



Rampage

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“Formal education will make you a living; self-education will make you a fortune.” — Jim Rohn

Campus Communication Day addresses accreditation

Story by **Kristen Martin**
Reporter

Victor Valley College continues to battle the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) on the status of accreditation for VVC. The fight is nearing its end, and a Campus Communication day was held to clear the air.

When confronted at the conference about the campus climate, the panelists attending would not entertain the idea of a

‘what if’ situation, and stated simply that there was no way VVC could lose its accreditation.

The event opened with the five panelists giving a brief description about their contributions to the ACCJC report; those panelists consisted of Superintendent Dr. Chris O’Hearn, Interim Executive Vice President Peter Allan, Admin Services Vice President GH Javaheripour, warehouse assistant Fred Board, History instructor Tracy Davis and Biology

instructor Jessica Gibbs.

“I’m a strong believer that this is a particular moment in our history that we need to define in a better way who we are as an institution,” O’Hearn announced.

After a 30 minute briefing session, each panelist answered a pre-determined question, and then proceeded to allow the room to have an open dialogue question/answer session.

Of the eight recommendations given to VVC by the ACCJC,

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ASB advocates in the sunshine state

Story by **Tanya Patterson**
Reporter

Associated Student Body (ASB) council members attended the American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) Fall Conference in Tampa, FL. Nov. 9 – 11, accompanied by ASB Advisor, Robert Sewell. This bi-annual conference placed emphasis on three main topics – Leadership, Citizenship and Advocacy.

The council members began the conference with a trip to the Lowry Park Zoo; putting their hands and hearts to good use by volunteering for the seasonal redecoration of the facilities. Several years ago, Sewell began integrating a public service component into these trips as an exercise in service and citizenship. In previous years, Victor Valley College students have also participated by planting trees in flood damaged areas



ASB Members shown here with their LEAPS certificates. Photo courtesy of Robert Sewell, Director of Auxiliary Services and ASB Advisor

and collecting socks and toiletries for distribution to the homeless population of Washington, D.C.

“A lot of schools, a lot of students and a lot of groups talk

about apathy. Apathy can best be diffused through participation,” said Sewell. “You want people to be involved, to know that you’re involved and providing for others is something that each one of these students can do to give back to the communities we’re a part of.”

However, this trip was not simply a walk in the park for VVC’s student ambassadors. Along with

ASB representatives from community colleges across the country, they attended the conference intent on gaining valuable infor-

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Letter from your editor

In my very first letter of the semester, I let you all know that the journalism program was in a transition. Although I feel like these months flew right by me before I could do many things I had in mind early on in the semester, I do feel as if we have put in to motion some sustainable changes that future generations of RamPage reporters and editors can build upon. I hope to have the opportunity to come back in the spring to further expand and implement these changes. Like anything, we are expanding and changing with the times. We are striving to keep up with the industry while still maintaining those core journalistic values which are the foundation of our program. Hopefully we will be able to expand our network and tap into resources that we have yet to consider.

This semester I made a choice to attend college full time for the first time since starting VVC, and manage this newspaper as Editor-in-Chief while also being a single mother to a little girl in the worst part of her terrible two's. Needless to say, this semester has exhausted my mind, body and even my spirit at times. It has given me its share of headaches and sleepless nights. What it has also given

me is an experience that I never got in any of my previous semesters in this program. Being responsible for this paper may have added to my stress level but it gave me the opportunity and authority to put certain changes into motion. Changes that we think will improve the journalism program here at VVC for years into the future.

After all is said and done, as the semester and the year has come and gone, where would we be without the help of so many people on campus; students and staff? Those students who actually pick up and read our paper every other week, thank you. Without readers what good is our paper? I would like to extend a thank you to those faculty members who are always provided their helping hand with anything we may need. ASB prints and distributes our paper and helps us stay connected with news-worthy events happening around campus, so I

would like to thank those ASB members who help with that as well.

I also would like to mention that I would not be in this position had I not learned from my predecessors who have since moved on to bigger and better things. I may not live up to some of the legendary RamPage EiC's of our past, but I like to think I have made their hard work well worth it and their legacy within the RamPage will be carried on.

Last but certainly not least I would like to thank the staff of the RamPage without whom, there would be no paper at all. Our student reporters and editors spend such a majority of their time making sure the paper not only has articles but that those articles are interesting, informative as well as impactful to students on campus. It's been especially hard during these transition semesters while we are trying to experiment with

the roles of staff members to help the production run more smoothly, and my staff has stuck it out. I couldn't have gotten through the semester with my sanity without my managing editor, Garrett Johnston who brought balance to the office.

The RamPage has not only given me a great professional experience of management, but also some of the best friends and memories. Our office holds such memories that cannot be matched. From screaming fights, to tearful hugs and good-byes; from inside jokes like the baby dotten and Durk Waltapus to a professionalism that gets the paper done each print week; there is no doubt that 2012 has been a monumental year for our student newspaper. I look forward to what the next year has in store for us and what we have in store for the next year.

—Kelli McGurk, Editor-in-Chief



Above: Entertainment Editor Daniel Compean in deep thought working on his section.



Above: Amber Schwartz was a huge asset to the paper taking on the layout for the features sections of each edition and she did a wonderful job.



Below: Todd Hadler's first semester editing was so successful, he was promoted to Sports Editor.



Right: The plans for each edition of the RamPage begins on the white board with Eic outlining the blueprint.



The RamPage office sign may say 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. but our dedicated staff has stayed long past those hours on many occasions.

—Photos by Kelli McGurk, Editor-in-Chief; except the one of her which was taken by Garrett Johnston, Managing Editor.

Trustee Denson to be Board President

Campus improvements start from within

Story by Mark Barajas
Reporter

Victor Valley College's Board of Trustee Vice President newly Lorrie Denson is qualified to do all she proclaims and more for the community and campus alike as she will be appointed Board of Trustee President in the coming month. Denson will have a new role with greater responsibility and leadership.

Denson is very optimistic about tackling problems when she focuses on the positives rather than the negatives. Ahead of the curve, Denson feels with a fresh and re-elected team of Board members, the communication between them will change for the better. Responsibilities are still shared as she takes on a bigger role.

Under close observation, business between the board members will change the outlook of VVC for good. With a young optimist like Denson, things like accreditation warnings may be a thing of the past.

"I want to continue the good work we started for the citizens of VVC," Denson said, "We want to ensure we are off accreditation warning, continuing to provide more educational opportunities and prepare students for the workforce."

As Vice President, sharing the same views as her predecessor, President Joe Range, Denson's hands on techniques over qualifies for the job. With set goals, Trustees arguably enough agree communication is lacking. Denson stresses those at VVC should be more concerned with the positive outreach of higher learning rather than fear, loafing around the minds of students shouldn't overcome, hope strides from the positive. Struggles about accreditation warning and doing something about it are two different things.

As VVC's future hangs in the



The gavel will be passed to current Board of Trustees Vice President Lorrie Denson next month. Photo courtesy of vvc.edu

balance, leadership is important. Denson looks forward to better changes, stimulating the minds of students striving for higher learning. Denson finds that the VVC community doesn't lack knowledge, students are smart, and therefore, the campus can do the impossible. More recently, VVC's programs have improved.

"Recently all students in the nursing program passed the National Exam. We need to find out what happened during this cohort and spread this strategy with all of the programs," Denson said, "Once we learn what to do we need to keep doing it."

There is no intention into cutting programs to save money. Looking into the future, Denson firmly walks side-by-side with the students.

"In spite of the cut backs, continue to expand the programs. Chancellor Brice Harris said it best, 'getting bigger and better, at the same time with less.' Denson said.

Trustees, Denson has more responsibility. Making the transition from V.P to President just goes to show she is talented with experience. Working on the College Board as President, also with future students at Excelsior, a charter school across campus.

"As the Vice President, I support the president but as president, I will have more responsibility and input for the agenda, more frequent meetings with the President-Superintendent and I'm responsible for cheering the meeting," Denson said.

It's clear the students of today have great concerns for their future but the focus is on education. Higher learning is important for those who seek it.

"I'm an optimist; I look at the good, not the bad... I look at everything we have accomplished and will accomplish." Said Denson, "I believe that we must continue moving forward... We are on the right path but if we don't keep moving we

Now
as
President
of

Accreditation from page 1

the fourth addressed campus climate. In the report submitted, it claimed that this issue had been resolved and the evidence to back-up this result was a now-established culture of respect, civility, dialogue and trust in the college shared governance practices.

"Campus climate has changed, but it still continues to change," said Gibbs, "If you were to poll the people who are very involved in the campus, the climate would not be as bad as you think."

VVC held a very glowing report in 2009. The ACCJC upped its standards in 2010, causing turmoil amongst all junior colleges. The new standard affecting the campuses is the requirement for assessments.

The assessments have been the greatest improvement on campus in regards to accreditation because employees have had to undergo a radical push to get them done in time for the upcoming ACCJC reports.

"The only reason we went from a warning to probationary status is because the staff was making strides to make improvements, only they lacked the proper amount of time to complete the necessary processes," Gibbs said. "We as an institution are evolving to make sure we are covering our butts."

There are many processes that VVC is going through to ensure an issue like this is resolved and does not happen again. They are documenting and reporting all things carefully and thoroughly and making sure there is nothing for the ACCJC to question.

In February 2013, ACCJC is scheduled to give VVC their verdict on where the campus stands against accreditation. While employees claim confidence in the school, students are confused and unknowing about a lot of things.

