Robert Silverman resigns from his position after being appointed President and Superintendent nearly three years ago. Photo furnished by Public Information Officer Bill Greulich, and taken by an unknown firm.

Robert Silverman, President of Victor Valley College, announces his resignation due to health reasons. Silverman began his duties as President and Superintendent of VVC on July 3, 2007, and during his term an education center was opened during 2008 in Old Town Victorville to assist in the education of non-English speaking residents, the $295 million Public Safety and Work Force Development bond Measure JJ was passed and just prior to his resignation Silverman went to Washington, D.C., to ensure $2 million of stimulus funds for the San Bernardino County Investment Board.

Under his direction, VVC has begun construction of a $5 million solar power plant on the lower campus, and has planned the development of a certificate program designed to provide students with the training to service that related industry. "Dr. Robert Silverman will be missed by the students and the staff. His dedication to the welfare of the students was always his primary focus; he listened to our concerns and questions and took action to guarantee that the student needs were heard," said Sheri Schmoll, Associated Student Body Council Allied Health Senator. "I had the pleasure to serve on committees with Dr. Silverman such as the Foundation Board and the Bond Oversight both as the student representative, as well as the Associated Student Body Council, where he worked very closely with the council and always gave us his full support. We will miss him a lot and he has left a legacy here at Victor Valley College, with the passing of measure JJ, the solar project, and many changes that did not come easy. We wish him the very best," Schmoll said.

"In December, I learned that I have a serious medical problem. Several specialists have confirmed that this will not get better. So at this time in my life, their advice for my personal medical challenges is for me to change my lifestyle," Silverman wrote. "It is very hard for me to say goodbye. Unfortunately, I have to find the words to do so now."

In an attempt to reduce the level of stress in his life, Dr. Silverman hopes to slow the progression of his diagnosed condition and prolong his life. He felt that this could be done if he moves closer to his family and allow the college an opportunity to have a president who would be, "less compromised," Silverman said in his letter.

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"The sudden departure of Superintendent/ President Dr. Robert Silverman comes as a surprise and shock to everyone and on behalf of the Board we wish him well. We have temporarily appointed Dr. Christopher O’Hearn to fill the position as interim Superintendent/ President until a new candidate has been secured," wrote Executive Assistant Annette McComas in a campus wide email on behalf of Board President Angela Valles.

"It was great working Dr. Silverman. He was always for the students, and he wanted to do the best thing for the college," said ASB President Mary Mazzolla.

According to Public Information Officer Bill Greulich, there has been a combination of eight fulltime and interim presidents at VVC from 1989 to the present. O’Hearn will be the ninth.
Rams Rally Against College of the Desert, Fall Just Short of Victory

Story by
Kevin Poff
Reporter

The Rams lost a close game against the College of the Desert despite a late inning rally March 18. After a slow start, right fielder Damon Jenkins came to the plate with the Rams down 6-0. With things looking down for the Rams, Jenkins sent a pitch easily over the fence in left-center field to finally get the Rams on the board, 6-1. The Rams started hitting the ball well after Jenkins’ solo shot, and this led to the Rams rally in the middle innings that lasted until the eighth inning.

Shortstop and lead-off hitter Andrew Disbrow got four consecutive hits after grounding out in his first at-bat. Each time Disbrow came to the plate the ball was hit solidly. In the bottom of the eighth, the Rams finally tied the game at 10-10, and had much of the momentum and the home field advantage.

In the top of the ninth inning, pitcher Bobby Cha made a mistake resulting in a long solo home run that put the Rams down 10-11 with the bottom of the inning left.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Disbrow nearly tied the game with a long fly ball to center field that came up just short of the fence. The approximate crowd of 100 got as loud as could be when a weak chopper in the infield ended the game.

After the game, Jenkins said, “It felt good to get that rally started. Too bad we came up short.”

The Rams are 5-5 in conference. They have 12 more games remaining, with eight of those games being conference games. The Rams play the High Desert Mavericks, a professional baseball team in an exhibition Tuesday, April 6 at 7:05 pm.

