VVC Says Goodbye to a Friend

Obituary by
Judith Pfeffer
Journalism Instructor
Photo Provided by
Rita McDevitt
Wife

Steve McDevitt was a great man and a great teacher whose lessons must live on.

That’s how friends and colleagues at Victor Valley College want him remembered following his death last month after a valiant year-long battle against terminal cancer. He succumbed before dawn on Nov. 7 while under hospice care at his Apple Valley home from the disease that had spread through his lungs to his bones despite intensive treatment to combat it. He was 66.

Dr. Steven Jeffrey McDevitt, J.D., spent most of his life at VVC, starting as a student himself.

In happier, healthier days, in October 1997, Steve McDevitt was thrilled to be able to visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

In 1965 at the newly opened VVC campus, he was 21 when he met his future wife, Rita, then 17, in an acting class; they would marry two years later, have a son, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter. Rita would care for him until the end.

Rita said that her husband had acknowledged that his lung cancer was likely related to the decades-long tobacco habit that he had tried countless times to break.

“This, she emphasized, may be one of the most important things the VVC community can yet learn from him.

“His voice speaks to us now, saying no one should ever smoke,” she said. “If you smoke, stop. If you’ve never become addicted to nicotine, hooray for you! A life so filled with purpose has been forever quieted by the ravages of a terrible disease. Please listen to his message, Spare yourself and loved ones from the agony of relentless suffering. Learn his lesson.”

Steve announced his retirement at the start of the Fall 2009 Semester. He began to feel noticeably ill just two weeks later and with difficulty honored his commitment to teach through the end of that calendar year, she said.

As word of his loss spread, several of his colleagues sent emails campus-wide to indicate their esteem. The following are excerpts from some of these tributes:

“His vision always included what was best for students and for the institution as a whole. His problem-solving skills, logical thought processes and empathy for those with whom he worked were exceptional and exemplary,” wrote Dr. Tom Miller.

“He continually challenged me creatively, scholastically and logically and was a major supporter of my quest for greater knowledge in the arts and the world as a whole,” wrote Lee Harris.

“I can honestly say that instructors such as him are the reason students can succeed and have good experiences in college,” wrote Jonathan Cook.

“While my heart is heavy with the loss of this mentor, colleague, friend and big brother, I am relieved that he is no longer in pain,” wrote T. Mirici-Smith.

Steve was born Dec. 12, 1943, in Great Falls, Mont., to Howard and Gertrude McDevitt. After being named class salutatorian upon graduation with his AA from VVC, he earned a full scholarship to the University of

Continued in Friend on Page 2
Southern California, where he earned his BA at the film school; he later got his MA at Cal State Fullerton and his JD at Western State University College of Law.

He served in the U.S. Air Force more than eight years starting in the 1960s, including at George Air Force Base and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

He was briefly a substitute teacher in the Victor Elementary School District and, by 1973, according to former colleague Margie Milroy, filled in for his former teacher Polly Fitch while she was on sabbatical; he continued part time until he successfully competed for a new full-time position in speech communication and theater department at VVC in 1976.

Over the decades, Steve directed dozens of plays and served as technical director on many others, thus interacting with thousands of students in the classroom, on the stage or both, and worked on development of the Performing Arts Center.

He also taught political science and paralegal courses.

In the 1970s he spent several summers as a tour guide at Universal Studios, and from 1992 to 1995 was the owner of the Calikage Playhouse at Calico Ghost Town.

When he could, he took many trips throughout the United States, Canada and Europe with Rita, often accompanied by their son and Rita’s mother, Pauline Sinclair. A devotee of Shakespeare, Steve experienced one of his happiest times in autumn 1997, when he taught at the University of London for the study-abroad program and in October led a day trip to the Bard’s birthplace at Stratford-Upon-Avon.

In addition to his wife of 43 years and his son, Sean, Timothy McDevitt, Steve is survived by granddaughter Elizabeth, daughter-in-law Robin, brothers Phillip (wife Ginger) and Richard (wife Jill), and several nieces and nephews.

As per his final wishes, there was no funeral or memorial service or reception. Instead, donations may be made out to the VVC Foundation (put “McDevitt Fund” in the memorandum field), to the Southern Poverty Law Center or to veterans’ organization. His son has asked that from now on, well-wishers donate to cancer research or perform other good works with the thought in mind as follows: “Believe in Steve.”

The author was among those organized by Mirci-Smith to provide home-cooked food and other assistance to the McDevitts earlier this year.

CURRENTLY PUBLISHED: Board of Trustees President Resigns

Story by Brenda Requena
Reporter

Current president of the Victor Valley College’s Board of Trustees, Angela Valles, will be resigning on Dec. 7 to become a part of the Victorville City Council.

After consulting the state Fair Political Practices Commission, Valles was told that being part of two elected local offices would not be a problem. On Nov. 10 after she had been elected, Valles received information from the college’s attorney, Jeffrey Morris, saying that forming part of two different offices will bring “conflict of interest.”

Valles knew that being a part of two offices would limit her from raising her voice on issues that would simultaneously involve VVC and the city of Victorville.

She wanted to contribute 100 percent either to the school board or to the city council. The decision of whether or not to resign at VVC was not a pleasant one for Valles. Her eagerness to finish the term at VVC made her decision a difficult one.

“Victor Valley College is well on its way and the city of Victorville is near bankruptcy...there is no public safety and it is one of the most dangerous places to live,” said Valles.

The thought made her decision easier, now Valles will use her skills and abilities to help her Victorville community.

