California Governor, Jerry Brown, proposed a budget in Jan. 2012 that will make it difficult for the Child Development Program and its administration to stay afloat. Brown’s proposal states that beginning in 2013 $517 million from child care and developmental programs will be cut, leaving 62,000 children without access to child care.

These budget cuts will force community colleges to reduce their number of courses and ultimately deny students from taking these classes. According to Marsha Cole, a child development instructor, students majoring in Child Development face limited “child care assistance.” If this keeps spiraling down, child development departments will no longer have an on-campus program that fulfills the required course work of current students. Future students will also have difficulty accessing their desired classes at a timely manner.

"Many college students would no longer be eligible for child care assistance and the high quality child development labs," said Cole.

More than 160,000 children are now without child care since 2008 from an already more than one billion dollars in cuts. Due to high costs of child care, the proposal targets these programs first. In accordance with their main goal, the CDP is a lab center, stating that "children are at the heart of the program." As part of the California Early Childhood Mentor Program, VVC as well as other lab schools set a standard for other child care centers.

Due to the high cost of care for infants and toddlers, labs are being closed resulting in lower opportunities for students to graduate and receive their certificates.

"Grants have even dried up," said Kelley Johnson, director of the Child Development Center.

With budget cuts affecting all programs, students now face an increasing cost on textbooks and courses. From what used to cost less than $50 per course, now costs more than $100, limiting students' chances to apply.

During the 2011-2012 year, more than half a dozen lab schools in California were shut down. "We are very grateful that this program is still running," said Johnson. The CDP faces financial decisions in the future to make this program survive.

"It's not going to be easy… It reduces staff and therefore reduces children and student enrollment," said Johnson.

The CDP is currently operating at minimal staff which is not enough to maintain the lab in working condition.

"Many of these centers will be forced to raise their rates," Cole said.

The center has already been making efforts to make the program stand out and stay alive. Parents are getting involved with the CDP, have developed a letter campaign informing the government which areas are in most need.
VVC to Remain on Academic Probation for Another Year

Story by Micah Raimo
News Editor

Victor Valley College will remain on accreditation probation until March of 2013 as the best plausible outcome to the draft presented to the accreditation board, giving VVC no more than one year to address outstanding issues, according to Accreditation Consultant Dr. Matthew Lee.

In March 2011, VVC was first placed on accreditation probation by the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges for repeating offences. Some offences went as far back as 1997. Because of VVC’s track record, the ACCJC gave VVC one year to fix some outstanding issues.

“I think that there is more that needs to be done. Nobody is an island no matter how much they think they are. There’s no time to slack. There’s no room for relaxation,” said VVC Board of Trustees Member Michael Krause. “Everyone needs to make 110 percent effort. The students and the faculty have to work together in order for a better climate.”

VVC Associated Student Body 2010-2011 President Judy Schmoll agreed. “Students that complain and don’t do anything to make changes should instead go to committee meetings to become involved in the decision making process at VVC,” said Schmoll. “Students have to care about what is happening on the campus and they have to be proactive. The student voice needs to be heard in order for it to be listened to.”

According to the accreditation report, VVC is well aware of its shortcomings that were pointed out by the evaluation team. “Campus environment of empowerment, innovation, and institutional excellence’ and a ‘culture of respect, civility, dialogue and trust’ have suffered for many years from leadership turnover, [accompanied by a] lack of institutional direction and unity.”

Under the Analysis and Resolution section of the draft: Last year’s inspection the campus climate has improved in enhanced communication, more effective committee processes, and greater clarity in institutional planning and decision-making processes. Thereby, all conditions have contributed to academic excellence.

“What is determined is for that the report be accurate. It has to be accurate. It has to accurately reflect exactly what state the college is in prospective to the recommendations. And this is the last chance for that to happen,” Lee said.

Dr. Lee stressed that the symposium between him and the students would be the last of several meetings he has had several meetings with unions and staff. VVC’s ASB was not short of questions about the accreditation process.

Krause who spoke at the Board meeting on March 13, wondering if the anonymous opinions expressed in the report would negatively affect the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges judgment on VVC’s accreditation status. Lee answered assuring the board that the highest plausible outcome could be an extension.

