

Scandal highlights need for ethical advisers

I hesitate to add to the pile of words spilled on the college admissions scandal, but I believe I must add some perspective.

I have watched and read in utter horror, like a car accident that I don't want to see but can't seem to look away from. I am demoralized, disgusted and dejected at the depth of manipulation and perversion that people employ to get ahead. The whole idea of higher education — and just education in general — is to help level the playing field, to gain skills and knowledge to better oneself. It is tragic when even this arena becomes yet another place that breeds, reinforces and exacerbates inequality.

In this column, I want to explain what a college adviser's role should be. As someone who completed UC Berkeley Extension's College Admission and Career Advising program, I can attest to the fact that there was constant attention and careful



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analysis of what it means to be an ethical adviser at every stage of the five-course curriculum.

Additionally, as a member of professional organizations such as Higher Education Consultants Association and Western Association for College Admission Counseling, we are held to a code of conduct, regularly attend training conferences where this code of conduct is reinforced, and take ethics tests that address these issues.

I know and work with many experienced, ethical, knowledgeable, caring, and honest college counselors, both independent

and at high schools. They work tirelessly to help students achieve their higher education goals — and not just students who can pay.

Many of us take on clients on a pro bono basis, provide free college admission workshops and volunteer at non-profit organizations such

as 10,000 Degrees in Marin that help “students from low-income backgrounds get to and through college.” Just recently many counselors I know volunteered their time and went to Paradise to support those high school seniors who needed help with applications after the fire.

So, what should and does a college counselor do? First and foremost the job is to help students find a college that is the right fit for them. Along the way, typical services include:

- Develop a realistic and balanced college list.

- Provide guidance on course-planning to meet college eligibility requirements.

- Keep students on track to meet application deadlines.

- Provide feedback on essays.

- Review applications for accuracy.

- Conduct interview practice.

- Navigate the financial aid process.

What is not allowed, nor do I know anyone who does the following: write essays or fill in applications for students; change pictures; counsel students to misrepresent activities on applications; get involved in testing; contact colleges on students' behalf; and/or promise admission. I am sad to say, however, I am not surprised that there are people who do this.

As the disturbing details continue to trickle out, we all know this is probably just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. However even when faced with this lurid, incriminating information I am

trying to remain hopeful.

There has been progress in diversity and inclusion and successful efforts to help a wider swath of students — from first-generation to undocumented to LGBTQ+ to students with learning challenges — in the college admission process.

But a few bad apples and an inherently opaque system should make us wake up and take heed, making more necessary improvements. It will be a gargantuan task that will require the best efforts from parents, students, counselors, teachers, higher education administrators, policy makers and politicians. I urge everyone to get involved and be a part of this transition.

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CITRUS: Team keeps winning

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The team — made up of students from Davis High School, Da Vinci Charter Academy and Harper, Holmes and Emerson junior high schools — also won the Central Valley Regional competition earlier this month, ensuring yet another trip to the FIRST Robotics world championships in April — a championship the team won in 2015.

At that competition held in Fresno, the team won the chairman's award for outstanding outreach and education programs that spread STEM in the community, marking the second straight year Citrus Circuits took home the chairman's award.

Citrus Circuits was recognized this year for numerous outreach programs in Davis, including Davis Youth Robotics, a Farmers Market booth, elementary school robotics classes, summer RoboCamps and even a Shelter Finder app used to help find beds for homeless individuals.

Citrus Circuits also participates in Compass Alliance, a group of robotics teams from around the world that help support younger teams, and provides assistance to other teams during competitions via the Citrus Service program.

The team does all of this while consistently winning on the field as well.

Last year the team placed third at the world championships — a competition featuring more than 400 high school teams from all over the world. The year before, the team came within a match of winning its second world title in three years.

Next month the team makes its ninth straight trip to the world championships in Houston.

This year's FIRST Robotics game is “DESTINATION: DEEP SPACE Presented By Boeing.”

Teams from all over the world built robots over the course of six weeks in January and February to play the game. Citrus Circuits team members built their robot in the expansive robotics classrooms at Davis High School before hitting the road earlier this month for the first of what will be several competitions held prior to the world championships.

At each competition, teams play in alliances of three, operating their robots on a large field in an effort to earn the most points.

For the first 15 seconds of each match, shutters are lowered to prevent student drivers from seeing the field. During this period, each

team can choose to either use an autonomous routine or manually drive the robot using a vision system. After those first 15 seconds, drivers take control of their robots.

Teams load cargo (rubber playground balls) into two rockets and a cargo ship while placing hatch panels (flat disks) on both rockets to earn points. At the end of the game, robots attempt to climb a series of raised platforms to earn extra points.

During the Fresno competition earlier this month, Citrus Circuits became the first team in the world to perform a successful “buddy climb,” lifting two other robots onto the raised platform during the final seconds of the match. The team duplicated that feat in Davis, earning the Industrial Design Award.