She is very happy with what she has accomplished as the President of the VVC Board of Trustees. Her biggest accomplishment at VVC was getting the JJ Bond

“Don’t allow your circumstances to dictate your future; allow your determination to dictate your future,” said Valles.

She passed in November 2008. As a teenage mom at 16, Valles never thought she would be where she stands today. Her mom gave her the necessary tools to get where she wanted to go.

“The speech Angela Valles gave during VVC graduation in the spring, showed that with determination like hers, anyone can accomplish what they set their minds to,” said Raymond Palacios.

“Sometimes my mom will say, give it one more day, give it another week and see what happens,” said Valles.

She took life one day at a time and with the help of her friends and family, she graduated from Pepperdine University, which took her to the future she wanted. Making the right decisions is what made her succeed.

Unfortunately for Valles, she would not be there to see who would be taking her place as the president of the Board of Trustees. She leaves confident that with the new elected candidates, VVC will continue its way up the road.

In her absence, Valles wishes that all students get involved and updated with the news here at school. She also hopes the Student Body will voice their concerns in the Board room and stand for what they believe.

“Don’t allow your circumstances to dictate your future; allow your determination to dictate your future,” said Valles according to the H.D Living Magazine.
Search for President/Superintendent Speeds Up

Story by Wanda Nowell
Reporter

Victor Valley College has once again been left without a president/superintendent. A committee was formed to select a new president; the committee is made up of faculty, staff, students, the Board of Trustees and members of the community.

On June 8 the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to hire a professional recruitment firm to assist the college with the actual search.

The committee will pass along those candidates who have scored well in this preliminary step of the review. Personal interviews will follow, and the finalists will participate in a candidate forum.

A brochure generated to be mailed out to possible candidates, has yet to be approved by the committee. According to a draft of the brochure, the committee will be interested in someone with a master’s degree from an accredited institution; an earned doctorate is preferred with a minimum of eight years of senior-level administrative experience preferably at the community college level.

“It is important that the new president be a transformational leader who is committed to the district, community and a team leader that is capable to work with different cultures,” said VVC Director of Information William Greulich.

Greulich is the liaison who created the brochure to be mailed to candidates once approved by the committee.

Although Angela Valles, Victor Valley College Board of Trustees President was unavailable for an interview; she released this statement: “I understand that they want to find the best person to lead the college, but how long will this person stay? “

“Unfortunately, I will not be there when the final selection is made, but I promise that as a former student and board member, I will stay informed and follow the process every step of the way,” Valles said.

Students wonder about the next president for the college, and some concerns have been raised.

“It makes me wonder what the money that is being spent on a professional recruitment firm could be used for; I imagine it’s a large sum of money that could be used towards the students,” said Amber, a student who requested her last name not be published.

“Community College Search Services is the recruitment firm that was contracted by the district to conduct the president search for a flat rate fee of $26,000,” administrative sources said.

Students wonder about the amount of time and money being spent on the search for a new president.

“It makes me wonder why it takes so long. I understand that they want to find the best person to lead the college, but how long will this person stay? Is all the time being spent on the search worth it in the end?” said VVC student Ashley Wyenchico.

VVC ASB Does Community Service in New Orleans

Story by Brittany Harter
Reporter

Ten members of Victor Valley College’s Associate Student Body Council embarked on a five-day trip to New Orleans. There, they participated in the American Student Association of Community Colleges conference from Nov. 11 through 14.

“ASACC is an organization determined to advocate for the interests of community college students across the nation. It gives the opportunity for Student Leaders to come together, network, gain skills and apply them. ASACC gives students the tools to affect change on their campus, in their community, state wide and nationally,” said ASB President Judy Schmoll.

While in the Big Easy, the ASB helped with service projects. On day one, VVC and the student government from Milwaukee Area Technical College joined together to plant more than 2,000 seedlings along the Gulf Coast. On the second day, more community colleges had arrived to pot more seedlings and to plant a tree.

“I expected to participate in two service projects during the conference, but I did not expect it to have such a lasting effect on my life,” said President Schmoll. “We got to see the devastation and effects of the natural disasters that have hit Louisiana over the past five years. It was really interesting to take part in aiding some of the devastation.”

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Victor Valley College
ASACC from Page 3

Schools came from all over the country, and after the service projects they focused on how to be effective student leaders. Students attended workshops that focused on the legislative process, ethics and values, conflict resolution and effective meeting management.

The student governments were presented with important information, but they learned most from their interactions with each other.

“My eyes were opened as I met with students from all over the country,” said Club Ambassador Kristopher Lange of Utah Valley University’s Student Association.

During the ethics and values workshop led by VVC’s ASB Advisor and Director of Auxiliary Services Robert Sewell, Club Ambassador Lange shared his number one value of perspiration.

“After I had brought this value up I was certain that the group was confused as to why this hick from Utah had a fascination of body temperature regulation,” said Lange. “I actually use this term to discuss the need for hard work. In essence, I believe the value of perspiration is what makes us American; to never settle for less than the best.”

VVC’s ASB plans to put the skills they have learned from their workshop sessions and fellow community college students to good use.

“The unity and camaraderie among our nation’s community colleges was strong and the sense of empowerment was overwhelming,” said ASB Activities Senator Matthew Toner. “I plan to utilize the knowledge I received to better our students, our school and our community. We will be getting our priorities in order and preparing for our next conference where we will be rallying to lower the student’s independent age for financial aid.”

“Our council is already preparing to bring messages to DC including further support for Pell Grants, the DREAM Act and Lowering the Independent Age for Federal Student Aid purposes. We want letters and testimonies in support of lowering the independent age. For more information, come to the ASB office,” said President Schmoll.

