

OUR OPINION

Tuition surprise

October 30, 2013

We don't know about you, but we can't remember being "surprised" when, after seven years, we were told we owed money on a bill we'd incurred. Such, however, is the case with at least one former Victor Valley College student.

That student, who completed three courses at the school way back in 2006, has just been billed \$980 by VVC, but told the Daily Press her assumption was that the costs had been borne by her father's GI Bill benefits.

Further, she said she had never received a collection notice from the school until this year.

Bill Gruelich, VVC spokesman, says that student was one of 5,000 ex-VVC students who haven't paid at least some of their past tuition costs. Gruelich says that's the number of letters the school has mailed to students with delinquent accounts.

Gruelich also noted, in a Daily Press story on Sunday detailing the issue, that the school has the power to have the debtors' tax returns garnished. That's real power, folks, and with it VVC shouldn't be owed a single penny by any student, ever. Which obviously begs the question of why there are any in the first place. Has VVC been lax in attempting to collect the money? Is that a further sign of the financial dysfunction that got the school into accreditation problems in the first place? Let's hope not, as much for taxpayers' sake as for the school's future.

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