Culture Craze Brings Diversity Accent to Rams Week

Story By
Kathleen Allen
Managing/Online Editor
Board Secretary

Culture Craze is happening around the lake on the Victor Valley College campus Thursday, May 14, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. as part of Rams Week. “Hopefully this will be the first of an annual event. It’s sponsored by the Diversity Committee to show that VVC supports and values our diversity on campus,” said Janet Long, director of the Trio Programs and co-chair of the Diversity Committee.

Vendors will be set up around the lake offering samples of ethnic foods. “For a small fee you’ll have the opportunity to taste the smorgasbord of flavors from various local vendors, while experiencing the artistic ambiance of represented cultures,” said Sherri Pierce, a counselor with Disabled Students Programs and Services and co-chair of the Diversity Committee. “VVC student clubs will also be selling foods,” said Fusako Yokotobi vice president of Human Resources.

Admission to the event is free. Vendors will have the opportunity to showcase their venue at a fee less than $2 for an appetizer portion, giving everyone the opportunity to try foods from other cultures. Entertainment will include African-American band music, Native American Dancers and hopefully Tyco (Japanese drummers). The stage area next to the SAC will be utilized for performances.

“Latin Express will be kicking-off the event with their Latin band. IM is another group that plays African American music, as well as White Cloud Native American drummers, belly dancing, and story telling. There will be tantalizing appetizers from around the world,” said Fusako Yokotobi vice president of human resources.

The Diversity Committee is a part of the shared governance committee on campus and has been re-established within the last two years. They hope to make everyone aware of the cultural diversity that exists in the High Desert and offer more events in the future.

“VVC values diversity. Our goal is to bring not just culture, but understanding and the ability to value human differences, including disabilities, gender and sexual orientation, among other things, together with the hopes of living peacefully. So, come on everybody, enjoy the food and entertainment! We want everyone to have a fun day,” said Long.

Rams Week Happenings

MONDAY morning FREE Krispy Kreme Donuts, a scavenger hunt and FREE scantron forms for students.
TUESDAY Skidmark Grill and Adviser Uncle Bob serve lunch from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. featuring roasted corn, chicken tacos and more.
ASB Elections will be held Wednesday and Thursday.
WEDNESDAY Student choice awards ceremony at noon and Academic Challenge at 5:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Culture Craze from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and Communications Studies Club is holding their Spring Speech Contest at 2:30 p.m.
FRIDAY Pancake/chorizo breakfast with Maintenance and Operations at 6 a.m. and Tech X is being reintroduced.
SATURDAY a 1950’s style picnic, bar-b-que and fishing

Key VVC Leaders Mourned

Story by
Bill Buttler
Editor-in-Chief

Victor Valley College is saddened by loss of two of its champions.
Long-time advocates of the school and trustees for the Victor Valley Community College District, Dr. Bettye Underhill and Thomas M. Elder, Jr. died recently.

Underhill, who passed away April 27 after a brief illness, devoted 15 years of service to the college board.
Elder, who died of heart failure April 26, served 20 years on the VVC board.
Services were pending at press time and will be announced when available.
A memorial scholarship is being established in the name of each, to be administered by the Victor Valley College Foundation.
Anatomy Prof Brings Passion to Classroom

Story By
Marsha Smith
Reporter

The Science Department at Victor Valley College welcomed Carla Stout as a full-time professor in the Fall semester of 2008, and she currently teaches both Human Anatomy and Human Gross Anatomy. She has also taught Microbiology and General Biology at VVC. “I really love the students,” said Stout.

Stout grew up near Pomona and attended The California State Polytechnic University of Pomona for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She received her Master of Science degree in June 2008, and her thesis was based on the morphological and molecular evolutionary reconstruction of sea slugs (Nudibranchs), along with the description of two new tropical species. During her research, she formally described a new sea slug species and named it Dendronotus noahi, after her nephew, Noah Silva. Stout decided to become an anatomy professor because “I was always interested in the evolution of vertebrates,” she said.

Describing the courses she has taught, “anatomy is intense, general biology is a good introduction course, and microbiology is hands-on fun,” said Stout.

