

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

July 23, 2013

## **Divisiveness at VVC**

Former Victor Valley College trustee Joe Range has become the object of division among the Board of Trustees in what can be characterized as a battle for control of the college and whether the annual budget deficit (i.e., over-spending) problem is going to be solved. Mr. Range was in a controlling position as a trustee for many years while this problem and others were brewing. He was defeated in the last election, after the college was first put on "warning" status, and then later put on probation, as the majority of voters wanted new leadership.

Yet he is campaigning to fill the vacant seat left on that board after Michael Krause's resignation, claiming to be the only person who can solve the problem he, himself, allowed to develop into a full blown crisis (evidenced by VVC bringing in a Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team).

Two of the four current trustees, Dennis Henderson and John Pinkerton, have committed themselves to get Mr. Range appointed by side-stepping a standing procedure of reviewing a pool of applicants from the community, creating another crisis. In addition, the fulltime teachers' union, the California Teachers Association representing 120 full time teachers, supports of Mr. Range. The CTA contributed half of the money Mr. Range used to fund his failed campaign for reelection. It seems the CTA expects a return on its investment; if Mr. Range is appointed, he will be protecting the CTA from any consequences of the college's serious over-spending addiction.

Full time teachers form an elite club exerting a controlling influence and get the lion's share of taxpayers' money that flows to VVC. How have the three trustees mentioned responded to the 80 percent of the teachers who struggle to survive while the 20 percent are living high on the hog? The 80 percent do not have the funds to contribute to their campaigns, so do they just continue picking up the crumbs left to them by the 20 percent and those three trustees?

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