



Ram Page

OCTOBER 27, 2012 • VOLUME 34, No. 5

A man's country is not a certain area of land, ...but it is a principle; and patriotism is loyalty to that principle. ~George William Curtis

Accreditation waiting game

Follow-up report #2 is complete; all that is left to do now is wait

Story by **Tanya Patterson**
Reporter

Victor Valley College submitted its final report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) on October 15. The outcome: One more inning in VVC's accreditation game of "hurry up and wait".

Accredited schools can offer courses that are transferable to a four year university. Currently, VVC is on probation with the ACCJC and stands to lose its accredited status if it fails to make fundamental changes recommended by the ACCJC,

which would then make credits earned at VVC un-transferrable. "Accreditation primarily has to do with the internal workings of the college and has nothing to do with student performance, but everything we're doing is for the benefit of our students," said Bill Greulich, VVC's Director of Marketing.

In March 2011, the ACCJC sent representatives to the college campus to ensure that the college has met minimum standards for accreditation. The team found violations in eight areas and placed VVC on probation in June, 2011. As a result, the Commission asked the college to correct the infractions by

March, 2012 and submit a follow-up report. Despite efforts in these corrections, VVC remained on probation and was given an additional 6 months to meet standards.

Accreditation issues have plagued VVC off and on for nearly 20 years.

On July 2, a letter from the ACCJC addressed to Dr. Christopher O'Hearn, VVCCD President, stated, "... some of the issues and deficiencies were noted by previous evaluation teams dating back to 1993, and the Commission warns that if the conditions that place Victor

Continued in Accreditation on page 2

The pursuit of independence

ASB prepares for upcoming conferences to gain statewide support

Story by **SarahJoy Stover**
Reporter

The Victor Valley College Associated Student Body will be attending the Student Senate for California Community Colleges general assembly on Nov. 2-4 in Palm Desert, where they will be trying to gather support from all 112 California community colleges on eight proposed resolutions. One of the biggest resolutions ASB has been trying to



Photo courtesy of Cat Gempfer, ASB Student Advocate Senator

pass for several years is lowering the independent age for students receiving financial aid.

For the last three years, ASB has been attempting to lower the independent age from 24 to 21. In order for any changes to pass, the topic must be a national priority. This means it is represented as a priority topic when delivered to congressmen and

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What's up with the caution tape in the library? — Page 7



Who to Follow? Twitter accounts for college students. — Page 18

News in Brief

- Remember to register to vote! New law states that you may still register up til election day and still vote. There is a link on Victor Valley College website to register.
- 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
- Sign up for a Fall 2012 campus tour. Next tour is CSU San Bernardino on Nov. 9. Sign up in the Transfer Center (Bldg. 55)
- The Library's Annual Book Sale is going on now! Stop by the Library to browse the selection or donate books and magazines. Proceeds from the sale will be utilized to purchase new materials for the Library.
- The Library is hosting an "election" where students and staff can vote for President of the United States. Who would VVC elect? Cast your vote today. The ballot box is located at the reference desk inside the Library. "Winner" will be revealed on Nov. 16
- 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.
- Auditions for Cans for Concert are Friday, Nov. 2. All Artists must attend and be heard. Contact Evonne Torado (760) 508-9219
- Support your VVC Baseball team by purchasing a Christmas tree in their second annual Christmas tree fundraiser now through Nov. 12. Contact Jesus Beltran (760) 964-8538

Accreditation from page 1

Valley College out of compliance with Accreditation Standards are not fully resolved by October 15, 2012, the Commission will be obligated to consider whether the institution should remain accredited."

Michael Krause, appointed member of the VVC Board of Trustees, is optimistic about the report but notes that a high turnover rate in leadership positions, like that of the VVC Board and superintendent positions, can make it difficult to create and implement policies that comply with the ACCJC recommendations.

"Look at the turnover of the leadership. There's been a lot of turnover in this case, of presidents, of vice presidents. And that has affected the college tremendously," Krause said, "If you look at some schools, they've had the same superintendent for 20 years, and so you have that steady leadership. But when any organization has a turnover, there's always a learning curve and there's always new policies and procedures to get used to."

Joseph W. Brady was appointed to the Board of Trustees in February, 2011, one month before the ACCJC team conducted a review and once again placed VVC on probation. At that time, he also noticed of lack of continuity over the last 20 years amongst the Board members, superintendent, faculty and the accreditation process.

"You have an underlying tone of a campus climate problem, a trust problem between some faculty and some administration, a board that is not always on the same page," Brady said, "We say that we're going to do certain things, but we don't do them. It's one thing to talk about accountability and responsibility and another thing to do it."

That accountability comes with a cost. Earlier this month, Brady and another board member were reprimanded for sitting in on an Academic Senate Meeting, at the request of Tracy Da-

vis, President of the Academic Senate. Davis encouraged board members to attend the meeting to give them a better understanding of what the Senate was doing while completing their portion of the ACCJC report. The Commission specifically prohibits the involvement of VVC's Board of Trustees in the everyday activities of the school such as committee and senate meetings, one issue that the Accreditation Panel was expected to correct. This policy is meant to decrease the possibility of intimidation and undue influence that may arise from the presence of Board members.

"I did not understand the seriousness of it at that time," said Brady, "I understand it. I don't totally agree with it, but those are what the rules are. What we're trying to do is get some kind of clarification on when we can have some interaction."

The Commission has until mid January to review the report and draft a response. A team from the ACCJC will identify areas where VVC has not met the criteria. VVC must then correct the infractions by March 15.

In an email dated July 19 2012, Peter Allan, Interim Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services wrote, "No matter what happens we will have to complete another report either in March 2013, or in March 2014. In either (or both) reports we will be required to demonstrate that we are continuing with the things we said we are doing."

Allan could not be interviewed by present time.

The long term future of Victor Valley College is yet uncertain, but students attending classes during fall 2012 and spring 2013 will remain unaffected by any decision made during this process. It is likely that VVC will remain on probation and changes to policy will continue.

More information about VVC's accreditation report can be found at: <http://www.vvc.edu/offices/oie/accreditation/accreditation>

1. Resolution and Analysis

2. Evidence and Conclusion

3. Sustaining Continuous Quality Improvement

**Victor Valley College
Accreditation Follow-up Report #2**



Parking wars

VVC students undergo new parking restrictions in faculty/staff lots

Story by **Kristen Martin**
Reporter

Night students attending classes need to be aware that the faculty lots are no longer open after 5 p.m.

"Our priority should be the students," said Chris Dustin, ASB Inter-Club Council Senator, "I am not happy about the faculty parking lots."

The summer session at VVC influenced a change on campus this fall. Many staff members made comments about how difficult it is to find parking during the evening, and in turn, the college decided to extend the hours from five p.m. to six p.m.

At the Facilities Committee meeting in January, chair David Holloman pointed out that 80 percent of classes begin around 5:30 p.m., so by the time the faculty arrives, students have taken all the parking.

"I don't agree with the parking at VVC whatsoever. But do I have a say? No. I just have to deal with the repercussions of what they decide," student Deanna Wallace said.

There is a difference of opinion amongst students and faculty in regards to the parking situation on campus. Students think it's unfair that faculty is prioritized and don't see how them getting to class on time is any more important than the students getting to class on time.

"We are the students," said Dustin, "we are going to school for an education, to better ourselves. Teachers are going for a paycheck. And they get paid

whether they are there or not. So really, we should be the ones with priority parking."

The students may be in opposition against the faculty lots, but the faculty thinks of it as a rite of passage. They feel they have done their part for the school, and now parking is just one of the perks of working for

committee heard and acknowledged the students opinion, the committee voted in favor of the time change.

"It comes with being faculty," said Miller, "being age 65, the fewer steps I have to take, the easier it is on me. In fact, the faculty on campus is mostly older in age, it's not just me."

wouldn't believe the amount of times I have wasted 10, 15 minutes even just circling the parking lots trying to find any parking spot."

On campus, the faculty lots are strategically placed in the most convenient areas. The lots that are closest to numerous buildings have been designated



Large signs, such as the one shown here in lot 8, previously stated that the lot was available for student parking after 5 p.m. But recent changes indicate that students parking in these lots will receive a ticket if it is earlier than 6 p.m. *Photo by Gabriel King, Reporter*

the school.