Meanwhile, the winning alliance at UC Davis — Citrus Circuits, MadTown Robotics from Madera and Wolfpack Robotics of Elk Grove — also set a world-high score without penalties of 120 points in the quarter-finals of the playoffs.

And if the team recognitions weren't enough, Stachowicz was one of two students selected from the hundreds participating in the UC Davis competition to receive the Dean's List Finalist Award for outstanding



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Davis robotics team Citrus Circuits notched yet another win last weekend, taking first place along with their alliance partners at the Sacramento regional FIRST robotics competition at UC Davis.

leadership, dedication and accomplishment.

Stachowicz serves as the team's business and media leader. Citrus Circuits is captained by Janet Liu with Sam Sands serving as vice captain.

All team members are all in grades 9-12 and are mentored by a team of former

members, parents and other community members, with Davis High math teacher Steve Harvey serving as head coach (as he has for all 15 years of the team's existence).

Major sponsors include the Davis Joint Unified School District, UC Davis, Technip FMC Schilling

Robotics, Hill Engineering and Lockheed Martin. For more information about the team and its history, visit www.citruscircuits.org.

The team heads to Houston next month for the world championships, which will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston April 17-20.

Bulky Items Drop-Off Days

Friday, April 5 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM & Saturday, April 6 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Recology Davis – 2727 2nd Street



This service is available to Davis residents only.

Proof of residency will be required, no charge to participate. No commercial haulers and business materials.

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS: Large appliances (refrigerators, freezers—limit of 2), toilets, sinks, plumbing fixtures, scrap metal, wood scraps, furniture, mattresses, textiles, empty cardboard boxes, electronics (TVs, computer monitors, keyboards, microwaves, cell phones, CPUs, printers, coffee makers, etc.), and other bulky items.

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS: Business waste, soil, sod, dirt, concrete, asphalt, commercial construction debris, automobile and truck tires, hazardous waste, regular household garbage, and furniture with lead paint.

SALVAGE AREA: There will be a salvage area where usable items, such as furniture, will be separated and stored for reuse; these items can be taken for free.

Please try to separate materials so that they can easily be recycled at the drop-off site.

Recology Davis 756-4646 Recology.com
City Recycling Program: 757-5686 DavisRecycling.org

NEW LISTING



OPEN FRI 12-4, SAT 11-3 & SUN 1-3

One of the Nicest Streets in Sacramento

1143 MARIAN WAY, SACRAMENTO
\$1,299,000

6 BEDROOMS · 3 BATHROOMS · 3,002 SQUARE FEET

This Frank “Squeaky” Williams designed 1930s Tudor home in Land Park is ready for new owners. The gourmet kitchen includes stainless steel appliances, dual ovens, and slate countertops. The hobbyist and wine enthusiast will appreciate the partial basement renovated as a workshop and wine area. Your guests will be amazed by the backyard oasis and the bonus 400 sq. ft. detached guest cottage with full bathroom. Sit under the pergola and read your favorite book or take a dip in the sparkling pool. Just a few doors from Crocker/Riverside Elementary School and a few blocks from William Land Park!

NEW LISTING



OPEN SAT 11-3 & SUN 1-3

Superior Quality, Craftsmanship and Care

2220 SWEENEY DRIVE
\$599,000

3 BEDROOMS · 2 FULL BATHROOMS · 1 HALF BATHROOM · 2,762 SQUARE FEET

Stunning, single story, Meritage-built home. Hardwood floors and top of the line upgrades. The open layout of the main living areas is perfect for entertaining guests. Sunlit sitting room and expansive kitchen island. The gourmet kitchen features stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, and gorgeous tile backsplash. The unique floor plan of this Lee model has a Jack and Jill set of bedrooms, each with their own vanity to get ready separately in the morning! Retreat to your master suite after a long day where you'll enjoy the exquisite amenities of a separate soaking tub as well as expansive walk-in closet!



OPEN SAT 2:30-4:30

Elegant Northstar Beauty

427 SANDPIPER DRIVE
\$1,200,000

Serenity Now! This elegant Monley Cronin built 5 bedroom, 2 bath Northstar home feels tucked away and serene. It sits on a corner lot at the end of the cul-de-sac surrounded by green belts and unobstructed views of natural beauty — you won't even feel like you're in the city! Spacious rooms, elegantly done, you'll feel the luxury in the master retreats' freshly remodeled bathroom. Sit on the balcony and sip your morning coffee overlooking your lush backyard, the leaves rustling in the mature trees, with no neighbors on the horizon. Gardeners bring your tools, the XL side yard with planter beds assures fresh produce, home grown! A whole house fan and ceiling fans throughout help with those warmer days. There are multiple entertaining areas with a zen serenity enclosure that correlates to the beauty of the spacious and grand downstairs living areas. This home is truly a paradise of its own!



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