



VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

Ram Page

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"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." -Nelson Mandela

High Fees for Higher One Student Accounts

Story by Garrett Johnston
Managing Editor

Even with the removal of loans from the Victor Valley Community College campus, students are still in danger of drowning in debt from places meant to help.

Businesses like Higher One Holdings INC. are siphoning money right out of the students' pockets with high fees for services they offer.

Higher One, which is a banking service that offers debit cards in alternative to physical checks dispersing financial aid, offers two different service packages for students to choose from: all have tremendous service fees.

"Quite frankly, I hate fees. That's why I don't use their ATM's," said Tatjana Kranefuss, student at VVC. "\$2.50, that is a half a gallon of gas for me."

With gas prices in a continual flux, the \$2.50 transaction fee, for a non Higher One ATM, might be the difference between adding another gallon of gas or praying you make it to your destination.

One of the dangers of owning a debit card is the risk of losing it or having your account hacked into. If there are suspicious transactions on your account Higher One will look into it for a charge of \$25 per-hour. If students require a replacement

card that is an additional \$20 fee.

Not all students are against these fees, as they believe the money VVC receives from the banking companies will benefit them in the long run by allowing the school to have a bigger budget.

of obtaining a check instead of the debit card, but it can take up to 27 days from the disbursement date. Those 27 days are crucial for students, as within the first couple of weeks of school, having their books can be the difference between attending the class or being forced



A VVC student uses the only ATM option available on campus.

Photo by Juan Munguia, Editor

"I'm for the fees as long as the ATM's are working" said student Matt Sepulveda.

Once financial aid has been dispersed students line up in front of each ATM on campus, hoping to pull out their money before the ATM becomes empty, forcing them to use a non-Higher One ATM.

"I like being able to use higher one, but I wish they had more machines on campus," said VVC student Cayce Price.

VVC students have the option

to drop for fear of failing.

"Every penny of financial aid money should go to educational expenses, not an education in high bank fees," said Rich Williams, the higher education advocate for the U.S Public Research Interest group, in an email concerning campus debit cards.

For more information on Higher One and its fees go to www.vvcramscard.com

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Letter from your editor

I'm happy to say this semester is off to a great start. Our first production day went smooth and better than expected. I am proud of the look of the paper and I appreciate the positive feedback I have received.

I need to thank my managing editor Garrett Johnston for helping me and the other editors keep on task and on deadline. Without him, we wouldn't have had such a smooth production day for the first as well as this issue. My news, features, entertainment and sports editors have also been helpful in making this paper look and operate as well as it does. They have more responsibility this semester than in the past and they have really stepped up to their roles. I hope you enjoy their respective sections because they worked very hard on them.

Our Advisor, Nick Hartman, has also been instrumental in the positive changes our paper has undergone and deserves a big thank you as well

We will be attending the Journalism Association of Community College's southern California conference on Oct. 6, therefore our next publication will be a small edition that will come out next week instead of two weeks from now. The next print date after will be Oct. 12. As always, we thank you for taking the time to read our paper and we always accept any comments, questions or concerns.

-Kelli McGurk, *Editor-in-Chief*

Send a letter to the editor:
vvcrampage@gmail.com

News in Brief

- First Fall 2012 campus tour is to CSU Northridge on Oct. 5. Sign up before Oct. 3 in the Transfer Center Bldg 55.
- Invisible Children Fall Screening featuring film "Move" and a Ugandan Speaker on Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Student Activities Center.
- TAG Application Assistance workshop for help with applying to a UC. Wed Sept. 26 at 3 p.m. ATC Bldg. 21 Rm. 170
- Rams Football homecoming game will be Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. Tail Gate BBQ will be Sept. 26 and 27.
- There will be a College Fair on Sept. 25 in the Performing Arts Center.
- Next Board of Trustees meeting will be Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Admin. Bldg. 10A.
- Child Development Center will be having a Halloween event on Oct. 26 in the Student Activities Center.
- Veteran's Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. in the SAC "Quiet Room."

State Senate Appoints ASB Members

Story by Amber Schwartz
Features Editor

Associated Student Body council members were appointed state positions through the California Community Colleges Association of Student Trustees (CCCAST) and the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC). This gives Victor Valley College a direct link to any state issues that should arise. Any issue can now be immediately transferred to students for deliberation.

The council members of ASB that were appointed are ASB President Monique Ballard, Vice President Evonne Tirado, Executive Senator Brian Feliciano and Student Advocate Senator Kelli Pribble. Each ASB

member represents 2.6 million students.

ASB council members represent Victor Valley's region, which is Region IX. VVC now has its own group of representatives through these appointees. Each council member can act as a tool in state affairs.

"I am honored to be in the position I am. It allows me to give interaction for that peer-to-peer support," said Ballard. "It allows me to communicate with our board about things that are crucial to alleviate barriers."

Ballard was elected Treasurer through CCCAST. She is establishing a bank account with the Community College League of California and is trying to build a foundation fiscally for VVC. It is Ballard's duty to set up funds for grants and find out

how other organizations establish themselves financially.

Feliciano was given the position of Webmaster for SSCC's website (www.SSCCix.com). He controls the website; incorporates any special information onto the website, and he created the officer page.

"I serve as one of the voices for VVC. I love helping students," Feliciano said.

Tirado was given the position of Communications Officer for SSCC. It is her job to reach out to other community colleges in Region 9 and help get them involved in state issues. Tirado also acts as a messenger to other community colleges by informing them of any issues whatsoever, and she tries to persuade other community colleges to get involved in meetings.

"We have attended Region IX meetings. We held a voter registration drive on our campus. I also put together a contact list for Region IX so we can more effectively communicate with other colleges," said Tirado.