"Teachers, we stay here semester after semester. Students come and go after a year or two," said Spanish instructor Mo Franco, "to have parking for the faculty that is so close to the buildings, it's nice."

Miller motioned the change in the faculty lots. Students attending the facilities committee meetings voiced their opposition to the time change; although the

The change, while beneficial for faculty, does not accommodate all VVC attendees. There is hardly enough parking on campus as it is, and taking away another hour of a few parking lots is taking its toll on the students.

"The change has made it so much harder on me as a night student," said Wallace, "I understand that the faculty needs parking, but so do students. You

for faculty in an effort to assist them on being to class on time.

"We sometimes have to carry things to class. We bring what we need to help the students, and the parking should not be too much to ask," said Franco.

There are no changes being made in the near future. Over the next two years, the facilities committee will be adding buildings and parking. Students don't fret. More parking is on the way!

Independence from page 1

senators in Washington D.C. These priority sheets are delivered every March by students.

If they can get the support of all the community colleges in California, they will have a better shot at making this a national priority when they attend the American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) national conference on Nov. 9-11 in Tampa, Florida.

"ASB is prepped for ASACC because they did the research, have gone to the senate, and they will share this when they go to the student general assembly conference," said Robert Sewell, Director of Auxiliary Services.

ASB is also making sure that as many people as possible know about the independent age resolution so they can receive the support they need.

"Independent Age change has gotten closer to be a national priority. It is up for discussion to be a state priority, and it will be brought up again to be a national priority," continues Sewell.

The fall 2012 general assembly resolutions states under resolution 8.01 that

"discriminating against a person on the basis of their age is morally wrong and therefore a violation of an individuals civil rights." ASB's support of this resolution has been to end these discriminatory practices against students.

According to Sewell, in the last year the independent age change fell short one vote from making this a national priority.

Based on the "Lower Independent Age VVC ASB 2011-2012" video, located on VVC's ASB website, only 21 percent of those who apply for financial aid actually receive it, and in today's information based economy, more than 60 percent of jobs require advanced skills, training or education. This could make it hard for students under the age of 24 to have a job that pays for college tuition without aid.

Because of this policy, there are some students who do not attend college until they have reached 24 years of age. Some parents make too much money, so the student cannot receive financial aid.

"If you are in a situation where you aren't living at home with your parents, or don't even talk to your parents for whatever reason, getting their tax documents for your FAFSA could be incredibly difficult," said Cat Gempler, Student Advocate for ASB.

To apply and receive federal financial aid, students have to fill out the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The student's circumstances, the finances of their parents, their family need, and their family contribution all play a factor in how much Pell Grant and financial aid the student will be awarded.

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan, and the President's administration have stated in the past year that community colleges have never been more important as now, according to Sewell. They believe that community colleges are the cornerstone for future growth in the United States, and would like to streamline FAFSA, making it easier for non-traditional students.

"If the independent age were dropped it would lighten the burden to many who were affected. Then they could go to school and be more productive students. They would not have to work as many hours and focus more on school," Sewell said.

"Lowering the independent age would mean a lot for me, for the students," Monique Ballard, ASB president said on the "VVC ASB 2011-2012 Lower Independent Age" video.

Scan with your smart phone to sign the online petition to lower the independent age
signon.org/sign/lower-the-independent



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Welding department hot for currency

As funds spread thin across campus

Story by Trevor Cooper
Reporter

Every college student experiences it at some point. Colleges everywhere are faced with overcrowded classrooms, insufficient amount of staff, and budget cuts. Due to the currently depressed economy, most college students across the country struggle with similar problems. Victor Valley College's welding department is no exception.

"This is our dilemma," said VVC welding instructor, Gary Menser. "We have classes that overlap. Currently, we have 24 arc welding stations, and we have 14 oxy acetylene gas welding stations. We have, I would call them, 10 non-permanent work stations."

Although it sounds like an impressive amount of stations, only 24 of these are used for arc welding; the primary process most of the students are performing. Menser says that at any given time, more than 24 students need to use the arc welding stations at the same time.

With the amount of students drastically outweighing the amount of stations, a system deciding who gets to use the stations at any given time is needed. The students are prioritized according to the time their class starts. For example, if a student's class is in session at the time they want to use a station, they get first priority. Students whose class starts relatively soon get second priority, and finally, students who are simply looking for extra practice time in the lab get the last priority. Menser and his instructional assistant, Troy Kuhns, tries to monitor who is using a station, and who is waiting on that station. Menser says that if someone can be patient, the wait time for any particular work station is about 10 to 15 minutes.

"Personally, it doesn't affect me, but if you were strapped for time I could see how that affect you," said welding student Travis St. Clair.

St. Clair is currently taking 16 units at the college and is here from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. He is enrolled in six welding classes. He says he is in the welding shop often, but is rarely kicked out of a work station. Though he says it is not an issue when he is kicked off, this might not be the case with everyone. For those whose time in the lab is more crucial, sharing a station might interfere with them finishing a graded project.

"We're tight; we have to shuffle things around. It's not the ideal condition, and it's not perfectly comfortable for everybody, but we have to make it work where we can," said Menser.

In addition to the already tight space, Menser says that summer classes are to be cut as well. Menser is unsure whether or not VVC will be offering any welding classes this summer. And if the classes weren't already sparse enough, Menser says he recently received an email from Vice President of Instruction, Peter Allan, saying that 250 more spring sections will be cut if Proposition 30 does not pass; and the less classes welding offers, the fuller the ones availa-

ble will be. This means even more students will be using the welding stations.

The welding department has not been the only one to feel the

"It's a good trade," says Menser, "The thing that people forget or don't know about welding is that welding is used by all the trades."



Matt Kingsley, a student of the VVC Welding class, works on one of the FAW welding machines. The welding department has been struggling with providing its students with enough work stations for adequate instruction. Photo by Trevor Cooper, Reporter

crunch. Most people are aware of the fact that education in America faces severe budget cuts. VVC is not immune. But Menser says there is a ray of hope at the end of the tunnel.

"We as a welding department are supposed to get an additional lab built behind this one for more work stations," Menser says.

He estimates that they will have the new facility within the next two to three years. But Menser's instructional assistant, Troy Kuhns, doesn't sound so optimistic.

"I don't even think we have a promise on that," Kuhns says. "I mean, they came out and drilled some core samples but beyond that I haven't heard a peep."

With such a high demand for welders in the industry, one might wonder why special funding isn't being pooled toward education for this field.

"It's all based on what's available," Menser says. "The economy is bad, the budget is bad, and so is the amount of funding that the college is getting. I would say, 'sure, fund welding,' but everything needs funding. We haven't suffered alone, the whole system has suffered."

Menser predicts that until the economy as a whole recovers, welding, along with every other aspect of this school lacking funding will remain thirsty for capital.

From Pagan roots to knockin' boots

Halloween has deep roots in cultures around the world from the tricks to the treats

Feature by Amber Schwartz
Features Editor

The peculiar feelings that come with the chills of this season might be in part to Halloween's long, ancient history. Halloween is celebrated differently all around the world, which makes sense, for every modern-day tradition comes from a different geological era.

Traditions such as dressing up in costumes, trick-or-treating, jack-o-lanterns and candy corn all have different backgrounds. Most traditions date back as far as 2000 years. Each tradition makes up the holiday and is a yearly necessity.

Dressing up in costumes and trick-or-treating are traced back to the Celtic festival, Samhain, which means summer's end. The Celts celebrated this time because they felt that the changing of the seasons was very sacred. They believed that there was a connection between the decreasing sun's hot gaze and the expiration of human life.

The Celts believed that the Lord of Death, Saman, would gather souls and invite these spirits to partake in mischief. So, the Celts disguised themselves in gruesome costumes to trick the spirits into thinking that they were one in the same so that these souls would leave them alone. Also, the people would lay out food for all the spirits as a peace-offering, which is a thinly veiled likeness of our current style of trick-or-treating.

