In one of the closest Presidential races of our generation, President Barack Obama defeated former Governor Mitt Romney gaining 332 electoral votes over Romney’s 206. The election coverage from every news station kept viewers tuned in and at the edge of their seats while the numbers were wavering in favor of one candidate one minute, to the other in the next.

As the polls began to close across the nation, and the counts came in, it was determined pretty early in the coverage that Romney won Indiana, a state carried by Obama by a small one percent in 2008. Romney also secured North Carolina’s votes further diminishing the hopes of democrats across the nation. California’s 55 electoral votes went to Obama.

Obama supporters clung to their prospects as he defeated Romney in Colorado, Wisconsin and Iowa, but the race was still practically dead even. There were a few key swing states up for grabs nearing the end of the night such as Virginia, Ohio and Florida. These states were a tossup for either candidate and could have changed the outcome of the election. As many news stations started to call Ohio for Obama, others simultaneously proclaimed he also took Virginia by a small percentage, which is what secured his re-election.

Florida’s votes were still being tallied well into the week but no matter the outcome, Obama had already been

Continued in Election on page 2
Board of Trustees
election results are in

Incumbent Joseph Brady retains his spot as trustee and new member John Pinkerton elected to fill remaining seat

Story by Kelli McGurk
Editor-in-Chief

After the election on Tues. Nov. 6 for the Victor Valley College Board of Trustees, Joseph Brady and John Pinkerton will take the two open seats, edging out incumbent and current board president Joe Range. Voters chose Brady, a community businessman, and Pinkerton, a counselor at Silverado High School.

Brady, who was appointed to the board in 2011, was not supported by the unions as they endorsed Pinkerton and Range, but looks forward to his future as an official board member and the future of VVC. He received 37.8 percent of the votes according to smarvote.org.

“We got our message out to the voters; I felt the message was clear. I was real clear on where I think the board needs to go, and I think that people supported that,” said Brady.

John Pinkerton was not far behind Brady with 36.1 percent of the votes in this election.

“(This election) cut across party lines and I am very honored that they put the faith in me that I would look out for their best interest,” said Pinkerton.

Brady is adamant about issues such as fiscal responsibility, board accountability and not cutting student classes to cut costs. Pinkerton says that he supports Brady on many of his policy opinions but also states that accountability should be working specifically for the students.

“Every decision that is made, I hold to my personal standard of: if it’s not something I would not want my own child to be affected by, then I don’t think it’s a good policy,” said Pinkerton. “This is a pretty close community, and at the end of the day, we are all family.”

Brady has been the outspoken member of the board since he was appointed, and encourages students to do the same by attending meetings and getting their voices heard.

“Students need to have a higher trust through a lot more transparency. We are all in this together and I think we need to find a way to not just talk about doing things but do them,” said Brady. “I’m here to do one thing: to ensure that Victor Valley College is here 50 years from now.”

Newcomer Pinkerton started his campaign as a challenger of incumbent Brady, and teamed up with Range as a running mate. Now he will have to work with his opponent to ensure the VVC community has Trustees that are able to push aside their differences.

“I am saddened that Range is not going to be there... that’s going to be a loss to the board, but I am looking forward to working with Joe Brady. I think there is common ground that we can all find,” Pinkerton stated. “He has his principles that he is going to hold on to, and I have my principals that I have to maintain as well.”

When you put a group together with strong opinions, harmony is always a concern. Especially when decision of the board have great effects on a large majority.

“I feel like the board can be a good board, but we haven’t been. People can tell when the board does not get along. When one trustee goes after another trustee, people tend not to like that. You may not like somebody’s opinion but you don’t go after them in a vicious and undermining way,” Brady said.

As the fall semester is near its end, and accreditation issues are not completely behind us, students, faculty and the community could be affected by changes the institution faces. Time will tell whether the election will prove beneficial; now it is time to see if these candidates follow through on their campaign promises.
News in Brief

- Transfer application deadlines are approaching fast. Last day to apply is Nov. 30. Attend a workshop for help filling out your CSU and UC applications. Call (760) 245-4271 x2139 for more info.

- University reps to visit VVC campus schedule is available online www.vvc.edu. Transfer center requires appointments for all representatives. Visit the transfer center in Bldg. 55 or call (760) 245-4271 x2139.

- Native American Student Council will be hosting events which will include food, native dancers, and cultural education every Wednesday in November in the grass by the Gazebo in front of the Performing Arts Center. The festivities, food and frolic will be in celebration of Native American Month.

- Movie screening of “Green Fire” will be on Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. in Student Activities Center.

- The Student and Faculty Music Recital is on Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the PAC. This event is free.

- ASB is holding the Cans for Concert on Nov. 16 in the Student Activities Center from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- VVC Planetarium is hosting “Hubble Vision” on Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. An exciting look at the premier astronomical tool, the Hubble space telescope. Contact Dave Mayer (760)245-4271 x2324 dave.mayer@vvc.edu

- Fall Dance Concert will begin Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and will end Dec. 2 at 2:30 p.m.

- Support your VVC Baseball team by purchasing a Christmas tree during their second annual Christmas tree fundraiser. Last day to purchase is Nov. 12. Contact Jesus Beltran (760) 964-8538

- VVC’s Music Program will have Thursday Night Jazz on Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. The theme is “A Tribute to America.”

- A Christmas performance called, “A Choral Christmas,” will be on Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Good and bad news as ASB returns from senate

Story by Trevor Cooper
Reporter

Victor Valley College’s Associated Student Body (ASB) returned from the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) General Assembly with bittersweet news. Some resolutions passed, while others were left behind. ASB attended the conference from November 2 to the 4 and returned to VVC on November 5.

