

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

November 12, 2013

## **Union pawns?**

According to a Daily Press article (“Students demand ACCJC probe,” Nov. 9), “The U.S. Department of Education ... said the (Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges) was out of compliance in ... insufficient faculty representation on accreditation teams.” This comes, suspiciously, in the same week that an ACCJC team visits the Victor Valley College campus as a follow-up to the college’s continuing accreditation probation.

Given the influence and control the teachers’ union has over government oversight of public education (i.e., the United States Department of Education), it appears that more “faculty representation on accreditation teams” would be the union strategy to blunt the effectiveness of the accreditation teams in enforcing educational standards and public accountability of a union-dominated education industry.

The Daily Press piece says, “VVC Associated Student Body President Evelyn Blanco and student advocate Amanda Monroy authored a resolution that was voted on and approved by student representatives from 87 of the 112 community colleges in California.” I’m guessing the VVC teachers’ union leaders had something to do with this, encouraging and guiding these students into the union-desired path (a “learning outcome”), to protect their “very lucrative” (VVC Interim President Peter Allan’s words, not mine) and plush working environment. This looks like the union using students as surrogates to attack the accreditation agency, to get them to back off from maintaining educational and financial discipline at the community colleges, particularly VVC.

I think the students should be more concerned over teachers’ union influence that pushes the entire California community college system toward real-world irrelevancy and financial bankruptcy by watering down educational standards and demanding “very lucrative” compensation at taxpayer expense.

This is not an attack on the many good teachers. It is a call for transparency and accountability by union leaders.

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