The Celts were soon conquered by the Roman Empire, and the Romans partially combined the Samhain festival and their own festival of Pomona, which celebrated the Goddess of harvest. The Romans continued these pagan traditions until

Christianity swept through their empire.

Christianity adapted to the pagan rituals, but changed the traditions slightly. Church leaders intertwined Samhain and Pomona celebrations into the Catholic rituals of All Saints and All Souls day. The eve of all Saints Day became All Hallow Eve, and eventually Halloween.

The popular tradition of the Jack-O-Lantern has several possible origins. An Irish tale tells of a man named Jack who made a bargain with the devil. Jack's soul was guaranteed not to go to hell when he died, but was not sent to heaven, for he was a sinful man. The devil gave Jack a blazing ember which he placed in a carrot or a turnip, so that it would serve as a lantern. When the Irish settlers came to America, they found that pumpkins were better suited for lanterns.

Candy corn is dated all the way back to the 1880's. The Wunderle Candy Company in Philadelphia is said to have invented the treat. At the time, candy was shaped in the form of vegetables and plants, and candy maker George Renninger wanted to try something in the shape of corn, and candy corn was the final product. With its vibrant colors and distinctive taste, candy corn was a success.

Since Halloween was originally meant for hallowing the dead and spirits were said to have frolicked over the lands; prodding through the backyards of frightened residents, it would serve as an explanation to that peculiar feeling. Almost as if that chill in the air is the whispers of those spirits. Despite its dark, gothic history, there is a brighter side to it that almost balances out its good and evil compass.

Like a prayer no more— Micah Raimo explores the connections of Halloween to ritualistic sex

Feature by Micah Raimo
News Editor

Civilizations believed a little romp in the woods would save crops and prevent starvation. This idea of ritual sex expressed a celebration of life and the Wiccan holiday Samhain (or Halloween) is right around the corner.

On All Hallow's Eve (Samhain), ritual sex was used to celebrate the changing of the season but also to charge the spells cast during the celebration. A poly-copulating circus wasn't about fun and frolic in the bushes; it was about the continuation of life and the physical "Sacred Marriage" between the god and goddess.

"People don't want to link religion and sex, but I think it's a powerful energy that can be tapped in some belief systems," said VVC student Alice Vunderbrost.

According to Patti Wigington's article in the About.com domain, "What is the Great Rite? And what is Ritual Sex," "More often than not, if ritual sex is performed, it is between two individuals who are part of an existing relationship already, and who are in equal levels of power within the dynamic of the coven."

Sex has always been a part of civilized culture but recent attitudes have almost destroyed the religious aspects within the night-time courtship. In a way it's kind of like Christmas time at the Victor Valley Mall; only with crappy gifts in complete ignorance of the meaning of the holiday.

"I think it is unfortunate that sex in society has been reduced and stigmatized to the point where we have to disconnect it from our religion; disconnect it

from our belief systems, making everybody hypocrites basically," said Vunderbrost.

Spring Wolf's Pagan Path webpage (www.paganspath.com) agrees that the idea of sex can be an excuse to polish your trophy: "The Great Rite is not for everyone and like all rituals can be used as a positive act just as easily as it can be used to abuse."

"Look at Planned Parenthood. We have made it so easy to get away from that by saying: 'You're pregnant?' Here: Plan B so you don't get pregnant. Or here: abortion. Forget rebirth. We have made it so acceptable to forget the reason why sex was there. We have made it so easy to go around the cost of our action," said Martika Lewis, part-time VVC student and parent.

The relationship between Samhain and sex runs as deep in history as the Mariana Trench. Sex was used to continue life for a purpose greater than getting off. Think about it this way: if the men and women fail to give off that spark, then the village would starve and families could die off. Anxious to use that Trojan on All Hallow's Eve?

"I believe that we as a society have decided that sex is everything. We worship sex and not use sex as worship because we fall in love with the feeling that we get with the pleasure of how great sex is, we forget the meaning behind the pagan religion," said Lewis.



Star studded event at VVC planetarium

Story by Mark Barajas
Reporter

Astronomy enthusiasts from the High desert community gathered for, "Explorers of Mauna Kea," in Hawaii. In the Planetarium at VVC, Instructor of Astronomy, David Myers, presented the showing on Oct. 19 2012.

Eager astronomers gaze for a chance to learn and explore the Mauna Kea Observatory, an inactive Volcano in Hawaii. At the planetarium, attendees watched how the observatory and its 13 telescopes searched outside our atmosphere on this mountain. In a series of universal ingenuity, Myers demonstrated during the film what a telescope can do. Mirrors and

lights appear to be major functions with high altitudes and perfect atmosphere. Away from city lights, observing the universe in a pitch black setting helps produce images that new advances in technology provide. The High Desert community and VVC students were all happy to sit and learn with eager faces. Sitting in a sphere shaped flat surfaced room, the film projected above, "The Explorers of Mauna Kea."

"For the first time in human history we know of the existence of worlds beyond the suns family of planets; the discovery that most of the mass of the universe may be in a mysterious form of dark matter; the detection and identification of organic molecules in comets. Comets

may have brought the building blocks of life to the early earth," said the Mauna Kea of Research Master Plan.

Mauna Kea is one of five hotspot volcanoes that form the island of Hawaii. Mauna Kea, currently inactive and is about 13,800 ft. above sea level; a great site for astronomical observation, because of its high altitude and dry environment. With the darkness surrounding Mauna Kea, objects in space like asteroids, moons, planets, stars, star clusters, nebulas, and entire galaxies are easily projected through advances in telescopes.

Four volcanoes surround Mauna Kea of Hawaii and is the fourth oldest and fourth most active. Its last eruption was

about 4,600 years ago and is approximately 200,000,000 years old.

"As of January 2012, the volcanic alert level is normal," said (USGS) the United States Geological Survey.

Myers demonstrated by passing along six inch squared mirrors to the audience. Turning a light bulb on, the mirror absorbs the light reflected to a projected image on the screen.

"More mirrors help better see a faint object and more glass focusing in brightness and resolution, building more detail," said Myers.

Through a star projector called the Zeiss Sky Master, its func-

Continued in *Planetarium* on page 12

Check it out at the library

Story by Annette Linares
Reporter

The Victor Valley College library is not only meant for doing research and school work. Their services also offer entertaining book displays that are educational and fun to read and they are currently having their annual book sale.

Librarian's Meghan Kennedy and Ramona Boyton started the book displays last semester. They mentioned that the displays would also be held on other events besides holidays.

Halloween and the upcoming 2012 Political Elections, are the inspirations for the current displays. Books about Halloween and Politics have their own shelves behind the reference section. Students may check many of these books that are part of the displays.

Kennedy and Boyton made clear that the holidays chosen for display are "across the board" so that students can learn about different cultures. Displays are meant to encourage

students to read and enjoy books.

"We encourage people to have fun looking at them. We don't have any rules or guidelines," said Kennedy.

Librarian Leslie Huiner explains, every fall semester the librarians set up tables and sell books that are past editions or have been donated to the VVC library. Some of the books could be used for both academic and personal life.

VVC student David Gonzalez enjoys hunting for used textbooks in the library's book sale.

"I bought an older edition book for Health 102 for only a dollar last fall semester and it helped me save money. I was able to keep up with the class and passed with an A," said Gonzalez

Book selection varies from novels, older edition textbooks, to self-help books, etc. The prices are very reasonable. The lowest price for a book or tape recording is .50 cents and the highest price is four dollars.

Another VVC student, Saman-

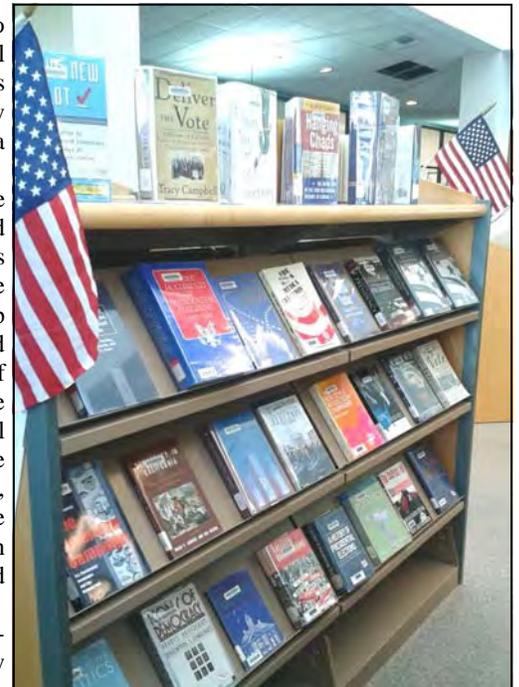
tha Lopez, also claims the annual book sale has helped her buy textbooks at a cheap price.