ASB Attends Community College Assembly in Washington D.C.

Story by
Ryan Carter
Reporter

The Associated Student Body will be attending the American Student Association of Community Colleges assembly in Washington D.C. the weekend of March 27. The ASACC is an organization that brings forth the issues of the student and addresses them in a diplomatic way in front of senators, congressmen, and other government officials. Last year VVC council members spoke personally with Vice President Joe Biden’s Wife Jill Biden and Ralph Nader, who will also be speaking at this conference this year. This meeting is held twice a year and it is estimated that between 300 and 600 hundred students from community colleges across America attend.

This year VVC has seven students attending: Mary Mazzola, Vincent Beard, Kaily Kirby, Christine Dorsey, Eddie Stacy, Judy Schmoll, and Sheri Schmoll. Also accompanying the student body will be Robert Sewell. “Sewell is Instrumental to the advancement of ASB at VVC”, said staff member Deana Murphy, assistant director of auxiliary services.

“Along with many other speakers this year, Frank Mensel will be speaking and is the author of the G.I. Bill and the Pell Grant that is very instrumental and necessary for many people wanting to attend community colleges” said Sewell.

The ASACC’s agenda this year is focused on lowering the independent student age so that students under twenty four can establish independent status when applying for financial aid. Also, ASB members will ask congress to increase the Perkins CTE funding. A program that helps prepares students and workers for the twenty first century work force. Other topics will include lowering textbook prices and other issues that affect students.

“This trip is funded by the student representation fee that students pay upon enrollment so it is funded by the students for the students; also students receive an allowance of $35 per day for food and expenses”, said ASB President Mary Mazzola.

This is in no way a vacation for the members attending; students attend workshops for the most part of the day and well into the night with reports due for each one attended. VVC has been attending this conference for over a decade and is known as an advocate for knowledge and needs of the student body.
Cesar Chavez Day Celebrated at VVC

Story and Photos by Joseph Ciulla
Reporter

Victor Valley College held its fourth annual Cesar Chavez Day celebration Thursday March 25. The event took place in the Student Activities Center and featured fresh food, candy and a special guest speaker. Many different clubs and people attended the event eager to celebrate one of the United State’s most decorated activists.

Chavez is known for co-founding the National Farm Workers Association, now United Farm Workers, in an effort for farm workers to have rights. He is well known for standing up in what he believed in and not stopping until it got done.

“He stood for equality and justice,” Patricia Bejarano-Vera, the event organizer, said just before introducing the speaker Yvonne Reyes-Hester, the City of Victorville’s Public Information Officer. When Reyes-Hester took the stage she also talked about Chavez’s legacy. “He was a public servant,” Reyes-Hester said. In addition to talking about Chavez, Reyes-Hester also centered her speech on the question “Now what do we do?” She wanted people to keep in mind that after a goal is reached, there is still more to be obtained. As Cesar Chavez would say, “Si Se Puede” or “It can be done.”

After the speaker left the stage the main organizers of the event and the guest speaker took part in judging the student club’s booths set up around the SAC. The judging would be based on presentation and representation of the event. The first place winner would receive $75, second place would receive $50 and third place would receive $25 toward their respective clubs. The first prize went to the Ready Rams for their excellent food and drinks. In a close second the Off Broadway Performing Arts Club who provided people with a fun carnival-like game. Last, but not least, the third place winner was A.W.A.R.E. for its overall presentation.

The actual birthday and California state holiday in remembrance of Cesar Chavez will be celebrated on March 31.

College of the Desert Outscores Rams Softball in Extra Innings

Story and photo by David Lopez
Reporter

It was a close softball game March 19 when the Victor Valley College Rams Softball Team played against College of the Desert. Before the game Head Coach Donell Thomas, was asked how she prepared her team for the next opponent, she said “basic fundamentals.” When asked what she knew about COD she really didn’t know much; she hasn’t seen them play before the match up against them. Before the game the softball team’s record was 3-3 in conference and overall 12-13, and now is 12-14 with a loss to College of the Desert.