“We never know which way the accreditation team is going to go. I like to know what both sides of the story are,” said Krause. VVC will be visited at least five more times before approval of the additional year.

ATC Building to Begin Charging Five Cents Per Print Out

Story by Desiree Rollins
Reporter

Currently students are able to use the computers in the Advanced Technology Center to print out up to 10 copies a day without charge. Unfortunately, the cost of paper and toner is beginning to add up. In order for the ATC to continue the convenience of printing, they are going to start charging students five cents per copy.

The Board of Trustees just approved this new rule and will begin preparations during the upcoming spring break.

According to Frank A. Smith, Executive Dean of Technology and Information resources, who was one of the many people involved in coming up with a solution for the problem, said it is an economic issue.

VVC tried to implement this rule last winter, but could not decide how they would go about it. Just in the ATC building approximately 80,000 pages are printed each month.

“Half of those copies are wasted,” said Smith.

Around $4,000 is spent a year for toner and paper. Students are not currently required to help with this cost. Some students are willing to pay the five cents and other students think that financial aid should be covering any expenses that have to do with paper, books, pencils and all school supplies.

“I print at least 10 pages a day and I have a lot of school expenses and non-related school expenses and if I add this expense it will just complicate things,” said Fidela Miranda a full-time Victor Valley College student.

Kelly Laosy, a VVC student, said she would not mind paying the five cents in a state of emergency.

Students will have to set up an account, and then have to use their Higher One debit cards. If they do not have money on the card, they will have to add two to three dollars. Students cannot just add 10 cents to their account if they just wanted to print out two copies.
Campus Police Battle Graffiti and Vandalism

Story by Keith Diamond
Reporter

There have been 17 reports of vandalism on campus in 2012. “Our trend is saying that we are going to have more at the end of the year but, it could smooth out the rest of the year,” said Police Chief Leonard Knight.

“In 2010 sixteen reports and 2011 21 vandalism reports were recorded according to the VVC Campus Police website. If this keeps on trend the reports of vandalism will make years past look bleak in comparisons.

“Students say that they have noticed an increase in graffiti on campus in the restrooms and at the Jacaranda bus stop. “It’s a blatant disregard for school property,” said Angela Perdomo ASB Student Services Senator. “It’s disappointing,” said VVC students Scott Stacy.

“We are all supposed to be adult college students.”

No arrests have been made but they do have some leads. “We are working with the Sheriff’s Department to resolve some of our graffiti issues,” said Knight. “Last year we sent one of our officers to gang school to interact with them and address some of our higher issues.”

Police said when you work with the local Sheriff’s Department you gain access to their knowledge and see if the two agencies can apprehend some of these criminals that deface our campus.

Campus police would like to ask if students find any graffiti on campus, please report it to the nearest VVC staff member. By students reporting it in a timely manner police can narrow these occurrences down to the times of day they are happening. The campus police phone number is 760-245-4271 ext. 2555.

Correction: In the March 9th edition of the RamPage Officer D.H. Jones was misquoted. Campus police are unsure of who is responsible for the vandalism on campus.

Scan with your smart phone to go to our website

Graffiti continues to plague bathroom stalls. Photo by Keith Diamond.

Broken glass outside of the Academic Commons building. Photo by Keith Diamond.

Tagging damages on parking sign on campus. Photo by Keith Diamond.
ASB Petitions for Lowering Independent Age for Financial Aid

Story by Daniel Compean
Reporter

The Associated Student Body met in Washington, D.C. at the American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) conference from March 15 to March 20 to lobby for the lowering of the independent age from 24-years-old to 21-years-old.

“There are a lot of students here who qualify, in my opinion, as financially independent students,” said ASB Secretary Caitlyn Gempler, “They’re working, living on their own, but because they’re not 24 or older they’re not getting funding from the state. If they can’t have access to loans, then that leaves them in a position where they can’t go to college.”

An independent student is currently defined as an individual who is 24 years of age or older, an orphan, a veteran, a graduate student or professional student, married, have legal dependents other than a spouse such as children, or a student with special circumstances such as abandonment or physical abuse. Owning your own residence and not being financially dependent on your parents alone does not qualify a student as independent if none of the requirements are met.