Many of the staff, faculty and student workers help set up the books and keep them organized until the end of the month or once the books are all sold. As the sale comes to a close, the prices will be at half price, then a dollar a bag and eventually free.

Last fall semester the library raised over \$2,200. This is used for the new supplies at the library.

The first week of Nov. there will be a window display on Epilepsy Awareness, and a book display of Columbus Day. There

will also be holiday displays for the month of Dec and the following months.



One of the displays in the library is the election display. It features books on American politics.

Photo by Annette Linares, Reporter

Committed to fear:

A run through All Saints Lunatic Asylum

Story by Micah Raimo
News Editor

My senses were jarred. The play of shadows, pure blacks and dim light ripped me away from my reality security blanket and flung me into the narrow halls of a horror movie. Unfortunately this wasn't a movie. This was All Saints Lunatic Asylum Haunted Attraction in Apple Valley.

The quest into All Saints doesn't begin on the lot on the corner of Joshua Road and Ramona Avenue, but on the All Saints Lunatic Asylum Website (www.allsaintsasylum.com)

where personnel files of the characters were said to be discovered during the renovations of the hospital. There was Hans Martin, AKA "the Doctor," who had a love for electrocuting his



patients, and Patient 301: a child who cannibalized her fellow orphans before being admitted to All Saints. The documents of

the characters ignited my interest enough to want to see them in the flesh.

According to the story on the website: nearly 50 years had passed and All Saints' Lunatic Asylum lost funding, forcing the facilities to lock its doors with everyone inside. Patients were unable to leave and doctors had nowhere to go. The cutting edge mental health facility fell into obscure disarray. The current owner, Ms. Collins, has been gracious enough to allow the public to tour during her vigorous restoration of the building.

One can only assume that the dead have awakened while the workers attempted to refurbish the halls.

The line was long and filled with at least 70-80 eager boils and ghouls but the wait was short. All that could be heard were the screams of patrons. My heart thudded. I looked to the entrance where a bright light created hope. That was my first mistake.

It was my turn. I entered through the tarp and the plastic sheet swayed closed.

I was thrown into a world with small confined halls and

fear pulled me forward. My hand slipped off the reality safety bar and I was submerged in a world of blacks and pulsing shadows.

Unlike most haunted attractions, there weren't any b-reels of screams rolling. The silence added to the manipulation of the senses.

Some of the characters creative looks were lost to the dim lighting, but when they leapt behind me or crouched, I scurried to the next room. The actors used the confined corridors to their advantage. No corner was safe in All Saints Lunatic Asylum.

There were rooms where I stopped to take in the cruel ambiance. The Dot Room, one of the least visually intimidating, did something often used in classic horror: it jarred the senses, disrupting my handle of reality. It was only a black room with blue dots, but the actor was dressed in an outfit of the same material. He crouched down and moved like an ethereal form made of space and black. I extended my hand to satisfy that "Is it real?" curiosity. Primal fear acknowledged and I apolo-



gized for pressing my hand against his face.

Next was what I would like to call the “Doll Butchery Room.” Need I say more? Forms of people with lifeless stares surrounded by chunks of hanging flesh were like two old ingredients coming together to make a marriage of fear.

Before I could move, I felt eyes on the back of my neck. Standing behind me was a nurse dressed completely in white. Everything was lifeless—except for the eyes. Her eyes shouted where her silence could not. Her words were like all the others: “get out.” Only, I believed her homicidal intent.

The white nurse and the mystery cow or human flesh made me feel as though the meat pulsed and I moved on.

I entered a black room. A hand lunged toward me. A woman’s voice screaming: “Help me! Help me!” The Doctor Hans Martin crept toward his strapped down patient, laughing loudly with electric torture device in hand with the light reflecting off his black goggles. I stayed and watched with a sick fascination as he tortured his victim on the steel slab.

The white light from the doctors prod lit the room enough to see Patient 301 stepping silently towards me from the corner of my eye. Her mouth was open. Blood was pasted on her chin like a predator engorged but hungry for more. I looked at Patient 301, smiled and pointed, “you’re cool.” All the while a creature of perfect classic horrific visage stood before me rasping through jagged rows of teeth.

I was immediately brought back to the classic feeling of black and white horror and I was elated and afraid. I exited through the final tarp and leaned on the banister.

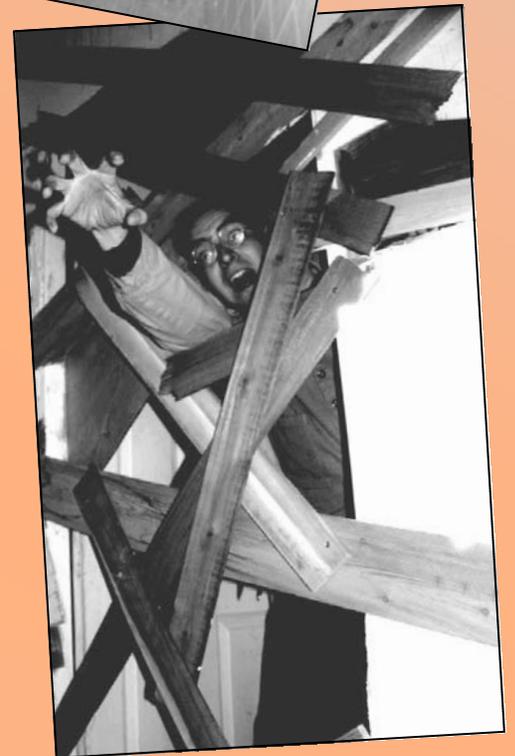
My heart was pounding at a

deep, quick tempo. The fear I had long waited for in a big screen film was found and refined in a barn in a back yard.

All Saints operates by a \$5 donation. Those who donated could have gotten a shirt for an additional \$5 more at the end of their tour. All proceeds went to the Granite Hills Theatre Program to help buffer the blow from budget cuts.

I would have liked to have seen more details; some large rusted metal doors with small windows to give that old asylum edge.

I look forward to when All Saints Lunatic Asylum expands its maze to allow the patron more time to absorb the fear. My run time may have been a little over five minutes; perhaps less. But it was a five minutes that I wanted more of. After all, time is a luxury the dead at All Saints’ Lunatic Asylum can afford to offer.



Photos courtesy of All Saints Lunatic Asylum

Statewide earthquake drill shakes out VVC

The Great
California

ShakeOut

Photo courtesy of shakeout.org

Story by James McDaniel
Reporter

Students held on tight to their desks before leaving class in herds. An earthquake drill took place on campus on Oct. 18 at 10:18 a.m. as part of a statewide preparatory program.

The program, started in 2008 as the Great Southern California ShakeOut, focused on the importance of being prepared for earthquakes at any time and what would happen if there was a 7.8 earthquake on the San Andreas fault.

The following year, the ShakeOut included all of California. Other areas aren't affected by the San Andreas fault line, so each area adapted the plan to fit their needs.

However, it wasn't just school campuses that participated in the ShakeOut either. According to the California ShakeOut website, more than one million of the roughly 9.4 million people that participated were made up of businesses and various areas of government.

While some were unsure about the choice in timing for the drill, they agreed that it was for an important reason.

"You never have a timetable for when an earthquake will happen so it does make sense

for them to do a drill during midterms. People can use the opportunity so that when anything happens they'll be ready for that situation," said VVC student Phillip Anderson.

"It is necessary, you've got to know what to do if a big one happens," said Professor Michael Butros.

In spite of the need for earthquake preparations, many students felt it was poorly done compared to previous drills.

"It was a good procedure, though probably not the optimum timing for it. Also, it seemed a bit generic, it could have used some sirens," said student Randell Matthyssen.