Dec. 4, 2012 is the next Campus Communication day which is targeted for employees; Gibbs is pushing for a similar event to help the students better understand what is going on with accreditation. With help from ASB, such event may be accomplished.

Associate Degrees for Transfer

A greater degree at the risk of a longer stay

Story by Micah Raimo

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act was signed into legislation on Sept. 29, 2010. This law enables the California Community Colleges and California State University to work together to create Associate in Arts Degree (AA) and Associate in Science (AS) Degree transfer programs. The change might keep students at Victor Valley College longer.

VVC Student Ashlei McPherson spoke to Transfer Counselor Lorena Ochoa about classes she needed to transfer. Ochoa told McPherson of the differences between the Associates of Arts to Transfer Degree and the Liberal Arts degree with a concentration. She also had to take four more classes to transfer out of VVC. McPherson called CSU San Francisco and CSU Fullerton to confirm. Both schools had told her that they were only accepting students with an Associates of Arts to Transfer degree for Spring Semester.

"I could have went to another community college to take the extra classes, but what was the point? Why waste the extra gas

to go to another school to take these classes when it's not going to count towards anything? I felt like I was trapped at VVC for another year," said McPherson.

According to sb1440.org, the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440 – Paddilla), has given the student added benefits with the new Associates of Arts to Transfer and Associates of Sciences to Transfer degrees.

The Associates of Arts to Transfer and Associates of Sciences to Transfer degrees (Or AS-Ts and AA-Ts) is a certificate in one major. Before, VVC offered Liberal Arts degrees with particular concentrations. The AA-T shows the student as transferring under this particular field of study. With the degree course lineup, a student doesn't have to take extra courses that are outside of that student's major.

The AA-T boosts your GPA by 1.0 and alleviates the need to take the prerequisites at an upper division Cal State University. Students are bumped up to priority guaranteeing admittance to all CSUs and can get into any CSU as long as the AA-T requirements are met.

Currently, VVC students can earn an AA-T in Math, Administration of Justice or Sociology.

"Even if you have your IGETC, You've completed all of your lower degree requirements, because you don't have that degree, you can't transfer. You have completed everything else they wanted you to complete; now they have added something extra which has made transferring more of an issue than I believe it should be," said McPherson.

As the articulation counselor, Pamela James helps the advisors who are putting together the AA-Ts and works with the CSUs, making sure they follow the California Community College's Chancellor's Office criteria so VVC's AA-T proposals approved the first time they are sent.

According to James, we have History and Political Science waiting to be approved by the Chancellors office. The process for getting the new AA-T degrees depends on the rate in which the chancellor's office can approve the ones VVC is and has sent. VVC can implement the new AA-T within a semester but the AA-T division at the Chancellor's office has

been downsized creating a bottleneck effect for the 113 city colleges trying to create these AA-Ts.

"It will show the community that we're about student success and we are about offering more of those quality majors for students to transfer and be productive citizens when they leave VVC. It will show the community that we are following instructions of our chancellor's office. This is what we are supposed to do. This is the law. We are taking care of business," said James.

Due to budget cuts in the state, students who want to transfer in the winter and spring semesters must obtain an AA-T and AS-T in order to transfer. Fall of 2013 is open to the Liberal Arts Degree with the particular concentrated.

"In my opinion, you don't need the AA-T degree in order to waive the lower division requirements if you follow the things that are already in place such as IGETC and those other papers you get filled out. At least that's how IGETC has been explained to me," said McPherson

ASB from page 1

mation about advocating student issues, navigating the political arena and becoming leaders in their communities.

Through workshops and breakout sessions, ASB council members had the opportunity to work with other student representatives, offering opinions on issues within the community college system and practicing their public speaking.

Many of the activities are integral in preparing student leaders to participate in the upcoming ASACC Spring Conference.

"Part of what we want is to make sure that when our stu-

dents go, their name is known, they know what they're talking about, they've done their research and they can be effective advocates on behalf of not only our students, at Victor Valley College, but also our state," Sewell said.

A range of workshops were offered, encompassing such themes as the legislative process, parliamentary procedures, tools for successful meetings and being student leaders. The agenda was complimented by the inclusion of several guest speakers, notably, a presentation by ASACC President and former VVC ASB Executive Senator, Joanna Cervantes.

Attendees were awarded the Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Planning and Service (LEAPS) certification, through participation in discussion panels and workshops over the course of the three day meeting.

"We gained the skills and tools necessary to work as a cohesive and effective council, to collaborate with other community colleges and to better benefit the community college system nationwide," said ASB President, Monique Ballard.

ASB council members came home armed with knowledge, LEAPS certifications and an extended network of student

body representatives with whom they can connect, share ideas and collaborate on future resolutions.

"The ASACC Fall Conference was one of the most rewarding experiences and one of the greatest learning experiences I've had being on the council," said Sabrina Auble, ASB Business and Math Senator. "The conference helped us define exactly what leadership is, what citizenship is and what advocacy is. We are all leaders in ASB."

The next ASACC Conference is scheduled to take place in the Nation's Capital, Washington D.C., in March, 2013.

Math Lab receives \$25,000

Story by SarahJoy Stover
Reporter

The Victor Valley College Math Support Center recently received a \$25,000 grant from Southern California Edison, which will allow for center upgrades and scholarships.

"Edison cares about education and has been a good corporate friend of Victor Valley College for many years. The Victor Valley College Foundation proposes something for SCE to support almost every year. This year we requested help with the Math Success Center and scholarships for math transfer students," said Executive Director Foundation, Ginger Ontiveros.

According to the VVC Press Release "Southern California Edison Helps Students Find the Common Denominator at Victor Valley College," twelve scholarships will be awarded for students pursuing the new Associate of Science Transfer Degree in Math.

Math Department Chair, Stephen Toner says that \$9,000 of the grant will go towards tutoring money. \$6,000 of the grant will go towards scholarships for students. \$8,000 of the grant will go towards computers in the Math Support Center. And the rest of the grant is for miscellaneous support.

"It's welcoming to be able to do online courses in the Math Center because if you have any questions about understanding any math problem, there are ready tutors to assist in some way to try and get you an A. The Math Center really helps," said VVC math student, Yered Gonzalez.

Before the Math Success Center took place, Math students got tutored in undedicated places, and had a hard time doing their online math homework because of limited computers on campus.

"Basically with the Technology building here, anybody can go in there and it seems everyone has to scramble for computer time and computer space," explained Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, Dr. Said Ngobi.

Over half of the students on campus are using computer math programs, such as "MyMathLab," "Connect Math," and the "Aleks" program.

"Although students could work on these programs at home, having the programs here at school where there is a tutor nearby would be to their advantage," Toner said.

A total of 30 computers have been ordered for the Math Success Center, and are expected to be in within a few weeks.

"Once we have our own machines to do specifically mathematics, I believe that's going to go a long way in our program," Ngobi said.

The Math Support Center is a unique environment where students do not only come in to get help, it's a place where students can work on their homework in teams and ask tutors for help if needed.

"It's one thing asking for help in solving an issue of a question, but it's quite another if you can get a community where they get help from each other and they can share their strengths," explained Ngobi.

Your feedback is always appreciated.
Send us your questions/ comments/story ideas:
vvcrampage@gmail.com

News in Brief

- CNSA is asking for non-perishable food items for their food drive to help the Salvation Army. They are in desperate need of Macaroni & Cheese, Ramen soup, Jell-o, Spaghetti, Oatmeal and other items. Donation boxes will be in the skills lab. The food drive ends on Dec. 13.

- VVC Music Program presents A Tribute to America, a Thursday night jazz even on Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. General admission \$10, seniors \$7 and children \$5. ASB cardholders free!

- Come join the VVC Symphonic Band, College Band, Brass Choir & Flute Choir in a Pearl Harbor Day Concert on Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. General admission \$10, seniors \$7 and children \$5. ASB cardholders have free admission. General admission \$10, seniors \$7 and children \$5. ASB cardholders free!

- The College Singers, The Women's Choir, the Master Arts Chorale and Sinfonia Orchestra perform a concert of music of the season in A Choral Christmas on Sat. Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. General admission \$10, seniors \$7 and children \$5. ASB cardholders free!

- The VVC Music Program Presents: From Classic to Contemporary Dec 9 at 2:30 p.m. General admission \$10, seniors \$7 and children \$5. ASB cardholders free!

- In order to break the cycle of illiteracy, the Child Development club continues to be a book drop box for donated texts till Dec. 15. For more information contact: vvc.child.development@gmail.com

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Puente Club provides pathways to success

Story by **Kelli McGurk**
Editor-In-Chief

On Thurs. Nov. 29, the Victor Valley College Puente Club hosted a "Career Awareness Day" with several guest speakers from a range of professional fields who came to speak to groups of VVC students who attended the workshops.

The main goal of this event was to give the students a clearer pathway to their career goals according to Puente Club's Transfer Coordinator Civil Hernandez.

"We have been planning this since the beginning of the year, and we tried not only to bring the fun, but the careers together as

well to help the students," said Hernandez.

The workshops began at 10 a.m. on the upper level of the Student Activities Center. In each time block, there were four workshops going on in conference rooms A-D and the Quiet Room. The various professions that were represented were each hosted by a different guest speaker. VVC's own Dr. Joseph Morris spoke to students about the nursing profession in one of the first lectures.

