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THE SETTLER

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The role of campus newspaper is to encite dialogue and arouse opinion

There's an old adage that reads, "The duty of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

Though all journalistic media strive for objectivity, the fact remains that all newspapers unconsciously take sides in most debates. That side is the side of the people en masse.

Despite best intentions, newspapers often inflame and offend a good portion of its readership.

Usually, the rousing of emotion is over controversial imagery or coverage of events that do not coincide with the perspectives of readers.

Journalists are not the authorities on any issue, nor have they ever claimed to be. News reports are limited by personal perspective and the willingness of witnesses to speak their perspectives.

However, objectivity and fairness is paramount in the minds of journalists as they write their reports of events.

Defamation is blasphemous and

is never a motivating factor in the mind of a true journalist.

The Settler is no exception to these truths.

Over the semester, articles appearing in The Settler have provoked a diverse array of responses, both positive and negative.

To disagree with the adage mentioned previously, it is the duty of a newspaper to spawn constructive dialogue in a community or, in this case, a community college.

Newspapers should be healthy forums for all kinds of opinions and views on the issues and events that affect each and every one of us.

We at The Settler strived this semester to embark on a transformation of the publication.

This began with the decision to publish more regularly.

We tried to present reporting that was relevant to the students and employees of the college.

We welcomed controversy, praise and derision.

We sought to become a driving

force on the campus of Vol State.

Whether or not we have succeeded is not for us to judge, but we can remind you that we will continue forward, always seeking to improve ourselves and encourage the readers to take part in the forum that exists within this newspaper.

With this, the final edition of the fall semester, The Settler wishes to extend its thanks to its readers.

We need the eyes and minds to discern our work and react to the words we write.

What appears in a newspaper is not the end of an issue.

It is the beginning of a healthy debate where all our minds can be tested and our overall academic progress and development can be improved through new ideas.

CORRECTION

In the Nov. 28 edition, a photograph of Johnny Cash was uncredited. The photo was taken by Jim Marshall in 1969. The Settler regrets the error.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The last issue of The Settler left many eyebrows raised. Several people questioned me, as vice president of the SGA, as to what the impeachment proceedings were about and why they were handled in a biased fashion. However, none of those that questioned me were at the actual proceeding. Their facts were received from the paper.

To clarify their questions, and the story that was printed, I would like to elaborate a little on what an impeachment truly is.

An impeachment is simply the policing of an organization by the organization, which is why there are no people outside of the SGA on the impeachment committee. Also, the impeachment procedures of the SGA were fashioned after the impeachment procedures of the United States government. When Clinton was impeached, he was not brought before ordinary citizens; he was brought before the Senate, as was Mr. Chapman.

The reason for the impeachment was not one of malice or bias against any one person. Rather, it was merely that as president and vice president of the SGA, it is my and

Evan's duty to make sure the student's truly receive what they deserve.

We found that a member on our cabinet was not fulfilling his duties. It was our job, not to sweep it under the doormat, but to remove him from office in order to bring in someone who would take the job as seriously as we do.

As president and vice president, we represent the student body, and our highest duty is to the students. Although we may be painted in a bad light for doing what is necessary, we took an oath to represent the students of this school and we take the oath very seriously. We knew that if someone was not doing their job, the students would ultimately lose the benefits they could have had if that person had truly done their job.

The paper also failed to mention that, although they considered the proceedings to be biased, the outcome of the case was very cut and dry. Mr. Chapman admitted that he had not done his job and that when he understood that the president and vice president were unhappy with his job performance, he neglected to take any action to correct what he had been doing wrong.

The impeachment committee remained in deliberation for approximately five minutes and returned with a unanimous decision for removal from office.

Also, although I have explained exactly why there are no people on the impeachment committee outside of the SGA, I would like to go a little further on this subject.

I would like to know how the former president of the SGA, whose major presidential project was to revise the SGA constitution, could have overlooked something he saw as such a major problem.

Yet, when an impeachment trial is actually brought about, there are miraculous improvements in what he believes needs to be changed in the Constitution of the SGA. Then again, it may be he's looking at it from a journalistic point of view now, as he is editor of The Settler.

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