The traffic is by far the worst part of going to VVC, it really puts a damper on things when you get out of class and do not get home for half an hour, when it would normally take 10 minutes tops without traffic. Waiting at the one street light to exit the campus is never fun,” said Matt Pulice, a Fire Technology student.

With most students on campus flocking to the only street light, traffic is exacerbated for everyone, “I wish that they would install a street light at Fish Hatchery Road to give students an option for entering and exiting VVC,” said Jessica Lindstrom, nursing student.

The limited access to and from VVC is what seems to be on students’ minds the most. “Perhaps with a few simple improvements we as a community and a school can accomplish some very obtainable and productive goals,” said Mariano.
Awareness Key to Foil Crime

Story by
Keith James
Reporter

The criminal activity on campus most commonly include such crimes as petty theft, battery and even grand theft auto. “The majority of crimes committed on campus are crimes of opportunity,” said Jon Schorle, Chief of Police for VVC.

Crimes of opportunity are things being stolen when left unattended or cars being broken into when left unlocked, whenever there is an easy opportunity for theft. There was one case of a car being stolen at the beginning of this semester.

“We had a couple calls of fights in progress when this semester started. It was probably just people being stressed out about finding classes, or things of that nature,” Schorle said.

The most current reports of crimes on campus are on display in the police office and show there were three burglaries, two of which were forcible entry, the other was vehicle entry, five cases of theft, three petty theft, two grand theft, one - misdemeanor assault, one alcohol violation, and one arrest in December.

However, Schorle says that he hasn’t noticed any change in the crime rate on campus. “There are too many factors involved, like the deployment of new personnel, but I wouldn’t say crime has gone down or up,” said Schorle.

The campus police will post current criminal activity on their website in the near future, which can be accessed from the college website. This will put them in compliance with the Jane Cleary Act, which stipulates that all colleges must post a public record of the crimes committed on their campuses.

There are currently five full-time officers, three public safety officers, and six reserve officers on staff. The full-time officers are required to have 722 hours of state mandated training, the same as any San Bernardino County officer. The part-time officers must have 250-450 hours of training and take a refresher course every other year.

“Of the crimes committed on their campus, the most common are crimes of opportunity,” Schorle said.

Crimes of opportunity are things such as petty theft, battery, or even grand theft auto. “The majority of crimes committed on campus are crimes of opportunity,” said Jon Schorle, Chief of Police for VVC.

Awareness Key to Foil Crime

Summer Enrollment Heats Up

Story by
Monique Hoover
Reporter

The Victor Valley College summer 2009 semester begins on June 22, and is expected to reach very high enrollment numbers. Here is a preview into the summer registration. Priority registration begins on May 18 for EOPS/DSPS, ASB council members, PACE students, work study students, student athletes, Phi Theta Kappa Members and military veterans begins May 20. Registration for continuing students is from May 22-June 1, depending on the amount of units completed at VVC.

Returning students and students with more than 90 units begin registration June 3. New and transfer students can register June 5. Concurrently enrolled K-12 students are eligible for registration June 10. This list in more detail is available on the VVC website under the summer '09 Menu.

Although classes and openings seem to be available, register as soon as possible. “Summer enrollment has not opened yet, so we don't really know what to expect. Viewing the last 10 summer terms, I would say that summer '09 will be very similar to summer '08 (5,758 headcount at 1st census).

Summer '08 was the largest summer enrollment in our history. I would not be surprised to see a headcount of nearly 6,000 for summer '09,” said Mark Clair M.A., the Institutional Research Coordinator from the VVC Research Center.

No need to worry, VVC has made some improvements to help with the enrollment increase. Starting in the summer '09 semester a new waitlist system for full classes will be offered. “Before the beginning of the semester, if a class is closed, you may place your name on a waitlist. If a seat becomes available, you will automatically be added to the class and your student account will be charged with enrollment fees,” states the VVC website.

Students around campus seem to be having mixed views of the summer semester. “Taking the summer semester would be beneficial to people who need units in a rush,” said Apryl Harrington, a VVC student. Although Apryl finds the summer semesters to be helpful, other students are not finding it as useful. “I am disappointed that VVC is not offering calculus this summer,” said Abdull Najjar, “I need the class, and now I’m forced to take it through Barstow.”
Non-Traditional Careers Court Women

Story by Roderick Gray
Reporter

The third Annual Women of Math and Science Conference was held at Victor Valley College April 15 and was sponsored by the American Association of University Women and the Alliance for Education. Eighth grade girls from four area middle schools and 9 through 12 grade young women from ten local high schools were in attendance. “The main objective was to present options to the young ladies for future careers in non-traditional fields focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math,” said Donna Mertens event coordinator.