There were several other VVC instructors who provided their knowledge. Art Gee from the aviation program, Neville Slade of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program, Benn John-

ston from the Psychology dept, and Anthony Bonato from the Construction Technology Program were all guest speakers at the event.

The Puente Club worked hard on networking with several community business leaders to get other professionals to attend the event and speak to the groups of students. The club advisors, Judy Solis and counselor Eartha Johnson have several connections with whom they used to get many of the event speakers. The speakers even included some representatives from the San Bernardino and LA County police departments.

Dr. Ron Williams was one of the last guest speakers to talk to

students about his experience in teaching and educational administration. Dr. Williams works for the Victor Valley Union High School District where he is Assistant Superintendent. During his lecture, Dr. Williams really tried to push the message that education is the key component to success.

"If you don't enjoy what you're doing, it's a job and you want a career," said Williams.

The club also put together a raffle that was held after the forums were over where students who attended at least four lectures were automatically entered to win an Epson printer. The winner was VVC student Samantha Duran.

Club Rush enlightens students

Story by **Ethan McGarvey**
Reporter

To help promote the variety of clubs on campus, Victor Valley College hosted a Club Rush event on Tues. Nov. 27 in the Student Activities Center. Nine of the college's clubs attended the event and students were given a chance to interact with club leaders in hope of sparking an interest in student participation in the college community.

"Club Rush will help students get engaged, learn about the clubs on campus and give an interest in joining the clubs," said Inter-Club Council Senator, Chris Dustin.

Dustin organized the Club Rush event. Students were provided with a checklist of which clubs they spoke to, and were given food, such as hot dogs as an incentive for visiting every club's booth.

Among the clubs presented was the newly chartered Math club. The club is foremost an academic club that has full support of the college, from the chair and all the way down to the Math department. There is no fee to



Students gather in the SAC for Club Rush. Photo by Ethan McGarvey, Reporter

join this club,

"If students need help with math, are interested in math or are like-minded people, this is the place to come," said Bryan Littleton, Vice President of the Math club.

Littleton encourages students from any math level to come to club meetings. The club has students that act as tutors; a helpful alternative to having to schedule appointments with the normal tutors on campus. The club also has workshops to assist students with any problems they have. Since the club is rife with

math students, there is no shortage in resources available to students who may be struggling. The Math club is also interested in setting up fundraising and securing some sponsors.

"Don't be afraid of math. The club helps bridge the gap from how teachers teach to how students interoperate what they are taught," said Littleton.

Another club trying to get established on campus is the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). Even though the charter for the club has yet to be passed, the club officials are

hopeful that the club will be formed.

"There is no club like it on campus. We are trying to get interest in the club and get the word out there about the club," said Brenda Romero, secretary of the HOSA club.

The club would appeal to any student with an interest in the healthcare field, ranging from nursing, to medical assisting, to emergency medical technicians and anything in between. Part of the club's focus would be attending conferences at a state and maybe a national level; where students compete against one another in medical scenarios. The club would also apply volunteer and community work to the agenda.

If any student is interested in joining any of these newer and hopeful clubs, or any of the other established clubs, the Club Rush is the event to gather any information. There are many clubs on campus that can appeal to any student's interest and the Club Rush is a resource.

'Greenfire' burns bright at VVC

Story by Amber Schwartz

Features Editor

On Wed. Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Student Activities Center, a green tinted fire was brewing in the form of a film projected on an empty wall. Many people piled into the room where rows and tables were waiting for an occupant for the next two hours. And then, the film clicked on...

The film, "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time" is a documentary about the life of conservationist Aldo Leopold. Director Steven Dunsky and Editor Ann Dunsky were there to answer questions at the film's close.

Leopold is considered a revolutionary for his work in preserving and restoring wildlife. He regarded land as an organism. He has written several books about the land inhabited by animals and humans, in what he called "The Land Ethic." He believed that "land" was a variety of things: soil, water, wildlife and humans. Leopold proposed an idea that humans have a connection to land and that people have

a profound effect on the land in different forms.

The film followed Leopold's life chronologically; starting with his birth and his rather premature interest in the natural world and wildlife. The film also showed insight into the conservationist's home life by interviews with his children.

The film featured the opinions of ecologists, biologists, fellow conservationists, land managers, foresters and many others; all who expressed mutual praise for the respected Leopold. Aldo's theories hold reverence still; for conservationists, ranchers and farmers use the methods and teachings of Aldo today.

After the film, many topics were covered briefly: some expressed their admiration for the film, some talked over the importance of conservation and how to achieve it, few conversed about Leopold in general and many students asked questions about conservation as a career for the two creators of the film.

"You have to find something you like to do. I'm absolutely convinced—if you have some-

thing you like to do, you will find a way," Ann Dunsky said when a question was asked about how to get a career with the government.

One bewildering, but simple question came from a young audience member. The question left the guest speaker staggering slightly to answer the question.

"What is an ethic?" the child said.

Everyone regarded the youngster's question as genius while laughing about its innocent content. Steven Dunsky stood there scratching his head as he tried to muster up an answer suitable enough to be thorough, yet adolescently sound at the same time. Environmental & Veterinary Technology professor Neville Slade came to the Director's rescue.

"An ethic means doing what's right. The right thing for the land and the animals," Slade said.

In a conjunctive tone to Slade's definition, Leopold's "Land Ethic" refers to communal interaction and participation in making the earth a perpetual,

beautiful home. Leopold paved and fashioned recycling as a strong technique to helping the earth; an idea that has become a more or less necessity today. Another preservation method is fire.

Fire can be healthy for the environment despite its disastrous characteristics. Fire is used methodically to dispose of unnecessary compost or overgrowth so that other plants can grow, however, "green fire," although the meaning is similar to the given definition, in the movie, "green fire" relates to a wolf's eye. Leopold witnessed a wolf dying and saw "the green fire in its eyes die." This sight is relevant because it was a turning point for the beloved conservationist because he changed his views on hunting and began composing the land ethic.

"Fire is not always bad; it provides green growth. Fire is a necessary component of most ecosystems," Steven Dunsky said while describing "green fire."

When all questions were asked and answers were given, prizes were handed out via ticket stubs. The winning tickets received bags and coffee mugs, a copy of the film or a Best Buy gift card. Some of the winners that won a copy of the film happily asked for autographs from Ann and Steven Dunsky, whom gladly signed their Hancock with the broadest of smiles.

On Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012 at the 54th annual Chicago/Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the film was honored with an Emmy for Best Historical Documentary.



Rancher and conservationist Sid Goodloe stands with Aldo Leopold's biographer Curt Meine in this still from the Greenfire documentary film. Photo courtesy of greenfiremovie.com

Where the Rubber meets the Road

VVC Automotive students take a trip to the Petersen Automotive Museum

Story by Gabriel King
Reporter

Students of the Victor Valley College Automotive classes took a trip to the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles on Thursday Nov. 15 where they learned all about the history of the automobile.

Emily Barrett, ASB Industrial Sciences and Logistics Senator, planned the Peterson trip for the automotive department and its students.

"It was a blast, and very educational," said Barrett.

The Petersen Automotive Museum opened in 1994 founded by Robert E. Petersen. Some exhibitions are only displayed for a certain amount of time on a rotation. There are only 150 cars are on display at a given time block. Current exhibits include Art Wall: Theodore W. Pietsch II, Aerodynamics: From Art to Science, and Sculpture in Motion: Masterpieces of Italian Design. These exhibits consist of futuristic automobiles as well as automobiles from television and movies. Permanent displays educate museum goers on the fabrication of cars throughout the

years and the ways they have improved manufacture. Any car enthusiast will love the classic cars that they have on display in the Bruce Mayer Gallery of Hot Rods and spectators can experience hands on learning at the discovery center.

The cars range from original Model T's to the Batmobile. With three levels to its structure, students were able to learn the history of the car and about famous autos in the Hollywood Gallery: Cars of Film and television. They also learned about what goes into the production of cars, rubber, steel, leather.

"It was cool, so many different cars that I didn't even know about," said Felix Valenzuela, fourth semester Automotive student.

With the semester just about over now, Barrett is looking to go back to the Petersen museum again and hopes to organize more trips in following semesters.





Photos courtesy of Emily Barrett

A vending machine transformed

Story by Tanya Patterson
Reporter

What does one do when one is invested in a vending machine and find that sales just aren't flowing in? Victor Valley College's Associated Student Body and the owners of one specific machine found a unique solution to this problem with the help of Art Professor, Brian Bosworth and his students.

The request for help came in the form of an art competition. Students in Bosworth's class were asked to come up with a visual concept for the vending machine that will boost sales and attract customers. The artists took into account everything from the machine's form to its function; many submissions included nods to the location itself – integrating themes of higher education into the display.

"Each student came up with an individual design and made a storyboard with each design idea," said Bosworth. "We spent

about two weeks on the design, which is normal for the design process, and we've been painting it off and on for the last two weeks. We're painting it in class and also outside of class hours."

Of the many entries, the class chose five submissions to present to ASB for a final ruling. The winning design is a large, colorful, 3D-style robot, with tasty treats showing through its torso, created by Justin Kase Margason.

"There's a youth about it; it's fun. It's a giant toy robot," said Margason. "The vending machine is super square and blocky. I love Japanese Anime and thought it could look like a giant square robot, like from the film "Transformers" or any of those crazy, colorful Japanese cartoons. The color scheme, I took a lot from the video game called Katamari Damacy."