The ASB office is located upstairs in Bldg. 44. They can be contacted at (760) 245-4271 ext. 2331 and are open until 5 p.m. on weekdays.

— Brittany Harter is the ASB Council Secretary.

Landscape Renovation Meant To Save the Campus Money

Story by Rebecca Rodriguez Reporter

The landscape renovation in front of the Student Services I Building has begun.

The outside of the Student Services building ripped apart for a new look. RamPage photo by Rebecca Rodriguez.

Micon Construction workers have taken all the grass from the front of Building 52. They will replace it with big, medium and small sized desert rocks. Parka Moreno who is one of the workers for Micon explained that they will be using various types of desert trees and plants.

“We are going to put in trees, plants and smaller rocks to cover all the dirt. We are getting ready for the sprinklers right now,” Moreno said.

Continued in Rocks on Page 5

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Continued in Rocks Page 4
VVC is doing the new landscape to save money on the water bill.

“Removing the turf saves 865,634 gallons of water a year,” said Stephen Garcia, Director Facilities Construction.

The idea is to make the new campus landscape drought tolerant. The workers have already put down big boulders and started working on the sprinklers.

The next step is to plant the trees. Rosalio Felit, another worker, helped with directions for where to place the rocks.

“We should be finished around February,” Felit said.

Students have walked by and noticed the workers, and many students did not like that the rock garden is being built. Dean Martinez is one of the many unhappy students.

“I don’t know where the funds came from, but I think it is a waste. I liked the grass a lot more because it keeps it cooler in the summer,” Martinez said.

A budget of $500,000 from Measure JJ funds was approved by the Board of Trustees in Oct. The Facilities Committee recommended the project.

Other students interviewed did not know what workers were doing in front of Student Services. Students had noticed the workers; however most did not pay too much attention to them, such as Alejandro Soto.

“I didn’t know what was going on,” Soto said.

For students like Soto, they will just have to wait for the finished result. The landscape renovation is headed in a good direction and should come out very beautifully.

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**Students Prepare for Upcoming Winter Art Show**

**Story and Photos by Jimmy Garrido**

Reporter

Student-created art will be displayed in the art building on Dec. 9 from noon until 8 p.m. The students hope to bring exposure to themselves and the department.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for the students to exhibit their work,” said Assistant Prof. Sharon Vandermeiden, who teaches the oil painting class on campus.

Preparation has been going on since the first day of class which is when the students learned creative and presentation techniques; it all comes together for the end of the semester’s show. The show displays work from all art classes and about one-third will be from students of a photography class.

“It’s cool. It’s my first year and people already see my work,” said photography student Monica Estrada.

She would like to make art a career and will transfer to the LA Film School next semester.

“It’s nice. You get everyone else’s opinion,” said Estrada’s classmate Christopher Hurteado.

While the students are excited about their art being shown; the art department has concerns that it does not have a formal and professional way to display the art.

“We have nothing. There is nothing on campus that is set aside for us to use,” said Prof. Frank Foster. “Our students don’t have the same opportunity to share their work with the public in a setting that is a professional way.”

“Ultimately we’d like to have a gallery,” said Vandermeiden.

The public is encouraged to stop by the art show. There is no fee to attend, and food will be provided.
VVC Clubs Hope To Help By Putting on Thanksgiving Events

This Thanksgiving season has been filled with opportunities for Victor Valley College students and community members to give to those less fortunate.

The A.W.A.R.E. club had a successful Thanksgiving food drive. They collected and delivered Thanksgiving food to more than 20 families. The club members enjoyed themselves while they put together boxes for the families.

They had collected food from people at the VVC campus from Oct. 25 through Nov. 18. On Friday, Nov. 19 they gave boxes filled with holiday food to families that they knew needed help getting food for Thanksgiving this year.

“It was great! We felt good helping those families. They were so happy and thankful. Everybody kept saying thank you, thank you. That feels nice,” said Christine Dorsey, club president.

On the day before Thanksgiving the Victor Valley Rescue Mission held their annual Great Thanksgiving Banquet at the First Southern Baptist Church located at 16611 Tracy St. Suite C Victorville. Two VVC associated student body clubs, Ready Rams and Campus Crusade for Christ, were represented at the event held for anybody who wished to come.

Jasmond Nelson of CCC was there to help give out clothing, shoes and grooming items.

“It’s really not about us. It’s about helping others,” said Nelson as she helped a girl pick out a coat. According to Nelson, the Rescue mission gives these sorts of items out every Wednesday and provides dinner meals at the food pantry every week Monday through Friday. These gifts are given year round to all community members who may want or need them.

The Rescue Mission receives food and other donations from many sources according to Vivian Vargas a rescue mission volunteer. Victorville community members, churches and Target all gave generously this year.

“People of the community really opened up their hearts this time. One lady even made matching pillow cases,” said Vargas.

There were three tables dedicated to supplying fun for the children while the parents gathered the free items. There was a coloring table, a face painting table and a cross necklace making table.

More than 300 people volunteered to help according to Veronica Trujillo, the rescue mission’s volunteer and event coordinator. At least eight of those volunteers were Ready Rams members. The Ready Rams where put to work right away. They dished out and served hot turkey meals from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Trujillo spoke highly of the VVC student volunteers.

“They were very responsible. I felt they could get the job done. They were awesome!”

Two bands, the New Life Worship Team and Senior Grove, as well as a youth dance team were there to entertain the crowd.

Carol Lorentz lives close by and has gone to the rescue mission many times.

“They are awesome,” said Lorentz.

