

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

July 21, 2013

Standing up for beliefs

Re: "VVC attacks destructive" (Shannon Duncan, Letters, July 17).

Our group (the Community Call to Action) never said, "We are the only ones that know what is going on," we don't "regularly put down" Victor Valley College, and we do not act as if nothing good happens there.

In my comments of May 16, I agreed: Progress is being made. As to Ms. Diana Carloni aiming an attack at Peter Allan (July 3), I believe she questioned his authority to sign a Memorandum of Understanding almost a month before he was appointed acting president of VVC. That seems like a reasonable question to ask of a public institution spending our taxpayer dollars. If VVC was operating in transparency, Ms. Carloni and the taxpayers would already know the answer.

I am very pleased that "more than 100 students just graduated." But with 120 of the full-time teachers consuming \$15 million of the annual VVC budget, it seems reasonable to conclude, as the Daily Press did (Our Opinion, July 16) that the use or misuse of funds is a major cause behind the probationary action of the Accrediting Commission for California Junior Colleges, followed closely by their concern regarding effective student outcomes. Does it need to cost \$15 million a year in full-time salaries to productively graduate 100 students a semester?

The accreditation crisis is bad — how could it be anything but that? It is common knowledge in our community that local high schools are reluctant to recommend VVC to their graduating seniors.

Being on probation is never a good thing, but it is an opportunity welcomed by the Community Call to Action group, an assortment of concerned citizens spreading verifiable facts and growing by the day.

Scoff at our efforts if you will, unfairly criticize Ms. Carloni if you must. In the fine tradition of Americans who have taken the road less traveled and stood up for what they believed, we can take it.

Holly Noel

Apple Valley

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Shannon Duncan defending the status quo at Victor Valley College certainly paints a pleasant picture of our tax-supported community college turning out matriculated students, going on to upper division college work around the state, or taking an acquired skill into the community to further the economic viability of our Victor Valley region.

To Ms. Duncan, there is a "rabble" attempting to sling mud on our fine institution. Oh, if it were only as Ms. Duncan dreams it to be. News reports, letters, editorials through the past few months tell a different story at our Victor Valley Community College District and its Victor Valley College. Not to go into a detailed re-hash; suffice that mismanagement by a board of trustees made up by a majority who were financially backed for elective office by college staff unions, who then made decisions that have cost we taxpayers millions, and allowed staff to get away without performing their required duties leading to the State Accreditation Committee placing our college on probation and a drop-dead deadline just months away that any competent administration and staff would have completed by now.

So to the Shannon Duncans of the region, understand that a bunch of folks, many of whom have paid their dues at that same college district, have put aside work and banded together to inform the Victor

Valley region of the problems of Victor Valley College, and most importantly, work to correct the 20-plus year problem that has been allowed (too many of us fell asleep at the wheel, just figured there would always be competent and caring people elected to the VVCCD Board) to boil over.

The time hundreds of folks (the informal group is growing daily) are giving to correct the problems of Victor Valley College is not because we want to “bad mouth,” but when the emperor is caught without clothes, it is time for the people to come forward. Ghandi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Ben Franklin saw problems and worked to inform their publics ... attempting to right wrongs and improve. Diana Carloni and her concerned citizens, in that same tradition, are attempting to alert their neighbors.

They are to be commended.

Tom Pinard

Wrightwood

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Joe Range's true desperation at seeking an appointment to the Victor Valley College Board of Trustees and his disregard for the college at the July 18 special meeting was made very clear. All I heard was him spinning his version of having his name on buildings at the college. But what we didn't hear was honest talk about the budget issues that arose during his tenure and continue to plague the college today. He took no ownership as to the poor standing we now suffer.

Mr. Range lost the election pure and simple; he was third out of three candidates. Dennis Henderson can continue to keep calling him the third vote getter, but all that means is that he is still the loser. The VVC board would have to change the policy to fill a trustee vacancy followed since at least as far back as 2005 to go straight to Joe Range as an appointee.

The meeting attendees spent two hours watching a degrading and demoralizing effort by Mr. Range and two trustees attempting to ignore set board policy and importantly, ignoring the public. I would have to say enough is enough.

I thank Mr. Range for his service but in my estimation, he's done enough.

I don't believe his motives for being appointed are for the benefit of VVC, but to give him the perks he desires. And to the two trustees who continue this failure to even agree to a basic democratic process, they should watch the video to see if they or their intended appointee are worthy of sitting on that dais.

Lynne Glickstein

Apple Valley