According to ASB’s presentation on lowering the independent age, 39 percent of students who attend community colleges are under the age of 20. Nearly half of community college students are considered to be dependent students. A dependent student must report their parent’s tax income, regardless of whether they are living with them, which results in less money from financial aid.

“Right now, especially in today’s economy, many students aren’t able go to college or be full time students, because they have to work to go to school and go to school to get work,” said ASB Student Development and Language Senator Darcie Wasinger.

ASB gave their presentation on lowering the independent age on March 17, followed by a workshop on March 18 while speaking with State Representatives about the topic.

If the issue is made a priority at the ASACC level, other schools at the conference will be speaking to their State Representatives. A total of 45 votes were required for the issue to be made a priority. Lowering independent age issue missed priority by 5 votes.

While in Washington, D.C., ASB presented their petition to ASACC. Ohio State Representative Nina Turner signed ASB’s petition. Turner was also a key note speaker at the conference, advocating for the lowering of independent age.

ASB plans to continue to advocate for the cause.

“Lowering the independent age would break down the barriers to access for higher education,” said Wasinger.

Students interested in advocating for lowering the independent age can sign the petition at www.signon.org/lower-the-independent, and visit Facebook pages such as www.facebook/24to21. For additional information about ASACC or lowering independent age, students can visit www.asacc.org or www.ussstudents.org.

News in Brief

- Spring 2012 Campus Tours: Students must be enrolled in Spring classes, at least one. Sign up three weeks in advance of the trip in the transfer center. The next available tour will be Cal State University Fullerton, Friday April 20th.

- Native American Student Association (NASA) club meetings Wednesday in Student Activities Center Quiet Rooms.

- Meet other Native American students, be a part of the VVC Pow Wow on June 2, 2012.

- Prepare today, transfer tomorrow. Transfer Awareness Week – Part 1 March 26-30th in Advanced Technology Center building room 170/171. The first meeting will be March 26 3:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. in room 170. Times and rooms may vary.

- Career workshops: City Year Information sessions Monday March 26, 11:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- Seminar on refinancing home mortgages in today’s market on March 27 5:30p.m. – 6:30p.m. in Student Activities Center, room A.

— Briefs compiled by Jonathan Giddens
First Ever Transfer Awareness Week Coming to VVC

Story by Daniel Compean
Reporter

The Counseling Center will be hosting a Transfer Awareness week with workshops on transferring daily from March 26 to March 30 in Building 21, Room 171.

“It lets them know what their options are when it comes to being well informed in knowing what classes they need to take to be competitive,” said Transfer Counselor Lorena Ochoa.

Transfer awareness workshops had originally been available for only one day and to Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) students. This is the first time a week long event has been held at Victor Valley College.

The lectures will help students looking to transfer learn the basic requirements that different universities are looking for. California State and University of California schools typically require a minimum of 60 units for acceptance; private and out of state schools may have different requirements, however.

Ochoa will be speaking at three of the workshops on March 26, 29 and 30. EOPS Counselor Fontella Grimes will be speaking on March 27, followed by Admissions counselor Kyle Quarles from Cal State San Bernardino.

On March 26, a presentation will be held detailing the basics of transferring. General information such as basic protocol for transferring to a four year university, what classes are transferrable and how many units are required for transferring, will be given.

The workshop on March 27 will help prepare students to do the proper research before attending their selected school. The presentation will include choosing the right school for your program, attending tours of the campus, and general preparation for transferring.

“It is so important to be prepared before you transfer to any school. Don’t waste time and money. If you even think you want to transfer, talk to your counselor,” said Grimes.

Quarles will be speaking at the workshop on March 28 specifically to students who are considering transferring to Cal State San Bernardino.

The presentation on March 29 will be focusing on the differences between a CSU and a UC school.

The final workshop on March 30 will cover general info for transferring to a private university. The presentation will briefly cover out of state colleges but will mostly be focusing on private universities.

“Knowledge is power. Utilize this office and ask questions to make transfer smoother. It’s better to come in and be proactive,” said Transfer Center Associate Kevin Barda.