Many smiles were seen on that day. The biggest smiles belonged to the volunteers. Their happiness seemed to come from within.
Automotive Department More than Nuts and Bolts

Victor Valley College’s Automotive Technology Department offers many different courses. John Sweet is a full time instructor and the Department Chair of the Automotive Technology department.

The VVC’s Automotive Technology department is certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation. The department has three full-time instructors that are Automotive Master Technicians.

“I like learning something new. It’s a way to learn a good profession to keep your skills sharp for the real world,” said Allen Saunders an Automotive Technology Department student.

A student spends time in the classroom for lecture then later in the day the student studies the cars in the lab. Before a student can work in the lab section of the course he or she must complete training and an online test and pass with at least an 80 percent.

“They did a marvelous job. I recommend come to VVC before you go to Jiffy Lube, Brake Stop or Sears,” said Jeremy Dureso, a former VVC student.

“The whole department really means student success and we try to train the student so they can be employed and self sufficient and we have lots of contacts with the automotive industry. So when a student is ready to be employed we can help them find work,” said Sweet.

After successful completion of the test, a certificate will be issued to the student. The Automotive department offers an Associates Science degree and 19 certificates. The degree and the certificates do not have to be renewed; they last a lifetime.

“If you have an interest in automotive this is the place to be. You will not be let down from what you’re going to learn here,” said Eric Castro.

The Automotive Technology Department offers repairs that are brought in by VVC students and also by regular citizens. For the student, faculty and staff, there is no fee for performed labor.

Some of the most popular repairs are emissions, electrical, tune-ups, brakes and suspensions. The repair time on a car can be anywhere from one class session, or to almost one semester depending on what repair needs to be done.

The repair works benefit the student’s knowledge of cars.

The customer has to buy their own parts for their car and students work on the cars under the supervision of the instructors.

“The department welcomes most car repairs that will benefit the students and sometimes a small fee to cover consumables may be charged,” said Sweet.

“They did a marvelous job. I recommend come to VVC before you go to Jiffy Lube, Brake Stop or Sears,” said Jeremy Dureso, a former VVC student.

Victor Valley College publishes pamphlet information about the class. To contact the department, call (760) 245-4271 extension 2426.

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Do You Know Where You’re Going To?

By Roderick Allen Gray Jr. Editor-in-Chief

This segment is dedicated to the achievement of VVC students fall 2010.

Writing Center tutor and 2010 NMUN Club President, Shandan Lussenden has been accepted to Columbia University. Information provided by Patricia Wagner, Bryce Campell, and Tim Adell.

Valery Frangelica wrote, “My English 101 student, Larren Langston will be continuing her studies at Cal State University San Bernardino for the Spring Quarter. She has been an excellent student, and I’m certain that she will continue to shine.”

Hinrich Kiaser wrote, “Jester Cerballos is now at University California Irvine, and Caitlin Sanchez is now at University California Riverside.”

Martin Gonzalez has been accepted to California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. Martin has been awarded the Provost Scholarship, and he will be a member of the first graduating class for that school.

Information provided by Allen Gildard, Adjunct

The accomplishments of Autumn Huffine are to be recognized. As President of the Communications Studies Club, Autumn has demonstrated profound leadership and sensitivity, thereby transforming the club into one of the most dynamic movements on campus. “Her future is one to watch,” said Gregory T. Jones.
Owl Fashion Takes Flight for Now

Jessica Ramirez, a local Victor Valley College student, has her own thoughts on this trend.

“I think owls are exotic and mystical, something I would wear for a special night out,” said Ramirez.

Other VVC students’ opinions on this trend are:

“When I wear owl jewelry, I feel edgy,” said Michelle Gonzalez.

“I like to wear owls with casual clothes,” said Caylee Motley.

“I think owl jewelry will be here for a little while; after, it will be some other animal. I don’t really like owl jewelry,” said Ambree Johnson.

While the exact origin of owl jewelry remains unknown, one of the earliest known forms of owl jewelry happened in Greece. In early 1900 BC, Greeks turned coins into pendants that could be worn around the neck. Owls were important to the Greeks because they represented Athena, goddess of wisdom, and her pet owl. In Greek culture, the wide eyes of the owl meant attentiveness, protection, sexual attraction and excitement. These antiques are very pricey and purchasing an authentic piece could range from $300 to $5,000.

The reason that popularity for owl jewelry has resurfaced in the 21st century could be simple. Despite the fact an owl is a territorial bird of prey; it translates great into jewelry and clothes.

With many designers trying to reinvent their clothes and undertaking the daunting task to make something different, it could also be that they are using Greek influences in their clothes and jewelry.

The simple fact is people will continue to buy and wear what looks great on them, regardless of whether it is an owl, a snake or a bunny.

“The owl influence will last as usual for a few months and then will subside into another animal or whatever the fashion gurus decide upon,” said Alicia Riegel, a VVC student.

Murder Closes Down Karma Night Club for Good

After a well-known history of violence, the Victorville club Karma Nightlife has closed its doors for good. With two murders in 13 months, cops have finally had enough.

In a quote courtesy of the Daily Press, “The continual consumption of manpower and departmental resources of calls at Karma Nightlife is disproportionate and unacceptable,” said Captain Cliff Raynolds of the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Victorville Station on Nov. 22 in a letter addressed to the City of Victorville. The City of Victorville in turn revoked Karma’s business license.

Karma seems to be the epicenter of several other violent acts. In the Victorville Police Department archives it states that on May 23, 2009, local resident Erika Johnson was attacked by an unidentified female with a razorblade, suffering numerous cuts on her face, hands, arms and back. The argument began over the chair that Johnson was sitting in.

