Invisible Children Hosts Screening and Ugandan Guest Speaker at VVC

Story by Todd Hadler
Editor

Invisible Children, a non-profit organization to advocate awareness about Joseph Kony, held a film screening for “The Rescue” at Victor Valley College on Tuesday, Sept. 25. The film, which was made in 2009, was shown at VVC to bring awareness to the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and its leader Joseph Kony, who was one of the first people to be indicted by the International Criminal Court. Claire Shannon and Austin Estes, full-time volunteers from Invisible Children, were on hand to show the film and answer any questions the students had. Also at the screening was guest speaker Okello Quinto, a native from Northern Uganda. Quinto was there to share his story and offer encouraging words to the students present. “This generation right here is the only generation that can stop Joseph Kony for good,” said Quinto, pointing to the crowd full of college students. Quinto is not only an inhabitant of Northern Uganda, where Kony started his rampage, but Quinto has seen first hand the LRA’s path of destruction. Quinto and his daughter were both abducted by the LRA. After Quinto escaped from the LRA, he lost contact with his then 12 year old daughter for eight months.

The event was set up by Melissa Carrillo, a student here at VVC. Carrillo signed up the school to take part in Invisible Children’s screening. The organization responded to Carrillo and said that they will come. ASB and the Ready Rams club both sponsored the event and helped promote the screening. Ready Rams also brought food that was available to everyone. “Students at the event were so inspired to help in any way that some students are starting to organize events around the High Desert area,” said Carrillo.

The event was set up in the Student Activities Center in the food court and more than 70 students attended. Invisible Children guest speaker Okello Quinto, along with Ready Rams, ASB members and students who attended the event pose for a picture as a message to the white house to join them in their fight against the LRA. 

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Children set up two tables showing ways to support the KONY 2012 movement. On one table was merchandise for sale: t-shirts, buttons, stickers, DVD’s, posters, etc. Also on that table were bracelets and messenger bags that were made in Northern Uganda. Invisible Children was also accepting donations.

At the second table, there were methods provided to contact politicians and international leaders. Students were able to write a letter to United States Congressman Jerry Lewis, and there were two computers set up to tweet President Obama, Mitt Romney and influential international leaders to help support the movement. Also at this table, was the chance to sign up for MOVE: DC, which takes place on Nov. 17.

“The MOVE: DC rally is a massive gathering of people who want to put an end to Kony,” said Estes. “We are going to have a march to surround the White House and show whoever is in office that we are serious about this.”

The evening ended with Q & A from the students and a photo opportunity. All students attending the screening were invited to take a picture with two different KONY 2012 banners. One banner was directed towards President Obama, which was then tweeted to him, and one banner was directed towards Mitt Romney, which was also tweeted to him, in order to bring more attention about Invisible Children to each presidential candidate.

After the unbelievable response to the Kony 2012 video, posted in early March, Jason Russell, founder of Invisible Children, had a public meltdown in the streets of San Diego. Since that fiasco, most of the attention has been placed on Russell and not on the campaign against the LRA.

“What people need to know is that Invisible Children and the Kony 2012 video was never about Jason Russell, it was and still is, about the movement. He went through a rough time but he is doing a lot better and should be active very soon,” said Shannon.

VVC Further Educates with Off Campus Courses

Story by Micah Raimo
News Editor

Victor Valley College has created a network of off-campus classes allowing an alternative option for students. According to the Victor Valley College Website under “Offsite Locations,” VVC has 6 sites: Silverado and Hesperia High School, The VVC Downtown Education Center, High Desert Premiere Academy and the Academy of Academic Excellence.

Program Director Kelley Johnson, is the administrator of the offsite instructional locations. Her job is to maintain communication with facilitators, Superintendent of Schools, Principals, and professors who are part at the offsite locations.

Those working with Johnson are Project Activity Director Patricia Bejarano-Vera who supervises the VVC Downtown Education Center, Instructor of the Social Science Department Dave Dupree who is in charge of the Hesperia High School center, and adjunct faculty member Anthony Heinzman, who maintains the Silverado campus. Together, the four members of VVC Faculty help students get their basic classes like math and English completed at various locations.

