

EDITORIAL

Manners go a long way

Hey you! Don't drop that door on my face!

College is that great time of your life where you can get away from the constraints of your hometown and being around your parents 24/7.

This means, for most of us, that we will each grow and become our own person.

But now we're often asking, "Hey, what happened to everyone's manners?" We were all taught that certain behaviors were unacceptable when we were younger, but you wouldn't know it walking around the Quad and having everyday exchanges with some students. For the good of the ISU community, here are some friendly reminders:

Common Courtesy

Just say please and thank you! If someone holds the door for you, take it promptly and thank them. Better yet, be the one who is polite enough to hold the door for someone else. If you are walking with a group, take the door from the person who held it for you; they aren't your personal doorman.

Work

As far as work goes, well, it sucks most of the time, and everyone has a bad day. However, not only can being polite to customers (despite your crappy day) keep you from getting fired, it might actually help put you in a better mood.

Sure, you might have dealt with rude people all day, but if someone is courteous with you, show them your appreciation and decency by demonstrating similar behavior. Perhaps they'll leave a nice tip.

The Quad

Walking on the Quad? Then keep walking. It's great that you haven't seen Mary for ages and now you get to chat, but take it somewhere that doesn't block the general flow of traffic. Smokers, could you blow your smoke away from people instead of in their faces? Hooray smoking referendum!

Class

Please be nice to your teachers. Unfortunately, almost everyone has that one absolutely horrible teacher, but keep in mind they are human too. There might even be a method to their madness that you just don't see yet. And for Pete's sake, wait for them to finish talking before packing up your things. You only get out of class five minutes sooner. As far as classmates go, respect their opinions and remember that there are non-offensive ways to express yours.

Driving

Oh, the four-way stops around here. Beware pedestrians; beware drivers. This is a college campus, so nearly everyone is walking most places they go. When you are driv-

ing, remember that pedestrians are outside in the elements and you are in a heated/air conditioned car – let them cross the street first. Also, use your turn signal for your own safety and the safety of others. But walkers, you don't have the right-of-way when you just walk out in the middle of the street as a car is 20 feet away from you.

Roommates

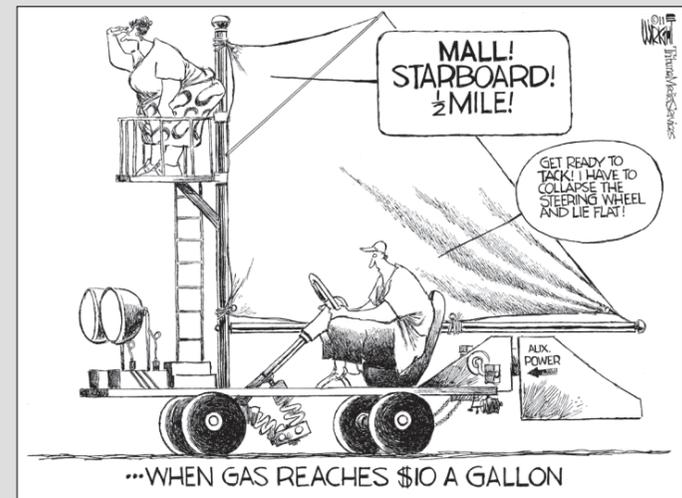
This tends to be the area where we most notice rude behavior. The best way to combat this is to try to remember with everything that you do in your living space, that it is someone else's space too. Mutual respect is key, and if it isn't working out, it might be time to sit down and have a talk.

Basically, all we are calling for here is a little more R-E-S-P-E-C-T on our campus. Remember the Golden Rule? Do unto others as you want done unto you.

It sounds cheesy, but it feels like people have lost any sense of courtesy and respect. If people act like they do here, in the real world workplace, they aren't going to get far. Maybe it's the technology, the generation, or simply our age, but either way, we could all stand to have a little more compassion for our fellow students. School can be difficult sometimes, but a little bit of courtesy could go a long way.

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Daily Cartoons



Rick Jones is pure evil: The second installment

MY VIEW

Scott Gleeson
Columnist

In the world of journalism, they tell us a headline is worth a million words.

Well, I've got a couple hundred words that will trump this article's headline.

I say "headline" and not "title" because that's what Rick Jones drilled into my head. And if he's counting, that lead was 28 words, two below his 30-word limit.

