Winter Session 2010 Concludes
Succeeds Within its Own Limits

“There were only 23 people who registered for these classes, but that’s not bad for six weeks in the winter considering this was the first rollout of this program and it had limited marketing. Ed2go receives $55 and VVC gets $34 per student, so the college made $782. Currently there are 54 people enrolled (in these programs) in the spring,” Potts said.

Winter session 2010 classes at Victor Valley College concluded and 1,012 students advanced their academic progression and 23 students completed cooperative education courses.

Data released by the office of the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness showed that there was reduction in student enrollment of 2,012 compared to the winter 2009 enrollment of 3,460 students. The reduced numbers can be attributed the reduced number of sections being offered, and the stipulation that only VVC students enrolled in fall could register for the classes offered.

“I am grateful that I was able to take two classes during the winter session. I was able to complete an English 50 course with Patty Golder, and History 118 with Mr. Bissell in six weeks,” said VVC student Godwin Alozie.

Classes offered were a result of VVC student participation in the winter session survey taken at the midterm mark of the Fall 2009 semester.

“There were only 23 people who registered for these classes, but that’s not bad for six weeks in the winter,” said Coordinator of Community and Contract Education Debbie Potts.

“Chaffey College, Mount San Jacinto College, Riverside Community College District and San Bernardino College District utilize the contracted educational services of ed2go.

“We looked at other community colleges and it was popular them. We thought about offering some non credit certificate classes for $95 and we thought we would give them a try. We figured that if other schools were offering these courses we should offer these certificate classes so we wouldn’t lose our students to these other schools,” said Debbie Potts, coordinator of community and contract education.

Winter 2010 marked the first time VVC used ed2go’s services.
Black History Month Observed at VVC

Story and photo by Shaun Canady
Sports Editor

Many view February as the month of love, a time when Valentine’s Day dominates headlines. More importantly, the month is a time to reflect on something even greater: Black History. It was only 55 years ago when Rosa Parks inspired Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to lead the civil rights movement. Segregation was in full force and any who opposed it were seen as foolish and were oftentimes ridiculed. But with the help of Dr. King, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, and other civil rights activists, segregation was defeated and freedom was granted to all.

While some may argue that segregation still exists, nobody can deny the fact that the United States has made great strides since then. Dedicating February to black history is one of many ways this nation pays tribute to the past.

The VVC student body put together a celebration of black history on Feb. 24th, 2010, in the Student Activities Center. Led by ASB business senator, Eddie Stacey, attendees met at 11:00 a.m. and dedicated their time by honoring black history.

Continued in Black History on Page 3

New Parking Plan Aims for Safety, Creates Confusion

Story and Photo by Kelli McGurk
News Editor

Students were welcomed to the beginning of the spring semester by road blocks, traffic guards and re-directed routes within the campus parking lots.

Interim Chief of Police Leonard Knight had met with school administrators and city officials to put together a traffic plan for the first few weeks of the semester.

“The plan’s purpose is to reduce the congestion and to make the pedestrian and student traffic safer,” Knight said.

The plan consisted of setting up the road blocks and re-directing traffic at key points of Victor Valley College’s parking lot: the Jacaranda entrance as well as the intersections in front of the Advanced Technology Center and Student Services buildings. Traffic was first directed to fill the upper campus parking lots. Traffic was then re-directed to lower campus parking to reduce the congestion as well as the overflow of traffic within the parking lots created when drivers are looking for a spot where there is none.

Knight was also able to meet with city officials to help with his plan by extending the length of the turning signal light on Bear Valley Road and Jacaranda at the campus’s main entrance.

Also in the plan, to compensate for the inconvenience of lower campus parking, a campus shuttle was offered to students who needed a ride to upper campus.

“There were no accidents and students were cooperative,” said Sheri Schmoll, Allied Health Senator for the Associated Student Body Council. The shuttle schedules were posted all around campus and on the website. The student shuttles are not a permanent service offered through the entire semester, mainly due to funding.

The traffic plan was presented to the Council and bulletins were placed on the school website as well as the marquee sign to let students know of the changes expected for the start of the semester. Still however, many who drove into the lots on Tuesday morning were surprised and even frustrated to see the blockades and traffic guards re-routing the cars.

“The first few weeks are always difficult, but this complicated the issue (of parking) to a ridiculous degree,” said Writing Center tutor Katie Chavez.

“I felt like at any point someone was going to say, ‘surprise, you’re on Candid Camera.’ That would have made more sense,” Chavez said of her difficult time finding parking with the new traffic procedures.

The parking and traffic procedures seen these first few weeks can be expected at the start of every fall and spring semesters, says Knight.
and continue to help make this a great nation,” said Stacey.

“It is extremely important that our nation continues to make every effort to perfect the goal Dr. King dreamed of. Boxing legend Muhammad Ali once said, “Champions are made from something they have deep inside: a desire, a dream, a vision.”