Each council member agrees that having a state position is like holding a microphone for the students. It ensures that every student's opinion in the area will be heard.

ASB Advisor, Robert Sewell, feels that the council members will gain certain benefits individually by holding a position with the state. "This can enhance their leadership skills. Leadership participation is a good anecdote to apathy," said Sewell.

Call for Change in ASB Policy

Story by Micah Raimo
News Editor

The decision for Victor Valley College Associated Student Body Vice President Evonne Torres-Tirado to stay on council or return to the Ready Rams Club as Treasurer was difficult. In the end, she chose to stay on council while accepting a member position with the Ready Rams Club.

On Aug. 22, ASB Vice President Evonne Torres-Tirado (under item 7.6 of the ASB Minutes) requested permission from the ASB to not only remain on the council but also be allowed the position of Treasurer for Ready Rams. The Majority voted in Tirado's favor but Inter Club Council Senator

Christopher Dustin voted against the item failing the motion since the council must vote unanimously in order for a council member to hold an executive position in a club.

Chris Dustin was sympathetic and commending of Tirado but stated he opted against the Vote.

ASB's opinion varies from senator to senator on the issue of whether or not the one-vote clause should stay in the ASB Constitution. Caitlyn Gempler, Associated Student Body Public Relations Senator, is one of those who desire a change:

"...Before jumping the gun and making it a unanimous vote, I think they should be given a trial basis before anyone says 'yes' or 'no' because how do you know whether or not that

student can hold both positions if you don't give them the opportunity? . . . I don't think a vote like that should be unanimous. I would want that for more harsher punishments like impeachment. I don't think you should push somebody away or make them have to decide what they should be doing in their spare time. Because as an organization that governs other organizations, there should be some kind of fellowship there. Unfortunately for ASB, it kind of makes me sad because it makes the people think 'well, it's ASB or nothing.' As a governing body of the clubs here on campus, we shouldn't be putting that image out there for clubs and students," said Gempler

Conflicted, Tirado continues

her affiliations with both Ready Rams and the ASB Council. She is working on helping the Black Student Union Club to get chartered, fervently standing for clubs, Ready Rams and ASB alike.

"My heart does belong in two places which is why I will not be giving up ASB or Ready Rams I will continue to hold my position as Vice President as well as be an active member of Ready Rams. Ready Rams gives a lot to the community and sees a lot of things that doesn't exactly catch the eye of council," said Tirado

Study Abroad Offers More Than Education

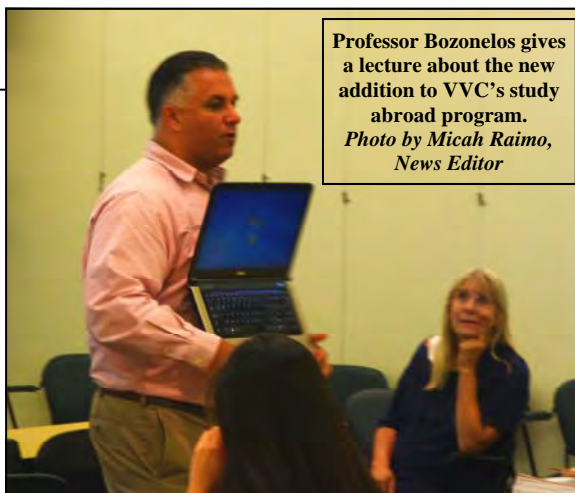
Story by Micah Raimo
News Editor

Citrus College extends their invitation to Victor Valley College to add Salamanca, Spain for new opportunities in personal, academic and employment growth.

Lynn Johnson, Director for the Citrus College Study Abroad Program approached VVC and gave a presentation on the Spring 2013 semester trip where they were going to Salamanca, Spain with Professor Dino Bozonelos in the Student Activities Center rooms A-D.

"We wanted to offer more programs for the students so we reaffiliated with Citrus College," said Political Science Professor Dino Bozonelos

While in Spain, students will take Citrus College course which, according to the brochure, range from Art 103 to Philosophy 106. These classes are transferable but Students



Professor Bozonelos gives a lecture about the new addition to VVC's study abroad program.
Photo by Micah Raimo, News Editor

must pay \$6,000 for expenses which excludes airfare. There is an optional weekend excursion to Portugal that is extra.

In order for a student to take part in the Citrus College program, the student must enroll into Citrus College and change their financial aid information in order for Citrus College to receive funds for the students. Citrus College provides loans with the requirement you five

proper reasoning of why the loan is being requested.

Studying abroad also helps students compete in a global economy, preparing them for the stresses with adapting in various situations where a student must face adversity.

"Study abroad program obviously isn't made for someone who has a strict routine and isn't adaptable. You need to be adaptable in order to be a good study abroad student. And companies in today's world want adaptability. They want the worker who can change. So in today's job market, you have to be adaptable. You want to be flexible," said Bozonelos

Many documents across the

nation address mental illness as a concern.

"In recent decades, there has been a rise in the number and complexity of reported mental illnesses and crises in the general population. Fortunately, there has been a corresponding awareness of the importance and even necessity of good mental health. These two factors—the rise of and awareness of mental illness—have become increasingly relevant to those serving college students, and particularly those working with students engaged in international education experiences," According to "Education Abroad" by Les McCabe

Professor Bozonelos and VVC has a record of keeping people safe. If a student's immunization records are not up-to-date, they will not be able to leave the country.

Contact Professor Dino Bozonelos for more details or contact him at (760) 245-4271 ext. 2791

Walmart Project to Move Forward

Story by Micah Raimo
News Editor

While the stance for Walmart remains divided amongst Victor Valley College Students and Spring Valley Lake Residents, the new Tamarisk Market place project has been approved. The new Walmart Supercenter will be located on Bear Valley Road between Peach and Spring Valley Pkwy..

