

Editorial

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Jeff Korbelik, Editor, 472-1766
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More arts needed Areas exhibit one-dimensionality

A university education is more than advanced vocational training. Included in the historical notion of "higher education" is the idea that students will be exposed to the great thinkers of their culture.

In a recent issue of "Technology Review," Samuel Florman lamented that "most American engineers have not read the great books of Western civilization or studied the history of their nation or any other. . . . The fact is that engineers are not receiving essential elements of a traditional college education."

This is a woeful situation. Statistics indicate that less than 5 percent of engineering graduates take an educational approach that strongly emphasizes the liberal arts. This unjustly circumscribes the education of the student, but also influences the social relationship between engineering technicians and society at large.

Florman pointed to a research survey of psychological studies done on engineers that is quite unsettling: "Constricted interests are apparent in their relative indifference to human relations, to psychology and the social sciences, to public affairs and social amelioration, the fine arts and cultural subjects, and even to those aspects of physical science which do not immediately relate to engineering."

At UNL the engineering col-

lege requires 18 hours in humanities and the social sciences. This evidently is the minimum required by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), which requires all accredited engineering programs to require a 12.5 percent liberal arts load. Florman indicates that this is six classes — the precise number that is required at UNL.

Additionally, these hours can be taken in non-traditional liberal arts areas such as anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology and sociology. While many of these subjects are undoubtedly valuable, they do not constitute a general core of what all students traditionally have been required to take from a true university.

Ironically, however, Florman's criticism can be applied to a number of other areas, such as business education. Sure there are requirements, but too many students in all disciplines are leaving this school with only minimal exposure to the rich tapestry of Western culture (let alone appreciation for the works of other cultures).

The Chancellor's Commission on General and Liberal Education is presumably engaged in revising its preliminary statement. It deserves general encouragement in seeking to reorient UNL's educational emphasis toward a firmer foundation in the liberal arts.

Once bitten . . .

Soviet 'pullout' subject to scrutiny

The withdrawal of 8,000 Soviet troops last week from Afghanistan, where the Soviet Union has been helping Afghan communists fight Moslem rebels since 1979, looks like a significant move toward peace in the region — except for two things.

First, of course, the 8,000 represent only a fraction of the total Soviet troop commitment in Afghanistan. An estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers are still in the country, which hardly indicates the USSR is close to giving up its struggle to stabilize its communist puppet regime in Afghanistan. The fact remains that the Soviet Union invaded a sovereign nation seven years ago to install a government of its own choosing — and it hasn't given up on that goal.

The second point: The Soviets apparently don't have 8,000 fewer troops in Afghanistan than they did a few weeks before the pullout. While the Soviets were trotting out their propaganda machine to get the most political leverage from the pullout, U.S. Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger and Pakistani President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq were saying the Soviets sent several thousands fresh troops into Afghanistan before the pullout. If true, the "withdrawal" was

merely a troop rotation.

It's true that American intelligence could be limited by our relative lack of allies in the area. But Zia's in a position to know — and to care. Not only are the Afghan rebels fellow Moslems, but Pakistan shares a border with Afghanistan. If the Soviets ever decide to move farther south toward the warm-water ports they've wanted for so long, Pakistan could become a battleground.

Zia noted that the Soviet Union announced a "withdrawal" four years ago, but instead replaced the departing soldiers with fresh troops. He's right to say, "We are once bitten and we are twice shy." The only withdrawal Zia or anyone in the West cares about is the one in which all Soviet troops leave Afghanistan and the Afghan people are allowed to choose their own government.

The Soviet "pullout" that wasn't a pullout reminds us again to beware of blatant propaganda ploys. One can't expect the Soviet government to give the entire picture to a media system that it runs itself. When the Soviets remove all their troops from Afghanistan and keep them out, then we'll be ready to believe them.

400 represent rich of rich

Inclusion of Merv Griffin would make Marx laugh in his grave

Fortune magazine came out last week with its annual list of the 400 richest men and women in America. Once again I didn't make it. Neither did any of my friends. But we had a lot of company. Bob Hope didn't even make it this year. Bob must be importing more laughs than he's exporting.

