VVC Budget Approved in 3 to 1 Vote

Board members Range, Henderson and Mullinkamp voted to approve the budget, Angela Valles voted against the measure and Trustee Don Nelson was absent.

The Victor Valley Community College District was faced with serious budget challenges for the 2009-10 year according to Silverman’s annual budget message to the board. Silverman’s message addressed these issues of internal and external factors that challenged the planning of this budget.

These challenges included correcting past errors such as expenditures exceeding the income, short term balanced budget maintenance by use of one-time funds and inflationary increases to expenditures. An external factor that has affected this budget plan was the decline of property values in the area which has steadily lowered funding for the college.

Board of Trustees Vice President Angela Valles was disappointed with the $58.8 million budget. “I’m not impressed,” said Valles, “I see a lot of fat and not a lot of efficiency.”

The budget approval finalized five layoffs and cuts student services programs such as the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education, also known as C.A.R.E. which helps single parents attend and complete their college education. Margaret Kagy, a 21 year VVC employee who has worked in the C.A.R.E. program, took her three minutes to speak her mind to the board meeting Tuesday night.

... Continued in Budget on Page 2

Student Services Face Cuts

Victor Valley College is the only college in region nine that is cutting student services and jobs. Programs such as EOPS and CARE, which aid students with childcare, books, parking, testing and school supplies, will be downsized or eliminated.

The DSPS program that test people with disabilities will no longer be able to provide those services; there will be no staff to assist in students in the ACT labs.

There have been reduced hours for financial aid and counselors, fewer classes offered and yet there is hardly a place to park. Students were unable to get classes because they were at there capacity. Most students took classes they did not need just to have the units to make them full time students this term.

While many people raced to enroll in college during this economical crisis, they were met with a lack of services that were normally extended to students. This year instead of receiving a $150.00 book voucher, a $50.00 book voucher was offered. The EOPS office normally services and assists students with book vouchers, but only 964 students were able to receive book vouchers of the 1,558 students that the EOPS office had serviced the previous semester.

“Sacramento should have come up with another way to slash the student services programs. Students who receive these programs are educationally and economically disadvantaged and need these services.” said Carl Smith, Director of EOPS/CARE office.

Margaret Kagy, coordinator of the CARE program, says the students who receive assistance from the CARE program are “single Mothers and Fathers with at least one child under 14 yrs. old who are receiving AFDC and are eligible for EOPS and have applied for Financial Aid.”

“There will be no CARE services, the programs such as book grants, food vouchers, school supplies, scantrons, calculators, computer rooms, study rooms and parking vouchers will not be available if a plan to continue the program is not in place,” said Kagy.

Kagy said she submitted a budget that would have cut 42% of expenditures ...

Continued in Student Services on Page 2
Faculty Health Faire A Hit

Story by
Kirstyn Rainwater
Reporter

The annual Faculty and Staff Health Fair brought in about 40 people to receive their seasonal flu shots, and to be screened for a variety of things.

The yearly health fair, which ran Oct. 12, and 13 provided services to VVC staff free of charge. Staff and faculty received a “flu shot, and had their blood sugar, blood pressure, and even body mass index tested” said nursing student Marlene Esquivel.

Nursing Clinical Instructor John Doyle and fourth semester nursing students including Michelle Jones and Esquivel put on the health faire with seasonal flu shots being provided by San Bernardino County.

The main point of this health fair is to “make people aware, it’s free, so the faculty doesn’t have to worry about it, why not come,” said Jones.

The fun and energetic people lightened the mood of those sitting down to roll up their sleeves for a flu shot or to be pricked to have their blood sugar tested.

Although instructor Liz Gersten was unable to attend the fair, she expressed her thoughts on the cause “I definitely believe in them, they make a difference. They’re great for detecting things early on. They’re invaluable,” said Gersten.

Students Jerry Sparks and James Leyba spoke about the funding cuts to student services and stressed the importance of the Cal Works program to students who are on the Aid for Dependant Children program.

“(We) service four hundred and seventy five students, who have a verifiable disability,” said Ray Navarro, senior instructional assistant for DSPS. “After the layoffs the staff to student ratio will be zero. They will not have the support services they are used to,” said Navarro.