"It's the Chicken Little 'sky is falling' mentality that when Walmart comes, everything goes downhill. And that's just not the case. And I think that you have experienced this in your city," said Stanley Rothbart of Rothbart Development Industries.

Rothbart Development Industries is the company slated to build all the new Walmart Supercenters in the area.

As of now, Walmart promises to improve the surrounding area in order to accommodate the new center by widening Bear Valley Road and an additional street coming out of Spring Valley Road. Walmart also will retain 100 percent of rain water runoff from their property, but claims no responsibility for anything outside of that.

The Missoula County Acronym Definitions Website (www.co.missoula.mt.us) gives a clue on how our roads are graded and the impact Walmart may come into play.

"Level of Service (LOS) - A qualitative measure of intersection or road segment operating condition. A grading scale of A through F is used to characterize traffic operating conditions. The scale is based on the ability of an intersection or street segment to accommodate the amount of

traffic using it, and can be used for both existing and projected conditions. The scale ranges from "A" which indicates little, if any, vehicle delay, to "F" which indicates significant vehicle delay and traffic congestion," according to the website.

Councilwoman Angela Valles questions the possible additional hazards Walmart could impose on Bear Valley Road's already low-grade intersections. Sixteen deliveries will go to the store per day during the holiday season with a proposed average of 55 truck deliveries per week. The amount of traffic headed to WalMart is around 10,000 customers per day.

"Why would we put all this additional traffic on these roads when our roads are really in bad condition," asked Valles on the Sept 18 City Council meeting?

The students' stance varies

across the college.

"As a student here at VVC, the concern about Walmart being built so close to campus are a weigh of pros and cons. I think it is all a waiting process to see how building this Walmart will have an impact on the campus," said Math and Sciences Senator Sabrina Auble.

"I think that VVC and Walmart should come to a compromise," said Student Kayla S, who has been going to VVC for five semesters.

"I believe Wal-mart is a good idea," said Marquise Craige, a student at VVC. "Most students who don't have a major amount of time can have the chance to get shopping done instead of leaving to go out of their way to get it done."

Newly Established Math Support Center

Story by Juan Munguia
Editor

A full time Math Support Center was established in the Academic Commons Building earlier this semester. The center is open Mon.-Fri, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; students are welcome to walk in at any time for help with math homework, or they can set up an appointment with one of the available tutors.

Formerly, students could only receive help from a tutor for a few hours a week, mostly by appointment, in the Advanced Technology Center.

"I didn't like it because I only had two hours for that week. This is better because I can come in at any time, because of my class schedule," math student Mary Williams said.

There will still be math tutoring available in the same area as before in the ATC after the Math Success Center closes.



The Academic Commons Building is the home for the New Math Support Center.
Photo by Juan Munguia, Editor.

The center plans to get computers in the future to help students with the software the math classes use.

"They approved it because they saw the need to support the almost 5,000 Math students that we have on campus right now.

That area has been rather vacant and with an inexpensive approach, it fits exactly the needs of what the Math Department wanted to do in establishing this environment; that was a very good fit," said Math Department Chair Stephen Toner.

The center was approved during the summer after meetings with the Facilities Committee.

"Now we have a tutoring budget; we have a place where students can gather after class to hang out and work on their homework," Toner said.

The center area of the Academic Commons building, where the Math center is now located, was formerly vacant for the most part, occasionally being used by students as a study area.

"The faculty is excited, the students are excited; there is a group of students who have already begun the process of chartering a Math Club, who also want to get involved in competitions with other schools. And any time you have an environment in which people are excited, you're gonna have a success," Toner said.

VVC Remembers 9/11

Story by Ashlee Dubach
RamPage Editor

At 8:45 a.m. Sept. 11, 2001 people all over the United States were going about their daily lives. One minute later a plane hit the World Trade Center's North Tower in New York City, NY. Not long after, a second plane hit the South Tower. These moments mark a drastic change to our nation.

Nearly 3,000 American flags were placed in the ground by the Victor Valley College (VVC) library staff. Each flag stood for each life lost during the 9/11 attack.

VVC student Patrick Shields was on the opposite side of the country when the first plane hit the North tower. A crackled voice gave news of the attack through an old radio as Shields crouched near it waiting for answers. He was in Palm Springs, Ca. His family was in

"The same day I turned in my draft papers," said Shields.

Being an Iraq War veteran, Shields does not sway from the core meaning of the 9/11 anniversary.

"The anniversary doesn't affect me differently because it's about the people that lost their lives that day," says Shield. "Something we should also never forget, the fact that the world is ugly and we have the best trained military to protect us."

This day, for the American people, is a day of loss. While the nation witnessed 2,753 men and women die, most citizens of the United States did not know the reason behind this attack.

"I was at elementary school. I was confused. I didn't know why it happened, why they did it, or who it was," said VVC



VVC's own monument tribute America and our military was placed under the Liberty Bell replica in front of the Library. Photo by Ashlee Dubach, Editor.



Over 3,000 American flags were placed in the grass outside the VVC Library in remembrance of those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

Photo by Ashlee Dubach, Editor.

New York.

"As soon as I found out, I wanted to hop on a bus to New York. My family was there," said Shields.

After finding out that his family was alive and well a few hours later, Shields took immediate action.

student Tony Rodriguez who was ten years old at the time of the attack.

The people of this nation had questions. The shock of the lives lost sparked intense concern. Citizens across the United States were afraid of repeat attacks.

"They pulled me out of class," said Rodriguez when asked how his parents reacted.

