

OUR OPINION

## This ‘n’ that

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Progress, apparently, is being made at Victor Valley College, according to a Daily Press story in Wednesday's paper, wherein Staff Writer Brooke Self reports that the board just put into place new negotiating teams that include its chief financial officer for the first time.

Imagine that. In the history of VVC, the teams that negotiate with union and employee groups has never before included the person who should be most knowledgeable about the school's financial status. Instead, trustees and administrators — who seem to have proven in past negotiations only that they were willing to knuckle under to California Teachers Association demands for higher pay, better benefits and fewer work days — preferred to remain ignorant about the school's ability to pay for union demands.

We understand why the unions — and for that matter, the trustees — wanted the chief financial officer excluded in the past. Pointing out that the college couldn't afford, particularly in the long term, higher pay and better benefits wouldn't have pleased the CTA, which even now is digging in its heels to deflect the concessions trustees are at long last seeking.

The school's Vice President and Chief Financial Officer G.H. Javaheripour pointed that out at the Tuesday meeting. He called the CTA the “elephant in the room,” and said the school's reforms thus far are just “baby steps,” obviously implying that for the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, further, more drastic steps need to be taken before full accreditation is restored.

The ACCJC's next scheduled visit is to take place Oct. 15. We suspect that if the bigger steps Mr. Javaheripour recommends aren't taken between now and then, VVC and its supporters will be disappointed at that meeting's outcome.

Steve Williams