ASB has been working hard to resolve issues with financial aid such as the problems with Higher One, and lowering the independent age from 24 to 21. ASB writes the resolutions and proposes them to other delegates at the SSCCC General Assembly. The delegates vote and majority wins. If a resolution passes, it has a better shot at becoming a national priority. If it becomes a national priority, it is presented to Senators and Congressmen with the hope that it is made into law.

“It can take a couple years, it can take decades. It just depends on how good we advocate it,” said Brian Feliciano, ASB’s Executive Senator.

According to Feliciano, ASB has been working on lowering the independent age (resolution 8.01) for three or four years. He says that last time it fell short by “one little vote.” This year it fell short by five. It has been postponed until spring, where ASB plans to bring it up again in the SSCCC’s spring session.

When a resolution is presented, it can be debated, or delegates can “call the question.” This means that the resolution goes straight to vote and is not debated. According to Feliciano, this was the case with resolution 8.01.

“If the independent age one, they didn’t even want to hear it. The writer wasn’t there, so they didn’t want to hear pros and cons. They just went straight into voting,” said Feliciano.

According to section 8.01 of the General Assembly Resolutions for Discussion, “Discriminating against a person on the basis of their age is morally wrong and therefore a violation of an individual’s civil rights.”

This argument, along with any other pros and cons of this resolution, never had a chance to be presented. It went straight to vote.

“Every school has the right to call the question,” said Feliciano. “But I just don’t think it’s rational to vote for something without hearing both sides, or just hearing one side and then calling the question and not hearing the opposing side.”

ASB’s efforts were not fruitless, though. Resolution 8.03, Responsibility in Financial Aid Disbursement, did pass. This resolution states that, resolved, SSCCC will urge college districts to “fully investigate banking companies such as Higher One, including their fees, disclosures, and legal history prior to contracting them.”

The resolution also states that if resolved, the SSCCC will advocate that college districts only use trusted companies. The SSCCC will be working with local associated student organizations to closely look at the impact of Higher One on those using it.

“It was a good conference, overall,” said A.S.B. treasurer Judy Shmoll.

“We actually knew what we were talking about. We had a lot of people go. We talked to a lot of colleges. They gave us the business talk, and wanted us to work with them.”

ASB plans to submit more resolutions to the SSCCC this spring. ASB will be attempting to gain more support the American Student Association for Community Colleges (ASACC). They left for the ASACC on November 8 and will be returning on the 12.
Student debt on the rise

The average percentage of student dept is rising, while graduates face one of the toughest economies of our generation

Story by Kelli McGurk
Editor-in-Chief

A recent study done by The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), reveals that the average student debt in our nation increased by five percent for 2011 college graduates. Students who borrowed money to go to college and earned a bachelor’s degree owe on average $26,600 according to TICAS research. The TICAS website (ticas.org), organizes the information based on a range of specific details. According to the website, California is not at the top of the list of states considered ‘high debt states.’ High debt states are concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest parts of the country.

While California is near the low end of the list, one thing California grads do have to deal with is the poor job market of our current economy. Although California’s unemployment rate dropped from 9.1 percent in 2010, according to TICAS, it was at 8.8 percent in 2011. Entering a difficult job market is stressful enough; adding a mountain of debt waiting to be paid off doesn’t help. Many graduates are underemployed, working minimum wage jobs that don’t require the degree they worked so hard for in the first place. This has lead to many students defaulting on their loans, further damaging today’s economy.

In order to deal with the high default rate among Victor Valley College students, the college has opted to discontinue the direct loan program temporarily suspending student loans through its Financial Aid office since the summer 2012 semester. Since VVC temporarily suspended the direct loan program, it has become harder for high desert students who depend on federal loans to pursue higher education.

“We didn’t want to run the risk of losing our Title IV funds (Pell, FSEOG, Federal Work Study & some potential state grants). The Board of Trustees, along with the college president agreed; we should protect our Title IV Programs and suspend the loan program,” said Arthur Lopez, VVC Director of Financial Aid.

Recently, TICAS worked with the California Community College Student Financial Aid Administrators Association (CCCSFAAAA) to create a plan to better educate community college students about responsible borrowing. In their August 2012 report, “Making Loans Work,” several strategies were outlined for financial aid administrators of California’s community colleges, intending to help students within the loan process. Such strategies included ensuring students get guidance, have questions answered and take part in educational seminars. Of the 112 community colleges, only a handful has begun to practice some of the creative approaches outlined in “Making Loans Work.”

“Colleges are right to be concerned about student borrowing and high default rates,” said Sherri Padilla, director of financial aid for Antelope Valley College and past President of CCCSFAAAA, “but getting rid of federal loans isn’t the answer.”

VVC officials did receive the letter sent to all the California community colleges regarding this report, and according to Lopez, they are working on creating a default prevention program that will include a task force committee to lower the cohort default rate (CDR) and creating strategies such as counseling students, identifying defaulted and delinquent borrowers, phone calls to borrowers, email outreach and conducting on-campus workshops to better educate students about their responsibilities as a borrower.

“VVC made the right choice to suspend the loan program to protect and save our Title IV programs and state grants for our students because we disburse considerably more federal and state grants compared to loans. Title IV programs affect more students than just loan borrowers,” said Lopez. “Once we lower the institution CDR the Direct Loan Program at VVC will have tighter restrictions in the process and students will be more educated about the responsibilities as a borrower, so they can avoid getting into a default or delinquent status.

While some students may be wary about investing into a future that may not pay off right after graduation, consider the fact that despite these challenges, there is still a strong economic return of a college education, as opposed to only a high school diploma. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for those with only a high school education is 19.1 percent; more than double the rate of those with a...
Living on the edge

VVC on the fence between financial stability and debt

Story by James McDaniel
Reporter

Victor Valley College’s potential for being in the negatives for the 2013-2014 year and continuing on leaves the school’s future is uncertain.

Considering the financial costs and lack of adequate revenue, VVC must make some important changes and negotiations with employees to avoid the possibility of eventually being taken over by the state.