Osama Bin Laden, later revealed to be the leader of the terrorist organization called Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, was declared to be the man behind the attack. Al Qaeda was responsible for the act of the two planes, American Airlines 11 and United Airlines 175, hitting the Twin Towers. This information was not made public instantly. Most of the nation was unaware of its enemies.

Not knowing the reason New York was attacked increased the state of shock our country developed. Whether you personally witnessed the falling of those towers, or watched it on the news, most likely you will have the image of what you saw and what you were doing embedded into your mind forever.

"I was here, on this campus teaching math. I come out of class and people were milling around and said something terrible has happened and I said 'what happened...' someone finally walked up and said

'someone flew an airplane into the twin towers,'" said Bob Carlson, a Victor Valley College professor.

A tragedy such as 9/11 will never be forgotten. The terror of this event set a certain standard about Middle Eastern people that unfortunately came after the attack.

"It's not the nation. It's a certain group of people." The whole time I was in the Marines I was preparing to go to war. It gave me a different perspective," said student and former marine Shaun Weeks.

9/11 had affected Weeks entire experience in the Marines.

War is not something everyone agrees with, but terrorism is something that America does not tolerate. Death is something nobody likes to face, but many young men and women joined the fight against terror in support of the war on terror.

"I always raise the flag half-mast and say a prayer for those who lost their lives," said student and Iraq veteran Jessica Lipe.

Sept. 11 will forever be associated with sad memories, but we will never forget those lost on that day 11 years ago.

Political Propaganda Leads to a Disconnected Generation of Voters

Opinion by Kelli McGurk
Editor-in-Chief

Whoever said too much of a good thing is a bad thing must have been talking about updates, hashtags, tweets and links during an election year.

Social media has become our generation's method of communication along with the instant spreading of information whether factual or not. It's no wonder why political figures have joined in to spread their own 'information.'

When did keeping us informed become shoving offensive political attacks down our throats? Smear campaigns are not new territory for presidential elections but this election has so far proven itself to be one of the most vindictive. Neither side is innocent of spreading exaggerated truths if not outright lies and even racist attacks. When did campaigning become taking a stance against the color of his skin or the size of his bank account?

According to an article on Huffington Post by Mark Knight, the 2008 presidential election went down in history as the first to be heavily influenced by the social media phenomenon. Now the media power has shifted from television and print to online news and social media. But the topics up for discussion are deliberate insults of opposite parties, not issues that affect our generation of voters. As smear campaigns persist, user's comments and shares continue. But they are doing the opposite of their intent. Instead of engaging

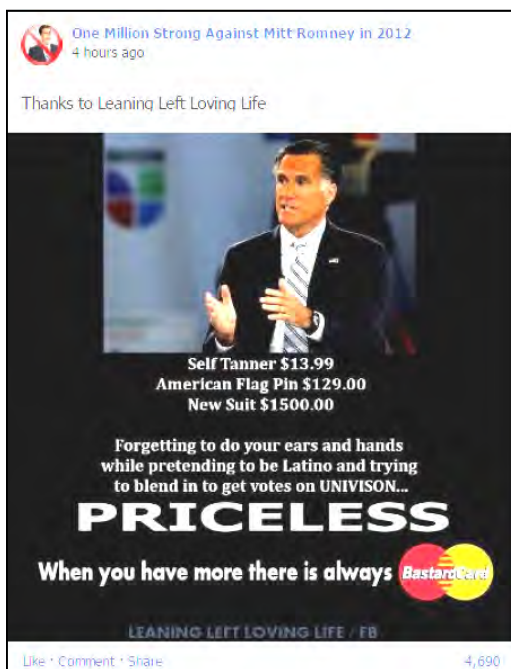
voters to pick a side, they are encouraging indifference.

These political rants are often ill informed and confusing. They are the root of voter apathy with our generation. According to a Gallup Daily poll done earlier this year, only 58 percent of voters age 18-29 say they are definitely voting this November; twenty percentage points below the national average and well below past elections' turnout.

Opponents of the Republican

Political debates and discussion with opposing viewpoints are essential to expanding our knowledge on topics. The problem is the propaganda and lies that come from the indignation

state of our economy is entirely due to the current president, or buy into the "happy rainbow trail of hope" we are on. At the end of the day I don't know who to believe.



A Facebook page against the election of Romney posts an attack on his wealth (Right), while a page against Obama attacks his supporters' intelligence. (Above) Neither posts reflect the bigger issues of our generation.

these parties have for one another. Young adults searching for a leader they can believe in have become disengaged. Who could blame us? With education costs on a steady rise, student loans waiting to be paid, and job prospects almost non-existent, along with campaigns that focus more on throwing opponents under the bus than issues we deal with everyday. The hope that brought us to the polls in previous years has since been replaced with the harsh reality of a struggling economy.

As Noah Gray, a junior at American University and founder of The Virgin Voting Project wrote in an article for HLNtv.com, "We're fed up with the political bickering and turned off by the attack ads... the news media doesn't cater to us, the candidates don't cater to us and the campaign dollars aren't spent on us. Hollywood targets my generation; Washington does not."

This campaign has claims made by both sides that contradict each other. I can't believe the

ASB Inter Club Counsel Senator Christopher Dustin encourages our generation to use their common sense to filter out the stuff that might cloud your judgment and see the true issues that matter.

"No matter what side of the political spectrum you are on, or which candidate your vote is cast, the fact that you go out and vote can make the difference. Everyone needs to vote," said Dustin.