Sam Walton made it, though. He was the big number ONE. In case you haven't heard of him, he's the guy who founded the Wal-Mart chain of discount stores, which are sort of a poor man's Sears. Sam has somewhere around \$4 billion in his checking account. I wonder what his credit limit is. But the big news is that he had only about \$2.6 billion last year. A little addition shows that means he made about \$1.4 billion in the past year. Sam's quite the breadwinner, isn't he?

I don't know what that works out to per hour, but it seems to me that Sam has no need to read "What Color Is Your Parachute?"

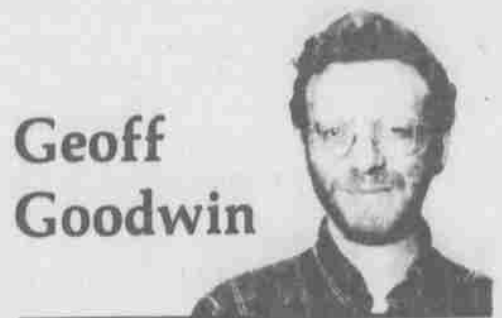
There's a lot of other familiar names on the list — your Rockefellers and your DuPonts.

Pete DuPont — I don't know if he made the list or not, but I bet he'd be on the honorable mention list — is running for President in '88. I guess being filthy rich and governor of Delaware just isn't enough for some people.

DuPont has proposed that all high-school kids be subjected to mandatory drug testing. What a waste. If Pete's really serious about this, all he has to do is send them to that place that Liz Taylor, Betty Ford and Chevy Chase

went to. If Pete can't afford it, I'm sure he could borrow some from the rest of his family.

It makes you wonder why anybody with that much money would want to



Geoff
Goodwin

spend two years of his life sleeping in Holiday Inns and eating banquet food. Power must be a powerful incentive. Or perhaps, it's the free room and board the job offers.

Another thing about the list: Merv Griffin — yes, that Merv Griffin — former talk-show host and the king of inane chatter, made it.

Merv is worth about \$235 million, folks. Who says you have to be talented to make money? Karl Marx must be laughing in his tomb at the news. (Assuming, of course, that Marx reads Fortune.) Nothing that Marx ever wrote is as damning to capitalism as the fact that Merv Griffin is one of the richest men in the country. The only worthwhile contribution Merv ever made to Western Civilization was reviving Jeopardy. Even there he proved to be miserly. It used to be that if you finished second or third you got to keep the money you won. Now, after Merv, you just get some lame-o prizes.

I had a friend who went on Jeopardy, and he got a year's supply of rice. Not even a soldier in the North Vietnamese Army can eat that much rice. And they gave him a pair of tires for a car that he didn't have. So a once-great show is reduced to giving miserly prizes.

If you've read this far you're probably wondering what the point of all this is. Frankly, so am I. I thinking it's something like this.

We love lists like this. The 400 list appeals to some strange, perverted instinct in all of us. We'd like to be on that list — each and every one of us. Fortunately, most of us can handle not making it. But for some reason we look upon this list as a sign of success — that these people have accomplished something.

Of course, a lot of times they have. (Even, perhaps, Merv Griffin.) But some of them have done nothing more than being born with an American Express gold card.

There's none of the drive, the hard-working entrepreneurial spirit that President Reagan claims made this country great in selecting and putting a Rockefeller or a DuPont on the list. They were on it the moment they were born and will be until the day they die. They are America's royalty.

But don't despair, fellow peasants. You can still make something of yourself even if you don't make the list. And if, by chance, some of you out there reading this should ever make the list, don't forget your friends.

Goodwin is a graduate student and a Daily Nebraskan night news editor.

Conservatism and Reagan's urinal lead to '90s progressive period

In his new book, "Cycles of American History," Professor Arthur Schlesinger Jr., with that didactic flair that has made him so obnoxious so much of the time (actually, he is mellowing), speaks of the upcoming cycle in American politics. It is due in the vicinity of 1990, when what we may as well call the "conservative" period, capped by Ronald Reagan, will yield to what we may as well call another "progressive" period, of the kind we had under Teddy Roosevelt (1901), FDR (1933) and JFK (1961). Cycle-stuff is perhaps more interesting to historians than to laymen, but it is worth noting what The American Spectator has come up with for its October issue.

