

opinion/editorial

Money is no mark of a mind

A key flaw in elementary and secondary education in this country is the myth that many teachers push upon their students. The myth — that going to college will automatically make obtaining a job possible — is espoused by many shallow thinking educators.

It's all part of the socialization process of education. We go to college because it is expected of us. We are told that better things will result from more formal education.

There is no single aspect of life that can enhance a person's position in life better than a good education. Despite the growing costs of education, as society becomes more complex and transitional, the need for education accelerates.

But too often, a person's education is solely judged by the type of job he or she lands. The priorities become convoluted.

We no longer care what a person learned in college, but how much they are making a year.

Given two people who make \$20,000 and \$12,000, respectively, we foolishly consider the former to be \$8,000 smarter than the latter.

Students in liberal arts programs have long been the brunt of these childlike comparisons.

These students are working just as hard as students in technical science areas but receive smaller rewards for their education.

But a rebirth of the value of liberal arts programs has helped turn the tide back in favor of students who prefer Shakespeare to slide rules.

The College of Arts and Sciences is to be applauded for their efforts to help students studying in liberal arts programs realize their full potential in the job market.

The creation of a career information center will be a valuable tool for students. Students majoring in philosophy, English and political science often benefit from a four-year education but lack skills in selling themselves to possible employers.

It is indeed a positive step that the College of Arts and Sciences is attempting to aid its students in this crucial area. All colleges should evaluate how well they are providing information on careers and job application techniques for their students.

A college education will make a student more employable but it cannot guarantee employment. Only by aiding students in preparing for the job market can the university's education process be called complete.

Old money melody needs new verse

Same song. Next verse. The title: "That's Where the Money Goes."

All together now: "There is no place like Nebraska / Good old Nebraska U. / Where the boys run the fastest / But can't throw the passes, / And the Director's Club comes through."

Yes, it's the football money song again. This time around we have the Director's Club. It's the brainchild of the NU Foundation, kicked off this year to raise money for the Athletic Department at good old NU.

patti gallagher

Joiners to the club make a one-time "gift or pledge" of \$50,000 for membership. In return, foundation vice president Lee Liggett told the Daily Nebraskan, they get "no tangible benefits."

Seems a hefty fee for nothing in return. Guess Director's Club members are just nice guys — who also happen to be rich.

Liggett says inflation is threatening athletic programs across the country and some schools are being forced to cut parts of programs.

Seems other Big Eight schools already have contribution programs of the NU club's magnitude. Seems Nebraska was the last team on the block without the new toy.

So they got their own Director's Club. After all, as Liggett said, "We found a hole in our coverage."

Bad puns notwithstanding, raising contributions for an athletics is not an awful idea: every facet of the jocks' world must be as hard hit by inflation as in civiliansville.

The money will be spent on new construction (a women's softball field is being planned) and renovation (the running track, Schulte Field House and the visiting team locker room are being spruced up).

The priority on these construction projects are up to Bob Devaney. Makes sense; they named the club after him.

Fact is, the foundation must be commended for getting 17 donors to let go of fifty grand. My gripe is that "same old song." Why is there no Chancellor's Club? Or President's Club? Or Dean's Club, or some other kind of finger-pointing gee-whiz recruitment of big bucks for academic programs?

Sure UNL has a renowned football team. Yea, they've won some weighty gymnastic titles. And I know — the basketball team fills the Sports Center. They all deserve financial supporters to defray rising costs.

But what about theater majors? Who will donate or recruit donations for the renovation of the Temple Building? And what about English majors? Who will donate \$50,000 to build a film viewing facility in Andrews Hall?

And what about journalism majors? Where can they find 17 fat cats to shell out the money for a new computer system?

And what about departments that close their doors to students because of overcrowding, that teach with outdated equipment, that make do or do without.

While the NU foundation exceeded its donation drive in the past year, they haven't succeeded — or at least made public — any effort to establish a drive on the scale of the Director's Club.

Where are the 17 donors with \$50,000 for those inflation-wracked programs? Where is a foundation official saying "Rising costs won't cause us to abandon part of our academic programs"? And where is someone singing "That's Where the Money Goes" with a verse for academia?

Letters policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor from readers and interested groups.

