Dr. Christopher O’Hearn Officially Appointed as Superintendent/President

The RamPage would like to welcome and congratulate Dr. Christopher O’Hearn on his appointment to the President/Superintendant position for Victor Valley College.

The decision on the appointment was the result of a 3-0 vote by the VVC Board of Trustees at the special board meeting held Wednesday, April 26.

O’Hearn told Victor Valley Daily Press Staff Writer Natasha Lindstrom via telephone, “I forward to working in the next few years to help create the vision for the college and work with the Board of Trustees to make this the very finest place we can.

O’Hearn served as interim President/Superintendent after the March 2010 resignation of predecessor Robert Silverman, and he has served in upper-level management positions at many California community colleges.

O’Hearn has a two-year contract worth $203,000 per year the same as his predecessor.

Students Hold Hands For Community Colleges

Story by Abbey Mullen
Reporter

Victor Valley College students, along with faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and Foundation members held hands throughout the High Desert to create a human line that stretched across the state in order to benefit California’s community colleges on April 17.

Hands Across California (HAC) was held statewide to show the importance of more accessibility to higher education. Along with VVC other colleges such as Antelope Valley, Bakersfield, Chaffey, Orange Coast, San Diego City and Monterey Peninsula College made up some of the many schools that participated in the event.

There were about 40 groups along the 50-mile stretch through the Victor Valley. People lined all throughout Bear Valley Rd., Hesperia Rd., Green Tree Blvd. and Main Street.

There were several corporate teams present which included Bluestar Properties, Wells Fargo, Victorville Chamber of Commerce, High Desert Resource Network and Desert Valley Hospital who held hands along with the students to join in on the event and help support VVC.

VVC student Jeremiah Brosowske went out to help support his school by holding hands in a line with about 70 other supporters outside of Metro PCS in Victorville.

To encourage as many students as he could Brosowske said he went “around campus interacting and informing students,” to come out and help raise money for this event. Brosowske was honored to be a part of an event that created “endowments to last a lifetime.”

Another VVC student that went out and supported the event at a different location was Christopher Dustin.

Students stand hand in hand all across the state. Photo courtesy of Joanna Cervantes.

In this Issue:

Fast Five Review Page 10

Grateful Dead Review Page 9
Tenth Annual Tech-X Event Coming Soon

Victor Valley College students and staff have joined together to provide a community event in technology—the 10th annual Tech-X, which is planned for May 13 and 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be food, fun, games, prizes, many activities, exhibits and contests. This year’s theme is sustainability, such as renewable energy, hybrid vehicles, green construction techniques, water conservation and recyclable materials. Families can come out and have an educational bonding experience.

Tech-X displays all the different educational pathways and programs students can take like nursing, welding, American sign language, automotive, construction, animation, associated student body and paramedics to name a few.

Registration is up on the VVC website for whoever would like to participate in the events, volunteering or both. Tech-X will be held Friday and Saturday. There will be different events each day on campus.

Nord Embroden, the founder of Tech-X said, “It’s a good education experience for the students.”

“We’re going to need volunteers. If students would like to volunteer we’d love to have them,” said Embroden.

Monique Ballard, the Associated Student Body Industrial Sciences and Logistics Senator, is representing the ASB for Tech-X.

“It’s a matter of getting students to get pumped up to volunteer,” Ballard said. “Any student who wants to volunteer can come see me or contact me at mm80@ymail.com.”

Chris Piercy, K-16 Bridge director, is also involved with Tech-X and is hoping to involve the high desert high school students to participate.

“Tech-X is a good opportunity for our students in middle school and high school to experience some really unique experiences at VVC,” said Piercy.

At Tech-X the motor carts will be prototypes for new eco-friendly vehicles and will be raced around the lake. Boats made out of various recyclable materials will also race in the lake. Tech-X’s goal is to bring economic, social and political sustainability for the High Desert.

College Hosts Easter Event for Community

Easter came a day early at Victor Valley College thanks to the Off-Broadway Performing Arts Club’s second annual Easter Festival on April 23. Admission was free for the event with tickets available for children’s activities, a performance by High Desert Cheer and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

This event was just one of the many times throughout the year that the VVC campus opens itself up for community events.

“The college is a central location…an area people can trust,” Off-Broadway Performing Arts Club President Bridget Chavez said. She continued by saying that it’s a “nice day for the community.”

That sentiment was also shared by the families that came out for the event.

Crystal Russom, who was attending with her two children, 12-year-old Katelyn and 7-year-old Shawn, thought it was great to open the campus to area families.

“Interesting…good for little kids, a lot of fun,” said Katelyn Russom about the morning. As for her brother Shawn Russom, he gave just three words, “I like it.”

“Easter is a time of reflection on our beliefs and family,” Mrs. Russom said.

“This was a really good thing for our community,” Valerie Shogunle said.