This year’s event was planned for 300 students of which 263 attended. They were educated in the professional fields of water management by Mojave Water Agency, fire fighting with the Apple Valley Fire District and Women in Mining. TXI Cement provided insight on the professional opportunities in the field of mining. Careers in law enforcement were touched on by the FBI and San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department. Loma Linda Veterans’ Hospital gave a workshop on the opportunities in the nursing profession.

Guest speakers included Geologist Dr. Andrea Donnellan from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, who spoke on her remarkable discoveries and travel in the field of Geology. Sitting Bull Middle School seventh grader Najah Williams, a 12 year-old entrepreneur spoke on the importance of financial management for young people. “We asked Najah to speak this year to hopefully inspire the young ladies. She made a very engaging presentation,” Donna Mertens said.

Alternative Bookstore A Big Hit

Story and Photos by Marsha Smith
Reporter

A group of students working on a class project in Meredith John’s CMST 108 class in the fall of 2008 created vvcbookswap.com. The group decided to find a solution for overpriced books. The students are Jo Fitts, Hortencia Cervantes, Kenneth Knoechel, and Phillip Smith. The website is provided strictly for VVC students and allows them to buy and sell used text books directly to each other. The benefits of the site are the elimination of shipping and handling fees, no mark up prices, the opportunity to view the book prior to purchase and no waiting period for delivery.

Students looking to sell their books need to become a member by clicking on the ‘place an ad’ link and can provide their contact information publicly or privately, by having interested buyers send private messages to them. Sellers are also given the opportunity to browse the want ads to see prospective students who are looking for their particular book. To purchase a book the student can use the search engine to find a specific book and then send the seller a private message.

It is difficult to measure the expansion of the website because it has only been available since the Fall Semester of 2008. “The site’s use grew in leaps and bounds at the beginning of this semester and at the end of last, when students were actively seeking to purchase and sell their used textbooks,” said Fitts. For initial promotion the group posted bulletins around the school, passed out flyers and used word of mouth from satisfied customers. “Business for the site would pick up if the school would help promote and get the students informed. By doing this the website has the potential to be very successful,” said Knoechel. “If students are not informed about it, then of course they will not, or rather cannot, utilize it. Word of mouth from professors and/or advisors would be very helpful to the site’s success,” said Fitts. Currently the sales of the site have been steady and Fitts is planning to let it run indefinitely and run self-sufficiently.

The website has not affected sales at the VVC Bookstore but it is not in direct competition with it either. Ultimately the bottom line is that students are getting the required materials for their classes through any means that are available to them whether through online sources or campus bookstores.

Founders of bookswap.com Kenneth Knoechel and Jo Fitts
Tasty Finds at Farmers Market

Story and Photo by Jacleen Janzer
Reporter

There’s always something fresh at the High Desert Farmers’ Market on the Victor Valley College campus. Held every Thursday from 8am to noon on the upper campus, the Farmers’ Market offers everything from healthy, nutritious produce to unique, handcrafted gifts and collectibles.

The market first came about in July 1992, and was the idea of Agricultural Department’s Bob Adams. Around that time, there had been talks of eliminating the department for not being economical enough. Adams believed that a farmers’ market might bring agriculture to the community’s attention.

“It educates the community about the agricultural industry and of its importance,” said Kerri Santoro, who has owned the market since 1998 but has been involved with it from the beginning. She was part of the ornamental horticulture program in 1992, and believes that the Farmers’ Market helps people learn about agriculture’s relevance to their lives.

A wide variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as plants and flowers, are sold at the market, along with prepared foods and baked goods. Vendors come from as far away as San Diego or Fresno, and many places in between. Some are from more local regions, bringing products from farms in Lucerne, Yucca Valley, Riverside, Etiwanda, and other areas.

The market is certified by the state Agricultural Dept. and complies with the Direct Marketing Act. The act requires that vendors produce what they sell, among other regulations.

Santoro says that the fresh fruits and vegetables sold here are more nutritious and cost-effective and that consumers benefit in many ways from buying locally. “It provides more nutrition by being allowed to grow more naturally. Even the color and taste are different,” said Santoro.