So as we strive each day to make this a segregation-free society, Dr. King’s dream becomes reality.

She shared her own experience with the audience by describing her difficulties to progress through an all-black elementary school, dropping out of high school in the 9th grade, and resuming her education to become a teacher. She continues to inspire the younger generation and strives to help every student succeed.

Eddie Stacey helped lead the event and it clearly went well. When asked about the importance of black history, he didn’t hesitate to respond. “It’s important for people to honor black history month because African Americans contribute a lot this country and continue to help make this a great nation,” said Stacey.

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Guest speaker Dr. Minnie Andrews prepares for her speech at the celebration.

The event also featured Dr. Minnie Andrews, a professor at Northern Arizona University. She gave a 30 minute speech including a power-point presentation discussing black history.

“Black history is all of our history. We need to all share our stories and embrace them,” said Dr. Andrews.

She shared her own experience with the audience by describing her difficulties to progress through an all-black elementary school, dropping out of high school in the 9th grade, and resuming her education to become a teacher. She continues to inspire the younger generation and strives to help every student succeed.

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Biology Club Celebrates Charles Darwin’s 201st Birthday

The Victor Valley College Biology Club hosted their 4th annual Charles Darwin Birthday Party on Friday, Feb. 26, in the Student Activities Center. It was in honor of the historical figure’s 201st birthday complete with an extravagant cake, balloons, and guest speaker Tom Elder, whose father had funded the event in previous years.

Darwin’s birthday is actually on Feb. 12, but because the campus was closed that day the club chose to celebrate his birthday in a belated fashion.

Elder presented an in-depth lecture covering the life of Charles Darwin and the debate regarding his theories and creationism at the event. He offered different perspectives on this debate and why nothing can be proved or disproved.

The controversy surrounding Natural Selection is a senseless one because many of the ideas Darwin posed are in sync with Biblical ideas, says Elder. Even still, debate on whether to include Darwinism and Creationism in schools has been prevalent since the Scopes Trial of 1925. Even as recently as a few weeks ago, the State of Texas School Board has mandated Intelligent Design to be taught in class.

“Charles Darwin has had a huge impact on the way people think and it is still important today. I think it’s cool that we’re celebrating his birthday even though people might think we’re geeks,” said Sher Rulloda, VVC student and member of the Biology Club.

News in Brief: From Campus to Community

* Comedy night to raise money for scholarship born out of tragedy

“A Night of Monty Python” is set to run at 7:30 p.m. March 4 through March 6 at the Academy for Academic Excellence Corwin Campus, 18350 Highway 18, northwest corner of Corwin Road and Highway 18, Apple Valley.

Admission will be by donation; those funds plus those earned from a silent auction that evening will go to the Bodhi Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship at the school.

The scholarship is in memory of Bodhisatva “Bodhi” Sherzer-Potter, an arts-oriented student attending both AAE and VVC; she was one of two teens slain in the locally infamous “bunker murders” in Helendale in January 2008. For more information on the event or the scholarship, call AAE at (760) 946-5414 or visit www.lewiscenter.org

* Scholarship application deadline coming right up

March 26 is the deadline to apply for scholarships to be awarded in early summer for the Fall 2010-Spring 2011 academic year. Thousands of dollars from dozens of sponsors are available. The money can be used to pay for fees and books and, in some cases, transportation and other living expenses for current Victor Valley College students. Go to www.vvc.edu; applications are accepted only online.

* Candidates encouraged to apply for Associated Student Body Council

All 16 positions on the ASB Council are up for election and may be filed for through March 12; the completed election packet is due before 5 p.m. that day. Mandatory candidate orientation is scheduled for March 17 and March 18, and the election itself for May 11 and 12. For more information, go to the office on the second floor of the Student Activities Center during regular business hours or call (760) 245-4271 extension 2278 and ask for Assistant Auxiliary Services Director Deanna Murphy.

* Students maintaining booth at weekly farmers’ market on campus

Students have banded together to sell dozens of handcrafted items at the farmers’ market on upper campus every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. According to a flier posted in the SAC, “steampunk stuff,” anime hats, photos, wreaths and more are available at Booth 36 near the Spring Valley Parkway entrance to campus. For more information, send an email to VVCCraftersGroup@gmail.com

* Writing club for students now forming at VVC

Michael Moore, a former multiple winner of the annual writing contest at VVC, now is organizing a club for students interested in writing poems, plays, fiction and non-fiction. For more information on the Guild of Creative Writers or GCW, call him at (760) 646-5444 or email him at SaintMichael1000@yahoo.com

* Writing Center tutors to present material at conference

On Feb. 27, several of the current tutors at the VVC Campus Writing Center (located in the Technology Center) gave presentations at a conference for college writing tutors held at Azusa Pacific University. VVC tutors had attended similar conferences in the past, organizers said, but this was the first time they had achieved the status of presenters.