She was attending with her 3-year-old daughter Vanisiay and 18-month-old daughter Vivica. What she would have liked to see more of was culturally diverse food options, but the activities were a hit with Shogunle’s daughter Vanisiay.

“A bunny rabbit!” is what Vanisiay Shogunle said while pointing to the face paint on her cheek. Then showing the excitement that can only come from a child, she quickly pointed at the train ride, yelling out “choo-choo train.”

As for the Easter Bunny himself, he was just glad to be able to make the kids smile.
Student Choice Awards To Honor VVC Faculty and Staff

Nominations for the Victor Valley College forth Annual Student Choice Awards are now being accepted. The Student Choice Awards are an opportunity for students to nominate their favorite faculty and staff members to be recognized for their outstanding performance.

Anyone can be nominated, from a teacher that has taken the extra time to help students to the janitorial staff and security who keep our campus clean, safe and pleasant place to spend time.

Multiple awards will be given for Faculty and Staff of the year. The past year winners included: Tim Adell, an English teacher, David Gibbs, a biology teacher, Patty Golder, an English teacher, Paul Mount, Maintenance and Operations, Theresa Mirci-Smith, an English teacher, Deanna Murphy, Auxiliary Services, Pamela MacKay, Biology teacher and Henry Ochoa, an automotive teacher. A wide variety of staff members were represented last year and anybody working for VVC can be nominated.

You must be an enrolled student to nominate an individual and the nominee must be staff or faculty at VVC. All nominations must be received by Friday, April 29 and winners will be honored on Tuesday, May 3, 2011. To participate in the nomination process visit http://vvc.formbin.com/forms/2011_student_choice_awards to submit your nomination online. You may turn in a letter to the ASB office located on the second floor of the Student Activities Center or email Angela Perdomo at angela.perdomo@vvc.edu and Robert Sewell at Robert.sewell@vvc.edu with your name, your nominee’s name, nominee’s title or position along with a brief explanation for your nomination, including a brief description about how this person has effected your life as a VVC student.

Hands from page 1

Dustin thought that this event “brought awareness throughout the campus,” and was also glad that he and his friends could participate.

This was the first Hands Across California event to take place. Another event similar to HAC took place back in May of 1986 called Hands Across America, in which there was approximately 6.5 million people who held hands across the continental United States for 15 minutes to raise money for local charities to fight hunger, homelessness and help those in poverty. This event raised $34 million and shortly thereafter brought in $800 million in aid from the Federal Government.

Hands Across California locally raised more than $4,000 and contributions can still be made online at www.vvcfoundation.com.

VVC To Hold Cinco de Mayo Festivities

For the tenth year the High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an event at Victor Valley College to commemorate Cinco de Mayo on May 7.

There will be 65 vendors around lakes north and eastside with food, crafts and T-shirts. Three stages of live music will be setup around the North side of the Student Activities Center, outside Performing Arts Center lobby and at the bottom of the hill by the library.

People can enjoy performances from folklorico dancers, a hometown band which is called Latin Express and three singers: Pepe del Barrio, Gabriel Cervantes and Napoleon Salinas.

“I love it. It generates people to the community; to let people know that college is not for high school kids, but for older people too. It is great for kids. It shows kids their future,” said Monique Ballard (ASB Industrial and Logistics Science Senator).

At the event there will be many activities for the kids to enjoy. The Charter Communications company will have the Berenstain Bears who will be taking free pictures with kids. Employees from the Home Depot will be doing crafts and wooden boats.

“I am the coordinator of the Kids Zone. This is my 3rd year doing it. It’s really a good way for people to get out there and enjoy. It is an outreach to bring the community/ businesses together, celebrating diversity in our community, said Angela Perdomo (coordinator of VVC clubs.)

The Ready Rams Club will be standing by the Liberal Arts building where they will have face painting, balloon animals and henna tattoos.

“Come help out, gain some experience and learn about the club,” said Thomas Jimenez ReadyRams treasurer.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the event call Angela Perdomo at (760) 245-4271 extension 2495.
Writing Center’s New Workshops Help Students

Story and Photo by Garrett Johnston
Reporter

The Victor Valley College’s writing center offers workshops for any student that needs the extra help with their papers.

“It’s a new way of doing things,” Mike Wilson a tutor in the writing center said while describing how the workshop differs from the regular writing services.

The workshops are a hands-on and instructional approach to certain aspects of writing.

Each workshop is focused on one aspect of writing, from sentence combining, thesis statements, language, and pre-writing just to name a few.

Instead of students coming in sitting at a computer and writing their own work, Patricia Wagner, who runs the workshops as well as the writing center, gives out exercises that emphasize the lesson being instructed. Students do not need to fear, though, as the exercises are only for instructional purposes and are not graded.

“Not all students are in writing classes, but they have writing assignments,” Wagner said.

Students oftentimes come into the writing center asking for specific instructions on how to do one aspect of writing. With the new workshops, Wagner hopes that these will help students understand the aspect of writing that they are curious about.