Dr. Christopher O’Hearn, deputy superintendent of VVC said “The Dean of Student Services position will not be filled in the near future in order to cut cost for the college, also the CARE program will not be cut out entirely but re-named, the plan is not yet defined but the services provided will be the best with less money. The administration is trying to narrow Student Services into two categories with more technical assistance and less staff.

“People need to stop relying on Federal and state programs,” said O’Hearn.

Student Services from Page 1

...and it was rejected, the budget she submitted would have prevented anyone from being laid off and the CARE program would have remained.

The CARE program is much more than a service but a place of encouragement, assistance, counseling and a place that students issues can be heard when they have a crisis. “We love all of our students and hope they will pursue their educational endeavors despite the program being cut,” said Kagy

“(I) worked for twenty years before becoming disabled,” said Rochelle Paschina, a student who attends VVC. She moved to Victorville for affordable housing, her disability payments ran out and she had to apply for AFDC. The CARE program was instrumental in aiding her with the services that are provided for the students, which made her transition to college easier.

There is concern as to what single parents will do if they are unable to continue their education. “If the program ends and people are unable to continue their education, this will open the flood gates to more crimes in the High Desert,” said Paschina.

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This budget affects some of the neediest students on campus with the cuts having an impact on the Extended Opportunity Program and Services, Disabled Students Programs and the college’s CalWorks program.

With the objection of many in the crowd as well as opposition of a member of the board, the budget vote passed and implementation has begun.
New Police Chief Takes Charge

Leonard Knight is Victor Valley College's new interim police chief. Knight replaced John Schorles after Schorles' departure from the college.

One week on the job Chief Knight has hit the ground running. "I am excited about being at VVC, getting to know the students, staff and faculty," said Knight.

Public Relations Director Bill Greulich said, "Immediately after Chief Knight accepted the job, e-mails went out to everyone with a description of some of the chiefs' many achievements."

Chief Knight has served as Chief of Police at El Centro Police Department. He has held many high positions in the Los Angeles Police Department and is a graduate of The Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy. Chief Knight is also Dr. Knight, having received a Doctorate of Public Administration from the University of Laverne.

"Safety is very important and many programs are being examined," said Knight. He also wants every student to know he will be visible on campus and is very interested in hearing from students about their concerns. Parking, escort services and classroom safety are among some of the issues he is already hearing about.

Knight is listening; an emergency preparedness plan is already a work in progress. A "shake out drill" has been performed in his first week with campus officers taking a very active role. They collected data for future reference in helping and keeping VVC safe. Bill Greulich said, "Chief Knight (and I) have already met and discussed the Emergency Plan for VVC."

President Bob Silverman is equally excited about the new Interim Police Chief. "It is important to support the Chief and his ideas that are consistent to the goals of the college and I want Chief Knight to be successful and continue to keep the campus safe," said the President.

Recently, Google donated server space to host personal email accounts to Victor Valley College students in order to keep in better communication with their peers.

Following on the coattails of various universities across the country, VVC shook hands with Google in the hopes that this avenue, aside from Blackboard and the tools offered by Webadvisor, will help students stay in better communication.

"VVC went to Google. There were discussions between ASB and Google for quite some time", said Justin Gatewood, Webmaster of VVC.

Without the donation, VVC would have to pay more than $269,352 in order to establish an independent email site just for the storage space. Other costs would include power, net assistance, and perhaps a new building.

This donation was an accomplishment by the Associated Student Body. After the test phase started in late 2007 and the majority of the bugs were worked out, the email domain, http://my.student.vvc.edu, became available to students.

"22,000 estimated users are already in the system," said Gabe Treuhaft.

As advertised on the flyer distributed around campus, the email system is meant for "all official college communication with students." Including homework notifications, news and even a friendly hello will go through this system.

With capabilities like live chatting, and importing from other various messaging systems and 7.38 gigabytes of space for each user, the students are given all the capabilities of Gmail that are geared for the students.

Gabe Treuhaft, ASB Athletics Senator, said, “22,000 estimated users are already in the system.” 6,488 more spaces are available to be filled and more spaces can be requested if needed.

Talks continue to unite Webadvisor, Blackboard and the new email for the students' convenience.