Margason, who transferred from Shasta Community College this fall, says he has always

had an interest in art. He was home schooled as a child and suffers from both Dyslexia and Crohn's Disease. These two afflictions kept him from attending college until friends convinced him that the resources available through the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) will help support him in his goal of becoming a conceptual artist.

"I've just always wanted to do art, but the almost life and death experience compelled me to actually go to college for it. I felt my Dyslexia would hinder me from getting my general education," Margason said. "I just want to learn as much as I can about art."

The life and death experience Margason mentions is in regards to a hospital stay for complications of Crohn's Disease. This auto-immune disease causes the intestines to shrivel and the body to attack itself, resulting in pain and digestion issues. He

developed an abscess on the side of his intestine for several months that led to internal bleeding, causing his body to go septic and nearly ending his life. Margason has been in remission from Crohn's for the last two years, but continues to experience related issues when under stress.

Regardless of his disabilities, Margason plans to complete his AA degree here and to continue pursuing an education in the Fine Arts.

If this project contributes to higher sales from the machine, the class is hoping more projects like this will be in the works.

Margason's vending machine will be unveiled, along with other student works at the upcoming VVC Student Art Show, Dec. 6 from 12 to 8 p.m.



"If you do not purchase VenDO's candy and other assorted treats you will be vanquished."
Photo courtesy of Robert Sewell

Justin Kase Margason stands by the blank canvas he plans to turn into a work of art nic-named "VenDO."
Photo courtesy of Robert Sewell



"VenDo will not stop until everyone either purchases his goods or gets destroyed."
Photo courtesy of Robert Sewell

A letter to Victor Valley College from an EX-Student

Dear VVC,

It seems like ages ago since our last encounter but in reality it has been a short time since we last had seen one another. I hope all is well around that glorious lake of yours. I'm sure you are finding great company in others since I departed. Sometimes I think back to the memories we had together. Like that time you took me in after my harsh break-up with high school when no one else would. I was just a lost soul then, until you picked me up when I was at my lowest. I thought that you were the best thing for me. I just loved learning new things and building a foundation for my future. Everything seemed to be going great. It took me awhile to realize that you were holding me back. You were like a black hole that sucked me in with no intention of letting me go. I felt that you wouldn't let me excel. I knew that I could achieve so much more if I could just let go of you. You just made it so hard to leave. You were always too busy or just stopped caring. You were catering to other people; people who believe what I believed when I first started.

It took me four long years but I have found a new love since leaving you; her name is Arizona State University. I know what you're thinking: "just one of those stuck up universities." You're wrong. She may have a reputation of being a partier, but she's changed. She has opened the door to so many opportunities and makes me feel like I can be who I want to be. I no longer feel tied down or feel like I am being held back with simple 100 or 200 level courses. She strives to make sure I succeed in my goals and never questions my ambitions. She pushes me and makes me aspire to do great things. When I was in your arms last I was unsure about what I wanted in my life, now I can actually see myself having a future. I have never been happier. I am not writing to gloat about my new relationship; rather I wanted to thank you. Thank you for being my stepping-stone to a brighter future. Thank you for always being there with open arms. Thank you for making me realize that I deserve more. Even though we may have had some bad times I will never forget my first love.

Yours Truly,

A Happily Transferred Student

Annual Fall Dance Concert delivers outstanding performances

Story by Amber Schwartz

Features Editor

While sitting in the seat in the darkened auditorium, there was the sound of chatting individuals anxiously waiting for the show to start. From the audience, one could hear a wide range of activity coming from the stage: the sound of props being moved, the scurrying of feet, the swishing of dresses and finally, the sound of booming music introducing the performance.

The annual Fall Dance Concert was held on Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. There was a wide range of dances performed and the executions of these dances were all very diverse. There was a tribute to America, topped off with a large American flag, a West Side Story number and countless other distinguishable performances.

Sometimes there were more than ten people on stage at a time; some numbers were done in a trio. There were women of all shapes and sizes, and men strong and wiry enough to gracefully lift their female dance partners in the air while dancing in an elegant fashion. So many colorful costumes filled the eyes as alluring music provoked the audience members to get into the act by tapping their feet to it. Nearly every seat was filled and there were whistles and gleeful shouts at the closing of every dance performance.





—Photos by Amber Schwartz, Features Editor and Kelli McGurk, Editor-in-Chief

Music Recital dazzles crowd

Student and faculty performers entertain audience with musical talents

Story by Juan Mungia
Editor

The Victor Valley College Fine Arts Department held a Student and Faculty Recital on Friday November 16, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

The recital started with a festive and beautiful performance by mezzo-soprano Amber Blevins and Dr. Erin Kirk on piano of "Come and Trip It," an instrumental dance song by George Frideric Handel.

"I feel it went pretty well," said Blevins.

Baritone Yousef Reda, also accompanied on piano by Dr. Erin Kirk, followed with an elegant performance of "Widmung," a love song by Robert Schumann.

"I feel pretty good...I'm satisfied with how I performed. I'm actually impressed with the progress I'm making and it's really encouraging me to move forward," said Reda.

Next, soprano Hanna Lee, accompanied by Dr. Thomas Miller on piano, graciously performed "Sebben Crudele (Canzonetta)," from Antonio Caldara's opera *La costanza in amor vince l'inganno*, which deals with fidelity.

"I think it went really well; I think all of our hard work has really payed off," said Lee.

Cellist Beth Tinning followed with a gorgeous performance of "Suite No. 1 in G major-Prelude" by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Yousef Reda took the stage again, to beautifully perform "Invention No. 4 in D minor" on piano, also by Bach.

Next, Adalberto Rodriguez exquisitely and nimbly performed "Sonata" by Joseph Haydn on piano.

Sopranos Karen Hanna Lee and Alyssa Grieve followed, accompanied on piano by Dr. Erin Kirk, with a wonderfully beautiful performance of "The Flower Duet" from the opera *Lakme* by Leo Delibes.

"I feel like everybody did such an amazing job, and I feel like we've done the best that we've done," said Grieve.

Next, tenor Edward Martinez, accompanied by Travis Packer on piano, exuberantly performed the songs "Comfort Ye" and "Every Valley" from George Frideric Handel's oratorio *Messiah*.

Afterwards, soprano Amber Gomez and Martinez, accompanied by Patty Yancey on piano, beautifully performed "Hello Young Lovers" from the musical *The King and I* by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Gillian Espinoza followed on flute, accompanied by Katrina Bakus on piano, with a gracious and charming performance of "Andalouse Op. 20" by Emile Pessard.

Next was Steven Chism on piano, who enchantingly performed "Waltz Op. 64 No. 2" by Frederic Chopin.

Lana Litvin followed on piano with a hauntingly beautiful performance of "Nocturne", a solo piano piece also by Chopin.

Dr. Linda Minasian finished the recital with her spectacular piano performance of the lengthy "Ballade No. 4" by Chopin.

"I think it went generally very well. By this time of this semester, we usually have folks having worked for ten weeks or so, and so they're pretty well-prepared...I think for the most part they did extremely well tonight," said Dr. Miller.

Cans for Concert

VVC students bring the fun and entertainment to a canned food drive

Story by Annette Linares
Reporter

Hosted by the Victor Valley College Associated Student Body and ASB Vice President Evonne Torres Tirado, Cans for Concert, a canned food drive/community concert, combined entertainment with community service. On Fri. Nov. 16, VVC students and community members came together and provided a forum for artistic expression, as well as an opportunity to give back.

The idea originated in 2011 by the Inter Club Council (ICC) of VVC that Tirado was a part of. She believed the community needed help and wanted to make a difference. Tirado noticed that there is always a need for canned foods, especially around the holidays and hosting a canned food drive is a chance to help people in need. The admission to the concert was at least one can of food per person.

"I think it takes a lot to truly have enough passion to want to do inspiring things in our community," said Tirado.

ASB Public Relations Senator Caitlyn Gempler also helped with the Cans for Concert event. She worked behind the scenes setting up for the performances, making flyers and brochures, as

well as marketing for the event.

"I can't imagine myself NOT being a part of Cans for Concert. It would be great to see more people, and possibly host it in the Performing Arts Center," said Gempler.

Campus Crusade for Christ member Evan Anderson not only worked with Gempler during the event, she was also one of the performers, dancing while ASB athletics senator I'tvia Peters sang.

Over the years, many people have attended helping make the events successful. There are always families and friends supporting the performers and the events that are going on. This year they received around 140 canned goods from an audience of about 50 people.

"This event is very good and interesting and I like the effort that VVC put into this. It really helps and is very caring for students to come on their spare time and do this," said Juan Meza, father of VVC student Miguel Meza.

This event wasn't only for the VVC students. The host of "High School Sports Zone" from El Dorado Broadcasters Inc. Mychal Fabela played his guitar and sang "Blanket of Ghost" by Dustin Kensive and "Apology" by Anthology-Thrice.

This event will continue long after Tirado and other members of ASB are gone. ASB Student Development and Language Senator Angelou Ilang-Ilang will take over and will continue to host the Cans for Concert event in the future.



Matt House, Rhyan Michelle and Josh Garcia, members of J.C. dance crew perform their fun hip hop dance routine.

Photo by Annette Linares, Reporter

Best of the best 2012

Top tracks and best albums list compiled by Daniel Compean (*Entertainment Editor*) and Brandon Chiz (*Contributing Writer*)

Around this time of year, it has become customary to give our readers a list of the best albums of the year. Using the same criteria as previous years, our third annual list begins on page 16. This year we went a step farther to provide a top tracks, because even if their albums didn't make the top ten you will find on the following pages, these songs had a profound impact on the musical world.