“It has benefited very much,” said Richard Rodriguaz, a student attending one of the workshops, after he was asked his feeling regarding the new workshops.

“It has raised my grades,” Rodriguaz added. These workshops are designed with the students in mind.

In order to sign up for these workshops students either need to send an email to writingcenter@vvc.edu or sign in at the writing center at least half an hour to an hour before the workshop begins, though drop-ins before the workshop begins are welcome if space allows. These workshops are free to students and they are able to take each workshop as many times as they like throughout each semester when they are offered.

The workshops are being offered Monday through Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m., 6 to 7 p.m. and on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. There is also a flier in the writing center that further explains the times and what workshops are being offered and on what day.

For further details, call the writing center at (760) 245-4271 extension 2783.

Internet Censoring Is Bull#$!+

Opinion by Roscoe Esparza
Photo/Web Editor

Have you ever tried to access something on the internet that you’ve needed to assist in completing schoolwork? Well, if you’re trying to do this on one of Victor Valley College’s many public computers you may be in for a surprise.

There have been a number of instances, particularly in the Advanced Technology Building, where I, and others, have found themselves in such a dilemma. Time is short and we need to get the research or information that we need. What’s to be done when something like this happens?

There is a way to get around this specific website censor, and that’s to submit a report disputing the appropriateness of the website. This isn’t a quick fix. The website must be reviewed first. Often this gets in the way of a students work. Students trying to access various websites from their computers shouldn’t have any problems, but everyone else will have to wait.

It’s almost ridiculous when a student needs to do internet research to complete an assignment and they can’t access certain websites because VVC doesn’t consider them appropriate for viewing. Some labs on campus even block websites that require a username and password. While this may make sense to stop people from checking their Facebook pages during class hours, other sites such as e-mail hosting sites would be inaccessible under that restriction. However, like with any argument there are two sides to every story.

It is understandable why VVC would implement such measures. This is a college campus after all. It would be nice to think that all the students attending here actually acted like college students should. But there are always some that would choose to act irresponsibly on the internet and look at things they’re not supposed to, at least not on a public computer.

Continued in Restriction on page 5

Child Development Courses Offered on Campus

Story by Cassandra Ulrich
Reporter

The Child Development program at Victor Valley College offers classes for students who are looking to enter a field involving early childhood education or students who are looking to obtain a better understanding of young children.

“Career opportunities, which may require advanced degrees, include Child Development Center Administrator, Child Development Center Teacher, Child Life Specialist, Early Childhood Educational Specialist, Elementary School Teacher, Family Day Care Provider, Juvenile Worker, Nanny, Social Worker and Tutor,” according to the VVC website.

The child development classes teach “all the developmental stages from prenatal to adolescence,” child development teacher Marsha “DeeDee” Cole said.

Continued in Child on page 5
The Federal Work Study program grants opportunities to students who have financial need and want to earn a portion of their educational expenses through employment.

FWS is a financial aid award that depends on the budget given by the government with an average amount of $3,000 per school year for each student and can be used until all funds are exhausted for that year.

To qualify for the FWS program, as noted on the Financial Aid link on Victor Valley College’s website, a student must first complete their financial aid application and have a sufficient unmet need or otherwise to be eligible. Qualifying students are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 6 units and maintain a 2.0 GPA with no exceptions.

Reported by Veronica R. Manriquez; Placement Specialist for Student Employment

Restriction from page 4

What students do on their personal computers is their own business. There is just a time and place. Students in the past have been caught looking at illicit websites before and sometimes during class. This is just one of the reasons VVC has such harsh restrictions on its computers. Not only can some of the web page material be offensive, but many of these suspicious websites can damage the operating systems on computers while installing viruses, spyware and malware.

Even still, it’s unfair to the students that have done nothing wrong to have their computer usage restricted because of the actions of a few. Some students don’t have the luxury of a personal laptop, or a computer to use at home, and they rely on the labs here on campus to do their work.

Unfortunately, weighing the pros and cons of internet restriction on college campuses won’t solve anything. Both sides have their valid arguments that support their position. It’s just that everyone suffers because of the restrictions. I know that it’s amazingly inconvenient to have these restrictions in place. So many websites and Google searches turn up some kind of word or key phrase that is flagged as inappropriate. Since most computers on campus require some kind of log in information that can identify who is surfing the web and where, I would think it would make much more sense to punish those responsible and closely monitor web activity as it occurs rather than simply lock out aspects of the internet. Yes, this would require more work on your part VVC. Deal with it. First and foremost, the students’ education should take priority. Censoring the internet does very little more than hinder this. Since punishments are already in place for those who violate the rules of the computer labs, this should serve as a warning to those who choose to misuse the computers.

Work Study Program Aids Students In Financial Need

Story and Photo by Tiandra Bullock

The Federal Work Study program aids students who have financial need and want to earn a portion of their educational expenses through employment, the new cycle for FWS begins July 1 of every school year; jobs are then distributed on a first come, first serve basis. FWS is available throughout fall and winter and spring semesters excluding summer due to extremely limited funds.