This is only one of several attacks that have happened in the past year. Others range from stabbings, non-fatal shootings that did not result in deaths, and an assault on an officer, to name a few.

In October 2009, Camion Anderson, 18, of Victorville was found shot to death in the parking lot across the street from Karma Nightclub. Anderson was at Karma earlier that evening.

On Nov. 20, the latest victim was Delvon Williams, a 26-year-old man from Rialto. The shooting is believed to be an alleged gang rite. Suspect Joseph Ray Rice, 29, is believed to have been attempting to further his status as a gang member, he is currently at large. The Sheriff’s Department urges the public to call them at (800) 78-CRIME if they have any information regarding the whereabouts of this individual.

According to the Daily Press, Karma reopened the club several hours after the shooting. Next door at Kinari, a restaurant, a dueling piano show went on as scheduled.

Ron and Gwen Mathers are the owners of both Karma and Kinari. The businesses share a liquor license but have separate business licenses. The Victorville Police Department is trying to get the Alcohol Beverage Control to revoke the business’ liquor license as well, which would affect Kinari’s ability to serve alcohol and therefore affect its revenue.

“I hope Karma does not reopen. I went there once, and some girls were acting really aggressive towards me. I can’t believe someone died in that club,” said Ashley Grenne, a VVC student.

“Karma was the only ‘decent’ club out here. The other places in Victorville are garbage. Now I have to drive to another city if I want to party,” said Fidel Martinez, another VVC student.

“I am really surprised someone got shot inside Karma. I went there on Saturday to see Sonora Dynamita (a Spanish cumbia band). If I had known someone got killed, I wouldn’t have gone,” said Jessica Alvarez, another VVC student.
**Variety Show II: Less Acts, More Talent**

**Story by**

**Rachael Rickman**

**Entertainment Editor**

The Off-Broadway Performing Arts Club is at it again. On Dec. 17 and 18 the club will be bringing the Variety Show II to Victor Valley College. Chris Asencio, the tech director, and Martin Gonzales, the artistic director, are in charge of running the show.

The show will include 20 acts, a few of which are returning acts from last semester’s performance. The performances will vary from bands, solos, dance numbers, improv skits and one performance of really cool people. I want to stay involved and perform again,” said VVC student and variety show performer Eddie Alamada.

“Lots of talented students showed interest in being in this show. In the first show we allowed everyone, but with this turnover we had to turn some people away,” said the clubs public relations officer Greg Harbor.

All students were required to audition in front of five judges and had to earn a score of 15 or above to qualify to perform. Rehearsals are up to the performers, and only one tech rehearsal will be done on Dec. 16. At this point, cuts still can be made if students’ performances are not up to par.

The variety show will have two MC’s: students Brittany Harter and Robert Blomker.

“Last semester’s turnout was about 400 people in the audience. We hope to top the first show. I am blown away by the talent,” said Harbor.

Tickets can be purchased at the Performing Arts Center door and are $5, and ASB cardholders are free. Curtain call for the variety show will be at 7:30 p.m., with the art/fashion show starting at 6 p.m.

**Lions Club Helps People in Need of Eyeglasses**

**Story by**

**Joyce Mayo**

**Reporter**

Friends in Sight, a non-profit organization, provided a free vision screening and recycled eyeglasses to assist those in need on Nov.13, 2010. The service was located at the James Woody Community Center in Apple Valley.

The vision screening was designed to assess for ocular health concerns and provided a useable pair of recycled eyeglasses until the patient could obtain the professional services and ophthalmic materials on his or her own.

The financial costs of providing for the screenings were obtained through donations from Lions Clubs, private donations and Friends in Sight fundraisers throughout the year. The volunteers were made up of Lion and non-Lion members who serve without financial compensation.

“The organization is affiliated with the Lions Clubs. The Lions Clubs gave them most of the financial support and volunteers. We typically see approximately 300 patients at a time. We serve all people who are in need. Some people don’t have insurance or a means to pay for eyeglasses. Previously we were called “Friends Across the Border.” We have been doing this for 25 years,” said Dan Ranney, president of the California Lions Friends in Sight.

Dr. Brian Van Dusen, optometrist, was very busy that day working with patients. One of the patients stated that she and her son came out to get glasses in spite of the long waiting line. People were standing around the building to be seen.

“It was wonderful how Dr. Van Dusen and these volunteers poured out their hearts to help us. My son and I have needed glasses for a long time. I don’t have an eye doctor, so I can’t get a new prescription. I have Medicare, but it doesn’t pay for glasses. The prescription I needed was for bifocals, and it was very expensive. So I’m very pleased that there are caring people in this area,” said Julia Dixon.

The Lions Club was founded in Chicago, Ill., on June 7, 1917 by Melvin James. The Lions Club meet the needs of local communities and the world. There are 1.35 million members in 206 countries and geographic areas. Their motto is “We Serve.”

Lions make a difference whether by organizing a pancake breakfast fundraiser or building a wheelchair ramp for someone in need. They are a hands-on organization.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Lion, e-mail Eric Pearson at Pearson@vvc.edu
Best Albums of 2010

10. The Gaslight Anthem– American Slang
In a nation of changing values, Gaslight Anthem attempts to be an American idea. They are a classic New York punk band, with raw vocals singing East Coast mantras, like an audio version of the Great Gatsby. They barely made the list, however, as they still have room to grow and have not reached the caliber they are capable of. If anything, this still-young band has potential that’s worth looking out for.