“If we’re going to balance our budget, there has to be negotiations,” said Vice President of Administrative Services G.H. Javahiripour.

“The effect of Proposition 30 is this: that we will not get more money. We will not lose 3 million. If (Prop 30) had failed, a lot of courses would go away in spring semester. We would have to drop about 750 sections of classes. Now we don’t have to,” said Javahiripour.

Despite the school budgets showing negatives, it doesn’t mean the school is entirely broke; it is because the school is pulling money from the savings as a result of not enough funding elsewhere.

VVC isn’t the only school in the red. According to Michael Krause, most California schools are facing some deficit spending as a result of the current economy. The schools are spending more money than they are taking in.

“Large percentage is that we’re educating a greater population than we get reimbursed for. I think it may be like 9,600 is what we get reimbursed for and I think we’re educating like 10-11 thousand. The college is having to pay the difference,” said Krause.

Debates on the ratio between spending and saving have been ongoing with the amount varying. Board of Trustees member Joseph Brady, speaks of the 80:20 percent savings to spending ratio. For money spent on benefits and labor against the money saved for maintenance and reserves mentioned in the accreditation manual VVC submitted.

“Within the first year, I voted against the first budget because we were at 85 percent. Well, this year I voted against the budget because we’re literally at 89.6 percent, we’re at 90 percent,” said Brady.

Krause had a different view, using other schools as an example:

“Barstow Community College, Chaffey College, Riverside Community College, all of them, have the average salary and benefits at 85-90 percent, been that way for years and it’s not out of the norm. To have it at 80 percent; that is unrealistic” said Krause.

In an emergency meeting in July, the Board of Trustees discussed the financial crisis, strategizing ways to clear up the deficit.

“We did, and from that, we agreed, we had a resolution that was passed in July to have a balanced budget within three years. We currently have a projected deficit over the next three years cumulative of $29,850,000,” said Brady.

Trouble on the court

A difficult start for men’s basketball stresses but does not dampen the spirit of the team

Story by Tanya Patterson
Reporter

It’s going to be an uncomfortable season for the Victor Valley College Men’s Basketball Team. As game day draws near, approximately 10 students have resigned or were cut from the team, an unprecedented occurrence for this school.

Tom Dudgeon, who has been coaching basketball for the last 31 years, has never before seen this many problems, this early in the season.

“It’s frustrating, sad and it’s disappointing… I’m shocked. I’ve never had to deal with this before, but I’m in the middle of it and I am beyond shock,” said Coach Dudgeon, “I don’t know what the correct words are for it, because it’s unchartered territory for me.”

To secure a position in a collegiate sports team at sophomore level, students must have taken 24 units with a 2.0 GPA and continue taking 12 units per semester. Students that can’t make the grades can’t make the team.

Pre-season practice has proven an uphill battle for the team, after the loss of several members in these academic performance related cuts. This season, the Rams focus on putting one foot in front of the other, in an attempt to train new additions in time for the season’s start.

While Dudgeon plans to recruit a few guys from the football team, once football season ends, the first few games will be difficult to pull off.

Despite the problems pulling the team together, Coach Dudgeon acknowledges the support and dedication of his assistant coaches, the athletic director and the men willing stick with it and weather out the storm.

“I can’t commend them enough for staying in the hole with me, you know, and trying to help us all dig out of it. And we will… We will dig out of this one. We’re not going out like this. We’re going to fight until the end,” said Dudgeon.

Some of the out-of-state recruits added to the issues of this season leaving the team at the 11th hour.

Recruitment is a whole other ball game for collegiate sports. In California at the junior college level, coaches are restricted in their recruitment efforts to advertisement and word of mouth. The school is not allowed to make first contact with students. Prospective athletes must actively seek to join the team, according to Athletic Director, Jaye Tashima.

Recruits do not receive financial compensation for their participation, although school representatives provide assistance in finding housing and familiarizing the student with the school and the community.

“This is a new issue, but it’s something that’s not unique to basketball. We’re having trouble across the board in most of our sports, especially in any of our sports that rely heavily on out-of-state or out-of-area athletes. Then, there’s just so many things you can’t foresee,” said Tashima, “You can’t foresee...”
Prop 30: A tax increase for the wealthy and state sales tax to increase 1/4 percent to fund education.
Yes - 53.9%
No - 46.1%

Prop 31: Two year budget cycle to remain two years and current regulations of state legislature does not change
Yes - 39.2%
No - 60.8%

Prop 32: There is no ban on corporate and Union political contributions to be taken out of employee’s paychecks
Yes - 43.9%
No - 56.1%

Prop 33: Auto insurance companies cannot determine rates based on past driving records
Yes - 45.4%
No - 54.6%

Prop 34: Death penalty remains in California
Yes - 47.2%
No - 52.8%

Prop 35: Harsher penalties approved for cases in human trafficking
Yes - 81.1%
No - 18.9%

Prop 36: Alteration of the ‘Three Strikes’ law if third conviction is non-violent, life imprisonment cannot be issued
Yes - 68.6%
No - 31.4%

Prop 37: Food labeling on genetically modified organisms not required
Yes - 46.9%
No - 53.1%

Prop 38: Increase in income tax to fund K-12 and early childhood not approved
Yes - 27.7%
No - 72.3%

Prop 39: Multistate business income tax increase; taxes calculated on in-state sales
Yes - 60.2%
No - 39.9%

Prop 40: California will continue to use the district boundaries approved in 2011 by the Citizens Redistricting Committee
Yes - 71.4%
No - 28.6%
The recently passed measure B will have no adverse effect on it’s industry

Column by Micah Raimo
News Editor

The County of Los Angeles Safer Sex in the Adult Film Industry Act (Measure B) passed ready for action after election night, but debate stirs the pot on whether this star will fall flaccid on the Industry or have a stiff resolve.