VVC student DeVonne Cardoza, was in Stout’s microbiology class and enjoyed it very much. “Ms. Carla Stout is an inspiring instructor who wants her students to study every day,” said Stout. “I study at least two hours a day and find the class difficult, but Ms. Stout knows this is a hard class, so she offers extra credit and gives you tips on how to memorize the material. Ms. Stout is the reason the class is enjoyable,” said Jamie Quinn, a student currently enrolled in Stout’s anatomy class. Both anatomy classes have a lecture and lab portion. “I allow students to add the class late, because after the first exam, quite a few will drop the course,” said Stout.

Human Anatomy is the introduction to gross and microscopic anatomy of the human body. In class, students dissect a cat, sheep, eye, kidney, heart and larynx. “My favorite dissection is the sheep eye, because it is the coolest thing to see,” said Stout. The Human Gross Anatomy class is only offered once a year at VVC. It is an advanced anatomy class that includes the dissection of the thorax, abdomen, and pelvis on a human cadaver during the entire 16-week period. “I get excited about each topic taught in class, and I try to make it interesting for the students,” said Stout.

For 2009 summer session, Stout is teaching Human Anatomy Mon. through Thurs. from 4 to 9:55 p.m. “I am interested to see how students do in an abbreviated session,” said Stout.

Job Fair Turnout Reflects Condition of Economy

Story By
Jacob Rugh
Reporter

Students and outsiders, alike, came to the Victor Valley College Job Fair April 28, as demand for employment among the jobless increases in the slumping economy.

“I’m looking for employment to help out me and my family. Hope I can get a good job out of it,” said VVC student Molly Olgata.

Hope seemed to be a re-sounding theme, as masses of people converged at employer booths, aiming to better their financial status.

“The turnout was excellent. In terms of how the economy is going, we’re not surprised,” said Sue Tippit, with the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department. She said the 1,500 job seekers in attendance were about 500 more than last year. Interestingly, the number of employers present hasn’t dwindled either. “We’re very surprised how many employers there are, so there are jobs out there,” said Tippit.

“I thought it was an excellent lead. I had over 60 resumes. Probably 50 percent of them were people we could use,” said Claudia Garcia, from a local business called Kids and Care.

Although the employer turnout was strong, it remains unknown how many people employers need to hire. Notably, there were also booths there to sign up for military service and schools.

For more information about the event, visit the Employee Resource Center at 15555 Main St., suite G4, in Hesperia, Mon. through Thur. 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call (760) 949-8526.
New Star Trek Boldly Goes On Screen

Review By
Brett Diaz
Guest Contributor

Star Trek is, bar none, one of the best movies of the year. Drop what you are doing and go see it now. For those of you who need a little more motivation than that it is Star Trek and that, yes, it is everything Star Trek fans everywhere (trekkies, we all know some) have been hoping for, read on.

Star Trek is a 126-minute motion picture directed and produced by J.J. Abrams. The movie stars Chris Pine as James T. Kirk and Zachary Quinto of “Heroes” fame as Spock. Nero is the plot’s enigmatic arch villain, played to unsettling perfection by Eric Bana.

Star Trek’s plot is set up to quickly bring everyone up-to-speed (both old and new viewers) about who and what the characters are and the world in which they live. The plot moves at a brisk but natural rate. From beginning to end, the sequence of events always satisfies both the wandering, curious mind and the mind that is simply into the story to see what happens.

Memorable moments in the film are frequent and both uplifting and sad, in equal parts. Some moments are large, like Captain Kirk’s clever way of cheating on his major officer’s test. Other moments are small, such as seeing Leonard Nimoy appear in the film.

To be sure, tons of familiar clichés permeate the movie. Importantly, they’re handled in a way to add nostalgia, and rarely, if ever feel hokey or thrown-in.

Star Trek is an absolutely gorgeous movie. A great deal of the movie is graphically generated; the result is stunning. The visuals look real and befit the scope of the environment at-hand (SPACE!). When you first see Nero’s vessel, compared to the U.S.S Kelvin, the size of the elements are immediately comprehended. Whether speaking of pure size and detail, or simply the artistic beauty summoned by the movie, enough cannot be said to its credit.

Possibly the only issue I had with the film was with Nero. The villain is enigmatic and cryptic and full of anguish, played perfectly by Bana. His motives, although explained throughout the plot, are not as developed as I’d have liked. His motive, without giving too much away, tends toward that over-used and clichéd vengeance-versus-justice. I think the character could easily have handled greater responsibility and reasoning. That said, the character’s role is fine and doesn’t detract from the film’s strength.