9. LCD Soundsystem– This Is Happening
James Murphy has already proved a one-man band can work, and work well. Murphy goes further with his melodic funk beats, bringing a fresh concept to an old style. Bringing a diverse range of creative talent, his 9 and 10 minute tracks can take you into an audio orgasm, if you let it. With its eclectic influences, he never applies one consistency for the entire length of the song. This is his greatest strength, and weakness.

8. Foxy Shazam– Foxy Shazam
Foxy Shazam has brought back that funky rock sound that was made popular by Queen. You can sense the Freddy Mercury influence when you hear the very first song. It is their first studio release on a major record label and they brought out the big guns on the album. As they progress further into their career, we can see them having great commercial success.

7. Kid Cudi– Man on the Moon II: Legend of Mr. Rager
The man known as Cudi is in class of his own. He consistently dares to blur the borders of diversity in such a way that he’s gradually creating his own genre. Kid Cudi’s nonchalant rapping style allows him to apply his talent on beats that other great rappers might be intimidated by. His music is like a fine wine, it gets better over time. Kid Cudi will be looked at as the Jimi Hendrix of our time.

6. Against Me!- White Crosses
The follow-up to their 2007 smash, New Wave, White Crosses delivers the same and then some. When Against Me matured from hardcore-punk band to alternative rock band, their musical talent really blossomed. They have become an extraordinary band and just missed the cut for our Top 5 but make a fashionable appearance at no. 6.
5. The Black Keys– Brothers
The duo of guitarist Dan Auerbach and drummer Patrick Carney have collaborated again to make their sixth studio album. It is The Black Keys’ highest-charted album to date, and possibly their finest work. It is very hard in today’s time to have a blues album have such a response from the general public. I would like to see them push their boundaries a little more like what they did with Blakroc.

4. Eminem– Recovery
The last few years have been difficult for Eminem. It would be cliché to say Eminem had women problems among other personal problems. After his last two albums, it was sounding like Eminem was losing his creative mind. However, the release of Recovery shows that Eminem can still go hard and has put himself in a league of his own.

3. The Roots– How I Got Over
In an age when old school hip-hop is dead, The Roots have truly showed that there is still room for real inspirational rap music. With hard-hitting lyrics and a band that maintains funky beats, The Roots easily secure the no. 3 spot on our list. The Roots prove that you can take an old idea and still make it original. They picked their name accurately as they embrace the roots from which they came.

2. Gorillaz– Plastic Beach
The Gorillaz are still and will always be the best animated band ever. This is their third album release and each one keeps getting better and better. They have shown such growth in their musical style. This album is jam-packed with guest artists ranging from Snoop Dogg to Lou Reed. They continuously expand their comfort zone and diversity yet still have that Gorillaz vibe.

1. Kanye West– My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy
Kanye West has made his masterpiece. It will not only be the best album of this year but will be playing on people’s MP3 players for years and years to come. Every song on the album is a potential smash hit. The diversity and ambition on each track is so dramatically varied and show a very delicate attention to detail. At any moment, Kanye could have and should have failed, but succeeded beautifully.

List Compiled By Joseph Ciulla, Managing Editor, and Brandon Chiz, Special Projects Editor
College Singers Prepare for Christmas Performance

Story by Brittany Harter Reporter

The Victor Valley College Music Department will present “A Choral Christmas” on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

The College Singers, Women’s Choir and Master Arts Chorale and Sinfonia Orchestra have been rehearsing under the directions of Dr. Thomas Miller and Patty Yancey. This will be the Women’s Choir’s first live performance.

Classic holiday songs such as “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” and “Jingle Bells” will be performed along with new compositions.

“My favorite song is called ‘Lullaby,’” said student and College Singer Emily Whitlock. “It’s actually written by Professor Miller, and it’s dedicated to Professor Kirk. She just had a baby.”

“Lullaby” is one of two new works Dr. Miller wrote for the Christmas show. He composed he dedicated it to Professor Kirk’s newborn.

Dr. Miller’s other original work is titled “Shepherds Sing” which is based off text from the 17th century poet Robert Herrick. Students Beth and Grace Tonning will be the accompanying pianists to the piece.

“By nature I’m a composer so I have music in me all the time,” said Dr. Miller who has been preparing students for this concert since October. “(The performance) will have over 100 voices on stage. We’re called the best kept secret in the High Desert. Our choirs have sung all over the world.”

Students have put time and hard work into this performance.

“I sing at least eight hours in class a week, and another four hours outside of class,” said Edward Martinez, a College Singer. “I expect it to be an awe-inspiring performance and to have an engaged audience through the concert.”

A Choral Christmas is expected to have 400 people in attendance along with more than 100 singers on stage.

ASB cardholders can attend the performance for free. General admission is $10; seniors get in for $7 and 2010 Winter Band Performance.

During the first half of the concert, the Flute and Brass choirs along with the College Band will perform. The second half features the Symphonic Band. The Symphonic Band will have the audience join in with a holiday sing-along at the end of the concert.

“The highlight of the concert will be the symphonic band performing Rossini’s, William Tell Overture. This is one of the most difficult pieces in the band repertoire, and we are doing it in honor of the upcoming 50th anniversary of Victor Valley College in 2011,” said Pridmore.

Hopeing for the best turn-out, the musicians continue to prepare for the big night. They have put a lot of effort into their rehearsals, which started in October. The band members really seem eager. Many of them have been doing these concerts for years and have adjusted them into their normal routines.

“I like it and have fun playing because we do songs I have heard on movies,” said Danica Brosky, a member of the band. Brosky is very enthusiastic about the upcoming event.

“It’s actually a really great class. We’ve been practicing a lot,” said Ian Faustino.

“It’s pretty cool,” said Hidetomo Komorita. Komorita has made the performances part of his yearly regimen.