Criteria for top albums list:

- Must be a full length album (no re-issues; EP's)
- Must be innovative in two ways –if not both: Bringing something new to the table and/or reinventing a genre.
- Must be contributing something to music and the album must come together as a whole.

Top ten songs of 2012

10. PSY — Gangnam Style



“Gangnam Style” has become more than song, and more of an international phenomenon. South Korean singer PSY created a song that's humorous, as it is catchy. It holds as a parody to the Gangnam District of Seoul's culture, similar to the “swag” culture of America. It is just pure fun, with its synthesized dance-pop that has solidified its place—and at the very least the awareness—of K-Pop in the world.

Mumford & Sons — Lovers' Eyes 09.

Champions of indie-folk, Mumford & Sons' “Lovers' Eyes” croons to the listener an emotional journey that, as the song swells, pulls you deeper into the turmoil he endures. Each line expresses to its audience that even though life can be painful, they're still alive.



08. Animal Collective — Today's Supernatural



With vibrant and erratic energy, “Today's Supernatural” conveys a sense of discovery with an unorthodox blend of avant-garde and pop. “Today's Supernatural” is a kaleidoscopic gem. Exploring new landscapes, yet still maintaining a sense of familiarity, this track impresses on a musical and experimental level.

07. Of Monsters and Men — Little Talks



The debut single from Of Monsters and Men capitalizes on big sounds for “Little Talks.” Writers Nanna Bryndís Hilmarsdóttir and Ragnar Þórhallsson use the poignant economy of their lyricism along side the illustrious trumpets and indie-folk/indie pop sound. Truly infectious, this Icelandic band has created a song that's very difficult not to enjoy.

05. The Lumineers — Stubborn Love



Charming as it is rustic, “Stubborn Love,” by indie folk musicians The Lumineers, is one of many folk-pop songs riding the current wave of folk revivalism. Yet, what sets it apart rests in its craft. Beautifully renditioned, there's an underlying authenticity in its simplicity. With lyrical echoes and fiddle accompaniments, “Stubborn Love” remains a haunting and luminous tune that will find its place as a crossover hit.

03. Tame Impala — Feels Like We Only Go Backwards



Tame Impala's “Feels Like We Only Go Backwards,” just sounds gorgeous. They find their psychedelic-groove, applying layer upon layer of sound—whilst avoiding it sounding like a cacophony. Kevin Parker, and Tame Impala as a whole, embrace their mellow side in this track, exposing a band that knows how to make something complex into something gentle and simple, proving that you can reinvent a classic sound.

Kendrick Lamar — m.A.A.d City

“m.A.A.d City” is the centerpiece of Kendrick Lamar's debut album. Kendrick's voice sounds like a terrified teenager mixed up in gang violence. Right when we are one verse deep we are woken up by MC Eiht and a new beat that is reminiscent of an NWA record. This track is the epitome of what Lamar wanted to capture with this album.

06.



Jack White — Sixteen Saltines

“Sixteen Saltines” blears through to give evidence of White's ability to simultaneously create a song with the drive and force of garage rock and the attitude of blues. Its heavy distorted guitars and repetitive riffs create an almost trance-like state that is as satisfying as it is energetic. Never failing to disappoint, White delivers a powerful song that will equally be loved by casual listeners as it is by fans.

04.



Kanye West — Mercy

“Mercy” is easily the strongest track off of Kanye West's otherwise disappointing collaboration album, “Cruel Summer.” Featuring a bravado filled verse trade offs that blend seamlessly with an almost free-style flow and four different artists, “Mercy” fails to lose momentum by building up each verse to its pulsating hook. It seems appropriate that Kanye would bring this cast together to create a product so dramatic and over-the-top, yet lasting. While the idea and presentation are nothing new, “Mercy” is well polished enough that it's impression won't be soon forgotten.

02.



01. Frank Ocean — Thinkin' Bout You

Unrequited love songs are a common theme throughout Frank Ocean's “Channel Orange.” “Thinkin' bout you” is easily the best song on the album and of the year due to its raw emotion. Ocean's vocal change from verse to chorus can send chills through your body. His unorthodox lyrical and vocal style is emphasized on this record and was the driving force behind this album and the main reason why Ocean left his mark on not only this year in music, but in this generation.



Best Albums 2012

10. Fun. — Some Nights



Fun's second album "Some Nights" is an ambitious record. In many ways its theatrical approach, accompanied by Nate's Ruess's talented falsetto voice, make this a very dramatic album. Often bold and adventurous, with grandiose tracks – like the intro, which is complimented with a full string orchestra -- it seems like Fun's sophomore effort coming

into its own sound, and fully maturing. Some Nights isn't higher on the list as it relies too heavily on Ruess, which creates the deception that the album is better than it actually is. Each track seems different, but is essentially the same thing. It's a good album as it draws its influences from Paul Simon and Kanye West among others; though by experimenting so much—like with Ruess' unnecessary auto-tuned voice-- he downplays himself. Fun has a great deal of potential, which they present in this album, but they still have some ways to go.

Photo courtesy of Fueled by Ramen

08. Passion Pit — Gossamer



"Gossamer" picks up right where Passion Pit's debut "Manners" left off. The upbeat electro pop/indie rock group create a style that is here own. They are now easily recognizable thanks to mega-hit "Take a Walk" that can be heard on numerous tv ads and radio stations. "Gossamer" is exactly what the group needed to give them that extra push into becoming a respectable group.

You can sense the growth in the group and once they perfect what they are trying to do there will be no stopping them. The new look of pop is with this group and one that follow suit like Fun. Lead singer Michael Angelakos and the stomping, catchy pop beats is what makes Passion Pit a delight to listen to.

Photo courtesy of Columbia Records

06. Tame Impala — Lonerism



Turn off your mind, relax and float downstream. It's Tame Impala's second-full length album, "Lonerism", and it's perhaps the most self-exploring album on this list. With the precise blend of modern indie pop and psychedelic rock, Kevin Parker knows how to channel The Beatles' album "Revolver" without outright copying it.

This is a problem with musicians who attempt to pull off The Beatles, it either falls entirely short, or exactly the same making it less interesting. Not with Tame Impala, who have created something far more interesting. Each track blends its syncopated rhythms, creating a unique experience for the listener that's more than nostalgia or even just 'new'. They innovated on something old, taking what works and making it their own, giving us something beautiful, while still being simple. Their ineffable melodies are instantly memorable, as they are joyous. "Lonerism" brilliantly showcases that a band can still work with an audio-canvas and originate a truly beautiful album.

Photo courtesy of Modular Records

Honorable Mentions:

Bruce Springsteen — Wrecking Ball

Odd Future — The OF Tape Vol. 2

Gary Clark Jr. — Blak and Blu

Grimes — Visions

Plan B — Ill Manors

Godspeed You! Black Emperor — 'Allelujah! Don't Bend! Ascend!

Taylor Swift — Red

Animal Collective – Centipede Hz

Grizzly Bear — Shields

09.

Grizzly Bear's past two releases, "Yellow House" and "Veckatimest," were such opulent compositions that following it up with their new release would prove difficult. Yet Grizzly Bear succeeded with "Shields," their most intrepid album yet. Grizzly Bear still maintain their traditional baroque pop sound but experiment with complex structures vying more on the side of art rock. The complexities of these tracks make it

an album that doesn't offer instant gratification but rather rewards patient listening. Grizzly Bear seems to try to distance themselves from their critically acclaimed "Veckatimest" by retreating to this in solace. This can make the album feel indirect and disjointed. For as experimental and unique they make this record, it also serves as its crux by feeling indistinct at times. Regardless, Grizzly Bear has succeeded in a memorable album that manages to outbid its predecessors.



Photo courtesy of Warp Records

Alabama Shakes — Boys & Girls

07.

Brittany Howard's hypnotic and powerful voice is coupled with her equally impressive songwriting to bring a memorable and jolting debut release with "Boys & Girls." The album is largely confessional, not in the singer/songwriter sense, but rather in traditional blues fashion. The lyricism relies heavily off Howard's impressive, dynamic vocal range, yet can fall flat for that very same reason. "Boys & Girls" was recorded

live in the studio, but feels as though it lacks the power a live performance would have. Nevertheless, this live recording production gives "Boys & Girls" the authentic blues feel the band was no doubt aiming for. Alabama Shakes is proving to have a promising and bright future if they continue to develop as they have been.

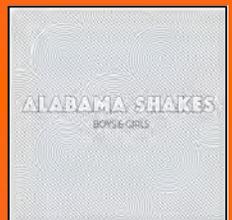


Photo courtesy of ATO Records

Kendrick Lamar — good kid, m.A.A.d city

05.

The art of storytelling is the driving force behind this ambitious debut album from Kendrick Lamar. While listening it's easy to just envision everything as if it were a scene from a movie. The plot is something that isn't unheard of; however the way it's delivered is what makes this album extraordinary. Lamar has a flow that will keep him in the rap game for years. He has

an ability to change his voice or spit rhymes in triple time. In some songs he is almost unrecognizable, making it seem like he can make a guest appearance on his own records. When you have the ability to bring Dr. Dre out of retirement to make a featured appearance on a debut album, you know you're headed in the right direction. The album weaves in and out of beats adding old school with new seamlessly even in the middle of some songs. There are so many standout songs from "Good Kid, Maad City," but when they all come together as one it creates an epic.