Star Trek is a great film. Why are you still reading this? Whether you’re an old trekkie or just wanting a good film, get to your local theater and see this film as fast as you can. In fact, you’re late! Get Scotty on the comm.

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Cinco de Mayo: Tradition, Pride Served in Color, Flavor, Sounds

Story and Pictures By
Daisy Vargas
Reporter

The Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Victor Valley College was a success. The festival was filled with energy and entertainment. Mariachis, dancers, traditional music, tacos, crunchy tortillas, tamales, chiles rellenos and more are what made this event come to life.

Families from the High Desert gathered together to celebrate the victory of Mexican military over the French army at the Battle of Puebla. Hispanic High Desert Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Vickie Cabriales was pleased with the results of the event. “It took us six months to plan. We started planning in December,” said Cabriales.

What worried the promoters was weather. “It was cloudy and windy in the morning, and we were afraid it was going to get worse, but luckily it got sunny, and it’s turning out to be excellent,” said Cabriales.

Radio stations contributed to the entertainment, too. 87.7 FM radio had singers who were enjoyed by the audience.

Jazzercise is a dance fitness program that loves Cinco de Mayo and is honored to take part in the festival. They have people from five to 80-years old dancing to get fit. “I love the festival,” said Jazzercise owner Sentha Vender.

St. Mary’s Hospital outreach specialist Jenny Rivera likes to be a part of it, too. “We are a non-profit organization, and by doing events like this one, we give back to the community,” said Rivera.

The hardest part of putting together this big an event is that people don’t appreciate the hard work. “I don’t think they appreciate the effort of putting an event of this magnitude together,” said Cabriales.

“They don’t appreciate because they don’t see the work behind it,” said HHDCC Executive Assistant, Christina Diaz.
Fall in Love With Beauty and The Beast

Review By
Monique Hoover
Reporter

Magic comes to life at Victor Valley College with the performance of "Disney’s Beauty and the Beast." Director Ed Heaberlin had his work cut out for him by taking on this musical masterpiece, and he succeeded in every way.

The stage direction is well planned, along with nice visuals for the audience. The character creations are right on key, and phenomenally acted. Dance choreography is upbeat, and enjoyable to watch. VVC’s rendition of “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast” is full of skilled, musically inclined dancers and actors ready to put on an amazing show.

“This is our biggest show yet,” said Heaberlin. It’s easy to agree with him once you see the performance; every ounce of hard work the cast put into the show is worth it. Back flips, crazy stunts, amazing props and creative costumes serve as eye candy to an already great performance.

Angela Calderon’s portrayal of Belle is remarkable. Her voice is magical, along with her acting proficiency. The Beast, an intense role played by Robert Blomker, is done with passion; you can feel his emotion. Nate Sipes as the pompous Gaston plays the role well with every glance at himself in the mirror. These lead actors take grasp of the stage and the audience in every scene. Literally lighting up the stage, is Lumiere played by Mark Dufrene. His French Accent is hilarious and his character a crowd pleaser.

Patrick McElree’s role as Cogsworth is brilliantly acted and simply timeless.

“I want a whole play of John Vargas,” said Adrian Centeno during intermission, “He is hilarious and sings and dances!” John Paul Vargas as the role of Lefou, Gaston’s sidekick, is exceptional. Full of talent, he is enjoyable to watch and draws much laughter from the audience.

The orchestra, along with the cast’s singing, is musically on key, and timely. The orchestra is especially impressive. The dancing which lines the musical numbers makes for a complete musical theater experience. In whole, the cast of “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast” is incredible.

“Fabulous! This show was just fabulous!” said Jennifer Cullin, after watching opening night of “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast.” I’m in agreement with Cullin. This performance is a must see at the VVC campus. Good, local musical theater performances are hard to come by, and this show is exactly that. This one-of-a-kind performance is worth taking family and friends to see. You will not be disappointed.

I give VVC’s performance of “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast” five out of five stars.

Come experience the magic during the last weekend of the show, May 14th, 15th or 16th at 7:30pm, or May 17th at 2:30pm, in the Performing Arts Center at VVC. For more ticket information visit www.vvc.edu, or call (760)245-4271 ext. 849.

Review By
Monique Hoover
Reporter

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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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