With Election Day just around the corner, where do you turn to for info? Even the media take a biased position when informing the public. We should be able to stay informed without being bombarded by the trash opposing parties like to throw at one another, and hopefully cast a well educated vote when we hit the polls this November. But the only way to do it would be to demand debates that focus on us, not the mud flinging. Take a stand against the lack of concern this campaign has for its younger generation, aka the future of our nation.

Campus Clubs Rock Around the "Block"

Story by Todd Hadler
Editor

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (E.O.P.S.) held their third annual block party on Sept. 11. The event started at 11 a.m. and ended at 2 p.m.

The goal of the block party was for Victor Valley College students to get associated with different clubs on campus. If a student visited all of the stations around the campus, the student got rewarded with a free lunch.

"The students go around to the different stations and get information and/or ask questions about the different clubs on campus and if the students do that, they get a free hot dog," said Carl Smith, Director of E.O.P.S. and Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (C.A.R.E.).

Students would visit a station around campus and try to fill out a piece of paper with a list of the different clubs. Each student would get a checkmark to show that they had been at the station. Once the student had all the boxes filled out, they would be able to get free food, cooked by the E.O.P.S. staff. The E.O.P.S. staff bought the food as well.

Clubs that were involved with the block party included Associated Student Body (ASB), Financial Aid, Ready Rams, Transfer/Career Center, Admissions & Records and the Veterans Club.

The different clubs were set up at tables that were spread around campus. A student would simply walk up to a table and a representative of the club would be there to answer any questions or concerns the student had. Most of

the tables were either by Student Services 2, Building 50 or in the Student Activities Center. The one exception being the E.O.P.S. table, which was outside of the Student Activities Center.

One of the busiest tables at the block party was the Financial Aid table. Students were constantly coming to the table and asking questions. All students

who came by that table received a folder filled with financial aid information.

"Every table gives some sort of information to the students. At the financial aid table, we give them a folder that contains financial aid information that they can keep," said Cristian Perez, a student worker for financial aid.



Gaming Tournament at Ready Rams Mixer

Story by Amber Schwartz
Features Editor

Red and yellow balloons, multi-colored video game controllers, sign-up sheets and a few gamers bent on victory all played a role at the Ready Rams Mixer in the Student Activities Center on Tuesday, Sept. 11. The Mixer was a video game tournament that was aimed at promoting and collecting members for Ready Rams.

"I hope that we get enough members and that everybody has fun," said Ready Rams Vice President Kristine Ellison. "We are letting people know what we're doing for the semester."

Members of the Ready Rams club had one goal in mind.

This was the first Mixer for the Ready Rams. Another, much grander video game tournament could be in the near future according to Ready Rams Activities Director Gabriel Diaz.

"We want Victor Valley College to recognize the Ready



Two enthralled gamers play Xbox in the tournament at the Ready Rams mixer
Photo by Amber Schwartz, Features Editor

Rams as a fun club. We are just as fun as ASB, if not more fun," said Ready Rams President Matthew Smith.

The Mixer's itinerary was set up in the same pattern as musical chairs, for a row of chairs lined a pair of television sets where

competitors took a seat. The losers exchanged seats with another hopeful gamer. There were two games in progress at a time. Each person played a game of versus; games designed for players to go against one another where only one person comes out on top. When one player was out, another player took their place.

Men and women sat down and showed off their skills at the video game of their choice.

Each individual game had its own sign-up sheet, and if someone wanted to play a particular game, he or she would sign that sheet.

The circumstances of the video games were projected on a

screen so onlookers could witness the action.

The line-up of some games included Mortal Kombat, Madden 12, Super Street Fighter along with others; all centered on fighting, shooting and/or sports.

The winner of the game was given candy and bragging rights as a prize. The winner was also given a champion's congratulations, with the quintessential raising of the arm above the head as a boxing-ring referee would do.

"It's a lot of fun. Everybody has come together to have a good time," said Kimi Kyotaihane, a tournament participant.

An information table was also set up so that students could venture over to learn more about Ready Rams and all that it has to offer.

"We hope to be able to get people involved. We do a lot. Diaz said.

Allied Health Hosts "On the Green With the Dean"

Story by Amber Schwartz
Features Editor

The smell of pizza filled the air as a crowd of people were satisfying their taste buds while engaging in polite conversation. Drinks being poured into styrofoam cups and a cascade of colorful, distinguishable nursing uniforms set against a green background filled the eye.

"On The Green with the Dean" was held on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at the Allied Health building on the grassy area between classrooms where students take breaks between classes. The event was a lunch-time gathering where the Dean of Health Sciences and Public Safety, Pat Luther, Director of Nursing and Allied Health, Dr. Joseph Morris, faculty, staff and students conversed with one another for a meet-and-greet of the sort.

"This is a good way to promote student involvement and success. We do this as a way for the faculty to connect with students. It is to promote a positive environment," said Morris.

There were stacks and stacks of pizza, several bottles of soda and loud music for all the attendees to enjoy. Students had the opportunity to talk with Luther and discuss any subject, or express any form of concern he or she may have had.

"I'm kind of intimidated to meet her," said Nursing student Carlos Distrito jokingly. "It's good to get acquainted. I like how Dr. Morris has these events."

"I enjoy very much how this school is going. It's a great way to get a job. Good job," said Nursing student Andrew Ostrom when asked what he would say to Luther.

This event occurs once a term. It has been occurring for about a year-and-a-half at the Allied Health building, and it is a tradition that will go on through the oncoming years.



Hungry students enjoying pizza and getting a shady refuge from the heat.
Photo by Amber Schwartz,
Features Editor

"I think it is a wonderful idea; the relationship between faculty and students is congenial," said Director of Marketing and Public Relations Bill Greulich, who attended the event to take photos for Facebook.