Photo courtesy of Interscope Records

04. Death Grips — The Money Store

“The Money Store” starts where Death Grips left off: Angry. Their debut album with Epic Records showcases this group with the same dominating ferocity from their first 2011 release, “Exmilitary.” Vocalist MC Ride roars his staccato verses alongside the perfectly confrontational rhythms of each track. The fervent aggression and unorthodox style are rooted in the acclamation of alternative hip-hop, post-punk and synthesizers, creating a truly bold and experimental sound. That isn’t to say that Death Grips is more self-aware, if anything they’re just more emotionally raw and expressive than any other act out right now. “The Money Store” presents a revival for the hardcore punk spirit, echoing the iconoclastic tendencies of Henry Rollins and Black Flag as a whole. It’s the malignant grace and experimentation that creates a truly original sound, solidifying their contribution to music. If anything else, “The Money Store” is violently explosive, highly ambitious, but definitely the most poignant record on this entire list.



Photo courtesy of Epic Records

03. Cloud Nothings — Attack on Memory



Photo courtesy of Carpark Records

Bringing together a swarm of 80's and 90's inspired indie rock, punk rock, post-hardcore and emo, the aptly named “Attack on Memory” is just that. Despite this LP being relatively short, maxing out at a mere 8 tracks, the album is as expansive as ever featuring catchy hooks and a distinctly refined, yet lo-fi sound. Lead singer Dylan Baldi's stylistically coarse and abrasive vocals give the record a stressful and pessimistic tone that is only compounded by the band's penchant for minor key melodies. While not without their grassroots post-hardcore influences, Cloud Nothings strives for solidarity by regularly defying punk rock norms with a random 5 minute psychedelic interlude in “Wasted Days,” an otherwise traditional punk song. “Attack on Memory” exemplifies the philosophy of quality over quantity with each track bringing a new experience to the table that is as caustic and angst-ridden as any 80's D.C. hardcore band. It is a return to the familiar yet a departure into the untreaded. It's for this very reason that “Attack on Memory” delivers a quintessential throwback to emocore that will leave an influential mark on modern punk and a high position in this list.

02. Jack White — Blunderbuss

Rumor has it that this album was only recorded because Wu-Tang clan member RZA didn't show up to a recording session at Jack White's Third Man Records. A band was already hired and was there ready to play. White stepped into the studio and started work on this debut solo album. It is the first time that White had written every song in one session. The product is another masterpiece to add to White's collection of beautifully distorted, heavy blues inspired music that ranges from the White Stripes to the Raconteurs to The Dead Weather. White has definitely left his mark on this generations rock music. Even the B-sides on the released singles are brilliant. The album was number one on our mid-year list and was a close runner-up in the year's final list; but don't let that take anything away from this album. It is a brilliant collection of songs that display what's really inside the masterful mind of Jack White.



Photo courtesy of Third Man Records

01. Frank Ocean — channel ORANGE

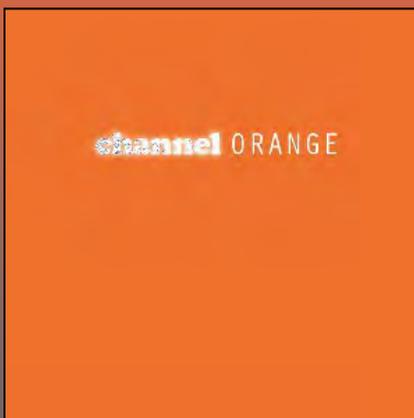


Photo courtesy of Def Jam Records

Although he has released very little material, Frank Ocean has already proven himself to be the most talented and versatile member of the rap collective Odd Future. Adventurous and experimental, Ocean gives audiences a very modernized take on classic R&B and soul with plenty of crossover appeal. Since his debut solo mixtape, “Nostalgia, Ultra,” Ocean has continually grown into a persona that has been featured in Jay-Z and Kanye West's “Watch the Throne” and even served as a ghost writer for the likes of John Legend, Beyoncé and Justin Bieber. His harmonic voice and top notch songwriting has placed him in the forefront of contemporary R&B as exemplified with his first album release, “Channel Orange.” This masterfully crafted record shows growth and progression towards the right direction; it is “Nostalgia, Ultra” on a grander more clarified scale. “Channel Orange” acts as a view in to the landscape of Ocean's mind. With a very languid delivery, his vocals reflect texture, introspection, and profound loss, with subtle beats that are as seductive as they are, at times, strange. The album seems to be a challenge to the nature of modern media, with almost existential themes about the reflections of youth. It is an album that continually rewards repeated listens, offering a new experience each venture. If Ocean is to contemporary R&B like Stevie Wonder or Marvin Gaye were to classic R&B, then make no mistake that “Channel Orange” will no doubt serve as a landmark in R&B and soul and modern music in general. This more than earns “Channel Orange” this year's spot at #1.

Ram Reviews

‘Life of Pi’: A spiritual journey into the soul

Review by Tanya Patterson
Reporter



The Life of Pi is a wonderful chronicle of survival, told from the narrative of Piscine Molitor Patel (Suraj Sharma/Irrfan Khan). Suraj Sharma, does an amazing job, acting as a hopeful cast-away in his break-out role as the teenage Pi, and Irrfan Khan, as the current day Pi, brings depth to the story, as he recounts his harrowing experience.

It is the tale of one boy’s fantastic journey across the sea. Piscine, nicknamed Pi, after having been given the unfortunate moniker “Pissing” by his peers, has spent his childhood in India, surrounded by the animals at his father’s zoo and looking for his true god by ex-

ploring each new religion he discovers. When his father predicts lean times to come, his family makes the decision to sell the zoo and move to Canada, in search of a better life.

The ill-fated trip begins aboard a Japanese cargo vessel, where few are friendly and the animals, en route to their new homes in North America, are restless and scared. After several days at sea a violent storm hits, sinking the ship and everyone on board with the ex-

ception of Pi. The teenage boy finds himself sharing a small life boat with cast of unlikely characters, including a hyena, an orangutan, a zebra and a tiger. As their numbers decrease, Pi must learn to survive, alongside Richard Parker, the Bengal tiger, with dwindling supplies and no land in sight.

There are parts in this movie that were truly terrifying, for example, the many animal attacks and the sinking of the ship. Through-out it all, there are scattered mo-

ments of peace and reflection and our hero, Pi manages to keep hope alive by inserting humor when he’s at his lowest points through conversations between himself, his journal and Richard Parker.

From the tranquil zoo to the brilliant light festivals of Pi’s youth, every frame is beautifully filled with breathtaking natural imagery. The ocean comes alive with schools of colorful creatures of the deep and the expanse of the night skies are dotted with thousands of stars, both striking illustrations of the hopelessness of Pi’s situation.

This movie is a visual delight for children of all ages, and while some concepts in the movie can be considered complicated for younger viewers, as their understanding of life increases, so too will their enjoyment of this movie.

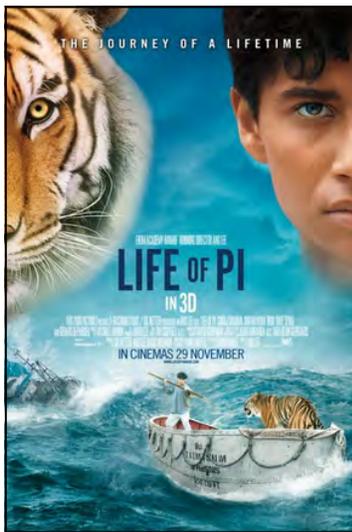


Photo courtesy of 20th Century Fox

Brad Pitt double downs in ‘Killing Them Softly’

Review by James McDaniel
Reporter



Going with the crime and thriller genre, “Killing Them Softly” gives the title a morbid yet gentle meaning later explained during a discussion in the movie.

“Killing Them Softly” was written and directed by Andrew Dominik (The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford, Chopper). The screenplay was adapted from a 1974 novel called “Cogan’s Trade” by George V. Higgins.

When Johnny (Vincent Curatola), aka “Squirrel”, comes up with a plan to rob a mob-controlled card game, he talks Frankie (Scoot McNairy) into it. As support, Frankie brings fellow petty criminal Russell (Ben Mendelsohn) in and the idiots

pull a job that shakes the underground economy and leads to more trouble than any of them expected.

The objective of the job is to rob a mob controlled card-game, which is run by Markie Trattman, (Ray Liotta), who profited from plotting a heist of his own card game. This card game seemed like an easy target and Markie seemed like an easy scapegoat for this planned robbery.

In comes Brad Pitt as Jackie Cogan: the smooth talking enforcer that handles the planning and kills without hesitation despite coming across as a nice guy. He plays his role flawlessly, making it seem completely realistic in every scene he plays.

Alongside Pitt is former Sopranos actor James Gandolfini playing Mickey: an alcoholic killer addicted to sex. With his nonchalant yet commanding



Photo courtesy of Plan B Entertainment

demeanor, Gandolfini provides a good contrast to Pitt.

Dominik’s efforts are clear as every aspect of the film shows quality and strives to keep the audience entertained. From the attention to camera angles, the

ever changing music of different types, and even the dialogue, this movie captures a person’s attention.

This is a film with virtually no subtlety. The actors, and actions, make even finesse moments into intense, sit-on-the-edge-of-your-seat scenes. People are upset about the robbery and there are no compunctions about dealing with it.