Thanks to this new measure, Porn stars will be required by law to wear protection if they want to work in L.A. County. This includes not only latex raincoats, but also dental dams and anything else that might protect the star.

“I don’t believe in the Government telling you what to do. Even in small things like having sex with someone,” said VVC Student Richard Yates.

According to a study done in 2010 called “Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing of Adult Film Performers: Is Disease Being Missed?”, which was published in the Journal of American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association, out of the 168 participants who volunteered for the study, 47 tested positive for gonorrhea and chlamydia. The site for gonorrhea, the most common STD found amongst the stars, was the oropharynx, an area in the back of the throat between the nose and mouth.

These facts, along with a confirmed industry syphilis outbreak in August, are what helped launch Measure B.

This measure only affects L.A. County, meaning anywhere as close such as Orange County to as far as San Bernardino County is up for grabs. There are talks of the porn industry completely uprooting to New Hampshire being that it is the only other state where it is legal to film porn.

Summer Hanson, a student of VVC, went on a “porn discovery” recently for educational purposes expanding her understanding.

“I think if you’re having sex with a stranger, you should be able to have the rights to use protection. I don’t think it would ruin it at all,” said Hanson.

The porn industry has suffered a history of set backs. The $11 billion industry took a dive when viewing technology shifted from VHS to DVD, and again when free porn websites hit the scene. One more blow for “The Business” won’t incur bankruptcy on the porn market.

In 2009, actress Sasha Grey crawled from the front of the camera to writing and photography. With Measure B, the porn star retiree has a hurdle to clear. If successful, Grey can add overcoming California law to her repertoire.

“I am a very creative person and a lot of people like to stick with routines and what works for them and what makes them money and that’s fine,” said Grey in a ZAZ interview with Matt Zaller. “I’m sure if I was 45 and I was sitting on millions of dollars, I would feel the same way. People become complacent.”

For questions, comments and concerns:
theraimotable@gmail.com

Debt from page 4

college degree.

“I feel if I obtain my degree now, then and if the economy picks up I would be one of the first people on the list for employment, instead of being a person with no qualifications,” said VVC student LeNae King.

“In these tough times, a college degree is still your best bet at getting a job and decent pay,” said TICAS President Lauren Asher in their official press release of “The Project on Student Debt.”

“As debt levels rise, fear of loans can prevent students from getting the education they need…if they do need to borrow to get through school, federal student loans with options like income-based repayment, are the safest way to go,” continued Asher.

As college students, it’s something we should be used to: research. Something students can do when considering loans is homework on any and all types of loans that are out there. Income-based loans can help when student borrowers face unexpectedly low earnings.

“If students have to get a loan, know the rules and regulations on having to pay them back,” said VVC transfer counselor Lorena Ochoa. “Also be aware that you can communicate with your loan company, and know that they can work with you; and many companies will.”

For more information on “The Student Debt Project,” Making Loans Work and to see where California ranks on the list of student debt, visit ticas.org.
VVC’s own Miss Greater Victorville

Story by Micah Raimo
News Editor

Bethany Richardson may be known as Miss Greater Victorville, but this beauty has more to offer than just looks.

While still a student at Victor Valley College, Richardson was inspired to enter a pageant through both her faith and a creative ambition she developed through her family, and as an Art student. As a Mormon, student and crown holder for Miss Victorville, Richardson’s involvement is about shining a light of wisdom wherever she can. Her personal enjoyment stems from the feeling that she has affected the audience for the better. Now, she serves the High Desert Community with her new job.

“I am so thankful for my religion. I feel so invigorated each and every day because I know that I can have positive influence in the lives of others. And that is one main reason why I love the Miss America Organization so much because they really stand for many great things that I agree with,” said Richardson.

Richardson’s journey began when she saw an advertisement in the newspaper for this scholarship pageant. This offer gave her the opportunities to possibly expand her horizons, allowing new experiences to be added to her roster. In Richardson’s first pageant under the Miss America system, she won the crown of Miss Greater Victorville and the $1,200 scholarship offered with the crown. She then put that money towards her education at VVC.

According to Richardson, there are many other systems that are purely local, national or worldwide. Her experience in the Miss America Pageant system had made her realize that there was more to pageants then a bunch of pretty faces.

Recently Richardson was asked to be a guest at the Cans for Concert Event being hosted at the college. The VVC student was pleased and agreed. As a Fine Arts major here at VVC, Richardson develops her acting and singing. The college has also contributed to her success by a means of inspiration with her career as Miss Greater Victorville.

“The four points of the crown are: scholarship, success, service and style. So this is not only about rhinestones and spray tans. I was so thankful for that because I am not typically a ‘pageant girl.’ I think that this is not for everyone,” said Richardson. “If you are not willing to dedicate a huge part of your life to this, you probably won’t like holding a title. You must always remember that you have a duty to fulfill to your community as a representative of this organization. It is hard work, but 100 percent worth it for me. I feel so blessed.

Our reigning Miss Greater Victor Valley, and VVC alumni Bethany Richardson. Photo courtesy of the Miss Greater Victor Valley Scholarship Pageant Facebook page

Lights of love: a dream come true

VVC carries on a legacy, also bringing Christmas joy to children

Story by Kristen Martin
Reporter

Over 125 children will receive gifts this holiday season, thanks to the Lights of Love Toy Drive hosted by Victor Valley College’s Associated Student Body, Ready Rams Club, Phi Theta Kappa and Extended Opportunity Program and Services (E.O.P.S.), on Dec. 7 at 3 p.m.

“Nothing gets done without Robert Sewell and ASB,” said Manuel Gaytan, Ready Rams faculty advisor, “the support and effort they put into this event is above and beyond.”