Matthyssen wasn't the only student to talk of the lack of sirens. Other students compared it to the drills done in past years and seemed to think that this year was lacking in the theatrics.

"Last year there was alarms and everything. Police and fire trucks were there, and there was more of a presence," said Anderson.

The efforts weren't a waste as 5.3 earthquake struck California on Oct. 21.



Top: Professor Bozonelos helps students find their way off campus. **Middle:** Students and staff gather in parking lot 2 until they get the 'all clear' signal to resume their day. **Above:** Students make their way from their classes as the emergency preparation gets underway on Oct. 18.

Photos by James McDaniel, Reporter

MUN: building leaders of tomorrow

Story by **Ethan McGarvey**
Reporter

The Model United Nations (MUN) team at Victor Valley College is setting a high standard of excellence at conferences across the nation.

During the Southern California MUN Conference, that was held at Anaheim from Oct. 13-14, the VVC team brought home numerous awards. Among the award recipients were Joseph Agnew for committee award, Olivia Warren for distinguished delegate, Eric Lee for distinguished delegate and Brittany Plummer for outstanding delegate. The countries that the VVC team represented at the conference were: Syria, Serbia, Togo, North Korea, Zimbabwe and Colombia.

"The goal is to challenge ourselves, to be diplomatic and to work hard," said MUN president Justin Kilborn.

The students work within different committees and are assigned a topic to represent on

behalf of their country. The topics vary from nuclear weapons to security to humanitarian and anything else in between. The students gather their research and ideas to present before all the other countries and formulate a formal paper. The paper is then put up for a vote and if it passes, it will become 'international law.'

"The thing I love about MUN is that it trains you to be a leader," said Kilborn, "It trains you to have a certain set of soft skills such as: public speaking, conflict management, research and writing."

Weeks of practice and research lead up to every MUN conference. The program is also a class that helps students develop into becoming leaders. That is where most of the emphasis is placed. All the skills that the MUN students develop during the course of the program can be applied to any aspect of professional life.

"We have people from all



VVC's Model United Nation team continues to be among the top competitors as they brought home several awards from their first conference of this semester.

Photo by Ethan McGarvey, Reporter

sorts of political ideologies: people who do like the United Nations, people who don't like the United Nations. We've got people who are liberals or conservatives. We have people that are political science majors to biology majors to computer science majors to psychology majors. We have all these people," said student Chris Shoup, "All of us are exclusively fo-

cused on being successful. It's just done on the background of MUN."

Any students interested in joining MUN can stop by the practice sessions, which are held at the Liberal Arts building, Room 17 at 5:30 p.m. on Fridays. The next MUN conference will be Dec. 1 at the University of California, Riverside.

All fun and games for Child Development

Story by **Gabriel King**
Reporter

The Child Development Center threw its third annual CDC Safe Halloween Event in the Student Activities Center to promote a safer, more economical trick-or-treating experience for less fortunate kids.

"It's a stress free Halloween," said Christina Kulaxa, ASB Health Science and Public Safety senator, who also coordinated the event.

There were two separate sessions for both afternoon children and morning children. Both sessions had a huge turn out and families came to support their little monsters. Activities were set up so that the children can have fun in a controlled environment.

ASB provided everything for the children's activities including. Fun size pumpkin paintings, candies, story time, songs and building-a-monster with fruits and vegetables. They children provided with healthy snacks and festive candy bags and popcorn.

Victor Valley College clubs were in attendance to support the event and also give the kids some more goodie bags. Puente clubs, Respiratory club, drama club, veterans club and N.A.S.C. were in attendance. Families stood and watched the Hulk, Batman, Optimus Prime, and Minnie Mouse throw bean bags to win a prize.

"These kids aren't as fortunate, so to have this is just outstanding," said Kimberly Day the On-site Supervisor, on Halloween event.

This is the third year of the CDC Safe Halloween Event. The first year, teachers would dress up in their rooms and the kids would walk from building to building to collect candy. The second year, problems ensued when the kids would get tired and fussy. They also had more teachers that wanted to help, so their candy bags got too heavy. So this year they decided to not have the children walk around and

just have it in the air conditioned SAC.

"It's organized, prepared, safe and an amazing partnership with ASB," said Director Kelley Johnson.



The VVC mascot 'Rammy' pays a visit at the Halloween event as the children do arts and crafts.

Photo by Gabriel King, Reporter

LGBT seeks advisor to get chartered

Story by Ivan Rivera
Reporter

When Alejandro Zepeda came to Victor Valley College this year, he hoped to connect with other homosexual students in a sanctioned club. But he couldn't.

The formation of a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender club came to Zepeda, a 23-year-old horticulture major and first semester student, when he found the Gay/Straight Alliance Club on campus was disbanded. ASB was going to try and put the club together but Zepeda volunteered himself to start the club. He sat in on a few ASB club meetings to see what the other clubs on campus do.

After sitting in on the meetings, Zepeda began getting ideas on how to gain interest in an LGBT club. Fliers for the club have been put up around campus and he has made contact with a few interested students.

"It's hard for LGBT students just to email me," said Zepeda.

This is one of the reasons he wants to get the club up and running so that the LGBT students have a safe and structured environment where they can be themselves. So few students are willing to come out and support the club due to personal backlash they may receive. Zepeda only has about half of the total number of students he needs to get the club chartered.

Another step in chartering a club involves getting an instructor to be the clubs advisor. Zepeda has yet to find an instructor willing to fill this role. Zepeda was quick to point out the advisor role was vacant not due to hostility towards the club. In line with finding an advisor the club would also need to find a designated meeting place. These are just a few hurdles every club needs to accomplish to become a sanctioned club.

If Zepeda can overcome these

obstacles he has a few plans for the club.

"Everyone is welcome to come." Zepeda wanted to point out.

For the meetings of the club Zepeda wants to have it split into two portions first being the club meets and possibly having guest speakers. The second half would be for activities and planning group socials. Zepeda would also like to have the club help out in the community if at all possible.

Robert Sewell, Director of Auxiliary Services and ASB Advisor, noted any club is welcome on campus, as long as there is a group of interested students, an advisor, and a constitution.

"Any group of like minded individuals can charter a club," said Sewell.

Sewell and ASB are just there to offer structure for any club and to be a support role.

Planetarium from page 7

tion is to project the sky that shows the stars. Myers again stopped the film to demonstrate a second time following a north star which he pointed out with a red laser.

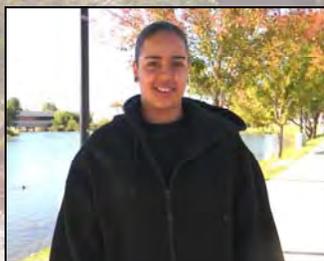
"The closer you are to the equator, the more stars can be seen, the north pole projects half the sky, the south pole located closer to the equator can project all the stars," said Myers.

With 45 minutes gone by, "The Explorers of Mauna Kea," attendees were eager to approach Myers. Watching the film afterwards, many attendees approached Myers for clarification about Mauna Kea. Answering student and public questions, Myers left the audience more informed about their early expectations.

"It would be a learning experience for everyone because we can't touch what's out there, said VVC student, Erica Castillo, this would help you be open minded, we aren't the only one's out there."

Heard around the lake

What do you like most about Halloween?



I really enjoy the pranks and all of the horror movies that run on T.V.

—Bobby Rosas



I love getting candy every Halloween and being able to dress up.

—De'Ida White

I love seeing people in costumes and getting free candy. I just love the thrill of Halloween.

—Jay Boacwright



I like going out trick-or-treating. And I love dressing up in costumes and seeing what everyone else is wearing.

—Sscavia Devault



—Kristen Martin, Reporter

From the woods to the stage

VVC Performing Arts Center plans to bring the classic tale of 'Winnie the Pooh' to life

Story by April Terrero

Reporter

and Amber Schwartz

Features Editor

additional reporting by Tanya Patterson

Reporter

The Victor Valley College Performing Arts Center presents "Winnie the Pooh!" The beloved childhood classic will be performed on stage beginning Nov. 1 and ending Nov. 11. This production is a dramatization of the original Winnie the Pooh story by A. A. Milne, and features a cast of approximately 19 actors.

