10-20-13 Daily Herald

Your Views

NCAA showing its hypocrisy

The Big Ten proudly announced that it was moving into a new conference headquarters in Rosemont, after 22 years of being located in a relatively nondescript, small two-story brick building in Park Ridge. The cost of the new facility: $20 million.

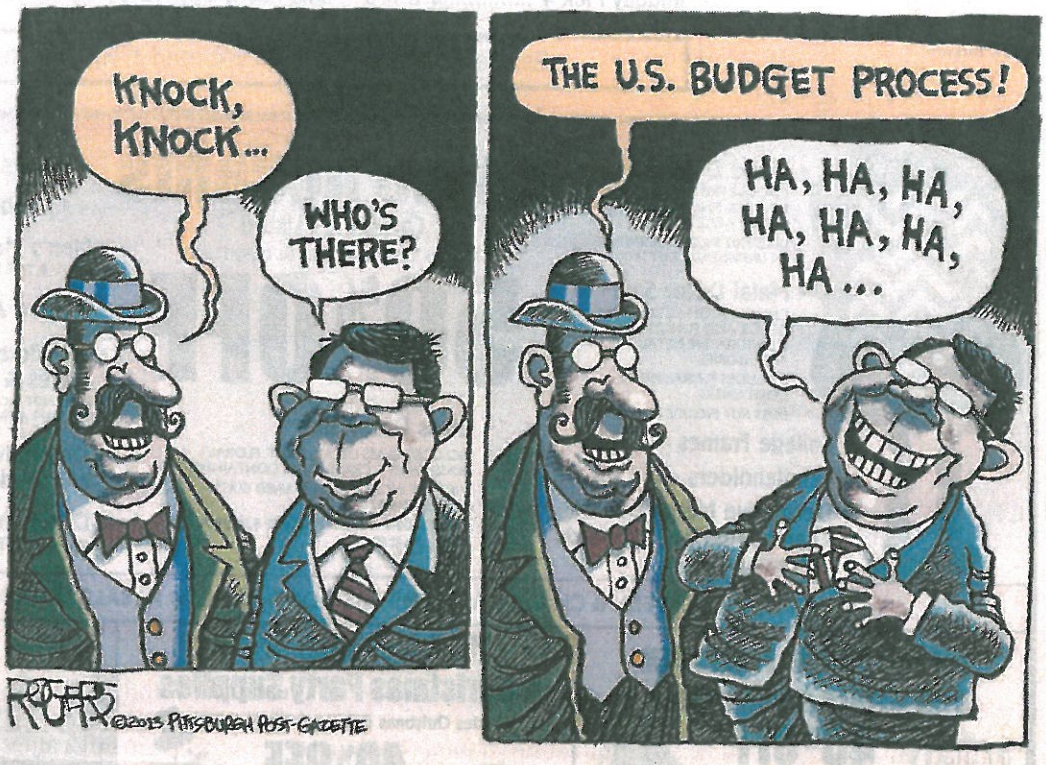
Additional millions are reportedly going to be spent on completion of a new museum in the same facility. The same day this front-page news appeared in the Daily Herald, Chicago Sun-Times columnist Rick Telander reported that 80 coaches and athletic department staffers, from the University of Nebraska, a Big Ten school, will get the use of free cars. The value of these free cars is estimated to be $2.25 million. Additionally, 50 lucky staffers also get free country-club memberships paid for by the Husker Athletic Wheel Club.

All of this largesse naturally comes on the backs of the Big Ten's football and basketball "athlete-students," juxtaposition of student-athletes intended, who in return are susceptible to losing their scholarships and eligibility if they so much as accept a meal from the wrong person.

Johnny Manziel, aka Johnny "Football," last year's Heisman Trophy winner, as a freshman purportedly set off a "holier than thou" NCAA investigation into selling his signature to a memorabilia merchant for a monetary value of four figures. Yes, four figures, a few thousand dollars.

The NCAA, Big Ten, ACC, SEC and the rest of the major conferences are reaping tens of millions of dollars while some athlete-students are wondering at times if the hamburger and fries they are eating might cost them their college careers simply because someone else bought it for them.

Steve Sarich
Grayslake



Thanks to all on parks honor

We would like to personally extend a congratulatory note to everyone associated with the Waukegan Park District.

Years of preparation and a commitment to the highest level of service in parks and recreation have paid off for our park district. The Waukegan Park District was awarded the 2013 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management for communities with population between 50,001 and 100,000.

Agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve. Congratulations to all for the collective efforts of citizens, volunteers, patrons, staff and fellow commissioners.

This award affirms that the implementation of our strategy and vision for Waukegan is effective. The results and outcomes of our initiatives have resulted in excellent parks, programs and services. They benefit people and families, have a positive economic impact on our city and enhance our environment. That's why our park district has been selected as the best of the best.

Thank you to everyone associated with our park district for making Waukegan a great place to live, work and play. See you in the parks!

Janet E. Kilkelly
President
And all commissioners
Waukegan Park Board

dh Even more letters online
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