

"USA TODAY hopes to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation."

—Allen H. Neuharth, Founder, Sept. 15, 1982

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'Brockovich' more than just form

The "va-va-voom" of *Erin Brockovich* may have been "all anyone can talk about" in high school locker rooms, but the packed theater just up the street from USA TODAY's offices in Northern Virginia, where I saw the movie, reacted to something else ("Just barely dressed for on-the-job success," Cover Story, Life, Tuesday).

I doubt that the moviegoers were celebrating star Julia Roberts' cleavage when they cheered as Erin Brockovich offered a glass of toxic water to the polluters' lawyers. Nor was the standing ovation at the end of the movie in appreciation of her glorious gams.

The cheers and applause were endorsements of triumph of an individual in a meaningful cause against enormous odds, the least of which was the petty picking about her converging hemlines.

The movie resonates because substance wins over form. For a paper striving to be recognized as the USA's paper of record, your focus on *Erin Brockovich's* form, rather than substance, indicates you've a ways to go.

Ralph Hoar
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