

Dear Editor,

I was both shocked and dismayed when I read the special section on Community Colleges in the October 29th issue. What surprised me so much about the section is the slanted and biased way in which it was written. It was very much evident that the Chronicle of Higher Education is primarily a four-year college or university publication. What is further astonishing is the broad statement that was made on page 3B “Community Colleges are seeing enrollment explosions they can barely contain, fueled largely by high school graduates who can’t get into four year institutions”. This statement could not be further from the truth. In fact, to take an unscientific approach, one only has to poll community college students to find out why they *really* attend these exemplary institutions. The results run contrary to the false assertion that students cannot get accepted to a four-year institution. On the contrary, the real answer is that the vast majority of community college students attend community colleges because of their affordability and access. While the cost of an education at a four-year institution has skyrocketed in the last five years, community colleges have been able to keep tuition low and affordable. Additionally, there is a growing contingent of students who can easily afford a four-year university, but choose not enroll as a freshman, opting for a community college instead. Community colleges offer smaller classes, and more individualized attention, all at a fraction of the price. Community Colleges are the wave of future for higher education in the United States. I would like to see the Chronicle of Higher Education embrace this concept, as opposed to publishing articles that belittle the community college student and these fine institutions.

Sincerely,

Cal Pifer
President, Texas Junior College Student Government Assn.
Kingwood College
Houston

Day Time Phone: 281-312-1479
E-mail: kingwood.sga@nhmccd.edu