For more information, visit the transfer center in the counseling office or call at (760) 245-4271 (ext. 2139).
New Certificate to Help Students Map Future

Story by Kevin Hunzeker
Reporter

An exciting program is in its second semester at Victor Valley College and offers a certificate preparing students for careers in Emergency Management.

The Geographic Information Systems for Emergency Response and Management offers a certificate that can be earned after taking 13 units of required courses. The required classes include: Geographic Information Systems for Emergency Management and Government Services 1 and 2, Introduction to Geographic Science and Introduction to Emergency Management.

Geographic Information Systems integrates hardware, software and link data for displaying, analyzing and managing information. In an emergency, GIS helps with the efficiency of scenarios such as distribution of resources and search rescue. Computer Integrated Design and Graphics Department Chair Claude Oliver referred to the GIS program as “one of the new frontiers for our students.”

Josh Briggs is a teacher in the GIS program. Briggs has done GIS work for the United States Army in the past, and currently works for the Science Applications International Corporations. In his GIS 1 class, the focus is to teach students how to use the ArcGIS software for mapping and analysis. ArcGIS is used by most major companies on a daily basis. Students are introduced to concepts and follow step by step tutorials that help them learn the software. Briggs also tries to implement many relevant real world examples in his teachings.

“The class is interesting, but kind of hard to understand at first,” said student David Granillo, who is in the class to meet a requirement for his nursing major. Granillo is considering taking the rest of the required classes in order to earn the certificate.

Students gain useful experience whether they receive the GIS certificate or just take one class.

“Just from one class you have experience in lots of industries,” said Briggs. With a background in GIS students can receive preferential hiring and earn more money in the workforce. The GIS program offers courses that prepare students to work in career fields such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Homeland Security, The Fire Department and more.

More information on the GIS certificate can be found at www.vvc.edu.com.

City of Victorville Prepares to Build a Bridge Over VVC Lake

Story by Kelli McGurk
Managing Editor

Since Victor Valley College built their grounds around a beautiful man-made lake, many students and staff have been petitioning the maintenance department and the city of Victorville to build a bridge over the lake. Those voices have been heard thanks to a small but generous donation from an Apple Valley billionaire and architect Adrian Felipe Dominguez.

Dominguez grew up in Central America and as a young man became fascinated by architecture. Dominguez’s father wanted him to follow in his footsteps and become a monk, but he had other plans for himself. He came to the United States to obtain a degree in architecture. He attended UCLA where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Architecture then he received a Master of Architecture from UC Berkeley. He returned to Central America with the knowledge he gained in the U.S. to start building bridges. He is most well-known for his architectural work in his homeland of Bolivia.

Dominguez currently resides in Apple Valley on his eleven acre property. His donation came out of the blue; he has lived in the High Desert since his return but this is the first time he has ever contacted the college about wanting to help out with a bridge.

“I have a dream of leaving behind a legacy. And this is how I do it,” Dominguez said. “People will look at my bridges years from now, and be able to say ‘Adrian Felipe Dominguez designed that’.”

Because Dominguez is the sole benefactor of the VVC campus bridge, it will be his design as long as it meets the official safety requirements.

Dominguez’s name will be very large and very visible on each side of the bridge. He also likes to incorporate a very specific detail to all of his work. Etched along the bridge from beginning to end there will be black eagles.

Some may not fully appreciate Dominguez’s donation, however, many students think there are other programs that deserve more attention on campus.

“It’s a waste of resources. The only benefit would be for disabled people,” said student Audrey Brown.

“The money should go to the Bridge Program instead,” said ASB Secretary Caitlyn Murphy.

When we spoke to Dominguez about the reaction from many students and staff he wasn’t concerned and stated that he has had many meetings with Victorville city officials and plans have already been drawn up. Initial construction is scheduled to begin on April 1.
Veterans Club Works to Get New Resource Center

Story by Jonathan Giddens  
Reporter

Every day as students of Victor Valley College head into class and take their seats, the thought might never cross their mind that the classmate sitting next to them has served their country.

Wesley James, current president of VVC’s Veterans Club and former marine, joined the armed forces because of the United States effect on Guam’s liberation from Japan. Growing up on the island of Guam, this was his way of giving back. James is able to recognize a soldier without even talking to him or her. He says he has noticed at least 300 fellow vets walking around the campus.