The FWS program can be accessed through the college’s website under the quick links section of Financial Aid. On the Financial Aid home page, there is a menu to the left. Select the link Federal Work Study which will take you to the home page for the program. There you will find a thorough guide for searching and applying for FWS as well as a link that reads, “Access Online System Now”, which will open the Student Employment home page.

FWS posts active jobs including on-campus and off-campus employment and encourages all students to search for off-campus employment as well. The program provides schedule accommodation, meeting half way with the student and the departments need.

For detailed instructions and additional employment opportunities, Manriquez provides a first time log in packet and a book of recent job listings which can be picked up and viewed in Building 50 Monday through Thursday before 5 p.m.

The goal for the FWS program is to employ students, finance educational expenses and to acquire work experience to benefit the student’s future careers. For future events and additional information, please search the FWS website or contact Veronica Manriquez at (760) 245-4721 ext. 2244.

There are eight core classes offered at VVC according to Cole and all of them are compatible with other community colleges within the state.

She explained that when a student starts out in the program they take more classes in which they observe the children. The higher they get within the program the more hands-on it becomes and the more they get to work with them.

VVC offers three different types of certificates of achievement. These include a level I, II and III, according to the Child Development Program Student handbook, which is offered on the college’s website.

“These classes involve a hands-on active approach because that’s how kids learn,” Cole said.

Even if a student’s goal is not to enter the field of early childhood education, they might find these classes helpful if they are interested in learning about young children.

“I took a child development class after I found out I was pregnant with my daughter Hayden, so I could feel a little more prepared when I had her. Soon after she was born, I took another because I enjoyed it so much,” student Nicole Springer said.

Some students end up taking the classes for a requirement or just to add more units and end up truly liking the subject.

“I took my first child development class just to get a few extra units, and because it seemed interesting. I have now decided to become a teacher because I liked the class,” student Katie Miller said.
Campus Diversity: Transfer Difficulties Lead To Major Rewards

For Victor Valley College student, Kyle Rich, the University of California, Davis has been on his mind since his freshman year of high school. Now two years into his college career, Rich will be transferring to UC Davis in the fall.

“I wanted to go to Davis since my freshman year of high school, and I am now, so I’m happy,” said Rich, an animal biology major.

Rich, has had his sights set on the UC system for years, he says that the cost of going to a university would have been too much for him right out of high school.

“I didn’t want to go to VVC in the first place, but it saves a lot of money to go to a community college first. VVC’s good in the sense that it helped save me a lot of money, but beyond that I want to go to a UC; I want to go to a good school.”

After finishing his first semester at VVC, Rich was determined to transfer onto a four year university. He stuck to the IGETC (Interssegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) form, and he filled out the Transfer Admissions Guarantee or TAG requirements. And instead of taking “fun classes” he buried his nose in his books and “did basically everything (he) could to guarantee (he’d) be going to Davis,” Rich said.

Like Rich, Katie Campbell is set to transfer in the fall of 2011. Campbell has been accepted into California State University, San Bernardino. There she plans to major in theater.

“For Campbell, coming to VVC first has also helped because the transfer center on campus has helped her get admitted into the school she wanted. “The resources here are kinda nice for San Bernardino. They’re all set up to help register for the website, and it was actually really helpful here. They tell you what you need and how to get there,” Campbell said.

However, according to the VVC transfer site, only 46 VVC students were admitted into the UC system in the 2008-2009 school year. And for the 2009-2010 school year, 190 VVC students were accepted into a four-year Cal State Universities.

According to transfer counselor Lorena Dorn, those numbers aren’t very high given the entire VVC population of more than 10,000 FTES, according to the VVC website.

“I know that there are other community colleges that have higher transfer rates, and a lot of those colleges are located in areas where there are more four-year options for students,” Dorn said.

Dorn believes the more rural setting of VVC is a factor in the college’s lower transfer rate. With fewer four-year options around for students, moving on takes more than just good grades.

“Up here in the high desert, our largest public universities are at least 45 minutes away. So someone either has to commute to make (transferring) happen, or move,” Dorn said.

Still, location is only one factor that prevents students from their goals of going to a four-year university—Jared Osburn, another VVC student, is proof of this.

Osburn is an animation student. He creates animated commercials for the movie theater Ultra Star in Apple Valley while also working the floor at the theater. His long work hours and the long drive to Apple Valley from Phelan along with his full-time school schedule became too much for Osburn.

“I actually just dropped two of my courses this semester, because I decided to put my emphasis on my art and animation,” Osburn said. “But that also means that I’m only going to get my degree here now and I’m still trying to figure out what I’m going to do.”

Osburn had planned on transferring with his girlfriend, Campbell, to CSUSB in the fall. But, because of his demanding schedule transferring next semester wasn’t attainable.