Freshmen center fielder Alex Sanchez says she has been personally working on hitting and making more contact with the ball. Starting pitcher Cereena Marquez says she’s been working on her spin on the ball.

During the game the teams were back and forth getting base hits and scoring runs. The two top players for the Rams did their part despite a loss that went into extra innings; Sanchez stole two bases and scored a run, and Marquez pitched the entire game and got seven strikeouts and a solo home run, the only one of the game.

The team showed pride and resiliency in the game after being down 3 to 1 and came back to tie it 4 to 4 and took it into extra innings but lost in the ninth inning 6 to 4.

Number 15 Tiffany Cole takes a powerful swing at a pitch from College of the Desert.
The Victor Valley College automotive department has been part of the college curriculum since 1970, nine years after the college was established. An average of 750 students enroll per semester all ranging from ages 15 to 70. Classes take place daily, Monday through Friday, and all the tools and supplies for the class are provided, leaving the cost at only $80 per course. All students are welcome to enroll in the automotive program, and high school diplomas are not required.

The automotive technology program focuses on every aspect of automotive mechanics, as well as provide business management courses, motorcycle maintenance, body shop, which entails working with the exterior of the vehicles, hybrids, diesel, and others. The classes take place on the lower campus in the automotive technology building and also at offsite campuses like the local high schools. They also offer online courses, and have classes at federal prisons.

Depending on the students curricular motives, the automotive department offers an associates degree in automotive technology, certifications such as NATEF (National Technicians Education Foundation), ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) and all standard certifications, transfers to business management and they offer update courses for those who may be a little bit rusty. Upon completion of the program, students gain the ability to walk into a career with the general knowledge they need to work in the automotive industry.

Carlos McDowell, a second year student in the automotive technology program says he loves the program. “They have all the tools, and it’s a good shop,” said McDowell. Richard Bruce, a third year student, who is planning for 4.

“It’s a very friendly environment to work in, and everything is hands on,” said third-year student Richard Bruce. “I’ve learned a lot, and I am able to move on with this education,” said student Robert Dally, who has been in the program for two semesters.

And in this time of economic crisis, everyone is looking to save wherever they can. The automotive technology program offers full servicing and repairs for those who are a bit strapped for cash. All they ask for are $20 donations, and if a client needs a part replaced, the client needs to bring the part in.
Model United Nations Club Attends Conference in New York

The Victor Valley College’s Model United Nations club is taking a trip to New York for the National Model United Nations conference. The team will leave Saturday March 27 and will be returning Friday April 2. VVC will be representing the small country of Brunei Darussalam in Southeast Asia.

The conference is meant to provide students from around the world a way to discuss global concerns, also giving the students an understanding of the way the United Nations work.

While in New York, VVC’s MUN will be competing against 150 to 200 other colleges, according to MUN President Clarissa Manning.

“They are students from all around the world” said Erika Gill, the club Secretary.

The conference will take place in both the Sheraton New York Hotel and the Mariott Marquis Hotel in Times Square. The MUN groups will sit in committee and caucuses while discussing ideas with other delegates to form resolutions, according to Gill.

“It’s not for the light hearted”, said Dr. Gregory Jones, the MUN current student advisor, “it’s very, very intense, very competitive.”

“It’s time intensive”, said Manning. The MUN groups can be in committee from six in the morning until ten at night.

“You get no sleep and it’s very rigorous”, said Gill.

“VVC has won five years in a row; that brings a lot of pressure too”, said Dr. Jones. VVC is in the top two percent of all the colleges that attend. In order to be so successful the club has been practicing three times a week. “There’s been a lot of hard work put in.” “We’re pretty strict, we learn our rules”, said Gill

Even with VVC’s five year winning streak, the club has lost funding this year. “I really feel the college and the community should support them with money.” “These guys really deserve support” said Dr. Jones

To learn more and to get involved with the VVC Model United Nations, email the MUN at vvcmun@gmail.com

Story and Photo by
Adreana Young
Reporter

Members of the MUN club rehearse on campus for their role of representing Brunei Darussalam at the national conference in New York City.