Students from different classes and processes were able to interact with one another to discuss a common interest. Members from such organizations as California Nursing Students Association and Peers Educating and Empowering Peers, were there for friendly conversation.

"I think this is a great opportunity for the faculty and students to come together. So much in Nursing is geared towards studying. This is a nice way to be together to talk about our profession," Luther said.

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Theatre Arts Prepares For Upcoming Performances

Story by **Daniel Compean**
Entertainment Editor

The Theatre Arts program has lined up their upcoming performances for this year, with many classic and landmark plays.

The first play to be performed in the Performing Arts Center will be the Pulitzer Prize winning play "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams. Widely considered to be a monumental play, "A Streetcar Named Desire" follows the life of Blanche DuBois, a young woman whose poise and elegance thinly mask her delusions of grandeur and rejection of

reality. The story follows DuBois as she is forced to face these illusions upon moving to her sister's home in New Orleans.

"A Streetcar Named Desire" will be directed by the Theatre Arts and Communication Studies Instructor Ed Heaberlin, and will debut on Friday Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. "A Streetcar Named Desire" will continue to play for the two weekends following.

"It's a challenging show, but I have a wonderful cast, and I'm very pleased and happy with them," said Heaberlin.

The second play to be per-

formed will be the children's production, "Winnie the Pooh" adapted from the original story by A.A. Milne. The play will also be directed by Heaberlin and debuts on Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

In the spring, the theatre arts program has planned to perform the Tony Award winning musical "Kiss Me, Kate" with music and lyrics by Cole Porter. In addition, theatre arts plans to perform, "The Importance of Being Earnest," written by Oscar Wilde and directed by Theatre Arts Instructor John Rude. The dates for the upcoming

spring plays are still pending.

Tickets can be purchased at the box office in the PAC for \$10 general admission, \$7 for senior citizens, and \$5 for children. Victor Valley College ASB cardholders will receive free admission.

Those interested in purchasing tickets early may buy them online at www.vvc.edu/tix, call 245-4271 (ext. 849) or visit the ASB office in the Student Activities Center. For additional PAC event information, students may e-mail pac-info@vvc.edu

"Battle Born" Not Quite Battle Ready

Review by **Daniel Compean**
Entertainment Editor



Mentioning The Killers at the time of their 2004 incarnation in most music circles would be met with either scorn or admiration from music fans and critics alike. The Killers represented a bridge between the gap that is indie music, still a niche genre at the time, and arena rock, the prevailing behemoth in those days. With other bands following in similar cadence (LCD Soundsystem, Interpol, Franz Ferdinand), The Killers prevailed as the only remaining (or at least active) band from that indie migration.

Yet many can not accept an accomplishment that fuses Morrissey's bitter and morose melodies with Bruce Springsteen's seemingly irrelevant anthems to the American spirit. An unjustified and misplaced disdain to say the least, all accomplishments aside.

The Killers expressed something absent in rock music at the time of their inception. While



Photo courtesy of Vertigo Records

rock music was wry and pessimistic, The Killers gave a cross-generational link between indie and popular music that offered a vibrant and bright retreat from reality, much like their Las Vegas hometown. Returning from their four-year hiatus with the

release of "Battle Born," The Killers hope to emulate this once more.

"Battle Born" features what fans have come to know and love about The Killers: big noise and big dreams, with lyrics of escapism, broken memories, shattered hearts and a pen-

chant for Springsteen theatrics. The Killers return to what they know with a comfortable stroll through 80's inspired acts. It's in this comfortability where "Battle Born" seems to lack.

Featuring blazing ballads such as "The Way it Was," frontman Brandon Flowers' disappointing solo debut, "Flamingo," no doubt served as some inspiration for the album as a whole. The stand out song, "Runaways," has that classic Killers' sound with military drums, bold verses and a catchy chorus. "From Here on Out" goes full Americana with Flowers shifting to an almost country music style twang. The aptly named title track closes the album in a triumphant blast.

While ostensibly a true Killers' album through and through, "Battle Born" painfully applies the same tried and true methods of Flowers' previous work. "Battle Born" makes use of the same formulaic songwriting structure that is quintessentially Flowers, with virtuosic Springsteen inspired passages and new wave keyboard accompaniments,

**Continued in Killers on
Page 13**

GOOD Music's "Cruel Summer" Is Aptly Named

Review by Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor



Kanye West has an insurmountably powerful presence in modern pop culture. He has an innate ability to remain relevant while simultaneously keeping up with and manufacturing new trends. Following the success of the 2011 collaborative album with Jay-Z, "Watch the Throne," Kanye dives right into emulating his prior success with "Cruel Summer," a new collaborative album featuring artists from his own label GOOD Music and Def Jam Recordings.

"Cruel Summer" ups the ante by featuring an overabundance of artists from the mediocre punchline stylings of Big Sean and 2 Chainz to returning familiars like Pusha-T and Kid Cudi.

This should have been a chance for Kanye to showcase his near-perfectionist obsession with production. Yet, aside from occasionally showing up to deliver some verses, Kanye's production presence feels nearly absent from the album.

Instead, what fans are given is a brief look into what could have been. Like a child that can't sit still, "Cruel Summer" finds itself all over the place leaving a mess in its wake. There seems to be a lack of quality control with the record; you'll be just as likely to find the remarkable as you will the trite.

Easily one of the better tracks off the album, "New God Flow" starts out like a gospel song. As evident in "Watch the Throne," Kanye seems to be at his best when he's rapping about how awesome he believes himself to be. After all, he perhaps gives his most fervid performance matching comparisons to himself with LeBron James, The Notori-



Album art for "Cruel Summer"
Photo courtesy of GOOD Music and Def Jam Recordings



Kanye West performs at a live show
Photo courtesy of last.fm

ous B.I.G., Martin Luther King Jr. and Rodney King.