“It became kind of overwhelming”, "full time school, full time work, plus commuting out to Apple Valley at least five days a week” said Osburn. “I kinda crashed; I went overboard.”

Osburn isn’t alone in having a difficult time transferring. The low transfer rates for VVC show that although transferring is possible, it isn’t as easy as it looks.

“I think there’s a lot of students who they would like to transfer and they’re on the path to transfer but less that actually do complete that,” Dorn said.

The reality that students may have to uproot their lives to transfer, or that working full time and going to school full time is too demanding to be able to transfer in a timely manner keeps many students from their transfer goals.

And even for the ones who do obtain that admissions letter the road to transferring is a lot of work, but according to Campbell, it’s worth it.

“The hardest part about transferring is I guess just working so constantly,” Campbell said. “I encourage people to transfer. University is an adventure and it seems like a worthy one.”
Activists Close Mouths To Open Minds

Not content to sit on the sidelines, Activists Anonymous orchestrated a Day of Silence to both raise awareness about the plights of the children in Uganda and to show the clubs solidarity with the cause.

Invisible Children is a documentary about the impressment of unwilling young children into the army of Joseph Kony, who is the leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA has been locked in a struggle with the Ugandan People’s Defense Force for over 20 years.

“The day of silence was about getting the public to know about the children in Africa who are forced into war,” said Sarah Kelly, Activists Anonymous’ newest member, in an e-mail.

Walking with duct tape covering their mouths not only served as symbolism, but it also had a real utility for some.

“I taped my mouth because if I hadn’t I would have been accidentally speaking all day! It also brought more attention to the fact that I wasn’t speaking,” Michelle Freeland, President of Activists Anonymous said.

However, Kelly felt that people became aware of Invisible Children more so through social websites such as Facebook than through actual physical efforts. But Freeland believes that people are actually more apathetic when they hear about such causes through the media instead.

“When you see someone taking action in person it helps them realize that ending a war isn’t beyond our capabilities. If we all get involved, if we all tell just one person about it, there is a butterfly effect that really can change the world,” Freeland said.

To further garner additional interest, Activists Anonymous is hosting a screening of Invisible Children on May 6.

“The screening is a continuation of the event to try to follow up and keep people interested,” Nathan Aronson, Vice President of Activists Anonymous said.

Students interested in joining Activists Anonymous may e-mail them at VVCActivistAnonymous@gmail.com or attend a club meeting, which takes place on the first and third Fridays of the month upstairs in the Student Activities Center.
Reality Rocks Expo Showcases TV's Biggest Stars

Love it or hate it we live in a culture where many people are obsessed with reality television. Almost every channel on TV on has some short of reality show playing. There are reality shows about weight loss, singing, dancing, getting married, cooking, rehab and even animals. Whether a show is put on the air to teach, entertain or inspire all of these shows satisfy a purpose.

As a person who is obsessed with the world of reality TV, the weekend of April 9 and 10, I was fortunate enough to attend a Reality Rocks Expo in Los Angeles.

At this expo, I met hundreds of reality stars from various reality shows. The expo showcased some of the biggest names in reality TV from shows such as The Bachelor, Big Brother, American Idol, So You Think You Can Dance, Amazing Race, Ghost Hunters and many more.

The convention was a two day event and tickets for general admission were $35 a day or an all access pass could be purchased for $125 a day. The pass allowed VIP line access, a free souvenir book and one free workshop.

During the course of the event, several stars had booths set up where fans could speak to them, get autographs or take photos. One of the reality stars in attendance was Jessica Koussevitzky, who was one of the cast members on VH1's You're Cut Off season two, a show about spoiled wealthy girls whose parents are cutting them off.

"From doing the show, I learned patience with other personalities, to choose my battles wisely and to appreciate my family and friends daily," said Koussevitzky.

This is only one example of how reality TV has changed the lives of people.

Throughout the expo a variety of activities took place, which ranged from concerts, auditions, question and answer panels, workshops and hands on exhibits. Several past American Idol contestants performed throughout the event.

Cast members of the show, So You Think You Can Dance, answered questions for fans and then did a dance tutorial in which fans learned a routine and then got on stage and performed it.

"People feel like part of the show. It's something that is real, and true and honest. It doesn't matter if you know a pirouette from your right foot," said Rand's band, Juke Kartel performing for the fans.

"It was fun to meet the people from my two favorite shows Pit Boss, and Pit Bulls and Parolees. that is the whole reason I came to the expo," said Fan Mindy Nevarez.

"It's incredible to see little kids who like us. It makes me happy that people can relate. Us being on this show has helped people be more open minded," said Fiala.


"People feel like part of the show. It's something that is real, and true and honest. It doesn't matter if you know a pirouette from your right foot," said Rand.

All in all the expo was a great event. There was a lack of fans in attendance, but the fans that did show were loyal to the shows they came to support.