BE HIS RISE FROM
HOSPITAL CHARTS
TO MUSIC CHARTS.

Within every one of us is the power to heal. It’s called marrow, and thousands of patients could potentially be saved by a marrow transplant.

Join the Be The Match® marrow registry and fight for those with life-threatening diseases. Who knows? You could be the one to save a life.

Take the first step at BeTheMatch.org.
Computers Available to Students Throughout Campus

Story by
Chris Galvan
Reporter

Technology is the future and Victor Valley College has done an exceptional job to provide computers for the student body. The average student at VVC doesn’t know where the computer labs are.

“Students are unaware of computers in the Academic Commons, and around the campus,” said Dr. Paul Williams, Dean of Humanities and Art.

The computers in the Advance Technology Center building aren’t the only ones available to students because there are a number of computers available to students all over the campus. Although there are many computers in the ATC, half are specifically used for students with math classes, which results in them not having the same capabilities as the other computers in the ATC.

The vast majority of the computers are located in the ATC, but other labs are located throughout the campus. Students with ASB cards can use the computers in the ASB Lab. To find out information on transferring, then try the computers that are located in the career center. Need something a bit more specific such as help with writing, go to the writing center lab. Other computer labs are located in the Academic Commons and the library.

“Being a student here at VVC makes me happy sometimes, because I know that there are computers everywhere that can help me with my school work,” said student Gloria Espinosa.

The computers on campus provide access to many different programs. Students can use the ADAM software, the Math software, ALEKS, and many other basic software that are available on computers like Microsoft Word and Power Point.

For students that don’t have an Internet connection at home, every computer on campus provides a reliable Internet connection. This allows students to surf the web for information on their research projects, check email, and even go on social websites like Myspace and Facebook.

However, with much given freedom, there are rules one must follow to keep their computer privileges.

“It is possible to lose your computer privileges because we follow the Appropriate use Procedures. After a warning is given to a student, the next time they break a violation, their computer privileges are taken away.” said Tim Johnston, director of evening operations at the ATC.

Printing is currently free, and students are allowed to print 10 pages per day. However, Dr. Williams says students may soon be charged for their prints in order to save money for the school.

VVC Students Awarded at Academic Research Council

Story by
Amber Schwartz
Reporter

The Honors Transfer Council of California hosted its tenth annual Academic Research Conference on March 6, at the University of California, Irvine, with Victor Valley College on its list of guests. About 350 students from other distant community colleges attended, including seven Victor Valley College students. It is mainly for honor students, but it does not mean that these students have to be in an honor class.

Each student from these colleges gave a 12-minute presentation; these presentations varied from any research, science or social science, art and an original performance with a five-minute discussion after. Some 230 students presented their work at this year’s conference.

Students who presented were eligible to win an award and were given the opportunity to submit their work in the HTCC collection, Building Bridges. The Abstract and Exemplary Achievement Award were the awards given at the conference; an abstract is a summary of what the research was, the exemplary is the person who best exemplified the qualities HTCC looks for in an honor student, and the student who wins this award was nominated by a director from their school. No VVC students won the Abstract award, but two VVC students won the Exemplary Achievement Award: Stephanie Weldy and Cheré Smith.

“I felt that the conference was a very enlightening experience. I had a great time and it was a great thing to be able to present my research findings, despite the nervousness I was feeling about presenting. However, I enjoyed the conference and thought it was a very eye-opening experience, because this is what college and research is all about,” Weldy said to the RamPage through an email interview.

“Yes, it is a great experience,” said Smith about whether or not she would recommend doing this with other students.

Tim Adell, the VVC’s director for the HTCC and editor of Building Bridges attended this year’s conference. He says of all his students who participated, “They were very well prepared. I am very proud of all my students.”

Any honor student who wants to participate in the Academic Research Conference next year should submit their work to Adell, room 140 in the Advanced Technology building 21. Registration for the conference is $25.