Some companies offer perks to those who have a .edu email address. VVC is developing more offers as the program grows. Talks for utilizing the program for classroom applications are in the works. The common online course may contain a live lecture, and the hybrid class system will be replaced.
Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Deadline Approaching

Story by Jonathan Brown
Reporter

The Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship sends out $30,000 to 50 deserving students who have applied by Dec. 12 to be processed by Victor Valley College. The scholarship deadline for VVC students is Jan. 20. They must have an application submitted by the Dec. 12 in order to be considered.

The amount of students who apply each year are not constant; for example, seven students last year attempted this application and only two actually finished as well as submitted an application.

“To be an eligible student is a current student at an accredited US community college or two year institution with sophomore status as of Dec. 31, 2009, or a recent graduate,” said Debra Blanchard.

“Students will need to also plan to enroll in a full time baccalaureate program at an accredited college or university in the fall of 2010,” said Blanchard

A student who wants to apply for this Scholarship will need to have academic achievements, critical thinking abilities, unmet financial needs, will to succeed and interest and activities. “Students must also have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale. They need to have not been a previous nominee for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship,” said Blanchard

As written on the Jack Kent Cooke website “Unmet financial need has two components: (I) education costs that exceed to an appreciable degree other grant awards and (ii) insufficient student and family income to meet educational costs.”

A student who has full funding will not be eligible for this scholarship and will be immediately declined upon being reviewed. The Jack Kent Cooke looks for students who have need of financial aid in community college. A submission of the family’s income is required for all applicants.

The students’ parents are also required to complete the financial information forms even if the student is an independent student in college.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has a fair and objective review process for any applicant who applies for this scholarship. The website where applicants can submitted to is http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/undergraduate-transfer-scholarships/
Job Fair Aims to Prepare Students for Success

This wasn’t the usual job fair. Students did not drop off resumes and phone numbers and call it a day. The job fair held on Oct. 23, 2009, hosted by Brandman University, focused on improving work skills, building more complete resumes, enhancing interviewing skills and techniques, and also informing students on the importance to dress for success. Although the attendance was not as good as many had hoped for, some were still satisfied.

“It’s been a pretty good turnout. We do work force and we are always at VVC participating in the fairs,” said Kristi McAfee, a representative of Employment Development Department.

There were 10 booths representing 10 different companies. Each booth supplied information for interested students, ranging from registration sheets to useful paperwork regarding its program. While some were relatively satisfied with how the fair went, others were hoping for a better outcome.

“Compared to all the other times we were here, the turnout has been sad,” said Ann Nolasco, a representative of San Joaquin Valley College. Kathleen Chevalier, a representative of Primerica said, “The outcome of participants was OK. I think it’s because it’s a Friday and not many students are on campus. Approximately sixty people received information from our booth.” The turnout could have been better. But understanding the fact that Fridays are rather slow and not many students take classes, the attendance was as expected.

Jan Hartz, campus director of Brandman University, was pleased with the fair and explained its uniqueness. “This is the first fair we’ve done. Our expectations were high, and we had approximately 200 students participate with the programs. This is the first time we did a job fair that helped students with job skills. We did workshops on resumes and job skills. This wasn’t your ordinary ‘job hunting’ career fair. We felt this was a productive event.”

Brandman University was formerly known as Chapman University College.

News in Brief: College Fair

Above: VVC Counselor Lorena Ochoa explains to students the details of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Federal Internship opportunities. The program is designed to provide college students with summer employment placement as interns with the Federal Government and private corporations in the Nation’s Capital and sites throughout the U.S. Lorena can be reached at (760) 245-4271 ex 2713, or via email at ochoal@vvc.edu.

Right: Senior Academic Advisor Nicole Campbell from Chapman University converses with students.

Chapman University is a locally accredited school where VVC students can concurrently enroll in 100 series or higher math courses without having to take the non-transferable Math 50, or Math 90 classes. The cost is significantly a higher rate at $300. per unit, but Chapman University offers a convenient payment plan the will accommodate the needs of the working adults and financial aid is available for students who qualify. Nicole Campbell can be reached by phone at (760) 955-7555, or via email at ncampbell@chapman.edu.
Fire Technology Training on Campus

**Story and Photos by**
**Micah Raimo**
**Reporter**

On Oct. 22 and 23, Fire Technology students from California trained at Victor Valley College to earn their various certifications by putting themselves in real life emergency scenarios.