"Win It and a Minute to Think You Can Dance contestants teach fans some dance moves at the Reality Rocks Expo.

"It was fun to meet the people from my two favorite shows Pit Boss, and Pit Bulls and Parolees. that is the whole reason I came to the expo," said Fan Mindy Nevarez.

Nobody knows what's next in the phenomenon of reality TV, but whether you like it or not it's not something that will be going away anytime soon.
Grateful Dead Movie Impresses Fans

Cinemark, in partnership with Rhino and Fathom Events presented, “The Grateful Dead Movie Event” to a theater full of fans on April 20. “The Grateful Dead Movie Event” was composed of footage from a concert that took place in the fall of 1974, as well as interviews with fans and band members.

The movie started with band members Jerry Garcia and Bob Weir being interviewed about their motivation behind the music. There was a brief interlude before the movie launched into an animation of a space pinball game played by a yellow martian in outer space. The animation was reminiscent of The Beatles’ Yellow Submarine, which was very colorful and psychedelic.

The game morphed into the skeletal Uncle Sam, that was made iconic by The Grateful Dead, riding his motorcycle through a trippy desert scene. As he drove on the images flashed and changed more frantically as well as the sounds, mixing static with pieces of songs and random noises such as phones ringing, and dog’s barking adding to the cacophony of the scene.

The pace of the movie became more chaotic, the images flashing and the music beeping until finally it broke into song. Jerry Garcia’s voice came though singing U.S. Blues, the first song of the evening. The concert went on from there the band played many favorites with brief interludes of interviews and footage from behind the scenes.

Long time Grateful Dead fan, Lasha Dalton, described the music as powerful and being able to see the movie on the big screen felt like a near religious experience. Dalton has attended a handful of Grateful Dead concerts and described the experience as a pure human connection and she felt that the movie captured that same energy.

Joy and Tom Phillips, a couple, came dressed in full Grateful Dead regalia, and were smiling and glowing as they came out of the theater. The Phillips have been Grateful Dead Fans for thirty-seven years and have attended over 100 live concerts and said that they had thoroughly enjoyed the movie, and like Dalton, felt that it did the live performance justice.

“I own this movie but seeing it on the big screen really took me back, just being that surrounded by the music took me back to a really good place” said Melisa Whitehall, another long time fan.

Not being of the Grateful Dead generation, but having the opportunity to see them play in a theater equipped with a quality stereo system as opposed to out of tiny laptop speakers was truly amazing. It was a great experience to be able to feel the music and see the fan culture in action.

"There is nothing like a Grateful Dead concert," fan Whitehall said. “Not just because of the music. No, the people make the concert. It’s just like everyone loves the music and we love each other and you can feel the connection and energy when you get a lot of us together. Deadheads really are just a breed of their own, they’re so down to earth and relaxed and just truly amazing people, but we’re not afraid to have a little fun and we can party with the best of them.”

This movie truly accomplished all it set out to do; fans that had attended a real concert thought that the movie did it justice. There was enough of the passion that makes a Grateful Dead concert such a unique event was captured on film that the movie will possibly live on for many generations of Grateful Dead fans to enjoy.

Story by
Sky Martinez
Reporter
Fast Five Keeps Pace With Previous Installments

Review by Phillip Phan
Reporter

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The newest addition to the Fast and the Furious series, “Fast Five” keeps with tradition by offering a high-octane cocktail of cars, random explosions and beautiful women.

Fast Five begins where Fast and Furious left off. Dominic Toretto, played by Vin Diesel, is found guilty of criminal charges and is promptly sentenced to incarceration. Officer Brian O’Connor, played by Paul Walker, leads an attempt to free Toretto while he is en route to prison. Successful, the story moves to the South American city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where they try to flee from United States law enforcement.

Once in Rio, they meet an old friend who is immediately recognizable to many as Vince, played by Matt Schulze, one of the original characters from the first Fast and the Furious. Desperate for money, O’Connor and Mia Toretto, played by Jordana Brewster, accept an offer to help Vince and some unknown associates steal three cars from a train. There they reunite with Dominic, who for some reason, decides to take a car for themselves, which angers the people who employed them.

With a crime boss who wants them dead for double-crossing, the old crew is in deeper trouble than they have ever been. Dwayne Johnson enters the series as Luke Hobbs, a formidable and imposing federal agent who was sent to capture Toretto. To help them, familiar allies and friends are called upon.

If you’ve seen any of the other films in the Fast and the Furious series, you’d know that automotive technical goof-ups are usually a given. The memory of intake welds blowing up or floorboards undoing themselves and falling off from too much nitrous drew grins from everyone who remembered the first film. Surprisingly there were very few mistakes. In fact, automotive jargon is absent throughout the entire film.

Fast Five really had nothing for the gearheads. Sure there were some very nice and impressive vehicles to be seen, but they were not really part of the plot as they were previously. The trademark underground street racing scene, which was a huge part of previous plots, lasted no more than a few minutes and was a speed bump to the overall story.