The Lights of Love Toy Drive is an event that has been carried on for many years at VVC. Students of the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (C.A.R.E.) program are single parents, and this event helps them to provide their children with gifts during the holidays. Margaret Kagy of the C.A.R.E. department explained that the idea of a toy drive for children of students at VVC came to her in a dream one night. Robert Sewell, ASB Advisor, helped bring Kagy’s dream to life with the help of Rebecca Britt, a former sociology teacher at VVC, and many other students and staff.

Britt was a driving force in getting this event going back in 2001. After her passing in 2007 due to lung cancer, E.O.P.S. continued on with the event in honor of Britt.

“She sponsored families and bought those children bikes and toys. She was one of those people who always wanted to get more involved and she gave a lot,” Gaytan said.

In the beginning, Britt had been a major part of the event and helping those in need. The Christmas before her passing she had already been diagnosed with cancer and she still worried about the kids getting gifts rather than her own illness.

“She was so instrumental, so giving, and so compassionate,” said Kagy, “it was right for us to continue this for her, in memory of her.”

The Lights of Love event is always trying to recruit more support on campus and involve more clubs. This year, families can come and enjoy the snacks, photo opportunities, gifts, and holiday cheer throughout the day with a special appearance of Santa.

“We make sure that the event is advised and shared with the community,” Sewell said. “I take my 6-year-old son to pick out gifts for 6-year-old boys, and when he was five he picked out gifts for 5-year-old boys and when he is seven he’ll pick out gifts for 7-year old boys”

Continued in Lights of Love on page 9
Almost out of the woods
Faculty members dedicate their time to resolving accreditation issues

Story by Garrett Johnston
Managing Editor

With the accreditation team giving the Victor Valley Community College a passing grade after October’s mid-term report, faculty breathe a sigh of relief as they take another step closer in solving the schools accreditation issues.

“We have more faculty in committees,” said Tracy Davis VVC Academic Senate President and professor of History and Theater. “Faculty feel there is more support.”

Faculty have taken a more hands on approach with accreditation, becoming more involved with the issues at hand and taking time to set up goals and guidelines for each of their classes and programs that are offered. They are opening lines of communication with one another in order to get things done.

“Faculty have been a huge contribution to the process,” said Jessica Gibbs professor of Physiology and General Biology. “This faculty is absolutely dedicated to this college.”

Not everything has been perfect though, faculty communication has been an issue since the college has opened. With constant fluctuations in the staff and changes in college presidents, having a constant form of communication has been difficult for some staff members.

“A lot of people feel like they are in the dark,” said Jennifer Fowlie Communications professor. “Even in the emails I understand what was going on but what could I do?”

Not only was communication a problem among faculty members but having them push forward and begin completing goals set forth by the accreditation team took some real work from the staff.

“That is the problem people are willing to talk the talk not willing to walk the walk.” said Fowlie.

It took a while before the faculty began to open up and speak with one another about accreditation. Now that everyone is on board and ready to solve this problem that has been looming over VVC, the faculty outlook and moral has improved.

Unfortunately for students the same cannot be said. The gap between students and faculty still needs to be bridged. The information flow is lacking having fliers posted on walls isn’t enough to engage students and get them to become informed.

“I’ve only had one student ask me about accreditation,” said Davis. “Most of them don’t seem worried... maybe that is a good sign. I don’t know.”

Faculty members are there to talk to students and are willing to listen to their concerns, students need to take a more active role in campus climate and begin to ask questions.

“If students are curious they should feel comfortable talking to the professors,” said Gibbs

Things are on track to improve and faculty are on board to help VVC stay afloat. Luckily it is not too late in the process and things did not get worse before they got better. There are enough people that care about this campus to keep it going for both the community and its residences.

“Everyone I’ve encountered is hell bent on seeing this process through,” said Fowlie.

Basketball from page 5

that your recruits are gonna bail on you, half-way through the season, that somebody gets an injury or the way grades are reported.”

But with new blood comes new hope. Michael Hodge, a first year student and recent addition to the team, has yet to try his skill on the court. After a quick move to Long Beach and back again, he is anxious to begin playing. He almost missed the cut due to late registration, however, persistent in his requests, Coach Dudgeon eventually allowed Hodge to try out. He was drafted to the team, has yet to add new hope. Michael Hodge, a first year student and recent addition to the team, has yet to add new hope. Michael Hodge, a first year student and recent addition to the team, has yet to add new hope. Michael Hodge, a first year student and recent addition to the team, has yet to add new hope. Michael Hodge, a first year student and recent addition to the team, has yet to add new hope. Michael Hodge, a first year student and recent addition to the team, has yet to add new hope. Michael Hodge, a first year student and recent addition to the team, has yet to add new hope.

The question of the day is how will the VVC Men’s Basketball Team fare this season? “Honestly, it’s really too early to tell,” answered Hodge. The boys have been putting in practice officially, for a month; their first game to be held Nov. 9. Schedules can be found at vvc.edu/academic/athletics/ Mbasketball_schedule.htm.
Story by Mark Barajas
Reporter

Spectators at Monday’s Victor Valley College Performing Art Center event on Nov. 5 joined on a critical issue of marriage equality with a cast of 21 actors, a suit against Prop. 8.

Ed Heaberlin found that adopting the “8” play would be a good idea to engage people about marriage equality.” “8” is a play about the closing argument suing against California when two same-sex couples denied a marriage license.

With about 50 attendees in the PAC, the end of the performance went up in jeers and cheers as the stage of actors bowed to the audience.

At VVC, actors recited original transcripts of the case of two couples filing a suit against Prop. 8. Same-sex couples Sandy Steir & Kristin Perry and Jeff Zarillo & Paul Katimi, representing them were Ted Olson and David Boise. Same-sex couples who filed suit against Prop.8 is played by Carrie Wilson, Alexis Williams, Kyle Gundlach, and Patrick William Mcelree. For 12 days, the opponents fought hard for marriage equality.