“It is a nice step towards progress. The purpose of the conference for community college students is to get their feet wet and present in a friendly non-threatening environment,” said Adell to insure that it is a positive experience.

“I would totally recommend that students present at the HTCC. Once you've spent time researching a topic and perfecting your hypothesis, it makes it all the more worthwhile to share your discoveries with other students and professors,” said Weldy.
The Academic Commons has undergone small renovations, but college officials have bigger plans because it is currently under-utilized and has a greater potential for students and faculty alike. Much of what once took place in the Academic Commons no longer does since the construction of the Advanced Technology Center.

Currently in building 42 a few classes are held, tutoring is offered, faculty have offices and programs like TRIO, Upward Bound, Student Support Services and the CO-OP Education Program have sufficient working space. The core use of the building is a computer lab with 12 computers. Most students are not aware of the computers, though they are available for academic and social purposes. The other sections in the Academic Commons are separated by a new addition of cost-effective temporary walls.

Right now there are three classrooms in the building and because of the building’s size, there could be five or more classrooms.

“No one would leave the building. We just need to bring in an architect so he can utilize the space,” said Dr. Paul Williams, dean of humanities and arts.

“The nicest thing about the building is its location. It is nicely set up with lots of great views, but it isn’t being utilized. We’re scrambling to offer more classes, and this may be possible with some of the funds from Bond JJ,” said Williams.

Requests have been submitted to the facilities committee and discussions have begun. The remodeling that is in mind, such as replacing the false floors to better equip the computers, would only take up to six months.

“Since the completion of the Advanced Technology Center, most everything had been relocated. In the future, we’d like to efficiently redesign the entire Academic Commons,” said Steve Garcia, director of the facilities committee, in a phone interview.

Many departments within the Academic Commons have already been relocated.

“There were no real renovations at this time, but there was a lot of movement of departments that took place inside,” said Student Support Services representative Lisa Cripps.

Though much discussion has been made regarding upcoming renovations to the academic commons, no plans have officially been set besides the relocating that has already been done inside.

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY (ASB) ELECTIONS

Elections are an opportunity for students to participate in and influence their educational environment. They are a chance to be heard.

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ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY (ASB) ELECTIONS

Elections are an opportunity for students to participate in and influence their educational environment. They are a chance to be heard.

“Get involved! Get out and vote! It improves your whole academic perspective,” said ASB President Mary Mazzola. Students can vote May 11 and 12 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Student Activities Center, Gymnasium and Science building. Candidates must remain 150 feet from the election polls in all three areas, however advertisement of the elections are encouraged. “An effective student government requires participation,” said ASB Adviser Robert Sewell.

Before a student becomes a candidate name on the election ballots, he or she must first fulfill several requirements. They have to be a current student at Victor Valley College, have a total of six units with a minimum GPA of 2.0, own an ASB card and complete an application packet containing at least 150 valid signatures of currently enrolled VVC students.

“Your focus is on the students. Their wants, their needs and complaints. Especially their complaints. But your focus is all for the students,” said Executive Senator Gregory Harbor.

In accordance with the ASB constitution, there must be at least one community service group that assists in coordinating the election, in order to avoid a bias. The community group helping in the election process is confirmed on the VVC website as sorority Xi Phi Iota.

Mazzola said that the candidacy verification and the election process will take eight weeks. The actual days of election will take place on May 11 and 12. The actual days of election will take place on May 11 and 12. The student body will be able to know who has been elected into the 16 positions before the Fall 2010 semester begins.
**The Vagina Monologues Explores Taboos, Entertains**

*Review and Photo by Marriah Eve Reporter*

*The Vagina Monologues* was written by Eve Ensler in 1996. It was written as a collection of stories from over 200 women that she interviewed. She first performed the Monologues as a one-woman show but today Ms. Ensler’s play has been performed in over 130 countries and translated into over 45 different languages. The monologues have won many awards and sparked controversy and admiration.