"I see Winnie the Pooh as something that people, as they watch it, it reminds them of the times that they have watched it when they were a child," said

Heaberlin, "Winnie the Pooh is so universal and it's so much about love and friendship and what friends do for each other."

The play will be about the characters Kanga and Roo arriving at the Hundred Acre Wood. The other characters: Rabbit, Eeyore, Owl, and the rest of the animal friends fear Kanga's bath tub, soap and medicine, which eventually leads to Piglet getting in trouble with Kanga. It's up to Pooh to rescue his beloved friend.

Playing the lovable character Pooh Bear is VVC student Issac Ramsey. Ramsey had a little trouble adapting to playing an animal; an understandable struggle because of the obvious difference in habitual behavior.

"I watched a couple of movies of bears moving; they're kind of awkward so I incorporated some

of the awkward movements, like standing on hind legs," said Ramsey.

Instead of using furry-looking costumes, the costumes are said to be done simple, according to Heaberlin and Ramsey. They look more human, coincided with stage makeup. The stage set is also done simple for kids so that they will want to hurry home to reenact the play; adding in their own personal touches to the characters.

"I want children to think that they could go home and just put something on their head and then they could create the char-

acter because it's more about empowering those future artists sitting there," said Heaberlin.



Photo courtesy of vvc.edu website for the performing arts center

Ram Reviews: movies

Paranormal Activity 4 scares audiences straight from their seats to the refund booth

Review by Gabriel King

Reporter



It's October, and Paranormal Activity 4, the next chapter in the series, is in theaters. Demons, bumps in the night and one-shot camera angles, sometimes the simplest things are the things that can make you jump.

Usually this time of year, everyone wants to get scared because of the Halloween season.

Paranormal Activity is one of the most successful horror movie franchises of all time. Paranormal Activity hit theaters in 2009 and it made audiences jump and scream, for the first time in years a movie was scary again and original. It did not take a huge budget to produce

and film and it has easily become the highest grossing horror movie of all-time. Paranormal Activity 2 made it to theaters in 2010, and same results. Paranormal Activity 3 got released in 2011 and it was already getting old and the audiences were getting desensitized to the things that go bump in the night.

Paranormal Activity 4 is clearly a reach and even seeing the previews makes you say, "really?" It's the same story as all of its predecessors. Crazy things happen at night, cameras are set up, it's caught on camera, someone gets possessed and you get let down.

Hollywood has been known to push movies just for the studios financial gain and that's just how it is with Paranormal Activity 4 and it's just not interest-

ing, not scary and it's predictable. They use the same techniques from the first three movies and it just doesn't work. It has run its course with audiences also. I have been to the other Para-

normal Activity movies and the theater was packed from wall to wall with people. I went to this showing and there were no more than six people in the theater including myself, proving that people are done with the Paranormal Activity Franchise.

In the other movies, there were scenes that you really couldn't get out of your mind. The only thing going on my mind was how I should have gone to do a movie review on



Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Frankenweenie instead. At no point was I afraid or scared or even jumpy from doors slamming shut.

This movie bombs and is very disappointing, waiting until it comes out on Netflix or just passing this one up will be a better use of time. Sadly Paramount Pictures has already announced that Paranormal Activity 5 is in production and is going to have an October 2013 release.

Ram Reviews: music

Further Seems Forever underwhelms with reunion album

Review by Brandon Chiz

Contributing Writer



Post-emo band Further Seems Forever, released their fourth studio album, "Penny Black", which ignites an interesting time for the band --and the fans. This band has experienced a transition with their vocalists over the years, starting with Chris Carrabba who left back in 2001 because interpersonal disputes—officiating his departure with his (originally solo) project Dashboard Confessional. After a ten year separation, they reunite creating a emotionally charged album with varying results.

FSF provides an album that



Photo courtesy of Rise Records

accommodates the fans who enjoyed "The Moon Is Down" (2001). With the opener, "So Cold" and "Rescue Trained," it showcases a mature and seasoned band. Penny

Black constantly pushes forward seamlessly thanks to the the guitar skills of Joshua Colbert and Nick Dominguez, knowing how to infuse each track with the poignant-punk intensity the band was previously known for. This in combination of the vulnerable, yet fierceness from Carrabba's voice that hasn't seen exposure in years, provides a solid foundation for the album.

However, for each positive remark that could be said about "Penny Black" there is an equal negative remark. "Penny Black" starts where the last album left off for the better, but also for the worse. For the

most part each track blends together, however, other times it muddles together. The tracks lose mirth, at times attempting to differentiate find something significantly memorable; just try to find a prominent difference between "King's Canyon" and "Rested Machines".

Possibly the worst detail in "Penny Black" is it showcases the weaknesses of both Chris Carrabba and FSF as a whole. They prove that they're limited, as it lacks any creative breadth from their previous albums. The Carrabba/FSF collaboration will never be anything new or different, just maybe a bit more honed on what they already do.

The further they attempt to

Continued in FSF on page 17

Kendrick Lamar: Don't hate the rapper, change the game

Review by Gabriel King

Reporter



The west coast has given the hip hop scene some of the most influential artists of all-time, and Compton, California has given more than its share of hip hop legends. Kendrick Lamar is the next Compton native to try and become a savior for the west.

The west coast rapper from Interscope's Aftermath label, has been in the hip hop game since 2003 and is part of the rap super group Black Hippy with Jay Rock, Ab-Soul and Schoolboy Q. Lamar finally made it to the mainstream in 2012 so that the rest of the world can see his talent. Dr. Dre brought Lamar to the masses with his song "The Recipe."

"Good kid, m.A.A.d city" easily surpasses all expectations and more than holds its own

with other groundbreaking albums such as his mentor, Dr. Dre's 1992 album "The Chronic", and Snoop Dogg's 1993 album "Doggystyle."

Kendrick Lamar's "Good kid, m.A.A.d city" is proof that we can rest well with Dr. Dre retiring. He features artist such as Drake, Anna Wise, Dr. Dre, Mary J. Blige and fellow Black Hippy Jay Rock.

Lamar has a style that has not been heard in hip-hop, he is cerebral with his structure of rhymes. His track, "Good Kid" uses a style that you see in poetry. It's a much-needed breath of fresh air to hear new styles and inspiration from hip hop instead of drugs, women and killing.

His album title " M.A.A.D. city" is an acronym and has two meanings the first being "My Angry Adolescence Divided" being about his rough life in Compton, and the second meaning " My Angel's on Angel

Dust" being about when he was younger he smoked and it was



Photo courtesy of Interscope Records

laced and that is why he doesn't use drugs.

Lamar's style is very visual and every song can easily be a single in its own right. His west coast savvy and smooth transitions from song to song are incomparable to any artist in hip-

hop right now.

In his song "m.A.A.d city," one of many that show how hip hop is now then transitions to old school, G-funk hip hop, that Compton has made famous. This is what takes this album from great to instant classic. He uses different hip-hop elements from the past genres to show the future of hip-hop.

Lamar's "Good kid, m.A.A.d city" is the future of hip-hop and Lamar's future is bright. This album goes above and beyond, ten to fifteen years from now we will still be talking about this classic. Not many albums make the hip-hop scene look at its self and say, "What are we doing?" This album is telling hip-hop, "Its time to start over and here's the ground work."

Justice League vs. Avengers:

The ultimate battle for box office supremacy

Story by Micah Raimo

News Editor

On Sept of 2003, Marvel Comics' Avengers clashed against Detective Comics' (DC) Justice League. In 2015, two of the greatest comic book teams will square off once again for movie superiority. Fans of the DC's Justice League fear their team might falter against Marvel's box-office powerhouse.

"If the new Superman, Flash and Wonder Woman movies do very well, then a JLA movie (with Christian Bale as Batman) has a very legitimate possibility of challenging The Avengers at the box office, but not unless they all do well," said Justin Gatewood, VVC Webmaster.