Playing a gay couple, Zarillo and Katimi who were denied by the state a marriage license, they took suit against Prop 8, actors Kyle Gundlach and Patrick William Mcelree stopped the audience in awe as they humanized their characters perfectly. Their dramatic entrance into every scene was fantastic. They failed at nothing to keep the attention of the audience.

“Marriage equality is the next step to finally showing California that our parents are equal, that our family is equal,” said Spencer Perry, son of the same-sex lesbian couple.

The duo for the case, actors, Heaberlin and Gundlach in every moment made the event more enjoyable. Heaberlin and Gundlach played attorneys Theodore B. Olson and David Boise, who fought alongside the victims of Prop 8. The performance left attendees in laughter when key moments in the performance allowed them to.

“As the court considers this, there is a debate about the morals, the practicalities and the wisdom that really goes to the nature of our culture,” said Cooper.

During the elections of Nov. 4, 2008, Prop 8 passed by a 52 percent to 48 percent margin in California. But many fought to defend and expand gay and lesbian rights.

Prop. 8 led to a controversial firestorm. The gay community fought against Prop. 8 feeling that it discriminates against marriage between same-sex couples in the same way laws once discriminated against marriages of interracial couples. It’s passages add a provision to California’s bill of rights which provides that ‘only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.’ Opponents have known the Proposition to only spread fear and prejudice into an unequal community.

“As any race can marry who they want, so sexual preference shouldn’t make a difference,” said Dianne Gundlach, mother of VVC student.

Continued in ‘8’ on page 12

Review by SaraJoy Stover
Reporter

The Victor Valley College play, “Winnie the Pooh”, was a fantastic performance filled with lively actors and beautiful scenery.

The play is about a storyteller narrating to a young boy, Christopher Robin. The story told to Christopher Robin was about three main characters, Winnie the Pooh, Piglet, and Rabbit. In the Hundred Acre Wood, they are living a lifestyle that they believe is okay, but to others it may seem filthy.

The problem that the residents of the Hundred Acre Wood face is that a new mother, Kanga, is coming to the woods with her baby, Roo. Piglet, Rabbit, and Pooh practice to scare them away because they heard that Kanga will give them all baths since they are filthy.

The actors of the play were incredible. They got into character, and they made the performance enjoyable. The costumes were very colorful and matched the cartoon version of what the characters in Winnie the Pooh looked like. In the scenery, there were false paintings of trees for the Hundred Acre Wood. For Christopher Robin’s room, the scenery looked as if it were the inside of a house.

In preparation for the performance, the cast and crew only rehearsed for three weeks.

In order to make a cartoon into a play, Director Ed Heaberlin said it wasn’t difficult for them.

“You just have to believe, it comes from the heart,” said Heaberlin.

Heaberlin had also said that he loved the cast and crew for this performance and they were the happiest he has been with.

Many of the cast members enjoyed the characters they played.

“I loved the character I played, he was energetic and nervous, although I don’t love the pink that much,” said VVC student, Shawn Taber, who played Piglet.

When asking the audience members about how they liked the play, they did express some questions on the plot. They said the plot wasn’t organized and didn’t make much sense, and the ending didn’t feel like an ending.

“I enjoyed parts of the play. The acting was good, but the plot wasn’t very well written,” audience member and VVC Instructional Media Services Technician, Tim Isbell said.

Despite these concerns, the performance was very well put on and many enjoyed it.

Overall the Performing Arts Center is doing a great job and are improving in each performance that they do. This production brought “Winnie the Pooh” to life.
Get in the groove: fall dance recital

Preview by Ethan McGarvey
Reporter

The upcoming Fall Dance Concert at Victor Valley College features students that have minimal dance experience, to students that have years of dance experience. The concert will incorporate all of their skills for a cohesive production.

Among the students is newcomer Mary Hill. She is in her first semester of dance and wants to use dance as a tool for increasing her confidence. Hill aspires to pursue a career in acting, and this class helps her open up her personality on stage.

“I'm not good with attention and I don't like the spotlight on me,” said Hill.

She entered the class with the desire to try something new and different. Hill did some cheerleading in high school, but soon discovered that style was not as helpful as she thought it was going to be.

“I was surprised and really taken back. Sometimes I would end up on the other side of the room,” said Hill, as she explained her early struggles with finding her groove. As the semester progresses, her coordination has gotten better. She has become more observant and she is starting to get into the swing of things. Hill has gravitated towards the jazz style of dance because it suits her style the best. She likes the rigidity of jazz as opposed to the free and loose movements of the modern style.

“It’s exciting. If you wanna learn something new, this is the class for you. It’s not just one dance, or two dances, but many dances,” said Hill.

On the opposite end of the skill spectrum, is Omar Chavez. He is in his fourth semester of dance at VVC and is equipped with many years of previous experience and likes the modern style the best. Chavez wants to pursue a career in dance and puts a lot of time into perfecting his art. Chavez elevates himself, not just with experience, but with how he approaches each routine.

“I’m a more well-rounded individual. I persevere and strive to be the best. And I really get into character,” said Chavez, “dance is 10 percent skill and 90 percent work.”

Although there is no underlying theme to the Fall Dance Concert, it is more of an exposé on the styles of dance. The concert will feature a variety of styles including: tango, modern, fosse, ballet and jazz.

“You are going to see dancers performing to their abilities and succeeding,” said Chavez, “dance is very basic and incorporates every aspect of life. Come to the show, find something new and experience something different.”

On Friday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m., the Fall Dance Concert opens. It will be held at the Performing Arts Center and is directed by Lynn Guardado with additional choreography by Nancy Helms. Ticket prices will be: $10 for general admission, $7 for seniors, $5 for children and free admission for VVC Associated Student Body card holders. For any additional information, contact the PAC at (760)245-4271 Ex. 2440.