Many students are unaware of VVC’s Veterans Club, such as Army veteran Steven Stockman. Stockman was surprised to learn about the new club that started about a year ago in March 2011.

The club is constantly seeking new members to strengthen its stance and increase their effect on the campus and surrounding community.

“We want to establish a network; a comfortable place for veterans and their dependents to go and eventually create a separate Veteran Resource Center,” said James.

The club is looking for a permanent home for the resource center where they can display resources, flyers and posters.

“In a perfect world, we would love to have enough room to also have our meetings there,” said Club Advisor and Marine Corps veteran Carl Durheim.

The Veterans Club has an idea to create a sort of safe haven for veterans to come in and feel comfortable. This is because for many soldiers the readjustment to non-active society can be troubling.

“When I returned home I almost felt like I wasn’t welcome in my own town,” Stockman said.

It’s almost a culture shock trying to adapt back to an average way of life. Restructuring does not come easily. The Veterans Club wants to be the place for their fellow veterans to come and get help and ask questions.

“There is something comforting about talking to someone else who has had similar experiences to your own,” said Durheim.

The veterans here on campus may look like average students but their demeanor is different from other students. They have a sense of pride in their nature as they sit among us, discretely. But many are still unaware of the club and what it can do for them. Another main goal of the club is to educate fellow veterans on campus of the benefits their duty has in store for them.

When serving in the military, in your first year of active duty recruits are asked if they wish to put a portion of their first year checks into a Government Issue Bill that sets money aside for school once they become non-active. Often times once ex-soldiers decide to go back to school after their service, they aren’t always aware of the process it takes to receive the benefits of the GI Bill and the VA. The club wishes to be able to inform and assist those unknowing veterans to make their transition back into non-active society as smooth as possible.

“The main purpose of the Veteran’s Club is to make sure that VVC veterans are aware of all of the services specifically designated for them. In addition, we also try to provide veterans with resources for finding jobs and getting access to other VA benefits such as disability and medical care,” said Durheim.

Any student can gain more knowledge of the Veterans Club by logging onto the college website and going to the club’s link. They are always setting up events open to VVC students and the public. A Facebook Profile will be set up hoping that if ever a veteran is in need of assistance they will be able to contact them directly through social networking.

“Being a member of the club has improved the overall school experience. It creates a network with other students and other clubs and has opened a whole new world of possibilities,” James said.

The VVC Veterans Club meets every other Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Student Activity Center.

—Additional reporting by Kelli McGurk

Roses in Concrete Motivates Educators

Story by Brandon Chiz  
Senior Editor

Roses in Concrete co-founder, Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade, spoke about hope in the education system, in the Performing Arts Center at Victor Valley College. He challenged the educators of VVC to elevate students to not only reach their potential in their classes, but reconsider their definition of success in the community.

By applying research taken from public health, social epidemiology, and psychology, Duncan-Andrade created a philosophy with the aim of a better environment—effective for urban classroom practice.

Duncan-Andrade started the program, when the Oakland Tribune’s yearly article on the location and rate of local murders were published, and observed that:"It is absurd to look at a rose that is growing in concrete and question its damaged petals," Duncan-Andrade said.

some of them were some of his own students. He began by finding inspiration from the metaphor given in “The Roses That Grew From Concrete” written from Tupac Shakur, and applied it to his class.

“It is absurd to look at a rose that is growing in concrete and question its damaged petals,” Duncan-Andrade said. "When you see someone else, you choose whether you see them as half-full or half-empty, because they're both. Tupac says instead you celebrate its tenacity and its will to reach the sun.”

Roses in Concrete commits to its conception of “critical hope,” explained through the description of three necessary elements of educational practice that produce and sustain true hope.

Continued in Roses on Page 8
Viral Video Spurs VVC Students to Start Club

Story by Ashlee Dubach
Reporter

Jospeh Kony is responsible for abducting approximately 20,000 children from their homes located in and around Uganda. The former Ugandan dictator then forces the children to kill the Lord’s Resistance Army’s (LRA) enemies. Some children are used as sex slaves while others are used as decoys or pack mules.