On Oct. 22, the lower campus parking lot was the location for driver training. Oct. 23 was ventilation and forcible entry training, with heat exposure conditioning.
The writing contest held at Victor Valley College for 23 years now is a yearly competition in which students are given an opportunity to not only be published, but also win a cash prize.

“It’s the finest academic publication at Victor Valley College,” said Tim Adell about the annual writing competition.

Students may enter six different categories. A short story which consists of no more than eight, typed double-spaced pages; a “Short Short” which is considered a story of around one page in length; a personal narrative, an essay, a poem or last but not least a piece of art, preferably in black or white. It’s a simple process.

Keith James, a winner of various categories last year, said, “I wasn’t expecting to place at all, and the only thing I really had to submit were the various essays I had written for other classes.”

Among all the entries per category three winners will be selected. The cash prizes for the different writing pieces include $75 for the first place winners, $50 for the second place winners, and $25 for the third place winners.

There are also two winners chosen from among the art entries, $50 for first place and also the distinction of having there art work on the cover of the publicized booklet which contains all the winning writing pieces within it, and $30 for second place recognition by having their art piece on the back cover of the publicized booklet.

All students of VVC’s fall 2009 are eligible to enter this contest and although there is not an exact date in which entries will be due, it should be sometime mid March of 2010.

Tim Adell, who has been running this competition since 1999, and other faculty members will be the judge of this year’s competition.

Faculty members are also allowed to submit pieces of writing and/or art, but only for the gratitude of being published.

Art work is encouraged, because there has been a lack of it in previous competitions. The "short short" stories are also in demand.

“This is where students get the chance to write something quick and short,” said Tim Adell.

The winners of last year’s competition were: Keith James, Shannon Shroeder, Chere M. Smith, Kathleen Allen, M. Bryn Schut, Erika Gill, Ron M. Miller, Michael Moore and Thomas Diedorf.
The Diviners Divines Excellent Performance

Review by Josh Higgins
Reporter

The Diviners is the story of a boy with the gift of locating water wells, who receives help in life from a former pastor. This may not sound very intriguing, but the actors at Victor Valley College proved otherwise.

From the introduction, the audience was enveloped in the play, which despite its seemingly comical appearance hides a tragic conclusion.

Although the number of attendees appeared to be fewer than three dozen on Friday, Oct. 19, Director Ed Heaberlin was “fascinated to watch the audience ride the show…” but wasn’t surprised with the turnout “…because if people don’t know the name they won’t come.”

One of the biggest surprises was that this was the first big role for both the leading actors, Levi Keel and David Aguilera, who along with their cast mates gave amazing performances.

Keel plays the former pastor C.C. Showers, and said it was “new and challenging, but also fun and exciting. It stretched me; it was a difficult play to start with.”

Aguilera, who played the young boy Buddy Layman said, “It was my first big role, it took a lot of time but it was great” and after watching his performance, it was difficult speaking with him afterwards. I expected to hear Buddy with his southern accent. Aguilera made you believe that he was indeed Buddy Layman.

The performance was amazing, each actor pulled you in and the anticipation during the intermission grew more unbearable as the minutes ticked away.

The play progressed smoothly, both Keel and Chaz Feuerstine agreed “it was our best night” and the audience responded properly.

The play concluded with the actors taking a bow, and the audience giving a standing ovation. The response was heard by all the performers; Feuerstine felt it was “unexpected from a small theater” however everyone agreed “it was great, especially after all the hard work.”

Audience member Lynn Shearer said “the play was incredible the ending made me cry. I am eagerly awaiting the next production at VVC.”

Steven Barrett described the acting as “phenomenal. I was pleasantly surprised by the performance from such a young cast.”

The efforts and preparation by cast and crew were appreciated by the attendees, and have definitely sparked my desire to see further productions. I give this play 4 out of 5 stars.****

Be sure to look out for Heaberlin’s production of The Music Man coming to VVC in spring 2010.

Couples Retreat Should Retreat from Theaters

Review by Shaun Canady
Reporter

After watching a Couples Retreat, I can’t help but wonder how much longer the movie will remain in theaters. With a star-studded cast including Vince Vaughn and Malin Akerman, I had extremely high hopes before watching the film.