The camera work was nauseating. Lately, shaky camera movement and eye-twisting angle changes seem to be in vogue, as films such as “Transformers” employ the same type of queasy camerawork.

In particular, the fight scene between Toretto and Hobbs was the worst. The only thing you can truly comprehend is that two men are in some sort of violent struggle. Though the fight between Hobbs and Toretto, who were practically demigods, was as epic as the classical duel between Hector and Achilles the camerawork ultimately lead to a much diminished feeling of excitement and utter confusion.

Overall, the acting was fairly good. Tyrese Gibson, who played Roman Pearce, delivered his punch lines very naturally and had the audience amused and laughing.

Musicians Tego Calderon and Don Omar, who played Tego Leo and Rico Santos, respectively, performed extremely well. You could not tell that they were not full-time professional actors. The worst performance came from a very odd source, Dwayne Johnson.

Although his acting career has come a long way, you still can’t help but feel that he has carried over some very bad habits from his WWE wrestling days. From the way he walks talks and carries himself, he is still very much The Rock. In some scenes you can almost feel as if Johnson would forget where he was, cock his eyebrow and ask straight into the camera if they knew what he was cooking and then promptly rock-bottom a nearby bystander.

For all its faults, the film really redeemed itself with a massive and unrelenting dose of pure unadulterated action, which was only intermittently interrupted with cheesy one-liners and feel-good dialogue. Comedy was sprinkled carefully and expertly throughout to keep audiences entertained. The car chases were unreal, the firefights came quick and hard and there were plenty of beautiful women for the guys.

While not groundbreaking in the least, Fast Five is a very legitimate excuse for car guys and girls to go to the cinema and watch the automobiles they adore get blown up and thoroughly thrashed on-screen. A fairly unsophisticated plot and an excellent comedic presence help to keep dates from complaining on the way home. While not everyone likes to admit it, Fast Five has almost everything that you could possibly want in a gearhead-oriented action film. How the sixth film will exceed this one is anyone’s guess. Oh, and do stay until the credits end.
Imagine a grand scaled fantasy boiled down to its basic principles: Sex, Deception, and Murder. HBO’s “Game of Thrones” premiered on April 17 and will be in its third week, giving fans of the fantasy genre what they have been missing: Minimal flash and better storytelling.

Co-Executive Producer/ Author George RR Martin Published “A Game of Thrones” in 1996 and was hailed by Citadel Books Reviewer as “one of the best fantasies written in the last forty years, and it can stand proudly up there right next to The Lord of the Rings.”

“It’s an epic fantasy. At the core of it there is a conflict for power,” said Martin during an interview in HBO’s “Inside a game of thrones.”

The Live HBO television adaptation of the first book “Game of Thrones” runs parallel with the book eliminating the novel’s techniques. The sectioned POVs (point of views) were written to aid a picture of both main and side characters. Plus the guess work how and where events overlap is non existent. Filmed, the characters are given a more honest portrayal of the characters.

“It has love, and betrayal, greed and murder,” said Peter Dinklage (Actor of Tyrion Lannister) in the short HBO presentation “Inside a Game of Thrones”.

With rich characters at the center of the story, new comers to the genre as well story will surely be captivated and intrigued with the various base stories. Played by Sean Bean, Eddard “Ned” Stark is the Hero of the series who at the core is one of the few characters with any sense of honor. Cersie Lannister, played by “300” Lena Headey, is the main antagonist of the series whose power-hungry quest for the iron throne has push her to the brink of killing anybody who stands in her way.

“Without the costumes it could actually be contemporary life. It’s about people, caring, loving, fighting, hating,” said Actress Michelle Fairley (Catelyn “Cat” Stark) in regards to the scale and direction of the tale.

Along with a tall cast of actors such as Mark Addy of “The Order” and Peter Dinklage of “The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian”, New Actors have taken on some powerful roles. Kit Harington adorns the black of the Nightswatch and fills the role of Jon Snow while Emilia Clarke takes on the role of the young barbarian queen of the outcasted house Daenerys “Dany” Targaryen.

“A Game of Thrones is a fantasy world and there is magic. But it’s not about monsters. It’s about humans,” said Executive producer/ writer, David Benioff. With this in mind the crew went to great length to shoot the varied environments that the novel illustrated. For this, the series was shot in Northern Ireland and the island of Malta where viewers can travel from old forests of the north to the rich city of Kingslanding. A detail, not explained in the book but worth mentioning was that the creators of the series felt the Barbarian people, the Dothraki, should have their own language. For this, they hired David J. Peterson of Berkley University and the Language Creation Society in order to bring the language to life.

The Epic book series “A Song of Ice and Fire” is coming to a close on July 12 with the Novel, “A Dance with Dragons.” Till then fans and newcomers to the genre would have to settle with the show. To be honest: it’s not a bad substitute for a series that actually rivals “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy. Few live action adaptations actually rival the books and HBOs “Game of Thrones” does at every corner.