One merchant who sells a wide selection of fruits, is glad to have his booth at the Farmers’ Market. “I really enjoy selling here – it’s relaxing. The people become like family.” said Matthew Varnam.

There’s more than just edibles at the market. More than half of the booths at the market sell gifts and merchandise and help support the market as a whole. One can find items that are vintage, handmade, or even crafted by artists in other countries. These include jewelry and accessory products, apparel, and collectibles that are often hard to find or expensive elsewhere.

As volunteers for Relay For Life – A Team For a Cure, Alexis, Gail, and Andrea Rivera sell handmade items to raise money in the fight against cancer. Their items include beaded bracelets, painted boxes and stones, and free ribbons in support of their upcoming relay, which will take place at the college May 30 and 31. “100 percent of donations go to the American Cancer Society. Anyone can help,” said Alexis.

Visit the Riveras’ booth or www.cancer.org to find out more about the relay.

With health and business advantages as well as enjoyment and interaction with others, the Farmers’ Market has much to offer, and is a source of freshness all year round. Visit www.highdesertfarmersmarket.com for more information.

WHAT’S THE MATTER?
VENT!! TELL US!!
AIR YOUR COMPLAINTS or COMPLIMENTS!
Submit by noon Wednesday, May 6
MUST BE VVC AFFILIATED
INDICATE AGE AND GENDER
vv cramitout@yahoo.com

“Security harasses everyone. They have power trips like crazy and take their jobs way too seriously.” - Security Sucks, 18

“The bookstore sucks. They charge too much.” - Bookworm, 18

“Why are things in the bookstore so damn expensive? A lot of people can’t pay for their own books. Also, why are some teachers such assholes? Having an advanced degree doesn’t mean you get to be a jerk.” - I Don’t Want To Pay For Negativity, 22

“My problem is students from Excelsior aren't getting kicked off campus for not having ID cards. They’re loud, always making noise and making drama, and I’m tired of it.” - Tired of Immaturity, 23
Litter Cleanup Joint Effort

Story and Photos By
Anastasia Osorio
Reporter

Victor Valley College has created beautiful grounds for learning that affect all who attend this school. The new buildings and landscaping have made this campus distinct and fresh. It is not flattering to have the nice planters overflowing with cigarette butts.

The Maintenance Department of VVC consists of five divisions, maintenance, grounds, custodial, warehouse and administration.

The grounds division cares for the 250 acre parcel of land the college sits on. There are more than 100 acres of planted vegetation that needs care regularly.

The custodial division empties trash and cares for the cleaning of the building. The recycling technicians are required to empty and sort the recycle bins around campus. This is a very organized and diversified department.

Groundskeepers Eddie Reyes and Poncho Zamora say it is very difficult to keep up with the litter removal due to demanding responsibility of landscaping care.

“The wind carries trash from parking lots and scatters it everywhere. Excessive litter gets into the lake and can sicken and kill the wildlife,” said Reyes.

“I think there is enough trash receptacle capability but they don’t use it,” said Reyes.

see Litter page 7

Heard Around the Lake

Correction: April 3, 2009 on page 5 an author’s name was misspelled. Heard Around the Lake story and photos were by Richard Dominguez.

What is your ideal spring break activity?

“Partying! Smoke a lot of weed.”
Adam Zilla

“Hanging out at the beach having fun.”
Jeff Pasqua

“Have fun and enjoy life...and do some homework.”
Ajay Kacy

“Go on vacation. Go somewhere I’ve never been before.”
Deborah Pesch

“Catching up with friends.”
Travis Hunter
Sanitary Stations a Clean Option

Story by
Jennifer Andrews
Reporter

The common method of using a paper towel to open the bathroom door after just washing hands is being replaced with the convenient use of hand sanitizers. Although proper hand washing is the best way to help keep germs from spreading, many people don’t practice this.

For ones own health, hand sanitizer is next in line to help protect them against lingering bacteria, viruses, and other microbes when soap and water are not available.

According to Chris Hylton, director of maintenance and operations, there are more than 25 antibacterial stations throughout the VVC campus. These stations were added over a year ago mostly because of the fact that Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is on the rise in public places. These stations are replenished every night as needed and are put up as they are requested.