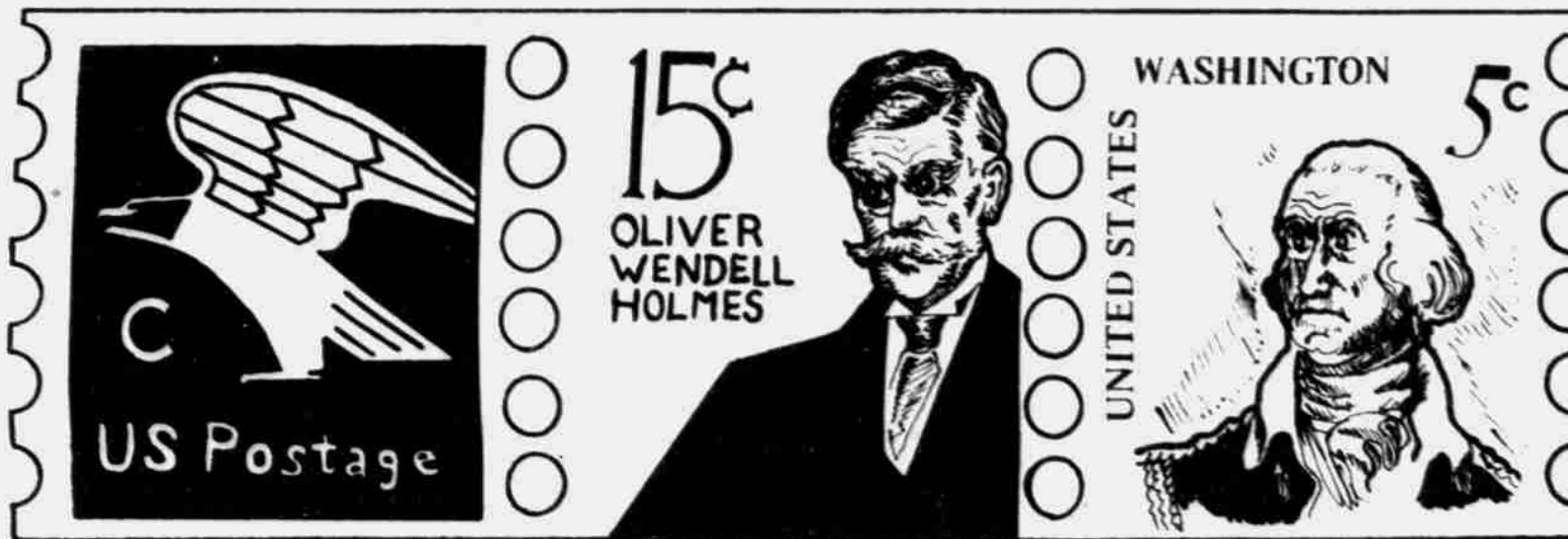
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Readers are also welcome to submit material as guest opinions, subject to the editor's decision to print the material as a letter or as a guest opinion.

Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. Letters should include name and year in school. Requests to withhold names will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Submit all material to the Daily Nebraskan, Room 34, Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb., 68588.



"Brother, Can You Spare a Postage Stamp?"

Mongar

Barbarism would bring in the bucks

"The trouble," my friend insisted, "is that national defense is a losing proposition."

I looked puzzled, and she explained what she meant. "The Postal Service costs too much, they say; it ought to break even, or maybe even earn an honest penny for the hard-pressed government. Raise the price; reduce the service. We cannot afford this, we cannot afford that; put an end to free handouts. Except to the military."

Well, if we aren't willing to defend the country, the other things won't really matter, I reminded her.

william raspberry

"I'm not speaking of not defending the country," she said. "I'm simply telling you the Pentagon is not carrying its own weight. What really surprises me is that all those Reagan administration hotshots haven't figured out the most obvious way the Pentagon could be made to break even, or even turn a nice profit. All they have to do is return to the sterner, simpler virtues of our forefathers. Everybody's forefathers, if you look back far enough."

"Back to what virtues?" I asked.

"Back to when a war, at least a winning war, was expected to pay for itself," she said. "No enormous payrolls for the armed forces. Soldiers were paid in loot, a splendid incentive for enthusiasm and efficiency."

"Conquered territory was portioned out among the higher-ups, with the real plums reserved for the government itself. No foolishness about a defeated population having to be fed, clothed and helped back onto its feet by the victors. Those who could not be effectively enslaved on the spot could be disposed of in the world slave market, and everybody with no market value could be knocked on the head."

"The Vikings, for instance, had no use for slaves, not in those open boats or back home in the rigorous climate, but they were canny traders with a market that extended from the North Sea to the Mediterranean. Rich or royal captives, of course, were held for ransom, and a lucky captor might recoup his entire expense of arming and maintaining his retainers with a single fortunate snatch."

"You're talking about a return to barbarism," I told her.

"Nonsense," she said. "I'm talking about a return to free enterprise, individual initiative, the play of the marketplace, the profit motive, a balanced budget and all the incentive in the world for ambitious, enterprising citizens to provide employment and opportunity for their fellow citizens and the development of some of the sterner, simplest virtues known to mankind."

I admitted her idea intrigued me. The only problem, I told her, is that the Pentagon no longer is in the business of war. The whole point of its massive expenditures is to avoid war. And without war, there can be no looting, no slaves, no ransom.

She didn't miss a beat. "Either we're going to fight, or we're not," she said. "Either way, the Pentagon could be a self-sustaining operation. A healthy chunk of the money they spend is for new weapons systems that make the old ones obsolete. There's a tremendous market for the old, outdated stuff."

"Just the other day, the White House security adviser told us the AWACS they want to sell to the Saudis don't represent a threat to Israel. They can't 'see' into Israel territory without moving in so close that they would be vulnerable to Israeli fighters."

"In other words, the planes are no good to the Saudis. Still, the Saudis are willing to pay us \$5.8 billion for five of them. The Israelis have bought billions of dollars worth of military supplies from us. The 75 F-16's they've already ordered from us carry a price tag of \$7 million to \$9 million each."

"Didn't you read where the administration is planning to retire 52 Titan II missiles five years early? Lord knows what those would bring on the open market."

"You see the potential. With a really first-rate marketing team, we could place enough orders to the Third World countries alone to put the Pentagon on a pay as you go basis, with enough left over to put the Social Security system on a sound footing."

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