

Letters to the editor: Praise for DHS protesters

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Readability: >12 grade level (Lexile: 1380L)

Applause for the small group of Deerfield High School students (and teacher) who courageously and non-disruptively took a public stance in protest for an issue they care deeply about ("Students protest school's circus trip," Nov. 25, Deerfield Review and Lincolnshire Review). An outgrowth of their protest was a new animal-rights club at the high school.

If the point of the DHS physics class's field trip was simply to observe high-wire acrobatics, that goal could have been achieved closer to home. The Actors Gymnasium in Evanston, for example, offers audiences a spectacular view of acrobatics both aerially on ropes, hoops, and silks, and on the ground. Plus it does so close up in a small venue showcasing imaginative performances filled with story, humor, and true artistry -- all without live animals. And in these tough economic times, the price of admission is a bargain.

Moreover, the Actors Gymnasium is primarily a school for acrobats. One of its co-founders, Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi, a veteran circus performer, grew up in the Ringling Brothers Circus family and has ties to other former circus performers who live and work throughout the Chicago area. I'd bet these professional choreographers, teachers, and performers would be willing to talk personally with a group of high-school students, if asked, about their own experiences on the high-wires and about the physics of their art, and maybe even let students test the ropes.

All it takes is courage and creativity, as shown by the protesting DHS students, to venture into lesser known and less popular but immensely more rewarding realms.

Mary A. Banas, Deerfield

Veteran's thanks

With the recent celebration of Veterans Day, I have something that I would like to share.

Lately, whenever people find out that I served in the United States Navy, they stop and thank me for my service to our country, even though I served over some 35 years ago.

First of all, it was an honor and a privilege to serve my country.

When I served, it was in the 1970s, during the tumultuous times during and following the noble cause of the Vietnam conflict. So second of all, coming from this veteran I would like to say this to all of you who do this.

On behalf of all my fellow veterans from all the branches of our military, thank you all for thanking us.

Scott T. Schlieff, Lincolnshire

Levitt should leave District 109 Board

Mark Levitt's response to a reporter ("District 109 hires board member's ex-campaign staffer," Nov. 18, Deerfield Review) concerning potential conflict of interest in the recent Deerfield 109 hiring of his campaign manager: "No. Why? Should it be?"

I didn't expect this sort of conflict of interest from a judge whose recent election campaign emphasized his high moral values and his contributions as a community role model. I

would encourage Mr. Levitt to resign from the School Board and devote himself to embracing his new judicial responsibilities and perception of ethics.

Charles Williams, Deerfield

Section: Forum

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