—Briefs compiled by RamPage adviser Judith Pfefier
accept that these discoveries are true, because, after all, that's what science is for. So why, 150 years later, are Darwin's little observations so incredibly controver-
sial? I think there is a very big reason for this. What is that reason? I believe this is because in fact, Darwin is not controversial at all.

Let's start here: Darwin's findings are not about how life started. Distilled to simplic-
ty, Darwin's theory says that a species will change based on the factors of its environment, so that those who adapt, survive and thus carry on their genetic code.

The theory of evolution was not created by Darwin, not by a long shot. Darwin's theory simply used empirical observation and evidence to show a way in which evolution works. Nothing more.

The fact is that when Dar-
win published The Origin of Species, he had to overcome a great hurdle: himself. Dar-
win struggled for years over whether or not people were ready to see natural selection for, what he thought obvious, it truly was. For Dar-
win, it was proof of the beauty of life, a creation of God. Dar-
win in Origin said ultimately that to believe that these varia-
tions are two totally different species, and had been created in their complete form, was to ignore the brilliance of the system set in by the Creator.

“Remember, you can't spell ‘Darwin’ without ‘win.’ Let it be spelled DarWIN!”

So what is the controversy? I always hear that Darwin is trying to disprove God. In fact it seems to me that Darwin saw in natural selection some proof of a Creator. Perhaps it should be said that the controversy is not his theory, but the ignorance and flawed prom-
ulgation of his theory! How controversial is it that such a simple discovery has been so mangled and distorted?

Darwin was a man of truth. He observed varia-
tions in nature and came to a profound conclusion that has since shaped biology as we understand it. Yet his great works are mired in an argument that goes no-
where. Where celebration for a great man's birthday is missing, in place is a silence and avoidance. Enough of that, I say. Enough of our juvenile need to cling to propagated controversy. Darwin should be remem-
bered with honor and respect.

More importantly, Darwin should be remembered honestly, and with admiration for his belief in the truth, regardless of who it was going to piss off, including himself. The next time you see or hear his name, re-
member to spell it right. Remember, you can't spell “Darwin” without “win.”

Who was Charles Darwin? A young naturalist, or a hu-
manist? Man behind natural selection, or a devout Chris-
tian? Family man, or tragic figure? The truth is that Darwin was all these things and more. Perhaps most importantly, Darwin was a man. We often forget that there was a man behind the The Origin of Species. Charles Darwin recently turned 201 years old, and as often as he is mentioned in the controversies of today, it would seem he is still alive and kicking. But no, this man deserves his peace and the praise for his great dis-
coveries. Darwin was the kind of man that should be celebrated, in every sense.

When we learn of great things in the world, through science, must we wonder about their relevance to the “way of things?” No, we

The Brett Side: Spell it DarWIN!

Column by Brett Diaz
Contributing Writer

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Feeding Frenzy by the Lake

Photos by
Evan Spears
Editor-in-Chief

VVC student Alex Borowski feeds the various birds that populate the campus as they surround him, hungry for his offerings.

Ducks, geese, and mud hens, also known as American coots, wait impatiently in a line for their turn to devour Borowski’s bread.

A goose greedily devours a substantial piece of bread, clearly the victor in a scramble for free food.

Heard Around the Lake

“The ducks at the lake are a staple of campus life at VVC. What do you think of the ducks?”

From left:
Samantha McIntosh - “They're annoying.”
Bianca Davalos - “They're cute.”

Jacob Medina - “They’re cool, I guess. They’re kind of funny. I think they add atmosphere.”

Steven Powell - “I like them. They don’t harm anybody. They make a mess, but it’s not that big of a mess.”

Story and Photos by
Evan Spears
Editor-in-Chief
Comic Strip by Evan Spears Editor-in-Chief

The Evolution of the Duck

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The views expressed by the RamPage are not necessarily those of VVC, its board
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The RamPage welcomes press releases, story ideas, letters to the editor, guest
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RamPage Adviser Judith Pfeffer — clearly marked as being submitted for
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RamPage, Victor Valley College, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395
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Eve Ensler's

The Vagina Monologues

Directed by: CLAUDIA BASHA
Celebrated as the bible for a new generation of women, The Vagina Monologues has been performed in cities all across America and at hundreds of college campuses. It has inspired a dynamic grassroots movement—V-Day—to stop violence against women. Witty and irreverent, compassionate and wise, Eve Ensler’s Obie Award-winning masterpiece gives voice to women’s deepest fantasies and fears, guaranteeing that no one will ever look at a woman’s body, or think of sex, in quite the same way again.

BLACK BOX THEATRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>27</td>
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</tr>
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