Thirty students were asked one question: “Do you use the antibacterial hand sanitizing stations that are around this campus?” Twelve responded with yes, five with sometimes, three students said that they carry their own bottle, two students had no clue what a bacterial station was, and eight students said that they never use the stations.

Hand washing must never be replaced with alcohol based hand sanitizers because of the inability to cut through dirt and grime as well as soap and water. For a waterless hand sanitizer to be effective, it must contain no less than 60 percent alcohol. For this reason, hand sanitizer should always be kept away from young children because of the high alcohol content.

Students who don’t practice proper hand washing or are interested in learning more about how harmful bacteria and viruses are, enroll in David Gibbs or Pamela MacKay microbiology class on the VVC campus.

Fashion Trend Matter of Taste

Story and Photos by
Helena Reed
Reporter

With spring’s doors open, fashion blossoms in a whole new way.

From twists on older generations of style to new and ultramodern trends, today’s world of fashion is shining in a new, ravishing and unique light. For many Victor Valley College students fashion takes on various meanings, but many on campus agree that it definitely does exist.

Kymberley Snyder, 19, a VVC student and cashier at “Forever21,” explained what fashion meant to her. “It’s how you describe yourself or show yourself without words, through fashion you show your true colors; it’s like an art,” said Snyder.

From new trends to old trends, many would agree that time’s vogue has a way of repeating itself. From bright colored clothing, to skinny jeans, scarves and high waisted wear. All have previously existed or have just never gone away.

Snyder explained, as a cashier, what trends she sees a lot. Most prominent in sales are floor-length dresses for girls and graphic tee-shirts and buffalo print shirts for guys.

Among the many trends, the three most leading guidelines for many on campus seem to be fashion, budget and comfort. Devlin Robinson, 23, first-semester VVC student, says that there are many ways to keep it stylish yet budget appropriate. “I go to basic places,” said Robinson. “Stuff is on sale all the time.” Robinson went on to say that it’s a person’s taste and what they’re comfortable in that invents fashion.

Jennifer Luna says she would live in the 1920’s if she could.

Though everyone doesn’t pursue each new trend that comes in with the breath of spring, inspiration is still in

see Fashion page 7
Local Writers Club Seeks Participation from College Folk

Story By
Judith Pfeffer
RamPage Adviser

Students, staff and faculty are welcome to monthly meetings of the local branch of the California Writers Club. The 24-year-old High Desert Branch meets “in a friendly, open atmosphere of desert hospitality yet with the same dedication to teaching and learning the skills and techniques of writing,” a recent media release says.

Members involve themselves in journalism, essays, biographies, memoirs, poetry, screenplays and novels including history and romance; critique groups are available for analysis and feedback concerning works in progress.

Meetings run from 10 a.m. to noon the second Saturday of the month at the Apple Valley Library, 14901 Dale Evans Parkway at Happy Trails Highway (Highway 18).

Upcoming programming is as follows: May, Marilyn Ramirez on fiction writing; June, Mike Foley on writing dialogue; September, Holly LaPat (aka Sierra Donovan) on romance writing; October, a panel of Inland Empire writers; November, Major Sharon Filadelfia on “Myths and Realities of Military Intelligence” and December, holiday party.

Meetings are scheduled in July and August, but no guest speakers are involved.

The CWC has more than 1,100 members in 17 branches throughout California and is about to celebrate its centennial.

For information, call Carol at (760) 242-3367.

Library Offers Books on Reserve

Story and Photo by
Daisy Vargas
Reporter

Library reserve books are used everyday. “Anyone that has some kind of identification can use the books. They have to fill out a form with name, date, and time,” said Joy Von Ins the person in charge of the books.

There is always a need for books on reserve and the best way to get more books available is to e-mail instructors. If more than five students in the same class ask for a book, instructors will probably listen to students more than to her. “Teachers don’t always know books are in reserve. It’s hard to say when there are enough books. Most of the time we are in need of books at the beginning of the semester,” said Von Ins.

The positive side of reserved books is to help students who can’t afford them. Students can always come and study but they cannot check out the books. Reserved books can be checked out for a maximum of two hours because they have to make sure other students are able to use them as well.

The negative side of depending on a reserved book is that the library doesn’t always have the current edition or it is not available until another student is finished.

Students are not always aware of reserved books and they are encouraged to ask instructors about them.

To check out a reserved book, the staff at the circulation desk asks that students come prepared with their identification, the instructor’s name, class, the title of the book and money for copies of pages.