When Ryan Reynolds played test pilot Hal Jordan in "The Green Lantern," my heart sank. Reynolds gave the Lantern a comedic personality, questioning whether or not he had the stones to knock out the Bat. Hollywood allowed Reynolds to portray 'the man with no fear' just like he did as Marvel's sardonic Wade Wilson (Deadpool) in "X-men Origins: Wolverine."

Is this how Hollywood thought fans wanted to see Green Lantern when DC had already established a character with an opposite personality in their Justice League animated films?

"Avengers" broke box office records in one weekend and is considered to be one of the best superhero movies of all time by masses of comic enthusiasts. According to Gatewood, in order for a JLA movie to be suc-

cessful, DC comics and Warner Bros. entertainment must consider the following words: 'Man of Steel.' A new superman movie has to be great; Christian Bale must be the Batman character; A really great Green Lantern movie must be made with Sinestro as the main antagonist showing how

both counterparts Bruce Wayne and Batman as a conflicted character rising to the challenge. From his mental blitzkrieg with Heath Ledger's Joker to the Tom Hardy's powerhouse terrorist, Bane, Batman actually struggled instead of pulling out some bat-device to solve his issues.

"I want them both to win actu-

and Superman's philosophical film, "Man of Steel," is set to be released later this year.

With Justice League pending on the staff, Writer Will Beall is already writing the film. Under his belt are a series of "Castle" episodes and the Los Angeles mafia movie starring Ryan Gosling "Gangster Squad." Beall

has set the bar with an okay roster. If he can pull off Justice League, his Hollywood ticket is set in the walk of fame.

"The Avengers" was a movie years in the making and was packed full of great actors and actresses, lots of action as well as internal conflict and really good effects. 'The Justice League' will come close but will ultimately fall short of 'The Avengers,' mainly because there was not as much time or effort put into developing a story," said VVC Student and movie goer Rebekah Bagley.

On Sept of 2003, Avengers squared off with the Justice League in order to find out who

would be the better of the two. With writer Kurt Busiek and artist George Pérez taking the helm, Marvel took issues two and four as Avengers/JLA while DC took issues one and three as JLA/Avengers. Did Busiek foresee the tie in the box-office as well or will "Avengers 2" beat out "Justice League" in 2015.

Pérez taking the helm, Marvel took issues 2 and 4 as Avengers/JLA while DC took issues 1 and 3 as JLA/Avengers. Did Busiek foresee the tie in the Box office as well or will "Avengers 2" beat out "Justice League" in 2015



Avengers assemble courtesy of Marvel.com



Justice League. courtesy of DC.com

epic Green Lantern truly is. The first movie was good, but not great, although Ryan Reynolds alone in the JLA movie would be a major draw as he's very popular; A really great Flash movie in order for JLA to work at all; Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Hawkman/girl, Martian Manhunter (no one really cares about any of these anyway, so they're not really needed in the JLA movie)

At least fans received three excellent Batman films established by director Christopher Nolan, which seemed to be DC's live action saving grace. Actor Christian Bale played

ally. I don't care if it is Marvel or DC who makes the movie so long as they are good. I would rather have them all be good movies," said Todd Matyja of Comic City in Los Angeles.

Unfortunately, with the Batman reboot, Bale is looking for an alternate to fill the Dark Knight's shoes, but Nolan and wife, Emma Thomas will be producing the film. On the other hand, rumor has it that if Bale continues to be the Bat, then Nolan will gladly direct *The Justice League*.

Already, Warner Brothers Studios has scripts slated for Wonder Woman and the Flash

AC ⚡ DC

Alternative Corner with Daniel Compean

Low Culture 101: Anatomy of the Hipster

Pick any non-corporate coffee house and you may see one of these maladjusted 20-something-year-olds. With an overgrown mustache, pin-striped fedora and an organic chai tea, he may be reading Fyodor Dostoyevsky or Albert Camus. He may try to preach to you the importance of some post-vegan, healthy lifestyle as he goes through his third pack of cigarettes for the day. You have just had an encounter with the latest subculture society loves to hate: hipsters.

Recreational misanthropy is more of an afterthought these days. In the 00's, the angst-ridden "emo" reigned supreme, much to the confusion of the general public; in the 90's, "grunge" was viewed as juvenile and childish; traceable even back to the 50's with the rowdy and delinquent "greaser." People just love the cathartic release of spiting certain subcultures.

With indie music, skinny jeans, horn-rimmed glasses and an almost fetishistic love for vintage paraphernalia, hipsters have established themselves as this decade's most reviled subculture. The word itself has transcended its meaning, being used more as a slur for anyone with slight pretensions or pseudo-intellectualism. Yet going off its original definition, a hipster is someone who rejects the mainstream in favor of more obscure or "genuine" forms of media. This could be in the form

of rejecting "vapid" blockbuster Hollywood movies, "kitsch" major record label produced bands or simply clothing appropriate for the season.

Hipsters will wear twill cardigans and outrageous scarves in the middle of July, but to merely write it off as a preference for

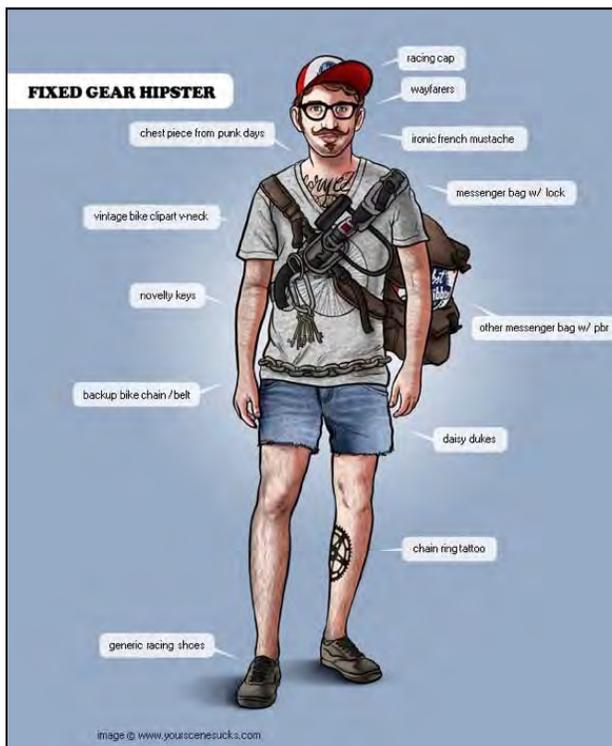
1000 will be 3000, continually increasing until that once obscure band is now headlining at Vans Warped Tour and producing songs for Cadillac commercials (I'm looking at you, Phoenix.)

Not to say hipsters learned this technique intentionally, that would be giving them too much credit. To the hipster, the more popularity a band has achieved earns a disingenuous vibe. Yet this could be exactly what modern media needs.

The hipster we have come to hate could not have possibly existed in any other decade except now. With the Internet, it's now possible to explore a varie-

re of this decade. The insufferable Gotye with "Somebody That I Used to Know," which contained xylophone accompaniments and stuttering rhythms, topped the Billboard charts. 10 years ago, this song would have been inconceivable as a top 40, yet the mainstream embrace of indie culture has allowed for this to be possible. Your average music listener won't be familiar with the indie cues Gotye follows, however. Even the title is a reference to a song by 90's indie darling Elliott Smith, something a hipster would be quick to let you know in the most obnoxious way possible.

Is the hatred for this subcul-



You've seen these people, don't lie to yourself. They think they're better than you. Why? Because "f**k you" that's why.

Photo courtesy of yours.scenesucks.com

aesthetics over functionality is a cop out. Those outrageous scarves and twill cardigans will be the fashion craze of the coming November.

What hipsters have done, with near clairvoyant accuracy, is create a thorough understanding of marketing and networking. Any time a band has reached 500 listeners, the hipster will drop that band instantaneously. What they have come to learn is that the number of consumers increases exponentially through word of mouth. What's 500 will soon be 1000 in a week; from

ty of once unheard of musical genres (post-rock, chillwave, IDM, shoegaze, etc.) Even the mainstream emergence of dubstep pays its dues to hipsters. These genres would have never seen the light of day from their dingy basement venues had it not been for these thrift-store shopping narcissists. They help pioneer music into the public eye; bands like Fleet Foxes, Bright Eyes and The Decemberists might have gone completely under the radar.

