

Video Game Review

Rock Band 2

By Darelle Jones
Staff Writer

The simulator, Rock Band 2 simulates a real-life band, including more songs than ever: Songs from System Of A Down's "Chop Suey!," Disturbed's "Down With The Sickness," and Rage Against The Machine's "Testify." Eighty-four songs in all will be included in the new installment of the Rock Band series. Upgraded graphics will promote your customizable character in Tour Mode.

Tour mode allows the player to choose up to three different modes: "Battle of the Bands," "Start Tour," and "Tour Challenges." Battle of the Bands allows the players to rock against others online. Start Tour takes you through the regular gigs as seen in the first Rock Band. Finally, Tour Challenges takes the player through special trials through the songs. For example, the screen may scroll two times faster or you may have to achieve 100% in a song.



Mario Kart Racing

By Zayn Kirkendoll
Staff Writer



With the release of the Nintendo Wii console, came the third generation of the Mario Kart racing series, Mario Kart Wii. This exciting cartoon racing game will keep all ages captivated in a world of racing excitement. With the new Wii remote steering wheel as a new feature, you can feel like you are really behind the wheel of the of your favorite character's kart. Along with a whole new cast of characters to choose from, levels from the past games Mario Kart 64 and Mario Kart Double Dash as well as new, and with the new feature of Wi-Fi, you can take your racing online and challenge friends everywhere. All together this game makes for a fun video game for everyone in the family.

Super Smash Bros.

Darelle Jones
Staff Writer

Despite being released on March 9, Super Smash Bros. Brawl is still making its impact on the Wii system, ranking No. 1 on the Party Games list.

This new fighting game features characters from all over the Nintendo universe, ranging from Mario to Kirby and even third-party characters like, Solid Snake from the Metal Gear Solid series. A new feature installed in the game is its Wi-Fi play. You can brawl people from all over the world in Basic or Team Brawl, though this feature would not be complete without being able to fight your friends as well. Up to 4 players are allowed to fight at one time.

A downside to the online play is the added lag. The more players you have in one match the heavier that lag becomes. Finally. The most anticipated item in Brawl is the Smash Ball. This item allows a character to unleash his or her Final Smash. Final Smashes vary from character to character ranging from instant kills to status effects.



Interview with Lions and Tygers

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"Where did Lions and Tygers come from?" I asked.

"There's a poem by William Blake, and in it the Lions represent God, and the Tygers represent the Devil. So you know... ah," he seemed to be looking for the right set of words, "it's sort of natural you know? Like they're both here..." I gave a small nod, "The sort of duality of man?" I offered.

"Yeah yeah."

I proceeded to informed him of VC's goal to "Live out Loud" and asked for his opinion on the difficulty of such a task. "I mean it's hard you know? It's probably not something that I would bring up in casual conversation. I mean if we weren't doing an interview I probably wouldn't have just sat down and told you I was Christian. I don't want to step on anyone's toes or anything. But it's much easier for me to do that through my music. I'm much more comfortable expressing myself that way."

"Have you always been Christian?"

"Yeah, I've always been Christian.

I knew there was a God and everything and I'd heard all the stories in chapel every Wednesday. I knew they were true and all that but I never paid much attention to them; until one day senior year I just...got it. I was in Mr. Hook's class and he said something," he gave the mic a small rest as an airplane flew overhead, "I don't even remember what it was now, but he said something and it all made sense. Jesus died on the cross for My sins! He did all those

things for Me! All that stuff really happened, and that's when I started changing my life. I think people should make it a bigger part of their lives... it's sad most people don't devote more time thinking about it. I really owe it all to Mr. Hook." There was a short self-satisfied silence in his demeanor, he no longer seemed to care about the miscellaneous strangers walking about, either caught in self-thought, or judging the man spilling his life's story to a tape-recorder.

"Were you nervous coming back to Valley and performing?"

"Oh yeah" he said, "I was trying to hide my shaking." He let out a retrospective laugh. "I mean I've done shows before in front of 500-600 people, but there's a lot of students at Valley. Like... I don't know, how many?" I gave him my rough, rather ill-informed estimate.

"Yeah, and I'm just supposed to go up there and sing about some of my most personal experiences? But once I got up there and started singing I noticed one of my teachers from freshman year. I hadn't spoken to her since I was in her class five years ago, and I saw her standing there with the biggest smile." He stared off probably recalling the look on her face "It made me feel so good... coming back and getting to show everyone who remembered me how much I've changed and grown."

Lions and Tygers offers a clean alternative-indie sound, encompassing a variety of mellow to upbeat songs fre-

quently incorporating a simplicity that appeals to many casual listeners. Often composed of simple building chord-progressions, a steady bass-line and drum beat, the band's focus is often set on the inspirational, Christian-based lyrics. The underlying calm nature of the instrumental sound compliments the vocals to give rise to the emphasis of the emotionally charged vocals, with exception of the occasional exploding climaxes in which both instruments and vocals crescendo together juxtaposing an otherwise tranquil piece.

If you're interested in checking out the Lions and Tygers, you can get news updates on their Myspace, <http://www.myspace.com/lionsandtygers>. And although Eric admits the band is still too new to tour, there is a CD in the works which will be available for purchase over iTunes.



CG Jumps On-Board Ghost Train

By Tarah Duarte
Junior Features Editor

The VCHS Band and Color Guard is off to a new beginning and is looking forward to another dominant year. Returning from a fantastic 2007- 2008 season, both teams are hoping to repeat their successes.

Both teams practice throughout the week as well as on Saturdays, from 9am to 9 at night. The definition of 'dedicated fully' fits these students.

The theme for this year is *Ghost Train*. While everyone on both teams has separate goals for this season, the team as a whole has one main goal: That is to not only have a successful season but to continue to give glory to God.

Sophomore **Taylor Hix**, who is in her second season of doing color guard said, "The show last year was amazing; I'm hoping Ghost Train will be just as fun!"

Hix's brother, **Brian Hix**, also a sophomore, is in his second season of marching band and said, "I thoroughly enjoy marching band. It's a fun way to show my love for music."

Both siblings agreed that marching band is full of fun and dedicated students as well as hard working band directors. Brian Hix went on to say that the directors have only one wish, which is for their students to succeed.

Bill's Café: New Way to Start Your Day!

By Jacob Ruiz
Assistant News Editor

If you're looking for a hearty breakfast to start your day, look no further than Bill's Café, located at 1115 Willow Street, in the heart of downtown Willow Glen. Their extensive menu includes all the breakfast traditions you would expect, as well as a selection of creative specialties.

Recently I visited Bill's Café and ordered the "Poached y Papas," a south of the border specialty. What I got was a delicious platter of special seasoned potato skins, topped with shredded cheddar cheese, bacon bits and chives, two poached eggs, covered in an incredible Hollandaise sauce.

If getting up early for breakfast isn't your thing, Bill's also has a great selection of sandwiches, soups and other lunch specialties. The breakfast menu is also available all day long. The food comes big and hot, with quality preparation, fresh ingredients, and the friendliest service around. There are also two locations, one in downtown Willow Glen at 1115 Willow Street and the other at 302 North Bascom Avenue in the Rose Garden.

Bill's Café has been faithfully serving the community for over thirty years, so next time you're looking to grab a bite to eat, check out Bill's Café.