Kid Cudi has time to drop one track called "Creepers," a stunning return to his old style after his lukewarm experiment with

the album "WZRD." Cudi still continues to struggle with existential pathos delivering lines like, "I don't love who I am, so I'm workin' on a fix." A great track in its own right, however, it

can't help but feel out of place in the record. It's as if everyone got exited from the room during recording and left Cudi to do whatever he wanted.

Upon reaching the halfway mark, "Cruel Summer" ventures into a wasteland. With forgettable songs like "The One" and "Sin City" to mismatched and out of place tracks like "Bliss," every song is at odds with each other.

This is perhaps the main issue with the album. Each track seems to be struggling for the limelight rather than working as a cohesive unit, an inevitable dilemma when bringing together so many unique music personalities. With overexposure, the record starts to play out like an MTV reality show. There's too much ego in one room, or maybe that's just Kanye. He put it

best in "Mercy": "I step in Def Jam building like I'm the shit, tell 'em give me fifty million or I'm-a quit."

More than likely failing to match up to the commercial success of "Watch the Throne" or the critical acclaim of "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," "Cruel Summer" doesn't feel like the appropriate follow up it hoped to be, with tracks ranging from fantastic to dull. For the few great tracks it offers, the album feels directionless. Perhaps with more polish and focus, "Cruel Summer" could have propelled itself beyond the pits

of mediocrity.

Eclipse Art Gallery Features "Faces"

Photo Essay by Daniel Compean

Entertainment Editor

The Eclipse Art Gallery featured watercolor paintings entitled "Faces" which opened on Sept. 7. The gallery highlights original art by Yevgenia Watts.

"Faces" features the impressionistic paintings of Watts. Showcasing bold watercolor portraits, the show invokes a sense of vibrancy. It offers a unique and telling experience told through the luminous watercolors. The show will close on Sept. 29.

On Oct. 13, Eclipse Art Gallery will be hosting "Return of the Web" featuring Agustin Cisneros.

For purchase information or custom portraits, Watts can be contacted at www.yevgeniawatts.com or emailed at info@yevgeniawatts.com

The Eclipse Art Gallery is located at 18361 Bear Valley Rd, Suite #7. For upcoming Eclipse Art Gallery events, visit www.eclipseag.com



—Photos of artwork taken by Daniel Compean, Entertainment Editor
Artwork by Yevgenia Watts

Rams Football Brings Home Their First Victory with a Blowout Win

Story by Mario Gonzalez
Sports Co-Editor

On Saturday, Sept. 15, the Victor Valley College Rams traveled down to Los Angeles for the second time this season, looking to collect a win over Los Angeles Southwest College after starting off the season 0-2. The Rams would end up winning this one in a blowout, 61-10, gaining their first win of the season and look to be ready as they head into their first conference match-up.

The Rams went into this season going against Los Angeles Pierce College, a highly respectful and hard-nosed team who ended their 2011 football campaign similar to VVC with a 3-7 overall record. The Rams faced a Brahmas football team who were playing their first home game of the season and second home game since construction of their new stadium. The Rams ended up losing against the Brahmas 42-26, falling short of a rally in the fourth quarter.

In week two, the Rams played their first home game of the season against the West Los Angeles Wildcats. The Rams maintained the lead for most of the game, until the third quarter, when the Wildcats tied it, 23-23. It was a back and forth grudge match up until the last 0:31 seconds of the game when the Wildcats sealed the deal on a 1-yard run for a touchdown, the final score 29-23, West Los Angeles.

The Rams offense has been their strength through the first two of games this season, as they are averaging 466.7 yards a game. While offense kept the team in the game, defense lacked giving up an average of 432.7 yards in the first two games.

After their third game of the season, questions about the Rams defense would be silenced, at least for now. They allowed just three points and

177 yards in total offense against LASW on Saturday.

"It felt good especially after the first two games. We gave up forty points our first game and

After VVC was able to draw first blood in the game, the Cougars couldn't seem to stop the hungry Rams football team who scored 34 points in the first half.

Running Back Aubrey Berry running past Los Angeles Southwest College defenders in route for the end-zone. Berry finished the day with 25 yards on 9 carries.
Photo by Mario Gonzalez, Sports Co-Editor



gave up over four-hundred and fifty yards a piece. It's brutal so anytime we are successful it's a relief, the guys needed it and I'd hate to see what it would have been like without it," said Defensive Coordinator James Stewart.

The Rams defense is consisted of a group of freshmen coming straight out of high school football in the transitional process of getting used to college level football.

The Rams ended on a positive note, coming up with the first points of the game after not doing much on their first drive. The Rams forced the Cougars to cough up the ball on a running play and were able to capitalize on one of the Cougars many mistakes in the game.

Capping off a 5 play 33 yard drive, sophomore running back Anthony Lewis ran the ball down to the Cougars 1 yard line with pure ease. The score was 7-0 in favor of the Rams.

The Cougars failed to score on a drive that brought them to the Rams own 10 yard line, missing a 27-yard field goal attempt.

The Rams scored three more times before the end of the second quarter, going into halftime with a score of 34-0.

As the second half got underway, what seemed to be an off day for the Cougars turned into a complete nightmare. The Cougars the ball in the third quarter since the Rams won the coin toss at the start of the game and elected to receive the ball in the first half.