“When you think about our first goal, why we are out there in the first place, we’re all about student success and retention and all that. And all of us, whether it be on campus or off campus, we’re able to give classes to students they couldn’t get on campus because there were no classrooms. And we’re doing it at a very affordable way; much cheaper than it is to build a new building. It’s to establish our presence out on the perimeter of our district,” said Dupree.

The Silverado and Hesperia High College sites are fenced in and separated from the main campuses to better segregate the students and keep them focused on their work and help establish a college climate. A study comparison of campus learning environment outcomes and how they affect the students hasn’t been done but the location difference doesn’t change the attitude of the students attending the facilities.

“Having taught here on campus and having taught at Silverado (site), I see the same dedication; I see the same involvement. I have seen effort by our college students in both locations. A student who is dedicated at Silverado or Hesperia for their education is going to be the same dedicated student here on campus. Last year we had a student who walked a mile too and from campus because he lives out there out on the west end,” said Heinzman.

On Sept. 11, under Agenda Items 5.17, The Victor Valley College Board of Trustees approved $15,300 to the Victor Valley Unified School District to renew lease six classrooms at Hesperia High School. Under item 5.18, the board approved the pay of $20,400 to the Victor Valley Unified School District to renew the lease for eight classes at Silverado. Both were budgeted items which meant they were worked into the approved budget costs.

The Victor Valley College Downtown Education Center in Old Town Victorville was leased to host English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses. Unfortunately, the large two-story white building with the acronym “VVC” will no longer be a part of the campus after Oct. 31 due to the end of the lease and will not be renewed. The ESL courses will return to the Main VVC Campus and to the Hesperia High School site.

To find out more information about Invisible Children, visit www.invisiblechildren.com.
Students weigh out a variety of different factors when they mull over which schools to transfer to. Whether it is the location, the academic programs or the majors being provided, some students have a tough decision to make. So, Victor Valley College held its Annual College Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 25 on the lakeside terrace adjacent to the Performing Arts Center to help narrow the options for the most indecisive student.

Representatives from different colleges came out to discuss the favorable traits their college has to offer. Schools like University of Redlands, Cambridge College, UC Davis, Cal Poly, University of Irvine and many other notable colleges were represented.

“I mainly look for topics I’m interested in. I’m thinking about Cal Poly because they offer Animal Science,” said VVC student Leticia Tavares.

Tables were scattered around the concrete floor beside the lake with the school’s banner draping at all corners and a representative behind each table. Booklets, flyers, and papers chalk full of information were spread out on the tabletops for students. The representatives discussed topics and answered student’s questions as they walked up to a table.

“I’m trying to find out if students have a passion for art & design and trying to recruit. Many students don’t realize that there are schools geared towards art,” said Peter Evering, Field Representative for Newschool of Architecture & Design.

Newschool of Architecture & Design is one of the schools made exclusively for with all the tools for the more artistic, creative student. This school offers majors in architecture, digital media arts and construction management.

“We offer 60 different majors and a wide range of scholarships. The beach is right there. Teachers are involved in student’s lives,” said Matt Julia, Transfer Counselor for Point Loma Nazarene University, a private Christian university, about the persuasive qualities of the school.

Despite the assortment of colleges and the enticing features some had to offer, there were some students that found the event unsatisfactory.

“I talked to a few colleges. There was a couple I was interested in, but not really a whole bunch. Most of them weren’t really big on engineering,” Alex Shea, VVC student said. “I look for the level of the program and the networking that I will attain by being in the program.”

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Heard Around the Lake

Why do you think it’s important to vote in the Presidential election?

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You can’t just hope that things change, so people need to vote so there are enough people affecting the outcome
- Tokunbo Oladapo

The vote is your choice. It’s the only thing you say that can decide what happens in the country.
-Jacobe Clark

It helps decide the future of our country. If you don’t vote you don’t really have the right to complain.
-Brian Littleton

Everybody has a voice. Even if you’re just one person, it still matters.
-Charlene Maldonado
No Doubt’s New Chapter of Punk Rock

Review by Kelli McGurk
Editor-in-Chief

No Doubt’s return to the studio with their first album in 11 years, “Push and Shove,” adequately blends youthful vibes with their iconic edge that has evolved and matured since their 90’s ska/punk era. Lead singer Gwen Stefani, keyboardist Tom Dumont, bassist/keyboardsard Tony Kanal and drummer Adrian Young bring back the band’s notoriously audacious style with class; as it is clear, time has developed their music but not altered their hearts.