AC/DC

Alternative Corner with Daniel Compean

Low-positivity: Modern bigotry

In what can only be described as a depressing realization, I felt bitter and betrayed by mainstream media. What's wrong with music these days? There was an inability to identify with the songs playing through the radio. I began to feel myself become more detached from the lyrics as will.i.am in 2009 would sing through the back end of an auto-tuner reminding me that “tonight's gonna be a good night.” No. No it won't. Will.

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As the years carried on, I discovered many others like myself. It's become commonplace to lament over the state of pop music to the point of cliche. People will cling to their favorite bands from high school or incessantly remind you how the music of today fails to compare to whatever 70's dadrock they just discovered as if time has ascended it upon high.

Whenever people complain about modern music, they're overlooking one major point: music isn't getting worse, you're just growing old, and no one wants to write music for old people.

Justin Bieber has become this decade’s favorite chew toy. How has this inoffensive, squeaky-clean Canadian kid generated so much hatred? Well, let's take a look at Bieber's magnum opus, should't warrant hatred. At worst, it should inspire apathy. It's a form of media that isn't meant for you to identify with.

Music will forever be the Peter Pan of entertainment. Lady Gaga will never be Queen Gaga. Music is not going to mature alongside you. Pop stars will continue to sing about break-ups and heartbreak long after you've grown past that point in your life. There will inevitably come a transition where new music isn't being made for you anymore. For those ready to graduate college, that transition starts now.

If tonight we can all go home and take comfort, instead of resentment, in this fact, maybe will.i.am could actually be on to something.

“Music isn't getting worse, you're just growing old, and no one wants to write music for old people.”

Your feedback is always appreciated.
Send us your questions/comments/story ideas: vvcrampage@gmail.com
Ram Reviews: movies & music

‘Hope on the Rocks’: old country themes hit rock bottom

Review by Kristen Martin
Reporter

Toby Keith is a well-known, highly respected country artist with 19 years of experience under his belt. His newest album, "Hope on the Rocks," projects 10 new songs about beer and girls; an old theme with a new sound.

A country fan is used to slow paced, insightful songs because that is where country music originated; hearing such things from Toby Keith is odd, strange, and in a way, wrong. Not necessarily because he sings slower, but because the music itself is depressing and whiny.

Keith starts the album with “Hope on the Rocks.” The bartender perspective of this song shows a new side of Keith. With hints of suicide, empty souls, and lost hope, a beaten and battered town turns to a bartender for liquid courage and a reason to continue on.

In the progression of the album, there is no correlation between the first track and the others; Keith goes on to sing about women and booze. The first track is the most defining track of the entire album because it discusses real issues and a failing community rather than the remaining songs on the album that whimper on and on about needing more beer and losing a girlfriend; a very repetitive theme amongst music these days.

A few tracks later, “Scat Cat” picks up in speed. The beat goes faster than the other songs heard on the album. Although the tune is familiar, the lyrics are unheard of. The song itself is about illegal whiskey production, but Keith inputs “Scat cat, you have gravy on your tail,” at the end of the chorus. Odd.

One of the best songs of the album, “The Size I Wear,” has a similar tune to “Beer for My Horses” and “Whose Your Daddy” that debuted in Keith’s album from 2002, “Unleashed.” In the chorus, there is a distinct few measures that may be easily confused for either song. It’s nice to know Keith has not completely abandoned his fans.

There is no way to determine if Keith has peaked and is falling back on anything just to keep the records going or if he is changing his music consciously.

Either way, this album was a bad idea and leaves a bad taste of Keith in the listener’s mouth.

Bond reinvigorated, not rebooted

Review by Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor

The story follows the eponymous MI6 agent James Bond, also known as 007 (Craig.) He is tasked with seeking out a cyberterrorist (Javier Bardem) who has a strange murder-agenda with Bond’s matronly commanding officer, M (Judi Dench.) Tensions culminate as terrorist attacks and bodies mount up. “Skyfall” delivers a very modern Bond film, dealing with the practicality of espionage in a modern setting.

“Skyfall” is directed by Sam Mendes (“American Beauty,” “Road to Perdition,”) a director who’s proven he knows excellent storytelling. With an abundance of stage production experience, Mendes favors plot exposition and has the ability to bring a human quality to his films.

“Skyfall” is no exception, as a childhood back story is given to the otherwise enigmatic character of James Bond.

Craig gives a certain panache and class to his portrayal as Bond. While generally true to every one of the 007 incarnations, Craig has made Bond uniquely his. Still with his typical womanizing charms, Craig also brings a wry performance adding a subtle layer of humor.

Bardem’s performance as the cyberterrorist, Raoul Silva, is brilliant. Bardem takes an almost childlike, psychotic glee in every little thing he does. From playing sadistic target practice to bizarre metaphorical stories about rats, Bardem never ceases to capture the audience’s attention. Director Mendes seems to be aware of this, as every scene seems to bring out Bardem’s talent even more.

“Skyfall” caters to the absurd action and theatrical explosions the 007 series has become

Continued in Skyfall on page 14

‘$’ from page 10

ProtectMarriage.com, led by a coalition of conservatives, limited the freedoms of marriage to the gay community. The goal of religious activists is to keep the sanctity of marriage between a man and woman.

“No all you can to support the proposed constitutional amendment by donating all your means and time,” said church members of Latter-Day Saints.

As the play finished, the front row of the crowd roared in cheers for the actors. However, in the back row of the audience where the actors failed to reach, many attendees stood slouched up in their chairs. It was a 50/50 stretch for the play to catch the back rows because people seemed lost for a moment as it ended.
Wrestling undefeated and still climbing

Story by Annette Linares
Reporter

Taking down the undefeated one match at a time, wrestler Ryan McWatters has a record of 16 and 0 at Victor Valley College.