Litter continued from page 5
Zamora said there was a fire in a planter on the upper campus last summer due to a cigarette butt that was improperly disposed of.

VVC has made available plenty of containers for recyclables that are located conveniently by trash cans.

VVC’s recyclable technician Vaughn Bryant is responsible for “whatever is blue” he cleverly stated. He said the campus is pretty clean, compared to most college campuses and that most litter ends up on the lower campus because of the wind.

Bryant said 85-90 percent of what is disposed of in the bins is recyclable.

“Thank you for your support and praise for my beautiful wife, Bertha Reyes,”

- - Eddie Reyes

Fashion continued from page 6

the air for several. Jennifer Luna, 20, and fifth-semester VVC student, explained those who most inspire her when it comes to fashion. “I really like Coco Chanel and Edie Sedgwick,” said Luna. “If I could, I would live in the 1920’s.”

Adriana Turner, 27, and store manager at “Zummiez,” said that though she doesn’t base her life around what she is wearing, it is important to the business that she is in. Turner expressed her support of the fashion world and also explained that what a person wears may say a lot about them, but it also takes a certain kind of person. “I think it takes a certain kind of person to wear those styles,” said Turner. Nevertheless, when it comes to style, many may agree that it is what you make it.

VISIT
MySpace.com/vvcrampage
Look For The Latest News Online Today

The library is always bustling with activity.
Easter Sunrise Service Warms

Story by George Lewis Reporter
Photos by Brandon Beeson Contributor

It was zero dark thirty military time. The weather was a chilling 34 degrees on a Sunday morning when most people are sleeping in their warm cozy beds with visions of the dreaded Monday morning blues dancing in their heads.

A group of dedicated volunteers, men and women, were up preparing for this once a year event. They had cold hands, but their hearts were on fire fueled by the Holy Spirit in anticipation of the hundreds of people still warm in their beds to come and celebrate one of the most important events in the annals of history: the death and resurrection of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The setting was simplistic in its design similar to the life of the one they came to worship.

On the north side of the football field, beyond the end zone, there were three metal bleachers facing a stage. The bleachers were set back from the stage allowing people who brought their own chairs to have an unobstructed view of the stage. This setup may have been similar to one which Christ himself may have used; the only thing to remind us of the 21st century was the Starbucks coffee, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and electronics.

The program was easy to follow. First the praise and worship team lead by Associate Pastor Matt Cordi, led the congregation of 1500 in eight songs of worship. Praise and worship helped everyone focus on the true reason for being out in the cold weather so early on a Sunday morning. Once praise and worship was over Senior Pastor Dennis Davenport came to the stage with an inspirational message centered on the reason for the Easter Season.
Hearts, Souls
Rams Nine Gains Experience, Despite Loss

Story and Photos by
Aaron Bañuelos
Sports Editor

The High Desert Mavericks played host to Victor Valley College in an exhibition game April 9, proceeds of which benefited VVC’s baseball program. VVC Associated Student Body President Christina Zambrano threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Zambrano and many other VVC students and fans were in attendance to show their support and school spirit. The spectators’ loyalty appeared to be split; one half wearing maroon and gold and the other sporting their favorite Maverick tees.

It was a chilly Wednesday night, and the wind was making it feel colder, almost unbearable for those dedicated fans. According to Ram freshman Tony Holmes, “This weather shouldn’t be a factor at all. We have been training in cold weather, and most of our games have been played in the wind.”

It might have been the wind or maybe just the nerves kicking in, but VVC couldn’t take advantage with a first at-bat. A quick three-and-out by a very technical Mav defense gave a glimpse of how the rest of the night was going to be. In the bottom of the first, Maverick Tyson Gillies hit one deep to center field, which got him a nice double to start off the High Desert offense. Kuo Hui Lo was next at bat and hit one deep into right field that was caught, but advanced Gillies to third base.

Rams’ pitcher Zane Ridings was now faced with a very workable situation, having two outs and the opportunity to get out of the inning and give the Rams an opportunity to catch up in score. Ridings was working hard against batter Travis Scott and got the count up to a scary full count, but Ridings threw ball four to walk his first of the night. All of a sudden the inning turned into batting practice for the Mavericks when Carlos Paguero hit a triple to not only bring a runner in but put himself in scoring position. Determined to bring Paguero in to score, Joseph Dunigan hit a grounder past second base, and with such force he broke the wooden bat, getting an “ahh!” from a very entertained crowd. With the score now 3-0, Dunigan had his eyes set on more action when he stole a base, advancing to second. The inning was close to being done when Alex Liddi hit a grounder to Ram shortstop Chris Evans, who could have thrown it to first base to get the last out but made his first of four errors by juggling the ball, allowing runner Liddi to arrive safe at first base.