“When you play the game of thrones you either win or you die. There is no middle ground”, said the fictional character Cersie Lannister.
Lady Rams Softball Finish Third In Conference

The women's softball team at Victor Valley College had a winning season this year. They ended with 20 wins, 12 losses and 1 tie. They were third in their conference.

Story and Photos by Cassandra Ulrich
Reporter

and had some great games throughout the season. Some of these included games in which they beat Chaffey, San Diego City and Ventura, Ventura being their first game of the year, according to Coach Donell Thomas.

This year there were even stolen base records broken by the VVC team.

“We’ve stolen the most in our conference,” said Thomas.

Though winning is important to the team, good grades are equally important in their eyes.

“Academics are one of the most important things,” said Thomas who is also a full time teacher at Victor Valley High School.

Some of the girls are able to keep their grades up in school, and participate in games and work.

Alexandra (Alex) Sanchez attends work after practices and yet maintained a high batting average within the conference, according to ccaa.org

Some players will be leaving after this season to advance to a four year school and they are getting a lot of calls from local schools as well as schools from across the country looking to have some of them join their teams.

Some will even be visiting a school in Kansas together to see how they feel about it.

“I want to see how I like it and if I like how it’s run,” said Sanchez speaking highly about her upcoming trip to Kansas.

“I’m talking to a couple of schools to see what my options are,” said player Breanna Schuh who also played for Granite Hills High School’s softball team all four years, though she said that she likes college softball more because it is more competitive.

“It was a small team but we pulled through,” said Sanchez.

Because it was a smaller team the girls were able to become close to one another, possibly more than if it was a larger team.

“This is our second family,” said Schuh.

The team is always looking for some new players who are willing to practice hard and keep up their grades, according to Thomas.

“This program is just going to keep getting better and better,” said Sanchez.

Rams Baseball Finish Disappointing Season

Being the last home game of the season with just two away games remaining for the Victor Valley Rams baseball team, they sure knew how to go out with a bang for their home crowd.

VVC didn’t have much to play for going into this game but play for pride and give their starting pitcher, Michael Potter, his first win of the season. Shortstop Zac Bilsland said, “We had to give Potter a win right there.” From start to finish the Rams played strong baseball, scoring a total of 11 runs in the game.

Chaos began in the first inning for Cerro Coso as they scored a run during a pickle, giving the Coyotes a 1-0 lead in the first inning.

The Rams answered back in the bottom of the first with five runs of their own. A pitching change would follow for the Cerro Coso Coyotes, replacing their starting pitcher Trent Blackwater for Jory Potter.

Heading into the third inning, the Coyotes seemed to find their groove as Cerro Coso player, Mykol Sostarich, singled to right field. Soon thereafter, Sostarich attempted to steal second base,
but a wild throw by VVC Catcher Thomas McCarty made its way to center field, allowing Sostarich to score an unearned run. The scoring wouldn’t stop there for the Coyotes as two more players would score, cutting the Rams’ lead to 5-4. The inning ended after that as Cerro Coso player Luis Francisco was caught stealing second for the final out. From there on out it was a back and forth game as the Rams tried pulling away, but the Coyotes would find ways to stay in the game. The eighth inning is where things started to come together for the VVC Rams.

Despite being up 9-7 heading into the eighth inning, the Rams felt the need to secure the win. It began on a single to center field by Jonny Sanabria. Next up was Zac Bilsland who went 4-5 with 4 RBIs for the day, also belting the ball to center field for a double. With a man now on second and third, Brian Lane would smack a shot to center field, bringing in two Rams players to make it 11-7 in favor of the Rams.

The Coyotes knew it was do or die time for them heading into the last inning of the game, but the Rams were able to hold them to one run to close out the game. “Scoreboard says it all,” said Coach Jesus Beltran after the game. Cerro Coso coach Billy Montgomery declined to comment.

In their final double-header on April 28 the Rams won one of two against the Coyotes. VVC finished the season 8-24, but look forward to a better season next year.
How would you feel about paying a small fee to have a health clinic on campus?

“Sure, if there’s something wrong with me I’d go.” – Aubrey Stammerjohan

“No, it doesn’t seem right. They should be paid by their employers.” – Lindsey Kaleikau

“I think I would pay for it. If I don’t feel good during class I don’t want to go down to the hospital.” - Monica Macias

— Chris Peatrowsky Reporter
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Printing: Victor Valley College Campus Print Shop

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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.

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

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Presents

ALMOST, MAINE

Written by
John Cariani

“Almost, Maine is ... a play about real people who are really, truly, honestly dealing with the toughest thing there is to deal with in life: love.” John Cariani

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Almost, Maine is set on a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lives hover in the star-filled sky above, Almost’s residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend – almost – in this delightful midwinter night’s dream. This touching comedy has adult situations and in it and would make it inappropriate for children to attend.