The play explores the taboo subjects of child birth, rape, and how women generally view their vaginas. The monologues were one of the key components in Eve Ensler’s V-Day (V for Valentine’s, Victory, and Vagina) movement to stop violence against women.

Victor Valley Colleges performance of *The Vagina Monologues* was wonderful. Everything from the way the audience was seated in VVC’s Black Box Theater to the way the cast was set created a very intimate setting.

The play is both comedic and tragic and had the audience laughing and gasping with the women on stage. The vagina monologues were both informative and entertaining. At times the subject matter was uncomfortable, but then the actors flipped the tone of the play and had everyone laughing. It consisted of both dramatic and comedic monologues coupled with vagina facts that tied the play back to reality. Some incredible monologues to look out for include *Say It, Because He Liked to Look at It, My Vagina Was My Village, The Vulva Club* and *The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy.*

When I asked actress Joellen Rissland, whose main monologue was *My Vagina Was My Village* if she thought people would enjoy seeing *The Vagina Monologues* she said “yes, especially women. I think every woman can relate to the topics and laugh about the things we never talk about.” I would have to agree with Joellen. I would give *The Vagina Monologues* 4 out of 5 stars. I think *The Vagina Monologues* is a liberating and inspirational experience, especially if you have a vagina.

**Ed Heaberlin’s Production of Little Women to Premiere May 6**

*Story by Racheal Rickman Reporter*

Director Ed Heaberlin’s musical production of *Little Women* is based upon the novel by Louisa May Alcott. It stars four women as the lead characters and will start showing at Victor Valley College in May.

*Little Women* is a story loosely based on the authors own childhood experience of growing up in a home with sisters and a mother who was often away. The story unfolds as the four girls overcome character flaws in their own lives. Meg, played by student Brooke Woodward, deals with overcoming her vanity. Jo, played by student Kara Woodward, has a hot temper. Beth, played by student Ammiel Hamrick, is shy, and Amy is played by student Katelyn Grebel, who is selfish. Each of the sisters has to learn to accept and conquer their own issues.

Diane Woolen, who is a counselor at VVC, plays the role of Marmee, the four girls’ mother. “I have no children and getting to play a mother on Mother’s day is nice,” said Woolen.

*Little Women* as a musical is only a few years old, and one of the newest shows to ever be done at VVC.

“I wanted to do this production for some time now and was originally holding auditions for Music Man, however, there were so many good women auditioning that I made the switch,” said Heaberlin. “This is a beautiful show,” Heaberlin said.

“Rehearsals are fun, the cast is tight. It is only the second week, and everyone already knows each other and works well together,” said Hamrick.

The play is scheduled to debut on May 6 with consecutive performances on May 7, 8, and 9, and on May 13, 14, 15, and 16. The performances start at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of the shows on May 9 and May 16, which will start at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.vvc.edu/tix or at the Performing Arts Box Office one hour prior to the event. Tickets for adults are $10, for seniors and children $7 and free for VVC ASB cardholders.
**Monologues Not for the Squeamish, but Has Solid Performances**

**Review and Photo by Saira Sanders**

On Thursday, March 25, the awaited premiere of *The Vagina Monologues* performed at Victor Valley College. Sure, when one pronounces the word “vagina,” many cannot retain their laughter or chuckle. Especially, when one considers the laughable list that refers to a vagina: “pooki,” “twat,” “poopelu,” “coochi snorch,” “pooter,” and even “wee wee.” Some people may raise their eyebrows and disparage the modern play that is shamelessly open about clitorises, periods, and sexual self discovery. Or, some people are overwhelmed with comical relief and discover a point of view that they didn’t expect. Nonetheless, the play focuses on eleven women talking about their real life stories of everything the vagina experiences.

The play was written by Obie Award-winning playwright Eve Ensler, and the VVC production was directed by Claudia Basha. Ensler interviewed 200 women from various parts of the world and she adapted their stories into a witty and amusing play that has performed at hundreds of colleges and cities across America. The play has even inspired a V-Day movement that tries to stop violence against women.