James McOwen did the same with a pop fly to deep right field for the second out, but not before driving Gillies home from third.

Mavericks smelled blood and were determined to continue to test the shortstop position by having Edillo Colina hit it toward and past Evans, bringing in two more runs, making the score 5-0. Finally, after a grounder was hit to the Rams’ second baseman they got the much needed third out.

The second inning wasn’t much different offensively for the Rams, as they did no better than a quick three-and-out. Defensively, things started to look a little better for the Rams, as they changed to pitcher Abraham Enriquez. At the top of the Mavericks batting order Gillies hit a triple to put him self in a very nice spot. Enriquez might have felt nervous with a runner in scoring position because in his second pitch to batter Hui Lo was wild and brought Gillies in to score. Hui Lo advanced to first base, and after noticing a jittery pitcher, he decided to try for a stolen base but got caught in a pickle. Luckily for the Mavericks, shortstop Chris Evans committed another error, giving up the base. After trying to settle things down, Enriquez threw another ugly wild pitch that got Ram catcher Thomas Southern looking for the ball, while Hui Lo advanced for the score to make it 7-0. A
State of Play an Artistic Gem

Story by Monique Hoover

Reporter

The movie thrill seekers have been waiting for has hit the box office “State of Play,” starring Russell Crowe, Rachel McAdams, Ben Affleck and Robin Wright Penn, is full of good performances and satisfies the need for some much needed entertainment. Crowe's scruffy character, Cal McAffrey, dedicates his life to finding the truth in journalism, while McAdams character, Della Frye, is hungry for success in the media world. They find themselves working together as journalists on a story full of twists, excitement and political issues, leaving you sitting on the edge of your seat, wanting more.

Throughout the movie different life styles collide, heightening the well-written story line, which is so full of stimulation, thanks to the three screenwriters Matthew Michael Carnahan, Tony Gilroy and Billy Ray. “State of Play” is one of the best films I've seen of this genre. I believe more films of this deftness are needed in the sea of slap-stick comedies seen most-recently in the box office. For those looking for a thrilling, political, yet mind-boggling movie, this is it.

Along with a great story line, the characters are all played well, none being over done. Affleck’s performance surprised me, and may be considered one of his best. Another personal favorite was Helen Mirren’s performance as an editor. Mirren took the role and not only portrayed an astonishing editor; she added different dimensions to the part, making it her own. Crowe and McAdams held the movie together with their high-caliber performances.

As a journalism major myself, you may say I am biased with my high regards to this movie. Although journalism may draw me in, this movie is so multifaceted with not only journalism but politics, military, relationships, mystery and crime, I doubt anyone will feel left behind.

On a scale of 1-5, one being the worst, I give “State of Play” a solid 5. This thriller is a definite must-see.

NEWS IN BRIEF

VVC will host the 2009 Career and Job Fair at the Student Activities Center April 28 at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Partners include El Dorado Broadcasting, The Daily Press, CBS Radio and the County of San Bernardino Workforce Development Department. Applicants are encouraged to bring along an up-to-date resume, dress professionally and be able to project a positive attitude. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo on May 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Enjoy food, music and folklorico dancing all day.

Victorville Citizens Throw Tea Party

Story and Photos by Noel Herron

Victorville citizens gathered in the hundreds on street corners and at City Hall to protest tax increases and government spending on income tax day.

“My daughter's in college now. Without these taxes she wouldn't have to take any loans out. We pay for things like welfare abuse and illegal immigration,” said Diane Reeder, as she stood on the corner of Bear Valley Rd. and Cottonwood Ave.

White once owned a swimming pool company that later took a dive. “When I had my company, payroll tax and workers' comp was insane. I don't think it's a Democrat or Republican issue,” said Frank White.

Meanwhile, at Victorville City Hall, radio show host Barb Stanton held her own tea party protest. Victorville citizens were able to have their voices heard as nearly 200 people gathered holding signs that read “Taxed enough already”, “No taxation without representation” and “Don't tread on me.” “We're not taking it any more,” said Carl Kerns on the issue of government spending.