Anticipation began in 2008 when the band confirmed that collaboration on a new album was underway. When No Doubt came together in 2009 for a reunion tour, fans couldn’t help but get excited about their return.

The SoCal born band gained their notoriety with their early 90’s albums as their look and sound was rebellious of the then dominant grunge phase. They had a raw, 80’s inspired punk rock attitude paired with fun reggae style rhythms and Stefani’s commercial pop vocals. Singles released from previous albums have charted the Billboard top 100 and gain international resonance as well. Their albums, when listened to sequentially, are evidence to the bands process and development of their music.

“Push and Shove” came out of an 11 year hiatus and their ever evolving sound has managed to keep them relevant. The album starts off great. The first single, “Settle Down,” and its title track, “Push and Shove,” are the upbeat funky mixes to look forward to. The title track in particular exemplifies No Doubt’s fast paced dancehall sound, mixed with groovy Bob Marley inspired melodies. There is no better way of saying ‘we’re back’ than this song. Later tracks show the softer side to punk life with songs like “Easy” and “Undone.” A single line from “One More Summer” could sum up my reaction to the return of No Doubt: “I can’t believe it, has it really been this long?” Stefani sings.

“Undone” is the ballad that shows off Stefani’s distinguished vocals and is the only softer song that really stands out.

Continued in No Doubt on Page 6

Looper Brings Excitement back to Time Travel

Review by Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor

With recent films such as “Total Recall,” “Moon” and “Prometheus,” science fiction seems to be moving towards a trend of offering darker and grittier storylines. The success of this movement is a mixed bag of sorts, with films ranging from fantastic (“Moon”) to disappointing (“Total Recall”). Yet, in the sea of many mediocre, dark sci-fi films, you’ll find such gems as “Looper.”

Set in Kansas City in the year 2044, the story follows Joseph “Joe” Simmons (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), a young assassin leading a life of drugs and murder in the seedy underbelly of society. Loopers are specialized henchmen who kill and dispose of targets sent back in time from 2074. Joe carries out these hits until he is faced with his next target: himself 30 years in the future (Bruce Willis).

As the trailers would lead you to believe, this seems to be the extent of the plot. However, the trailers merely scratch the surface, as “Looper” has a multi-layered and surprisingly in-depth story.

Ultimately, Willis and Gordon-Levitt play the same character separated by 30 years of life. It’s through this where character development could have easily been forgone by focusing solely on one actor. Instead, director and writer Rian Johnson gives audiences a compelling look into both actors’ portrayals of the same character.

Make-up and special effects were impressively done, particularly with young Joe. Right down to the receding hairline and New Jersey accent, Gordon-Levitt nails his performance giving the impression that he was absent from the movie entirely and instead a young Bruce Willis filled the role. Willis gives an equally stunning performance as the more jaded and seasoned old Joe.

These impressive special effects carry over to its action sequences. With shootouts and obligatory explosions, the action doesn’t overstay its welcome and in fact could be considered sparse. Rather than using the story to move audiences to the next action scene, the action acts as a means to further move the story. For the serious discourse and “writer’s film” type mentality “Looper” goes for, this works towards its advantage.

Given Johnson’s past record with filmmaking (“Brick”), he knows how to craft a story with well paced and well written dialogue. While not without its fast paced action, Johnson aims to create a cerebral experience with a heavy dialogue driven and story-centric film. Extending beyond the usual business chats, characters interact with each other through small talk and banter. Whether this be through inane conversations between Joe and his friend Seth (Paul Dano) of how effective coin tricks are at picking up women or seeking out their next drug fix.

“Looper” offers an original and compelling premise. A dark and thought-provoking film, it can’t help but feel refreshing. While time travel is not a unique idea to play with, this movie makes it its own with a well constructed plot and fantastic performances.
Rams Defeated in Homecoming Game

Story by Mario Gonzalez and Octavious Thomas
Sports Editors

In Victor Valley College’s first annual homecoming football game on Saturday Sept. 29, the Rams faced off against the Wolverines of San Bernardino Valley College. After a loss to Chaffey College, VVC was trying to gain a win in Mountain Conference play. Unfortunately, the Rams fell short in another fourth quarter rally and lost 34-49.