Indie music is at full force and will no doubt be a defining gen-

ture justified? Well, yes, to an extent. While the general dismissive attitude of hipsters can be unbearable, their contributions to pop culture are inescapable. Ironic to say the least: the media they so loathe was largely constructed by them.

In the coming years, we'll continue to see their reluctant effects on pop culture. This puts the hipster somewhere between Batman and Jar Jar Binks. Hipsters are the hero mainstream media deserves, but not the one it needs, yet we might all be happier without them.

Men's soccer fights hard for a tie

Story by Rudy Gonzalez
Reporter

The Victor Valley College Men's Soccer team held strong against second place San Bernardino Valley College on Friday, October 19.

With three games left in the 2012 season, the fifth ranked Rams were in the role of spoiler. Facing last year's Foothill Conference Champions, they were off to a great start scoring two goals late in the first half. But SBVC would rally back with two late goals to tie the game 2-2.

"They (SBVC) are in a fight with first place Chaffey College right now to see who makes the playoffs," said VVC head coach Walid Jomaa, "but our defense is tough, we only allow about one goal a game."

Jomaa's defense did indeed play tough. They were able to keep SBVC scoreless in the first half. The Wolverines attack was relentless; they had five shots on

goal in the half. Goalie Brian Partida was able to get his hands on all but one of those shots, which sailed over the crossbar, narrowly missing its mark.

The Rams offense also did its part. They were able to contribute two goals just before the whistle blew on the first half. The first came off the foot of forward Thomas Moore after receiving a great centering pass by midfielder Moises Ornelas. Ornelas would get his own goal five minutes later with an impressive arching, bending shot from the left corner of the goal area, across to the top right corner of the goal. The Rams took the 2-0 lead into half-time.

As expected, the Wolverines came out very determined to mount a comeback. Hard play led to the first yellow card of the game. Four minutes into the second half SBVC midfielder Jorge Caballero was booked. Five minutes later, Wolverine forward Mario Montiel put the

ball in the net for their first goal. The playoff contending Wolverines came with all they had. They began sending everyone forward leaving just two defenders, even a single defender at times, to defend their goal. The game began to get more physical and another yellow card was given to SBVC player Juan Maldonado. With less than ten minutes remaining in the game the referee pulled out the red card, SBVC player Leonelle Di Cristafaro was sent off. Now, with a man down, it was going to be an uphill battle for the Wolverines to pull out a win, or even a tie. The Rams were able to hang tough and defend their 2-1 lead until the waning minutes of the contest, when Wolverine forward Mario Montiel scored the equalizer, keeping their playoff hopes alive.

On October 23, however, SBVC went on to lose to Chaffey College 0-1 at home, while VVC lost 2-0 at College of the Desert.

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expand the more obscured the direction of the sound seems. By the middle of the album, or by "Staring At The Sun," the heart-on-a-sleeve delivery seems pedantic and loses the momentum it gained early on. When they stray from their formula, it seems jumbled; becoming a sort of emo-punk-rock cacophony, wherein it loses integrity and ultimately falls flat.

Still, "Penny Black" is a solid album that fulfills the needs of the tight-niche fans who always wondered what a follow-up record would sound like from them. Fans won't be disappointed, however if you were never a fan, this album will not impress nor contribute anything new. If you're looking for a post-emo band with mirth and consistent intensity don't seek the mediocre album Penny Black, try their previous record "The Moon is Down" instead.



Rams quarter back Jermeryn Jenkins catches a pass resisting an interception from Compton College players. Photo by Todd Hadler, Sports Editor

Sports brief: football

Rams buck their way to a blowout victory in final home game

Brief by Kristen Martin
Reporter

On Saturday Oct. 27, the Victor Valley Rams football team prevailed in their final home game of the season with a score of 65-28 against the El Camino Compton Center Tartars, managing to snap a four-game losing streak and gain their first American Conference win of the season.

"These kids have overcome so much adversity. It takes a lot of character to hang tough," David Hoover, head coach for the Rams said. "I am so pleased with them and all they have accomplished. It's not so much the wins and losses that make the team."

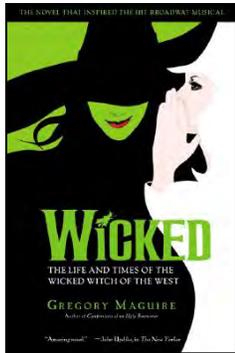
The Tartars put up a fight all the way into the fourth quarter where they attempted to score one last time, but were stopped by the clock a few yards short of the end zone.

Rams running back Melvin McAdams ended the day on 12 carries for 170 yards and two touchdowns, also having 152 yards in kickoff returns.

With the season nearing to an end, the Rams head over to Southwestern College on Nov. 3 and then wrap up the season traveling to Mt. San Jacinto College on Nov. 10.

Find the full story at issuu.com/vvcrampage/docs/rams_football

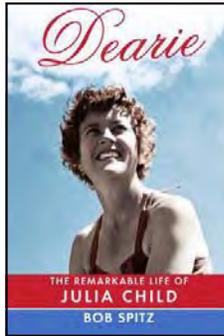
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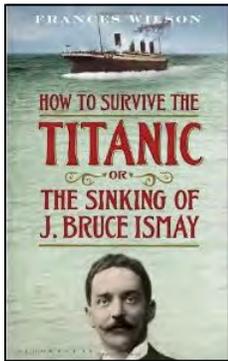
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2. *Jihad: The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia* by **Ahmed Rashid**

3. *Dearie: The Remarkable Life of Julia Child* by **Bob Spitz** (right)



4. *50 Contemporary Artists You Should Know* by **Brad Finger and Christiane Weidemann**



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6. *How to Survive the Titanic, or the Sinking of J. Bruce Ismay* by **Frances Wilson** (left)

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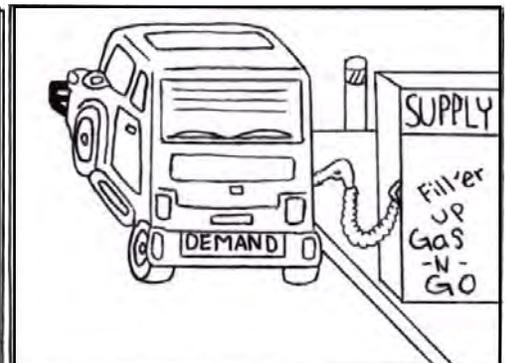
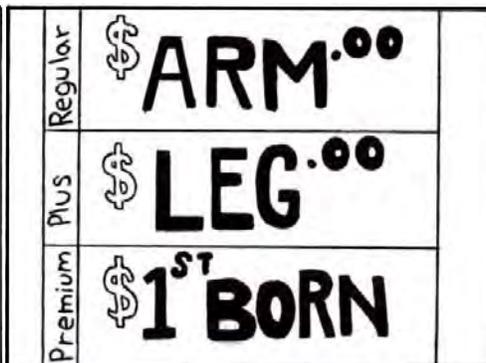
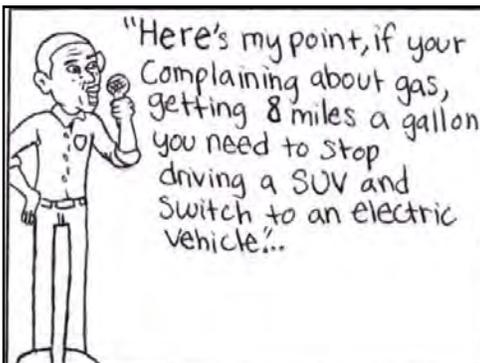
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The official twitter account of Bad Luck Brian. If you don't know that virtual meme, check out this twitter account to read his hilarious antics that his bad luck has generated. Careful though! Laughs at a Bad Luck Brian joke. Becomes reality.

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-Kelli McGurk, Editor-in-Chief



—Comic by Mark Barajas, RamPage Reporter

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Printing: Victor Valley College Campus Print Shop

Mission Statement:

The Victor Valley College RamPage is a student-run newspaper that aims to inform and entertain the Victor Valley Community. We strive to teach and preserve core journalistic values while supporting the unity of faculty and students on campus.

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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.

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