Much of the world didn’t know who he was but he became famous almost instantly when a newly popular documentary titled “Kony 2012” reached social network users around the world.

Kony labels himself as a Christian. On many occasions he is reported as thinking of himself as a spiritual medium. He believes that Holy Spirits talk to him through tongues and that his actions are for the good of Uganda.

The documentary caused a giant uproar in the United States about two weeks ago and continues to have a noticeable effect in the High Desert.

In this roughly 30-minute video, Kony is revealed as a villain of the world after nearly 20 years of the start of his reign. The video prompts its viewers to become active in the cause and to make Kony an infamous name. Red election-like posters with Kony’s name and face are filling social networks, street corners, and school binders. The documenter behind the video is also a key part of the Invisible Children Organization, which spearheads the Kony campaign.

Victor Valley College students have rallied together to form a “Kony Club” in response to the documentary which aims to expose the acts of Kony. Now students of VVC want to back up their promises to help these children with actions. An Invisible Children Club has been accumulating slowly at VVC since last semester.

“They are taking after the actual Invisible Children Organization,” potential club member Bernard Hernandez said. “It can’t be officially recognized until the club has a president.” The recent video, however, spurs a new interest from a broader audience. More students are now interested in making a difference for this cause.

“I don’t agree with what Joseph Kony is doing. It is cruel and unjust. The kids are helpless and there is no reason for them to be in that situation,” Hernandez said. As he looks down at his phone, a “Kony 2012” banner lights up across his screen. The question now is what will this club accomplish? Students are wondering what the main goal for the potential club is.

“Someone has to fight for the children that can’t fight for themselves. It’s a worthy cause.” She would like to see the club, “raise awareness and funds to support larger foundations that assist in putting an end to the cruelty towards helpless children,” interested student Sydney Swift said.

Many students, however, have shown doubt towards this sudden trend of Kony awareness, questioning it’s future impact.

“I’m not necessarily against the Kony movement. It’s just silly to me that some people were so into posting [on a social network] all that stuff on him. Some have never cared about world affairs before and don’t know anything about him,” student Jacinda Fernandez said.

“A lot of people complain and say we have our own problems and to make them deal with their issues, but it’s been going on for decades so obviously they need help,” VVC student Megan Bonelli said.

The club holds future potential and the interest of a growing number of participants. As numerous VVC students join forces the possibility for a big impact for this cause grows.

Roses from Page 7

The invocation of hope through modern metaphors and imagery, and his understanding of the young—by directly working with them—he motivates the students to excel.

"It was amazing, this guy is going to motivate our education system, by teaching others to change the world one person at a time," said Social Science Senator, Christina Kulasxa.

Duncan-Andrade's short-term goal is to create a center within the school will that function as the center within the neighborhoods surrounding it and provide wrap-around services in education, health, housing, and job training. Roses in Concrete has the long-term goal to create a model for urban education that prioritizes the needs of youth and families as the pathway to building healthy and sustainable communities across the United States and around the world.

In addition to Roses in Concrete, Duncan-Andrade is an Associate Professor of Raza Studies and Education Administration and Interdisciplinary Studies and Director of the Educational Equity Initiative at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Sustainable Cities and Schools at San Francisco State University. He is also an English teacher at Mandela High School in East Oakland where he directs the East Oakland Step to College Program.

For more information, visit http://rosesinconcrete.org.

If you are interested in advertising in the VVC RamPage, contact us at: (760) 245-4271 ext. 2773
Playlist of the Issue: What Students Are Listening To

After polling students and faculty around campus these are the most popular responses to “What are you currently listening to?"

