

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

January 19, 2014

Selecting VVC's new boss

While it is a good idea for the college teaching staff to have a representative on the paper screening portion of the selection committee for a new Victor Valley Community College District Administrator, along with a representative from the administrative group and the classified personnel, what is all this about having "union" representatives on the selection committee?

The Board of Trustees was elected to hire an administrator for the district who will also serve as Victor Valley College president. During my eight years on the board we went through the process of hiring a new administrator and we had a committee to do the initial screening. Then it was up to the trustees to interview and come up with a candidate who would meet the requirements of the elected board and the vision of the people in the district.

The employees work for the district; they are not part of the "employer" side of the table. And certainly, it is folly to think that the employee unions should have named representatives on the selection committee.

The fox guarding the henhouse comes to mind — typical California stuff that has gotten us to where we are today.

Tom Pinard

Wrightwood

George Will's commentary (Jan. 17) about Common Core seems to me to relate to the search for a new Victor Valley College superintendent/president. Based on what I've read or heard about it, I believe the Common Core agenda is a "Trojan Horse" vehicle for transforming education in this country so as to brainwash coming generations into the collectivist mindset, to accept centralized initiative and authority and thwart individual initiative and creativity.

Paraphrasing Will, Common Core seeks to subvert parental involvement/empowerment in the education of their children, and further politicize learning.

The thinking of those who advocate Common Core would necessarily be biased in favor of conforming to government standards. As some of us who are paying attention know, strong unions with lots of money set the pace for Liberal politicians, as well as educational institutions (i.e., the California Teachers Association's influence at VVC). The government standards thus reflect the thinking of union leaders and Liberals in general, which doesn't reflect the needs of the community as a top priority, if it is even considered at all.

In my opinion, the needs of the Victor Valley community must be the key criterion for determining who will best serve as the new head at VVC. And only informed members dedicated to the interests of the entire Victor Valley community can represent those interests in vetting candidates for the position. Consequently, I believe the trustees are in the best position to select members of the search committee to make sure the key criterion is met by those who ultimately are put forth as final candidates to the board.

Larry E. Hoover

Spring Valley Lake

As a former educator, I was apprehensive when I first heard about Common Core. Now after reading Bill Rhodes' letter to the editor ("At the core of Obama," Daily Press, Jan. 16) I am even more apprehensive.

Yes, there should be standards, academic achievement and accountability, but it would seem with the examples Mr. Rhodes provides any child could be successful with self-esteem intact. Subjectivity is the word that comes to mind.

Will this create more "well informed" citizens who will be good stewards for our nation? I pose this question as I would hope the Daily Press would provide more detailed information on Common Core, including more examples of lessons taught to children at various grade levels. Standardized testing questions and appropriate responses would be more than enlightening, but I fear we will never be privy to that information.

Oh, and how will Common Core ever assist one in being a contestant on Jeopardy without factual information? Surely I digress. This is serious. We all depend on the education of our nation's children.

KiKi Hanson

Apple Valley

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The Daily Press coverage of Prime Healthcare and Dr. Prem Reddy reminded me how difficult it must be for the paper to report on complicated issues. I know personally from coverage about Victor Valley College that sometimes it is not possible to provide all of the information to educate the public about a complex issue into the space they have available. Sometimes readers with limited information draw inaccurate conclusions. We at the college have been working to correct many of these recently.

What I know personally is that Dr. Reddy has been a huge friend of students at Victor Valley College. He has helped VVC to expand and improve training opportunities for hundreds of nurses and healthcare workers. He has provided equipment for public safety training programs and recently donated funds to help us replace a critical piece of equipment so biology students could have the resources to be better served.

Dr. Reddy has always been one of the first people in the High Desert to help students achieve success in their educations. While this attribute does not necessarily answer the allegations in the Daily Press, I think it speaks volumes about Dr. Reddy and his character. I would encourage readers not to rush to judgment about the allegations raised in the paper.

Peter Allan

Interim President

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