

OUR OPINION

## This 'n that

September 22, 2013

It occurs to us that one of the reasons for academia's (at all levels) resistance to the private sector is the decades-long demonization of business it has engaged in. That has caused generations of students to view capitalism with, well, scorn. If students are told for years that capitalism is evil — and they have been — eventually they begin to agree, and worse, they pass on those beliefs to those who follow.

We're afraid that's true as much at local educational outlets as it is at, say, Harvard or Yale or Michigan State, or even Victor Valley College. All this is the end result, we believe, of the educational community's being taken over by unions.

Not so? Well, show us a public school system anywhere that does not have a school board dominated by ex-teachers or administrators whose election was financed by campaign contributions from unions and who are thus beholden to union interests and demands.

There's little doubt the inculcation of anticapitalism attitudes and beliefs by the public school system harm us all, since they attack what underpins this society — freedom of thought and action, unencumbered by government dictates — and become an anchor to successful private sector businesses.

So we propose some remedial action. We think Victor Valley College, whose full-time faculty's union apparently doesn't grasp the meaning of budget balance and passes that ignorance on to students year after year, should add to the core curriculum a one-hour course, Capitalism 101. It would be devoted to bringing an awareness of the free market to a wider audience.

We can think of any number of local business folks who could expound on their business experience identifying and satisfying consumer demand (capitalism). We figure it would be worth the effort and benefit society in general if VVC graduates went out into the world with at least a rudimentary understanding of the most successful economic system ever devised. It would save them a lot of time on their road to discovering what "American Exceptionalism" really means. Maybe someone could even convince Barack Obama to enroll.

**Steve Williams**