The Rams went through two quarterbacks throughout the entire game. Both Jemeryn Jenkins and Jalil Young had a great number of yards, but there was a combined total of six interceptions between the two—four from Jenkins and two from Young. Jenkins started for the first three drives of the game, but was replaced by Young after throwing his second interception in the first quarter.

The Rams managed to record eight turnovers the entire game — six interceptions and two fumbles lost.

Rams receiver, Melvin McAdams was awarded an 82 yard touchdown reception from Young as time expired in the first quarter; making the score 7-13.

Jalil Young connected with wide receiver, Durwin Jones. Jones was the main target for the quarterbacks as he racked up eight receptions for a total of 164 yards and two touchdowns. The Wolverines ended the half by scoring three more touchdowns, making the score at halftime, 13-42.

In the second half the Rams defense came alive and held the Wolverines to only 7 points for the remainder of the game. Those 7 points were delivered in the third quarter as the Wolverines managed to drive the ball down to the Rams own 6 yard line before running back Mike Martin ran the ball in for the touchdown. This would cap off an 8-play 64 yard drive and added more pressure to the Rams homecoming as the Wolverines were well in command, 13-49.

Jemeryn Jenkins took the field once again in the fourth quarter, replacing Jalil Young.

Trying to right their wrongs from this turnover plagued, the Rams would gain possession in the beginning of the fourth quarter and managed to drive the ball down to their opponents own 28-yard line before quarterback Jemeryn Jenkins connected on a pass play to wide receiver, Matt Murphy. Murphy took a 28 yard touchdown reception, cutting into the score 20-49.

On their next possession, the Wolverines were forced to punt back to the Rams who then managed to give the ball right back to their opponents with another interception. The Wolverines looked to capitalize on the costly error from the Rams, driving the ball down to their opponents own 16 yard line. It would turn out be decision time for the Wolverines on 4 and 1, deciding to go for it, the Rams defense came up big; they forced a turnover on downs and a loss of 4 yards for SBVC.

The Rams managed to score once again when Jenkins delivered a 62 yard touchdown pass to wide receiver, Durwin Jones, the score now 28-49 after converting a two-point conversion.

VVC scored again later in the quarter which brought the score to 34-49 with the Rams failing to convert the two-point conversion this time around. The Rams would get the ball back in the late minutes of the fourth quarter but Jenkins was picked off once again by the Wolverine defense.

Jenkins ended the game completing half of his passes, 10 completed on 20 attempts for 232 yards, 3 TD’s and 4 INT’s.

With this loss, the Rams drop to (1-4 overall, 0-2 AMC) but look to take advantage of an upcoming bye week and get themselves ready for another conference match-up, against East Los Angeles on Oct. 13 at 1 p.m.
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-Daniel Compean, Entertainment Editor

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No Doubt from Page 4

as one of the top tracks for me. You can definitely hear them stay true to their roots in songs like “Looking Hot” and “Sparkle,” where ska vibes are mixed with their new wave sound which works well. Their tendency to stray away from the norm has them sounding fresh and new enough for modern audiences. The only downfall is there are a few songs that are a little too uncharacteristic as they begin sound more in the territory of soft rock. They aren’t terrible, but they underplay the band’s true talents I know they are capable of. The actual lyrics and meanings of these songs however are enough to keep me from moving forward a track or two. Overall they have managed to make a fun dance worthy record with relatable lyrics.

During No Doubt’s downtime, band members got married and started families. Their perspective on life has changed; they’ve come a long way from their early punk days, and it is evident in this album. I admire the young and fun attitude this band has always had and their ability to adapt and mature as many of their fans have also done, yet still put out a fun and funky rock album. “Push and Shove” was worth the wait and sure to bring more chart topping hits that new and old fans can appreciate.

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No Doubt from Page 4
Curiosity Rover
@MarsCuriosity

Orbiter, lander & rover data have shown water ice & hydrated minerals on Mars. Water is the most likely fluid to have made the streambed.

10:49 AM • 28 Sep 12

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.

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