“Crew Love”
Drake Ft. The Weeknd, Take Care

“Why I Love You”
Jay-Z & Kanye West Ft. Mr. Hudson, Watch the Throne

“We Are Young”
Fun. Ft. Janelle Monae, Some Nights

“The Rock City”
Tyga, Careless World: Rise of the Last King

“Mirror”

“Save Me San Francisco”
Train, Save Me San Francisco

“Jack of all Trades”
Bruce Springsteen, Wrecking Ball

“Oblivion”
Mastodon, Crack the Skye

“Hysteria”
Ceremony, Zoo

“Rigamortus”
Kendrick Lamar, Section.80

“Male Me Proud”
Drake Ft. Nicki Minaj, Take Care

“Raise Your Weapon”
Deadmau5, 4x4=12

“Somebody That I Used to Know”
Gotye, Making Mirrors

“Fireball”
Dev, Fireball

“Helena Beat”
Foster The People, Torches

“Oldie”
Odd Future, The OF Tape Vol. 2

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Madonna Returns with a Modernized Pop Sound

**Review by Daniel Compean**
*Reporter*

In the modern electronic age, everything must be digitalized; from our phones, our mail and of course our music. Electronic music has been around for a quite a while, only recently has it begun to reach its height in mainstream popularity. With the surge of new artists in dubstep, house and electro pop, Madonna saw this opportunity, and seized it with her new album *MDNA*.

Madonna enters the new decade of pop with techno and trance-like beats, a pop industry standard now. Modern in the truest sense of the word, even the stylized album title can be seen as a reflection of modern day texting culture. For Madonna, this is hardly unusual for her. Throughout the last three decades, she has become known not only as the Queen of Pop, but the Queen of Reinvention. *MDNA* opens with “Girl Gone Wild,” which may sound off-putting for the now 53-year-old Madonna to be singing. Dealing with themes about rebellious girls, the chorus repeats “Girls just wanna have some fun”, while booming, mid-tempo house beats carry the song. This same tempo and energy is carried throughout the majority of the album.

Most likely the next hit off the album, “Superstar,” is structured as a standard, catchy pop tune. An almost saccharine melody about being in love, it’s a song that will most likely see some radio play.

Analyzing Madonna’s lyrics will not yield anything profound or thought-provoking, but no one expects or even wants that from a dance song. It’s a very tried-and-true method of club music writing that works in Madonna’s favor. She continues with her controversial lyrics, but worrying about the lyrical integrity of Madonna is hardly productive.

Madonna worked with several producers for *MDNA*, most notably with European DJs such as Benny Benassi, Martin Solveig, and William Orbit, the latter of which has worked with Madonna before on her influential album Ray of Light. They have a clear presence on this album with their obvious electronica touches.

Aside from her undeniably incredible legacy and wide influence, it’s her ability to successfully evolve parallel to trending music that has become one of the many reasons Madonna remains relevant in the music industry. Madonna is a chameleon, she is able to change her image and music accordingly, showing that she could still compete with the likes of Lady Gaga and Katy Perry.

If this album had been made by anyone less distinguished than Madonna, *MDNA* would have drowned in the sea of new pop music coming out. The sheer force of this being Madonna, makes it more than a prominent album for 2012 and a solid release.

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Your feedback is always welcomed.
Email us at vvcrampage@gmail.com
Or vvcrampage@yahoo.com
Rams Baseball Fall Short in a Last Minute Comeback

Story by Octavious Thomas
Editor
and Zaqueri Black
Reporter

The Victor Valley College Rams Baseball team suffered another loss in the Foothill Conference as they fell to a 7-9 loss against the College of the Desert Roadrunners on March 20. With this loss the Rams received their ninth straight loss in Conference; giving them a (0-9) Conference record and (3-14) overall.

"It's tough to have confidence knowing our current record, but we know every team is beatable as long as we play the way we should," said Rams outfielder Steven Beltran.

The game kicked off with Roadrunners forcing two hits on Rams Pitcher Jeffrey Montana.

In the home-half of the first inning, the Rams evened the score when outfielder, Steven Beltran, reached first base on a walk with bases loaded; and advanced Kenny McMurry to home plate making the score 1-1.

After two scoreless innings from both teams, the Roadrunners' Nick Garza, Alfonso Vargas, and Christian Showalter quickly scored due quick hits and an error from right fielder Frank Martinez. With two easy groundouts the inning ended with the Rams behind with a score of 1-4.

"We needed to limit the errors," said Rams Head Coach Jesus Beltran. "Mistakes happen, just keep moving forward."

The next run for the Rams came in the bottom of the 5th inning after an RBI single by Ryan Dickerson that brought home Ronald Leon for the score. From there the Rams were unable to attribute more to the scoreboard as Steven Beltran lined out to first base for the last out.