Shortly after Rick became General Manager of the Daily Vidette, a former Videtter posted an entry on the Internet with the above headline. It noted that Rick wasn't trying to help the students, that he'd always live in former GM Harry Thiel's shadow and that he was a pawn of ISU's communication department.

"It was very hurtful," Rick told me in his office recently. "I think the students who have been here understand that none of that is true. I used to read that once a year to remind myself that not everybody

thinks that I'm the answer."

When I first met Rick, I was an 18-year-old senior in high school and I came into the Vidette office with my hat backwards. Later, I gave in to Rick's "no hats in the building" rule.

With the clock ticking closer to graduation, my four-year career at the Vidette will soon be over. In a little over a year from now, the curtains will also close on Rick's tenure at the Vidette with his retirement set for June of 2012. We all have those mentors or teachers who have a lasting influence on our lives. This is the story of a man who had a profound impact on mine and hundreds more.

Pure evil? Not exactly the description I'd use for a man who has acted like a parent to me in my darkest hours. I heard Thiel, a 20-year Vidette GM, was known for his red pen. While Rick bled all over my writing over the years (I'm still irritated I got a B in his class), I believe he will be best known for his heart.

"Rick has a deep, deep passion for the Vidette and for those students who make it tick," said Illinois State Vice President for Student Affairs Steve Adams. "He bleeds Redbird red as it flows through that newspa-

per, and he takes pride in the family atmosphere that staffers thrive on. His impact on students and staff – past and present – will carry on long after he retires."

The funny thing is, as I started typing this, Rick was mad at me... and in turn, I was mad at him. We're both stubborn and cocky. I've set a record for getting kicked out of the

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office, and for good reason. But we've always understood each other. "You remind me of myself so much sometimes, it's scary," he's said.

The truth of the matter is that the Vidette has been blessed to have Rick. He was a legend in ISU's backyard before coming to the university in the mid-1980s to teach in what he called his "first passion."

He spent three years at the Pontiac Daily Leader as a reporter and 13 at The Blade in Fairbury, where he was managing editor. He went on to win several awards for best news

story in the state of Illinois. Back then, leaving writing wasn't easy.

"It was difficult," Rick said. "Almost all of us who go into journalism have an ego of some size. I think you have to have one to be good. The best heart surgeons know they're the best heart surgeons."

But Rick let go of his love (and talent) for writing to help students

and mistakes. In the end, this made for a better paper and allowed us to learn so much along the way," former editor Amy Gorczowski said.

"Under Rick's leadership, the Vidette offers a unique and amazing experience for students," former Vidette business advisor Christy Harrison said. "I will always treasure my years on the professional staff...I would not be the person I am today had Rick not given me the chance to succeed at the Vidette."

When I think of the Vidette, I'll always think of family, and Rick strongly fostered the Vidette's irreplaceable family atmosphere.

"Students fall in love with this place. I've had students leave in tears. I imagine that last walk out the door that final time is a hard one to make. I'll soon find out," he said.

"I think I'll leave knowing that the Vidette's a better place, that a lot of the students during my 15 years have a real special feeling in their heart for the Vidette."

I know I'll leave with that feeling. Pure evil? I think I'll need a new headline.

Questions or comments to Gleeson's column can be sent to: dvsmsglees@exchange.ilstu.edu.

Here is a list of those who represent you:

Governor
Patrick J. Quinn D
100 W. Randolph St. Ste. 15-200
Chicago, IL 60601
(217) 782-6830

U.S. Senator
Richard J. Durbin D
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2152

U.S. Senator
Mark Kirk R
387 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2854

11th District US Representative
Adam Kinzinger R
1218 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3635

88th District State Representative
Dan Brady R
200-8N Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1118

44th District State Senator
Bill Brady R
105A State House
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-6216

Secretary of State
Jesse White
213 State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-2201

53rd District State Senator
Shane Cultra R
104 W. Lincoln Street
Onarga, IL 60955
(815) 268-4090

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Letters must be signed and contain the major or official title of the writer, the year in school if presently enrolled, address and a daytime telephone number for verification.

Letters without phone numbers will not be considered for publication.

Names may be withheld upon request, but only after approval by the editor.

Letters are subject to editing for style and space at the editor's discretion.

Letters sent via electronic mail to vidette@ilstu.edu are accepted, provided they include a telephone number for verification. Letters sent as an attachment cannot be accepted.