The Cougars first offensive possession took a bad turn when freshman quarterback William Benson threw a pass straight to VVC's freshman defensive end, Corey Amos. Amos then took it to the house upping the score for the Rams 40-0. After the costly mistake by the Cougars, they then managed to make the most out of their possession, driving down to VVC's own 24 yard line in hopes of scoring their

first offensive touchdown of the game. The Cougars failed to capitalize and were forced to kick a 41 yard field goal, giving them their first points in the game with the score now 40-3. These points would be the only pair of points by Cougars' offense in the entire game; their only touchdown coming off an 87 yard kickoff return with 5:39 left in the third quarter.

The Cougars' defense kept the Rams' offense in check through the remaining minutes of the third quarter. Both football teams went back and forth on drives down the field. Then, in the fourth quarter with 9:47 remaining in the game, the Cougars secondary let VVC freshman wide-receiver Richard Espinoza get an 86 yard touchdown pass thrown by freshman quarterback Jalil Young.

The Rams ran the ball most of the game. Jemeryn Jenkins, starting quarterback for the Rams, completed five passes on nine attempts for 86 yards and a touchdown to end his day. Jalil Young replaced Jenkins later in the game and went 2-for-2 with 101 yards and a touchdown.

Late in the fourth quarter with 3:43 remaining in the game, Julius McLauren, a freshman tight-end for the Rams scored on a 13 yard run to seal the deal for VVC.

"It was nice to obviously 'get the monkey off our back.' You have to get that first win. I think the kids are much more focused now and they are realizing what we are coaching is solid; they see the execution that if they do things right it is going to work and it's going to pay off. We got very healthy very fast and that's good," said Head Coach David Hoover.

One thing to know about this semester's Victor Valley Rams football team is that there is a lot of talent composed in this one-unit. They sure do know how to put up a fight, and keep the games interesting for both the home and away fan bases.

Rams Soccer off to a Slow Start

Story by Octavious Thomas
Sports Co-Editor

On Aug. 28, the Victor Valley College Rams men's and women's soccer teams kicked off their season in hopes to achieve greater success than previous seasons. The men's team, ran by head coach Walid Jomaa, is having a slow start this year. They are currently holding a record of (4-5). The women's team is also staring off slow with a winless record of (0-7-2).

The first opponent of the year for the men's team was the Cypress College Chargers. The Chargers managed to score two goals and left the Rams scoreless. The first win for the Rams did not come until game four of the season when the Rams traveled to face Santiago Canyon on Sept. 4. Bryan Ornelas, Mario Villalba, and Corey Jacobs each scored a goal in the 3-0 victory.

The Lady Rams' season started off with a two game losing streak with losses to Norco and Miramar College. After the losing streak was only semi broken the following week as they end-

ed two straight games in a tie. The first one was against Oxnard. Both teams obtained two goals apiece. The second tie was against Hartnell College. In this hard-fought battle, neither team was able to get the ball passed the opposing goalkeepers and allowed no points on the scoreboard. From there, a win has yet to appear on their record.

Both the men and women soccer teams will play away games at San Bernardino Valley College on Sept. 25, and will be home on Sept. 28 to play College of the Desert.

Killers from Page 9

channeling the likes of Joy Division or New Order.

Perhaps it's this misguided departure towards the familiar where the disappointment begins.

The Killers took a leap of faith with their 2006 release, "Sam's Town." "Sam's Town" saw a complete stylistic facelift and tonal overhaul that was quite a gamble for their established heartbroken and melancholic post-punk sound. By producing a bigger and bombastic sound that reflected the lively neon lights of Las Vegas, they created a grandiose and almost decadent celebration of life that was rarely seen within rock music at the time.

Yet "Battle Born" makes no such gambles. Sticking close to their guns, this album can't help but inspire a tired sense of déjà vu in its listeners. It's a redundant refinement of a sound that didn't require it.

While The Killers have produced a mediocre quality record, its lack of distinction will inevitably fail to set it apart from its superior predecessors. Although a disappointing album to return with after their four year exile, "Battle Born" still manages to somewhat entertain despite instilling a feeling that this 'Vegas' band could offer more.

Current Standings for Mountain Conference Football League

*Standings courtesy of
cccaasports.org*

Mountain		
	Conf. W-L	All W-L
East Los Angeles	0-0	3-0
Mt. San Jacinto	0-0	3-0
Southwestern	0-0	2-1
San Bernardino	0-0	1-2
San Diego Mesa	0-0	1-2
Victor Valley	0-0	1-2
Chaffey	0-0	0-2
El Camino-Compton Center	0-0	0-3



UPCOMING RAMS ATHLETIC EVENTS



Women's Soccer @ San Bernardino Valley College (9/25/2012)

Men's Soccer @ San Bernardino Valley College (9/25/2012)

Cross Country @ Foothill Invitational (Ontario, CA) (9/28/2012)

Women's Soccer vs. College of the Desert (@ HOME) (9/28/2012)

Men's Soccer vs. College of the Desert (@ HOME) (9/28/2012)

Women's Volleyball @ Chaffey College (9/28/2012)

Wrestling @ West Hills Tournament (9/29/2012)

Football vs. San Bernardino College (@ HOME) (9/29/2012)

Women's Soccer @ Mt. San Jacinto College (10/2/2012)

<http://www.vvc.edu/academic/athletics/>

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12:33 PM - 20 Sep 12

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#SpotTheShuttle #OV105 pic.twitter.com/aEG1MatX



NASA
@NASA

Endeavour, perched atop the 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft landed at LAX at 12:51p PT, ending a cross-country ferry mission. #SpotTheShuttle

11:57 AM • 21 Sep 12



Photo Courtesy of @NASA shared via Twitter Sept. 20, 2012

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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 views expressed by the RamPage are not necessarily those of VVC, its board of trustees, its administration, its faculty, its staff, its Associated Student Body Council or its students.

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VVC Student Activities Center

Hosted by VVC Associated Student Body

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