Protesters used the opportunity to let off steam over the rising national debt and the state's deficit. They also expressed a lack of trust of their representatives, and even distributed recall petitions against Assemblyman Anthony Adams. “I don't believe that anyone is listening to us,” said Karen Smith.
WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Crab
Dolphin
Jellyfish
Lamprey
Lobster
Mollusks
Octopus
Otter
Penguin
Sea Turtle

UFYPARGNITSUS
XDJHHHDESMHW
SJWEYSCOAHRYM
OUEPLEILLIAOP
NCRHSLXFMPRLS
IRLEAYPRHLUK
UAOPAHQFUIPID
GBBPTWCSIOTIN
NDSPVKOTSUSM
EATNRSYCTQHWZ
PEETNOHSTDKE
OYRLLLAMPREYA
EPSPEEGNOPSRL

Seal
Shark
Shrimp
Sponge
Squid
Starfish
Stingray
Walrus
Whale

Courtesy of Livewire Puzzles - Sea Creatures
YAHOO’S TOP TEN MOVIES

1. Fast & Furious
2. 17 Again
3. Sunshine Cleaning
4. Monsters vs. Aliens
5. State of Play
6. 12 Rounds
7. Race to Witch Mountain
8. I Love You, Man
9. Hanna Montana The Movie
10. Haunting in Connecticut

SINGLES

1. The Black Eyed Peas “Boom Boom Pow”
2. Lady Gaga “Poker Face”
3. Flo Rida “Right Round”
5. Soulja Boy Tell’em “Kiss Me Thru the Phone”
6. Kid Cudi “Day N’ Nite”
7. Jamie Foxx “Blame It”
8. Miley Cyrus “The Climb”
9. Eminem “We Made You”
10. The Fray “You Found Me”

ALBUMS

1. Keith Urban “Defying Gravity”
2. Prince “MPL Sound”
3. Diana Keall “Quiet Nights”
4. Various Artists “NOW 30”
5. “Hanna Montana The Movie [Soundtrack]”
6. UGK “UGK 4Life”
7. “Twilight [Original Soundtrack]”
8. Flo Rida “R.O.O.T.S. (Route of Overcoming the Struggle)”
9. Lady Gaga “The Fame”
10. Taylor Swift “Fearless”

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...cause at this point for the Rams, but they didn’t let up, putting in really good defensive stands for the next four innings. Rams’ head coach Robert Smith was switching pitchers every inning to give every one a chance to play against the professional Mavericks. Defensively, the Ram outfield was flawless, catching every ball that got hit their way and showing the arm strength to stop advancing runners.

The game was quiet until the bottom of the seventh inning, when Ram pitcher Alex Neelans got one of his fastballs hit to bring in two Maverick runs. The Mavericks went on to score only one more run in the next inning, while every one of the Rams got to step onto the field for a chance to play. After the game coach Smith said, “The pitchers did well after we all settled down, and we saw some good things from the outfield. It was good to come out and have fun and make some money for our baseball program.”

When asked how much of a difference it was to play collegiate teams compared to the pro Mavericks, coach Smith said, “It was a difference because these guys are professionals, and my kids get pumped up to play. They get excited to know that they are going to play the guys and they come out wanting to do well. Coming down the latter half of the season we are just trying to improve and get better after every game.”

Ram Tony Holmes said, “Every one came in with a good attitude, and these guys are no different than us. We all gave a good effort. The cold and the wind didn’t affect us at all. We just needed better defense in the beginning.”

Mike Cataneso said, “Those guys get paid to hit the ball. I’m proud of our defense being able to quiet them down for a while. When defense does well the whole team does better. All we need now is for our team chemistry to be improved a little.” When asked how it was for them to come out and play the Mavericks, Cataneso replied, “It makes a lot of us step up our game, and it brings out the best in us.”

Overall this was a good game against two good teams, one in still its developmental stages and the other starting out their season strong. Losing by a score of 10-0, the Rams have nothing to be ashamed of, as they played their hearts out and showed areas in which they are good and areas in which they need just a little bit of improvement.
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 thevvcrampage@gmail.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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10am-6pm
Victor Valley College by the lake
Cinco de Mayo
Celebrando Nuestra Cultura
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FOOD
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