“I’m worried about vaginas, what we call them and what we don’t call them,” said Ensler in her book, *The Vagina Monologues*. Ensler believes that women live in a patriarchal culture that wages war on women’s vaginas. She observed a culture dominated by an ideology of accepted traditions to think of the vagina as ugly, smelly, and a topic that should be discussed discreetly. Ensler took the initiative to expose the injustices of the vagina: thong underwear, the dark reality of rape, tampons, and anything on vagina mutilation. The vagina has a voice in the play and it screams, “Pussies unite.”

Now, it is safe to say the play is filled with estrogen and liberation from a women’s perspective. However, the male perspective of the play is either they like it or they don’t. One gentleman in the audience gave his girlfriend the “please, don’t hate me but I want to wait in the car” look. The girlfriend took pity, smiled, kissed him and let him wait in the car (that’s a caring girlfriend).

“It wasn’t as bad as I thought it’d be,” said VVC student Jose Zamora. Still, males be warned: if you’re uncomfortable with screaming orgasms, period stories, and vaginal sexual freedom, then perhaps it’s best that you stay home and soak up the testosterone you’ll get from watching a football game or fixing up a car.

Since, the play is controversial and some may be skeptical about the production, one can’t deny it has its humorous moments, especially the monologues delivered by professional performer and stand-up comedian Dee Ramsey. The local cast brought all sort of individual style, and felt honored that they gave a voice to other women’s true vagina stories. Performer Riley Lozano stated, “It was nice to have a community of vaginas,” said Riley Lozano, a performer in the play.

“We should embrace the vagina: It’s the life giver,” said student Alma Barba. Overall, I’d give this play 3 1/2 out of 5 stars.

The play’s remaining scheduled dates are April 1, 2, 3 and 4. The play starts at seven with the exception of April 4th, which begins at 2 p.m. All performances will be held at the Black Box Theater and costs $10 for adults, $7 for Seniors/Children and it’s free for A.S.B cardholders.

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**University Campus Tours**

This semester the career transfer center will be having three University Campus Tours for students interested in transferring to other colleges after Spring 2010. The campuses are Cal State University Fullerton, Cal State University Long Beach and Azusa Pacific University. Tour dates are in late April and early May.

For more information contact the Career and Transfer Counselors in Building 55 or at (760) 245-4271, extensions 2296 or 2531.

**Chief of Police Appointed**

Leonard Knight was appointed Chief of Police. Chief Knight was previously Interim Chief of Police, but now holds the permanent position as Chief.

Officials are thrilled of his permanent seat of power and control. “I have had the pleasure of serving with Chief Knight on the Environmental Health and Services Committee and working with him on the Disaster Preparedness Plan,” said Lori Osborne from Admission and Records.

**Goodwill Offers One-on-One Job Search Seminars**

In order to help students find more job opportunities, Goodwill has sent a representative to Victor Valley College. Goodwill representative Monique Allen will be available to assist students with their job needs.

This is a chance for one on one service which includes job search and job matching, resume writing, interviewing skills and applicant screening for off-campus jobs.

Allen will be on campus every Wednesday at 9 A.M to 3 P.M in the DSPS Office in building 50. Students can also contact her by email at Mallen@goodwillsocal.org

**Debbie Potts Receives 2010 ACCE Award**

Debbie Potts, Coordinator of Community/Contract Education at Victor Valley College, was recognized by the Association of Community and Continuing Education on Feb 19, 2010, at Mira Costa College.

Potts received the 2010 Annual ACCE award for her efforts at expanding the Community Education Program at VVC from a few courses to 500 courses per year today.

ACCE named her as Community Education Person of the year and described as a one woman show for her efforts this year.

The ACCE nominates people for establishing new or different type of programs, excellent leadership or significant contributions to a community college.