The bands perform four concerts per year, two in each semester, which are held in the Performing Arts Center. Out of the four concerts the winter performance usually has the most attendance.

Tickets for this musical experience are on sale now. General admission $10, tickets for seniors is $7 and children tickets are $5. Admission is free for ASB card holders.

Many are expected to attend, so it is recommended that tickets be purchased in advance on the college website.
Football Season Wraps Up but Freshmen Careers Just Getting Started

Story and Photo by Shaun Canady
Sports Editor

Going into the season, Rams football was faced with extreme obstacles and many felt the season was lost before it began.

The Rams did indeed struggle, finishing the season 2-8 and 2-3 in league play. Through all the trials and tribulations this year, the light at the end of the tunnel still shines.

To begin the year, the football roster was saturated with freshman players who had never before played a down of collegiate football. At quarterback, arguably football’s most important position, four freshman players competed for the job.

Lacking experience at this position is a tall task to overcome for football teams at any level.

“Yeah that is tough,” said former student Jeff Stone. “The same can be said for pro teams. Teams that start the season with a rookie quarterback usually do not do well.”

However, the lack of experience this year bodes well for Ram football in seasons to come. The Rams have a great opportunity to learn from this past season and address any specific areas where the team needs help. Going into next season, the young Rams have a chance to improve team chemistry.

“They will be much more familiar with each other next year,” said future student Luis Armando Escobar. “That usually translates to success on the field.”

Ram football fans must remain patient. The talent on this squad is raw yet promising. The team does not lack a quarterback, running back or wide receiver. They lack time, success will follow.

Girls Basketball Season Still Fresh

Story by Yesenia Carrillo
Reporter

The Victor Valley College women’s basketball team’s season just started and the girls are busy practicing and getting ready for the upcoming games.

“So far, the toughest team would have to be Pasadena. They definitely put up a fight, but they were tough, not unbeatable,” said team member Aileen Garcia.

Pre-season has been tough for the girls. They have been practicing really hard and they know that they will be going up against tough competition this season. They are determined to give it their all. Coach Michael Stewart said that what he is most proud of this season is the team unity and how close they are as a team family.

“The competition thus far has been quite challenging due to our size in numbers and in height, but the team is willing to face those challenges head on,” said player Angelina Martinez.

The players stay motivated and are ready to compete with the other cities in the county.

“My family, teammates and coaches keep me motivated because we always push each other to achieve greatness,” said Martinez.

“The teams are pretty balanced,” Stewart said. “I think shocking teams will make the playoffs this season.”

Overall the team has been practicing everyday and is ready to take on the rest of the teams.
Women’s Volleyball’s Perfect Season Comes to an End

After going undefeated in the Foothill Conference, Victor Valley College women’s volleyball season came to an end Nov. 23 with a playoff game loss to Fullerton College.

“Going undefeated in conference was a great accomplishment. We sophomores set the goal last year, but we weren’t able to succeed, so we were determined this year. Winning conference is a big deal, but to do it without losing a match feels even better,” said team captain Brittany Westplat.

The team feels they could have pushed harder during their playoff game but understands the consequences of not doing so.

“I think that the team got too comfortable on the court and didn’t fight until the end and we didn’t adjust to the mistakes made,” said player Melody Sapp.

Nevertheless, the team is not discouraged from their loss and is continuing to keep a positive outlook on how the season ended.

“This is my very first year ever that I went to playoffs, so to me I was just blessed to be a part of it,” said Sapp.

“Overall, I’m proud of the history we’ve made for the school. We clinched first place with four matches left in the season for the first time ever. We also have numerous players ranked in California statistically,” said Westplat.

The girls definitely accomplished enough to be proud of this season. In total, they got 18 wins and three losses, but won every one of their conference matches, making Coach Christa White extremely happy with her players.

“It wasn’t the best season ever, but it was definitely one of the best—probably in the top three. It would’ve been nice to get further in the playoffs, but we had a good year. It was fun, and I’m definitely going to miss the girls,” said White.

The volleyball team ended this season well, achieving their goal of yet another conference championship. It is safe to say there will be high hopes for next season as well.

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WHO
Excelsior Charter Schools Junior High and High School Woodshop students and selected participants of Victor Valley College’s Child Development Center and their families.

WHAT
Santa's workshop in which twelve selected children will receive wooden rocking motorcycles made by Excelsior students as part of a mass production project made possible by generous grants from the Victorville Rotary Club and RRI Energy’s Daggett power plant. The selected recipients and their families will be treated to a dinner, musical entertainment by the Excelsior Glee Club, a photo with Santa, holiday food baskets, and a gift for each recipient's siblings.

WHEN
Thursday, Dec. 16, 5 p.m.

WHERE
Excelsior Charter School’s main campus at Bear Valley and Fish Hatchery roads.

WHY
Excelsior building construction and woodshop teacher Hank Stephens completed a summer workshop on mass production projects for secondary students and promoted the idea of constructing these rocking motorcycles to give to local children who may otherwise not receive Christmas gifts. Mr. Stephens coordinated this event with the Victor Valley College Child Development Center and sought grants to cover the costs.

News in Brief

By Roscoe Esparza
Reporter

The Spanish Club is sponsoring a tamale cookout in the SAC on Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Ready Rams Club will be sponsoring the Lights of Love Toy Drive on Dec. 10.

Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., BANDS NIGHT! Flute Choir, Brass Ensemble, College Band, Symphonic Band.

Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., CHOIRS! Master Arts Chorale, College Singers, Women's Choir & Sinfonia.