There is a certain sadistic feel to the way some of the characters are. There is a quiet, calm yet clearly intimidating aspect given to some dialogue and the tone used during them.

Despite the brutality and bluntness of it all, “Killing Them Softly” is an incredible movie. Visually appealing to most audiences, yet with some distasteful gore, it comes with a solid balance that left many applauding.

'Call of Duty Black Ops II': The future is now

Review by Mario Gonzalez

Sports Co-Editor



Over the past couple of years, "Call of Duty" has been one of the greatest franchises in video game history. Each year, whether it is "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare" or "Call of Duty: Black Ops," gamers wait overnight at their nearest video game outlet to be the first to get their hands on the newest addition of the "Call of Duty" series.

When "Black Ops" was first released, there were obvious differences from past "COD" iterations. Most "COD" players have complained on numerous occasions about Treyarch, the developers of "Black Ops," when dealing with server issues, glitches and much more, but never seemed to get proper updates. Treyarch has since improved these issues in "COD:BO 2"

In the past campaign mode players would switch between

main characters throughout the game. This year in "Black Ops 2," you play as two protagonists, Alex Mason and his son David Mason who are attempting to track down the Nicaraguan antagonist, Raul Menendez.

The campaign story takes place in the year 2025 and focuses on David Mason. David is found questioning the former partner of his father as to the whereabouts of a Nicaraguan drug-dealing terrorist. You transition through the whole campaign between the future and the past as you search for Menendez, having the option to play in the new Strike Force missions along the way.

In the new Strike Force missions, players take the role as the U.S Forces as they fight across the globe, against the Chinese. Players alternate between flying a drone from above, to soldiers on the ground. The way the Strike Force missions end, whether you complete them or fail them, will decide the fate of how the story-

line is ended, creating several alternate endings.

Zombie mode has always been a fan favorite. Treyarch has brought drastic changes to its zombie mode, such as bringing in its own campaign, as well as a new multiplayer engine, which adds a deeper experience. Unlike the previous zombie mode, players can now team up in an eight player co-op up from the previous four player co-op.

Most "COD" players that line up at gaming stores stand in line just for the online multiplayer mode so they can earn a higher ranking by morning and top leaderboards. Not much has changed in multiplayer ; you have the same weapons from the previous "Black Ops" with a few new ones thrown in. What Treyarch did manage to bring to the table in multiplayer mode is a new score streak system and the "Pick Ten" system. Each weapons class receives 10 allocation points, which you can use for your load out, whether it is primary weapons, attachments



Photo courtesy of Activision

or even perks. Treyarch has also brought more life to gameplay by using a better range of sounds from hearing player grenades or rifle fire, to players dying.

Treyarch impresses by going all out with "Black Ops 2," setting the bar high. This is a more enjoyable gaming experience that will leave you at the edge of your seat.

Dawn rises early for 'Twilight'

Review by April Terrero

Reporter



The most highly anticipated movie in the country for tween girls has finally arrived in theatres. The exciting conclusion of the Twilight Saga, "Breaking Dawn pt. 2," excites and amazes audiences with the drama and romance. But that doesn't apply to the people with some sense in their head.

If you've passed by any movie theatre during the premier you've probably seen the long lines of crazy fan girls occupying the entire pavement outside the theatres, waiting to catch the midnight showing of their beloved movie.

The rest of us can sense the chaotic vibe and amusement of watching the crazed fans getting worked up. Once inside the the-



Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment

atre and when all the trailers have passed by, fans begin to squeal like little school girls as the movie starts.

Directed by Bill Condon, (Dreamgirls), the film opens right where part one last left off, Bella (Kristen Stewart), getting turned into a vampire by Edward (Robert Pattinson), while also giving birth to a half-human-half-vampire baby. The whole movie focuses on the baby vampire Renesmee (Mackenzie Foy), for being mistaken as an "immortal child" and getting accused as a danger to the vampire world, resulting into a vampire war. With the help of the Cullen family and werewolf, Jacob (Taylor Lautner), they form a plan to help keep the baby vampire alive and stop the villains, 'The Volturi.'

Alongside the drama, the film is full of sappy clichés, lovey dovey moments, cheesy scenes, the occasional jokes that no regular moviegoer will ever

get, plus enough shirtless hunky guys to make any hardcore Twilight fan squeal, and any hater puke.

Although the predictable film gets tiring in the middle, the tension rises when the vampires go to war and fans start screaming and cheering in your ear as they watch their adored characters fight. But nothing prepares you for the final twist towards the ending of the movie that would even shock a non-Twilight fan! Of course it'll go back to its predictable story in seconds, closing with a sappy love song, cliché love scene and a mushy happy ending, leaving all the fan girls crying.

Love it or hate it the Twilight franchise never ceases to capture the adoration from their fans, succeeding on making them happy, but it won't win over the minds of people who aren't fans of the franchise.

AC ⚡ DC

Alternative Corner with Daniel Compean

Low Brow: Punk's Dead, Get a Job

I remember a brief meeting I had with a random fellow in a class I had back in 2010. We'll call him 'Jack' for sake of the story. I wouldn't go as far as to qualify this dude as a "friend," so much as just some guy I happened to kill time on smoke breaks with. Yet, he did have the occasional interesting anecdote sharing spur of the moment decisions that led to some contrived life-affirming experience.

Fresh out of high school, I was still in the process of "growing out" of the obligatory punk phase most teenagers seem to experience at one point. I prided myself in a DIY aesthetic, anti-authoritarian mindset and a regretful copy of "The Anarchist Cookbook," by William Powell, that I feel obligated by law to never admit owning. I was the stuff of legends, a true

punk. In my own eyes at least, which was all that really mattered in the end. No one else came close, until I met Jack. Now, Jack didn't listen to punk. If asked what punk music is, he would probably have cursory knowledge at best. Yet, this guy had somehow punk'd me. But how? What was he doing that I wasn't? What Jack had done is inadvertently stumbled upon the

punk holy grail of thought: live each day to its fullest and like it's your last, regardless of what others think of you; an overused and nearly empty phrase nowadays, to say the least, yet still ideologically sound.

Punk is not particularly pensive,



Ian Mackaye of Fugazi in one of his trademark high energy show. *Photo courtesy of last.fm*

that sort of navel gazing is reserved for your post-hardcore/emo flavored bands like Fugazi. What it is, instead, is raw emotive feelings: "I'm angry right now." Regardless, it was always about what's happening in this instance.

So where is this mentality now? Did it die with Henry Rollins' career? Perhaps it evolved into something unrecognizable from its previous incarnation. That's

where hip hop comes in.

Hip hop could arguably be classified as anti-punk. While punk is about rejecting fame and material wealth, hip hop embraces it. This is markedly different from punk where it seems to be a contest between privileged, middle-class suburbanites of who has the worst financial situation. Yet even with their differences, their core philosophy is still the same: "live in the moment."

The socially conscious old school hip hop group Public Enemy embodies this perfectly. With a close tie and friendship with the straight edge band Minor Threat, Public Enemy might as well have been a punk outfit with less angry white kids and more comically



The Beastie Boys are the missing link between punk and hip hop. *Photo courtesy of last.fm*

oversized clocks.

"Fight the power. We've got to fight the powers that be," Chuck D and Flava Flav remind us in the chorus of "Fight the Power." Political leanings aside, it's an appeal to our base emotions. There's no clarification of how we should fight this power, we just know that we have to.

This is no different from what Dr. Dre did in N.W.A. with

"Straight Outta Compton" or 2Pac in "All Eyez on Me." Zack de la Rocha took this concept literally in Rage Against the Machine with a crossover fusion of hip hop and hardcore punk. Nobody shows this better than the Beastie Boys, who originally started off as a hardcore punk band before transitioning to hip hop. They always share a focus of what is happening right now.

For a more recent example you have only have to look as far as one of the current powerhouses of hip hop: Kid Cudi.

"I'll be up, up and away... 'cause they gonna judge me anyway, so whatever," from "Up Up and Away" exemplifies this "live in the moment, be yourself" mentality. In fact, any of Cudi's songs dealing with his existential angst (i.e. all of his songs) have this same credo.

Even the insufferable fad, "YOLO" (You Only Live Once,) which holds close ties to the hip hop scene, reflects this; albeit, in a significantly more knuckle-dragging manner, but I digress.

This mentality doesn't belong to punk anymore, in fact, maybe it never did. Guys like Jack, who have never been a part of the culture, seem to be more well-versed in this than most punks. Between a punk with encyclopedic

knowledge of music trivia and bands they could name drop, or some guy who's lived his life with more rewarding and fuller experiences, who embodies punk philosophy more? Maybe this is how traditional punk rock lost touch with itself. Punk didn't die, it adapted.

With heavy hearts, California Metalfest charges on

Story by Todd Hadler

Sports Co-Editor

At around 7:45 p.m. on Nov. 24, lead singer Tim Lambesis of As I Lay Dying declared, "Let the chaos begin," as the crowd erupted into a giant moshpit. However, the chaos of what was California Metalfest VI held at the nearly 4,700 capacity NOS Events Center, had begun eight hours and 45 minutes prior.

First thing I want to address is that this is the first concert where I have brought a female to a metal concert. Along with me was my best friend Josh and his wife Meagan, who has referred to metal before as "that screaming crap." Luckily, I found a metal band, I See Stars, that she ended up liking.

Before the festival even began, it was already missing an important piece of the puzzle. Mitch Lucker, lead singer of Suicide Silence, was killed in a motorcycle accident on Halloween night. Suicide Silence was scheduled to play California Metalfest but decided to take a leave of absence from the event. The whole day was dedicated to Mitch's honor.