With the score at 2-4, the Roadrunners expanded their lead as COD’s Torres recorded a 2RBI single into left field as Garza and Vargas crossed home plate for the second time in the game giving the Roadrunners a 2-6 lead over the Rams.

After being behind a four-point deficit, the Rams quickly started a comeback but it was short-lived causing them to fail in capturing a victory. As the Rams quickly started adding runs to the scoreboard, the Road Runners ended their comeback and the game with a score of 7-9. The Rams next home game will be on Saturday, March 24 at 12pm.

Lady Rams Go Down in Five Innings Against College of the Desert

Story by Octavious Thomas
Editor

The Victor Valley College Lady Rams Softball team added another loss to their record in the Foothill Conference when they battled the College of the Desert Road Runners on March 14. From start to finish, the Lady Rams were unable to take the lead and ended the game in five innings due to the mercy rule. The final score was 3-14.

At the start of the game, due to a number of errors, the Road Runners managed to bring six runners across home plate. The errors made by the Lady Rams were a major issue throughout the entire game.

"Limiting the errors would have helped us out a lot in the game,” said head coach Donell Thomas.

The first score of the game for VVC did not arrive until the third inning. The two runs that were scored were no help as they were forced to go back on defense after the third out and left the score at 2-10.

"We normally play great against COD," said Thomas. “Too many mistakes were made and they affected the outcome of the game.”

Normally a softball game ends in seven innings, but due to the much-feared mercy rule, the match-up reached its end in only five innings. With the score being 3-14, the Lady Rams had to score at least two more runs in order to keep the game going. VVC was unable to receive those last runs in the fifth inning and added another loss to their overall record, which now stands at (3-18).

“We haven’t lost against COD in about four seasons," said Thomas. “For now all we can do is put this game behind us and focus on the remainder of the season.”
Heard Around the Lake

Do you feel that the amount of money college is costs will be worth it 10 years from now?

I think it’ll be worth more once I transfer because then I’ll be that much closer to pursuing my dreams.

Chloe Folger

Yes, everything I’m learning in class is helping me improve my musical skills. There are some things I had an idea about but now I know because of what I’ve learned, and the musical connections I will have made with other talented musicians encourages me.

Akinwande Oluseye

Yes, because I plan to make quadruple what I spend on school being a surgical veterinarian.

Annemarie Gerro

Yeah, it depends on what career you pursue in the future.

Francisco Vela

No, so many people are all trying to do the same thing and there won’t be enough openings for everyone. It’s not going to stop me from going.

Desiree Dean

— by Jonathan Giddens, Reporter

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 Nicholas Hartman 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 seems to be not in keeping with the standards of the paper.
Victor Valley College and El Dorado Broadcasters are teaming up to honor some of the hardest working people in the High Desert. Each day, teachers make a difference in their communities, one student at a time. They bring hope, encouragement, and the ability to dream beyond four walls of the classroom, enabling students to become agents of change in the world around them. Once a month, **Teachers “R” Heroes** recognizes a local teacher who personifies dedication, both to his or her students and profession. Each honoree receives a plaque, prizes, and a classroom party. All selected teachers will attend a private celebration at the end of the year. For more information, or to nominate a teacher, visit, www.vvc.edu, www.katcountry1007.com, www.y102fm.com, www.thefox1065.com or www.talk960.com.

Victor Valley College is one of the fastest growing community colleges in the state of California, and is specifically renowned for its health science programs including registered nursing. Victor Valley College offers students a full schedule of accredited classes to meet transfer requirements to 4-year Colleges and Universities; A.A. or A.S. degree programs; high wage technical and vocational programs; teacher preparatory; continuing education; CAHSEE preparatory classes and community enhancement classes. The college also offers more than 100 online classes in a variety of subject areas.

The college’s weekend and evening programs are designed to meet the needs of working adults. For more information about Victor Valley College, please access the Website at www.vvc.edu, or call the college at (760) 245-4271.

**Teacher Education Programs offered at Victor Valley College:**

**Teacher Education**
* Math and Science
* Humanities and Arts
* Physical Education
* Child Development
* Educational Technology
* Educational Program