Dec. 12, 2:30 p.m., STRINGS! Beginning Strings, Preludium Strings & College Orchestra.

The VVC Theater and Music Departments will be holding auditions for Brigadoon on Dec. 12 & Dec. 13, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center.

Phi Theta Kappa is doing its first Opportunity Drawing on Dec. 15, 2010, for an HP mini notebook.

Ellos Club is holding Open Mic night Thursday in the SAC on Dec. 16.

Off-Broadway Performing Arts Club and Ellos Club is having its Variety Show II, and fashion show on Dec. 17 and 18, at 6 p.m.

Winter session 2011 may be cancelled, but remember the VVC men's and women's basketball season. It will go through the break from Jan 8 to Feb. 16.

VVC will host the State Wrestling finals in the gym Friday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. until p.m.

The VVC Foundations Scholarship Drive will during the cancelled winter session months. Students are encouraged to apply at http://www.vvc.edu/offices/financial-aid/

The Board of Trustees meeting in Building 10 will be on Dec. 14. Check the President’s bulletin board outside building 55 for the designated time and posted Agenda.

The VVC ASB float won first place in the Victorville Christmas parade Saturday Dec. 4.

Students should contact ASB Business Senator Eddie Stacey about employment in the Victor Valley area.
Remembering the Good Times

2010 ASB President Judy Schmoll and RamPage Editor-in-Chief Roderick Gray

ASB Senators Eddie Stacy and Chris Dustin

Deanna Murphy with Fire Tech Students
Photo Courtesy of Robert Sewell

The Fall 2010 Rampage Staff with Advisor Judith Phefer

VVC ASB Council at Fall ASACC New Orleans, LA
Photo Courtesy of Robert Sewell

ASB Vice-President Monica Cabingatan

Collage and Photos by Roderick Rampage Editor-in-Chief

Robert Sewell at the Sewell House Washington D.C.
The first place float in the Xmas parade
Photos Courtesy of Robert Sewell

ICC Senator Chris Dustin and Ellos Club member Melissa Davenport
Photo Courtesy of Chris Dustin

Rammie Ram at 2010 ASB Halloween event for CDC students
Photos Courtesy of Chris Dustin

The next step for our program
Photo By Joseph Ciulla

Well folks we’ll have another run at in 2012
Photo Courtesy of Robert Sewell

Carl and Pauline Durheim Photo
Courtesy of Carl Durheim
Thank you Carl for the smooth transition.

Rampge Reporter & ASB Secretary Brittany Harter

VVC Halloween 2010 Photo Coutesy of
Chris Dustin
Clubs Corner: This segment is dedicated to VVC Clubs

Students who are interested in chartering a new club, or re-chartering an old club should contact the ASB Inter Club Senator Chris Dustin for charter packets and details.

Winner La Donna Huggins

The Ready Rams Fall 2010 Play Station Three Opportunity Drawing.

VVC Campus Crusade for Christ Club’s Alex Rico Alex you will be missed!

The Spanish Club’s Recruitment mixer event.

The Communications Club’s 2010 Halloween Mixer.

Ellos Club Volunteer at Avalon Park Victorville Photo Courtesy of Ellos Club.

The largest club on campus Fall 2010 The Ellos Club. The club has over 50 members and has become the most active club on campus. Photo Courtesy of Mentor Dida

Clubs Corner By Roderick A. Gray Jr. Editor-in-Chief
Parting Thoughts from the Editor-in-Chief

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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.

VVC’s journalism program belongs to the Associated Collegiate Press, the California Newspaper Publishers Association and the Journalism Association of Community Colleges.

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.

The RamPage reserves the right to reject any material — advertising or editorial — that it deems to be not in keeping with the standards of the paper.
Thurs. 9, 7:30p.m. - Holiday Jazz/Rock Concert, The VVC Studio Singers, Studio Band, Jazz Rock Combo and Guitar Ensemble present an eclectic mix of jazz, pop and seasonal favorites to set your toes tapping for the holidays. Selections include Duke Ellington's "Cottontail" The Ripingtons' "Morocco" Bill Withers's "Ain't No Sunshine" and Holiday greats "Little Drummer Boy" "Santa Baby" and "Little Town of Bethlehem" to name but a few. Dave Graham and Richard Sumner conduct.

Fri. 10, 7:30 p.m. - Holiday Bands Concert The VVC Symphonic Band, Brass Ensemble, Flute Choir, and College Band will present holiday music including favorite Christmas and holiday tunes as well as a carol "sing-along". And in celebration of the college's 50th Anniversary, the Symphonic Band will be performing Rossini's famous William Tell Overture. Craig Pridmore conducts.

Sat. 11, 7:30p.m.--A Choral Christmas The VVC College Singers, Master Arts Chorale and Sinfonia, Women's Choir and the debut of the Victor Valley Youth Chorale singing music of the season, including Francis Poulenc's spectacular Gloria featuring High Desert Idol winner Natalie Arevalo as soloist with the choir and orchestra, along familiar carols and Christmas songs, "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and the premiere of two new works by VVC Music faculty member Dr. Thomas Miller. Dr. Miller and Patty Yancey conduct.

Sun. 12, 2:30p.m. Holiday Strings Concert, the VVC Preludium and Beginning String Ensembles and College Orchestra present a holiday program for children of all ages including "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Mr. Grinch," Cantique De Noel", a bluegrass flavored Jingle Bell Rock and classical holiday favorites.Barbara Sternfeld and Susan Peloza conduct.

Order your Tickets Online: www.vvc.edu/tix

TICKET INFO: 245-4271 ext. 849

24-hr. P.A.C. event information 760-245-ARTS (2787)