Although I have never been, I could sense a Warped Tour kind of feel from the concert where there were many bands spread out across multiple stages and tents where the bands and clothing companies can sell merchandise. In total there were 88 bands spread out across five different stages.

Veil of Maya, one of my favorite bands, was set to play on the main stage. I was ready to hear some songs from their latest release, "Eclipse." The band played an assortment of classics such as "Unbreakable" and "It's Not Safe to Swim Today," as well as a mix of others, adding heart-stopping bass drops along the way. An overall fantastic performance that was one of the best of the day.

We headed over to see the only metal band that Meagan

likes, I See Stars. The band is known for being one of the primary contributors to the electronic genre. Lead singer Devin Oliver has an amazing voice, blending well with the unclean vocals of Zach Johnson, the band's other lead singer. The set definitely had a rave-like feel with the sound of techno being played between songs.



Greg Puciato of Dillinger Escape Plan hangs from scaffolding. Dillinger Escape Plan, a late 90's band, founded the mathcore genre.

Photo courtesy of California Metalfest

The crowd was on their feet in what was a very solid performance.

It got noticeably heavier after I See Stars though, as Southern California's own Winds of Plague was up next. Winds of Plague is one of the best live bands out there and they go all out when they are in their native California. They brought the intensity once again but one thing that bothers me is that they have the same setlist every time, which makes it a little old after a while.

Memphis May Fire, a Warped Tour alumni whose popularity has exploded since this summer, were next up. I finally was able to hear songs being played from their most recent release, "Challenger," which is in my top five albums of the year. The band put on an incredible performance that was making me

move from start to finish. Lead singer Matty Mullins is one of the best singers in metal and he showed that with his outstanding vocal range.

Back to the main stage again where up next was Christian metalcore band For Today. It was at this point where I noticed the disorganization of the festival. For Today were set to go on

cal. The other highlight came at the very end of their set when Puciato turned into a fire-breather and spit fire right above the crowd's heads, all while the other band members are destroying the drum set and tossing it into the audience.

My favorite band of all time, As I Lay Dying, came on next and they once again delivered tenfold. The energy that these 11 year veterans bring is unmatched and the moshpits show. The only problem I had with their performance is the two new songs they played. The problem was not that they were new songs, it was the way they played them. "Cauterize" and "A Greater Foundation" have a lot of energy on the album versions but it seemed that the band could not bring the same thunder that they had on the record.

After what was already a long day, Asking Alexandria came to the stage. Unfortunately, I did not see them. I like Asking Alexandria, but it was a very long day and we all needed a rest.

Finally, the headliners of the festival, Killswitch Engage, were ready to go on. Killswitch Engage's set was a special one, in that they were playing their 2002 release, "Alive or Just Breathing," in its entirety, as well as a couple of other songs. It was noticeable that the crowd was very tired at this point. However, Killswitch delivered an unbelievable performance as they shredded through the 12 tracks that is "Alive or Just Breathing." The band ended the day with their popular hit, "The End of Heartache."

California Metalfest VI was a whirlwind of a concert. It was a 13 hour long heavy metal concert that delivered on all cylinders. The only real complaint I have is the disorganization of the set times with many bands playing on two or three songs. I am already looking forward to California Metalfest VII next year.

at 5:00 but did not start until at least 5:20. Nonetheless, For Today went on to play their style of "heavy worship." The band went full steam ahead, blistering through fan favorites such as "Saul of Tarsus," "Seraphim," and "Devastator."

After I got to meet and chat with the lead singer of The HAARP Machine, the night was dwindling down and the heavy hitters were about to take the stage. First up was The Dillinger Escape Plan, who was the oldest band there. I have never seen a band that went absolutely nuts on stage before. It was like watching five people who had just escaped from a mental institution play a 40 minute set. One of the highlights came when lead singer Greg Puciato climbed the scaffolding alongside the stage and hung upside down while still doing the vo-

Sex on campus harmless fun or serious offense?

Column by Micah Raimo
News Editor

Victor Valley College has had its fair share of around-the-corner romps. College campus quickies can create memories that can float around the beer pong table or raise the stakes in a relationship. If caught, the both of you would be lounging in a cold prison cell.

The VVC RamPage conducted a survey and out of the 30 participants, 46 percent have had sex on campus. 20 percent of those people actually had sex on campus, and 33 percent admitted the act was unprotected.

"I have seen and heard about places to go around campus if you have certain needs to be met," an anonymous student said. "If you need some sexual relief, but stuck on campus, you can there are a few secluded places around you can walk to or even drive to for pleasure."

Psychologically, campus sex hinges on the same rules as spontaneous sex; only with greater risk involved.

"Spontaneous sex has been hailed for not only grabbing a lover's interest, but maintaining it. It spikes a relationship's lust factor, making lovemaking more exciting. Plus, when needed, it can get lovers out of a slump. And it caters to our carnal nature in its 'must have now, no matter how taboo' factor," wrote Fox News' Foxsexpert columnist Dr. Yvonne Kristin Fulbright in "11 Ways to Have More Spontaneous Sex."

Anne Hooper, Sex Therapist, Journalist, and Author of many sexual therapy books including a revised Kama Sutra agreed in her book, "Ultimate Sex:" "Just because sex is sandwiched between working morning and afternoon, for example, doesn't mean it can't be therapeutic. And 'quickie' positions can be very useful for a man who tends

to ejaculate prematurely."

63 percent of the students who took the survey weren't aware of the consequences.

According to the VVC crime log, the last time such an act was reported was May, 10 of this year. Those students were handed over to the District Attorney's Office.

California Penal Code 314 states that any flashing of breasts or genitals is classified as a misdemeanor and is punishable up to a year in prison. In Penal Code 647(A) any person who asks for or engages in sexual conduct in public is charged depending on the severity of the crime.

"Lewd conduct is not one specific type of offense; virtually all of them involve sex in a public place. These acts include receiving or giving oral sex in public, exposure of genitals in public and public masturbation," according to www.losangelescriminallawyer.pro.

According to an anonymous student, the region spoken about was lower campus.

"[The Police Station] is down there but they're out patrolling." A student continued, "When you steal from someone its easiest right from under their noses."

The inherent gifts do not outweigh the negative of being called a sex offender. For a college student, sex on campus is often listed the academic bucket-list but also could make you somebody's prison bitch.

"I don't think anyone plans to have sex on campus. The fact that it is dangerous adds to the excitement. So it's definitely worth the risk. Most people don't sit around and gloat about it though, so you don't hear much about it around campus," said another anonymous student.

For questions or comments please write to: theraimotable@gmail.com

Who to # Follow

@CKlosterman

Chuck Klosterman, author of *Sex, Drugs, and Coco Puffs*, tweets about pop culture, sports, music and everything in between. Make sure to check out his essays when he links to them, too! What better way to inspire your own essay than by following a master of the modern essay?

@Cliffs_Notes

While it may be impossible to explain Shakespeare's *Othello* in 140 characters or less, the Cliffs Notes twitter account is constantly tweeting out new commentary on classic texts, while alerting their followers when new study guides, quizzes, or other helpful content is published on their site.

@ConanOBrien

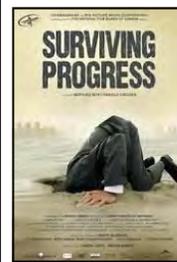
Sometimes you just need to look at things from a different angle. No one is better at doing this than Conan, and with hilariously sometimes random tweets.

@VVCRamPage

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-Kelli McGurk, Editor-in-Chief

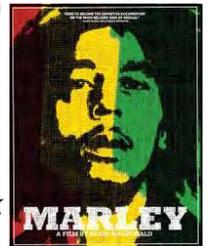
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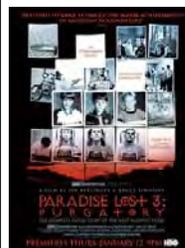
1. *Surviving Progress* (documentary) by Mathieu Roy and Harold Crooks (left)

2. *Health and Wellness: Illness Among Americans* (Information Plus series) by Thomson -Gale

3. *Marley* (documentary) by Kevin MacDonald (right)



4. *Occupational Outlook Handbook 2012-13* by United States Bureau of Labor Statistics



5. *Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory* (documentary) by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky (left)

Top Tweet of the Issue:



Conan O'Brien

@ConanOBrien

The voice of the people; Sorry people

So excited to have one of my heros, Dick Van Dyke on "Conan" tonight, even though it was egotistical to put his own name in his show title.

10:55 PM • 29 Nov 12



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

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The RamPage reserves the right to reject any material — advertising or editorial — that it deems to be not in keeping with the standards of the paper.



"Christmas in Victorville, 50 Years Ago" Christmas Parade

Presented by The City of Victorville, Victorville Kiwanis Club & the Daily Press

Nearly 100 businesses and organizations competed in the annual float competition, Victor Valley College's ASB won best civic float.



Commercial Float:
 First Place: VV Disposal/Burrtec Waste
 Second Place: A Cut Above Pet Grooming
 Third Place: Kona Ice

Wheels:
 First Place: Hi-Desert Antique power Assn.
 Second Place: Drivers Motorized Choice
 Third Place: AmVets Post 2007

Civic Floats:
First Place: Victor Valley College ASB
 Second Place: Girl Scouts Troop 1558
 Third Place: Victor Valley High School Key Club