The Spectator is a lively monthly, one part sheer jape, another solemn as Cotton Mather, which for 19 years, under the spirited leadership of R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr., has traveled from a kind of college conservative "Animal House" to true distinction, with scholarly features giving extensive attention to professors renowned and obscure, journalists with readable opinion, the lot of them having the common objective of finding liberal political dogma quite utterly rotten, aesthetically, empirically and philosophically. It is a most wonderful tonic, recommended to all who like a touch of ephyrean springwater, with maybe a touch of Southern Comfort.

The current issue has as one of its features a symposium on what Ronald Reagan should focus on in his two remaining years, a wonderful cornucopia of suggestions written, one hastens to remark, before the Iceland Summit, which had it been anticipated might have mixed up some of the suggested agenda. But we have here 19 conservatives giving out free advice, some of it tongue-in-cheek, some of it deadly serious, and it is worthwhile pondering this rich assortment before resolving that a few years from now conservative energy in the United States will have been swept away by one of those professorial cycles.

On the matter of the succession, one is amused by Jeffrey Hart's brief survey of the opposition. "Maybe for the first time in history, the presidency will

remain vacant for the years 1988-92. Mario Cuomo would be a potent candidate in the year 1986. He would certainly carry the Dust Bowl. In 1988, he would carry the poor people of the Dis-

William F. Buckley Jr.



trict of Columbia, period. Sen. Gary Hart is a nice fellow, but he has a problem. He seems to be a Sandinista."

On one point, a half-dozen conservatives home in, with near-objurgative obsession, namely the need to do away with the ABM Treaty. They judge it a bad historical mistake and an impediment to the SDI of possible fatal consequence. One observer feels that the Reagan Revolution "is now concentrated in the departments of Justice and Education. Attorney General Edwin Meese and Education Secretary William Bennett have built able staffs of true believers, young persons who have somehow avoided both the budget-cutting blues and the corruption of Washington's money culture."

The formidable Edwin Feulner, the head of the Heritage Foundation, says

that Reagan has no alternative than to deal substantially with Social Security, with the view eventually to privatizing care for the elderly. Vic Gold says that Reagan needs to be careful about the matter of stylistic deterioration, an awful temptation during the last two years. "What, for example, was the president of the United States doing this past spring, taking part in the trendy banal 'Hands Across America' exercise? . . . Who could possibly have talked the president into the idea that an Oval Office urinal was a fitting salvo in his 'war against drugs'? The presidency is a bully pulpit, yes; but a bully pissoir?"

Several admirers of Ronald Reagan are most excited about what is gradually going by the name of the Reagan Doctrine. The Truman Doctrine said: Hold the Communists in place; the Brezhnev Doctrine said: Nothing that was ever ours will ever be alienated. The Reagan Doctrine says: Anybody willing to fight for freedom will have our help (money and arms, not Marines).

And Joseph Sobran says: "It isn't critically important that Reagan do anything in particular in his remaining years as president. . . . He has made conservatism seem inevitable."

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Buckley is founder of the National Review magazine.

Letter

Student says accreditation not proven

I read with interest the front-page story on "nature doctors" (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 9). While I haven't made a decision on how I feel about this type of alternate health care, I do find mention of "an accredited four-year naturopathic college" lacking in proof. A thorough scan of "Lovejoy's College Guide" (Monarch Press, 1983) curiously does not mention any programs in naturopathy. Nor is there any mention in "Health Careers Guidebook," (U.S. Department of Labor and HEW, 1979).

Perhaps the Daily Nebraskan can

investigate and do a follow-up article on the education and accreditation process. In fact, I challenge the DN to find a school in the United States that has a program accredited by any of the six regional accrediting associations or an accrediting body approved by the Department of Education or the Council on Postsecondary Education. Could it be that I'm wasting four years of my life?

Jay Hinkhouse
sophomore
UNMC