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The Brett Side: Going Loud

Column by Brett Diaz
Contributing Writer

Often times, we think of the issue of firearms safety in a political sense. We want to argue yes, strict control is good! Or no, our Second Amendment rights are being infringed upon! Perhaps we argue that by taking the hands out of good citizens, we only give criminals power. Maybe we, with great fervor, say that firearms are a danger to good people, no matter whose hands they are in.

I am not here to argue about this.

Quite frankly, I don't care about your position. What I care about is that we should be educated. Simple working knowledge of firearms, I believe, should be mandatory. It is just a fact that in everyday life, a great many people are going to come into contact with firearms whether willing or not, by chance or by intention.

It is never enough that one simply knows that firearms exist, or that they can hurt people. Our knowledge should go deeper. We all need to be conscious of the damage firearms can inflict without preference, and conscious of the fact that firearms are most assuredly not toys, and should not be taken for granted.

How many movies did you see in the last 5 years where a hail of shells was unloaded, people falling dead from a shot in the shoulder? How many times did the righteous man walk into a room and lay to waste all that had done him (or his family, or friends, or his herpes-lipped drug dealer) wrong? The fact is that for many in this world, firearms are not taken seriously, the reality of a loaded gun not understood.

But it is nonetheless real. Every day people are shot in accident, whether from negligence or sheer apathy. Real bullets deliver agony and shocking trauma to not only the victims, but everyone around. Pain is given to family, to friends. Every day someone dies because someone did not know that when handling a gun, it should always be handled as if it is loaded: with complete respect, caution and due care. Every day someone is killed because a gun was pointed at them and carelessly fired, only to the surprise of both that oops...there was a bullet in that chamber.

On a quiet Sunday like any other, a friend of mine died because of carelessness like this. Or maybe it was not careless, and was in fact an intentional forfeiture of life. But the impact remains the same: life was lost because of a single piece of metal that lay lifeless in a hollow chamber, until it burst into fire and took the life of a person that did not need to die. This pain should never have happened.

When was the last time you chose to educate yourself about firearms? To educate yourself on how to handle them, how to load and unload one, where the safety is or how to help others when one has turned up and is being mishandled? If we all knew a little more about how to safely care for and handle firearms, would that not benefit us all, regardless of the politics? Gun safety does not stop and start at legislation. It starts when guns stop being abstract, unreal objects, and we begin to help not just ourselves, but others, when faced with the horrible reality of a gun forced into their presence.

It is not the gun that needs educating, its purpose is simple. It is we, people, who need education. We need to take the steps to ensuring that we can keep each other safe. Forget the politics. Save someone the pain of needless violence. Educate yourself. Don't put it off until one of your friends finds themselves helpless and losing a battle for their life.

This article is dedicated to the memory of Sean Fertig (June 24, 1987 to March 21, 2010).

Brett Diaz is a former reporter for the VVC RamPage Student Newspaper. Diaz currently studies Political Science at Cal State San Bernardino, but mainly his life revolves around death metal, video games and sushi. Emphasis on the sushi.
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.

ADVERTISING

The RamPage generally accepts as advertising only 8 1/2 - by -11-inch flyers as inserts. The cost is $100, which covers insertion/distribution of 1,500 copies. The cost and responsibility of designing, reproducing and delivering the 1,500 flyers to the RamPage is borne by the advertiser.

To discuss display advertising options or to purchase any form of advertisement, call Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services Deanna Murphy at 760-245-4271 extension 2707.

Acceptance of any advertisement in the RamPage does not constitute endorsement by the paper, college, district, board, council or student body.

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Faculty of the Year and Staff of the Year!

In recognition of their devotion to education and student success, the ASB Council would like you, the students, to choose a VVC Faculty and Staff Member who has made a difference in your life.

To nominate an individual, send an email to Music Vernola mvjarny@gmail.com with the following information:

- Your Name
- Nominee’s Name
- Nominee’s Title/Position
- Brief Reason for Nomination

Nominations must be received by 5 pm, Friday, April 30th. Winners will be honored at the 3rd Annual Students’ Choice Awards Luncheon on May 6th.

Nominees must be VVC employees, Full-time or Part-time (Must be a student to vote).