In eighth grade McWatters began to wrestle flowing in the footsteps of his father, uncle and cousins in the city of Murrieta, California. He received six or more trophies in the past and has continued to receive more.

McWatters is now a sophomore here at VVC and continued his wrestling career after graduating from Sultana High School. His technique continues to improve and is the second captain on the wrestling team while he volunteers at Sultana High School as an assistant wrestling coach.

“I was wrestling the returning State Champion and I was beating him and he came back in the last ten seconds and beat me. I felt like I could beat him but just little things that just screwed me up,” said McWatters.

With McWatters transition from high school to junior college, he has kept his undefeated record with the help of Head Coach Scott Seeley, Assistant Coaches Kevin Chilton, Kirk Riding and the wrestlers.

“He is number one ranked up wrestler from state. He has beaten everybody that they have thrown at him,” said Seeley.

Seeley has been coaching the wrestling team at VVC since 2003 and became head coach in 2005. During his career, he has had many successful wrestlers. Bryan Barker graduated from Granite High School and wrestled for Seeley and made it to the professional level. Another wrestler coached by Seeley was Joe “Daddy” Stevenson, who is now a Mixed Martial Arts Fighter.

With the successful training the coaches have had with the past wrestlers, McWatters has the best chance of making it to the big league.

“He has always been a good wrestler but he has improved in pretty much every aspect he hasn’t just stayed content with how he was. He’s gotten stronger and he has gotten a lot more physical than he used to be. Everything that he was good at in high school, he’s gotten better at,” said Chilton.

VVC has had more than one wrestler at state championships and this is the sixth year in a row. This season McWatters has a line filled of offers already and many more to come once he is done here at VVC.

Sports in brief

Christmas fundraiser: proceeds go to VVC baseball team

Brief by April Terrero
Reporter

The Victor Valley College baseball team is now selling Christmas trees to raise money for equipment. This is the VVC’s baseball team’s 2nd annual Christmas fundraiser. Run by head coach Jesus Beltran, the baseball team offers Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands and swags in different sizes and prices.

The Christmas trees range from $45-$140 and gives the students a choice between a Douglas fir, Noble fir and a Grand fir. Pre-orders started Oct. 10 and end on Nov. 18 and can be purchased through the head coach or baseball players.

Trees are set to be picked up at the tennis courts Dec. 8.

“The fundraiser is important to the program because it helps purchase our gear for the season and mostly everyone needs a Christmas tree,” said baseball player Christopher Thibodeau.

“The fundraiser helps give a little purpose. Unfortunately at some points, we are not as many people are interested and I am going to do the best I can to help my team be successful,” said baseball player Chad Howard.

Volleyball nears the end of the season as playoff hopes vanish

Brief by Octavius Thomas
Editor

The hope of Victor Valley College’s volleyball team reaching the post season playoffs has diminished as they suffered another loss in Foothill Conference play.

On Nov. 9, the Rams faced off against the Marauders of Antelope Valley College. In their last two games, the Rams were unsuccessful in obtaining the victory and lost the three sets both times. The Rams were once again unable to beat Antelope Valley ended with a 1-3 loss.

“It’s all mental mistakes,” said Rams head coach Christine White. “Tonight it was not my team that was out there.”

In the first set it seemed as though Victor Valley was sure to put up a fight the entire game as they were able to take control and win 25-23.

“The first set was my real team,” said White. “Everyone communicated well and showed how we really play.”

During the next matches, Antelope Valley showed complete dominance over the Rams, not allowing a single lead. The loss gave the Rams an (11-12) overall record and an (8-6) Foothill Conference record.

The Rams are currently holding onto a fourth place position in Foothill Conference play. With only one game remaining in the season, Rams will not be participating in the playoffs.

“The way we are right now, it is not possible for us to have a post season,” said White. “We needed a lot of improvement.”

The Rams last game will be held at home against Rio Honda on Nov. 14.
Skyfall from page 12

Karen Stolzfus

known for. With well choreographed fight scenes that aren’t afraid to stand on the side of being occasionally over-the-top, “Skyfall” embraces this time-honored Bond tradition.

As a character from the film puts it, “Sometimes the old ways are the best.” “Skyfall” takes this to heart as the movie permeates with nostalgia in nearly every scene. Long time 007 fans will no doubt rejoice at the sight of the iconic Aston Martin DB5 complete with a seat ejection button. Yet for all the fan shout outs “Skyfall” offers, the plot essentially follows the tried and true 007 method. Bond is easily captured, Bond easily escapes, Bond finds a new woman to sleep with, and action ensues. As predictable as this may be, this method is what most have come to love about this cherished series. To break from this mold would almost feel like a betrayal to the established norms of the Bond universe.

“Skyfall” is easily the best of the Craig-era Bond films thus far. Visually impressive, engrossing and well paced, despite its near two and a half hour run time; it hardly fails to deliver something compelling and worthwhile for one of cinema’s most well-known characters.
Jerry Brown
@JerryBrownGov

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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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Lights of Love 2012

Twas many weeks before the holidays, when all through the college
All staff was bustling with new acquired knowledge;
That the "Lights of Love" were all hung with care,
In Auxiliary Services next to the stairs.

The names of the children for all to see,
Were brightly written out for you and me;
Just pick a light from the window display
The one you want and you're on your way.

Just purchase a gift approximate $10
Wrap it nicely, bring it back and then
We'll log it in and you've done your part
The child will smile and warm your heart.

So don't say, "no time, no money, no way!"
Share what you've gotten; make a child's day
On the "Lights of Love" hundreds wait there
For a kind giving soul to remember they're here.

So thank you for taking the time to read,
And we hope we have planted a generous seed,
So just remember before you leave,
That it's better to give than to receive!

M.Kagy 2002 revised 2012

*ASB Council * Ready Rams Club * PTK * EOPS *