Unfortunately, I couldn’t help but recognize the terrible acting, lack of comedy and lengthiness. Throughout the movie I constantly hoped that each scene would be the last. I persistently checked the time on my phone and often contemplated leaving early. Thankfully the movie, as well as my misery, came to an end.

A Couples Retreat is a comedy based on four couples who vacation on a beautiful island. One couple is there to receive marriage counseling while the other three simply plan to enjoy life away from home. However, they are rudely awakened when they find out that marriage counseling is mandatory for all who attend. This causes havoc amongst the couples as their vacation becomes an everlasting attempt to enjoy the final days on the island. Eventually, everyone overcomes their marital struggles and their relationships improve in the end.

While most of the acting was average enough to impress the casual viewer, the same cannot be said for actress Kali Hawk. She played the role of a nagging, immature girlfriend that wants to party non-stop. On the other hand, her boyfriend is twice her age, overweight and enjoys his stay by relaxing and enjoying scenery.

Throughout the film, Hawk desperately tries to bring out the youth in her boyfriend but fails. Listening to her speak was painful. It’s as if the director of the movie snatched a person off the street and forced them to play the part. Hawk struggled to act like an ordinary teen, and as a result, lost any credibility she may have had.

Anticipating a few hours of endless laughter, I merely chuckled by the end of the movie. Don’t get me wrong, I am fanatical when it comes to watching comedies. Vince Vaughn is an incredible actor and his movies are usually entertaining. I simply could not find anything hilarious during the film. Thus, it became very long, dry and forgettable.

Although I don’t advocate relying on someone else to judge a movie, let this be the only exception. I highly encourage no one to see this film.
Winter Coat Drive Keeps People Warm

Story by Courtney Wallace
Reporter

Southwest Gas’ 11th Annual Winter Coat Drive began Oct. 5. Each year Southwest Gas partners with various schools and businesses around the High Desert for their winter coat drive.

This year Victor Valley College has set up donation boxes outside the Ram’s bookstore, and in the Student Auxiliary Services building.

Coats will be distributed Nov. 14 in the Southwest Gas auditorium, located at 13471 Mariposa Road, and are for anybody with a need. During the distribution of the coats each individual is allowed to take one coat and one sweater and then are welcome to get back in line as needed.

“This drive was originally started after success in a drive done in Big Bear, and also to meet a need in the community. Each year Southwest Gas sends out news releases to public service announcements on the radio and also to the Daily Press to get the word out to the community,” said Nancy Keller, the chairman of the event.

“We care about our neighbors and our community, and our winter coat drive is about neighbors helping neighbors,” said Cecilia Neale, Southwest Gas customer service specialist, in a news release for Big Bear’s 12th Annual Winter Coat Drive.

Businesses and schools across Victor Valley participate in this drive. Among these are Starbucks, Albertsons, Sonic, and Curves. Katrina Miro, an employee at a participating Starbucks, says that they get involved for the benefit of the community and people come and donate what they can.

Keller said, “VVC is incredibly supportive of the drive.” VVC helps Southwest Gas by sending out flyers to publicize the drive, and also by hosting donation boxes on campus.

Last year, 193 people came to Southwest Gas’ distribution of the coats and 1006 items were given away. Keller said this was lower than the previous year, when 472 people showed up, because temperatures were in the 80’s and 90’s and many people weren’t thinking about the need for coats at that time. Keller is hopeful that this year’s cooler weather will draw more people to get coats.

Mole Day Celebrated with Guacamole and Taquitos

Brief by Roderick Gray
Reporter

October 23 is the National Mole Day and here at Victor Valley College Math and Science Senator Joanna Cervantes wanted to help celebrate. The celebration consists of students doing a little bit of research on Avogadro’s number and in return she gave them a plate of food courtesy of Monica’s Tacos. Cervantes said, “Many students came up with some very good facts about this nifty number.”
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@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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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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By Christopher Hampton
Directed by: Claudia Bash
A tale of seduction set in France among aristocrats before The Revolution. A classic drama for exploring decadent sexuality, morals and manipulation played as the ultimate game with tragic results.

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