

# Editorial

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## Money not needed? Bennett needs more education

**S**urprise, folks. The amount of money you pay for your education each semester is going up because the colleges want it that way. At least, that's what Secretary of Education William Bennett would have you believe.

Bennett told an audience at Washington's Catholic University two weeks ago that continued increases in student aid give colleges and universities an excuse to raise tuition beyond what inflation justifies. Colleges and universities are basically in good financial shape, he said, thanks to increases in donations, better earnings on endowments and tuition increases made possible by "loan subsidies" from the government.

Now, anyone remotely familiar with NU's financial woes knows Bennett is missing the boat, at least in this case. And Bennett's major solution to rising loan costs — transferring interest payments from government to students — leaves a lot to be desired.

But let's return to rising costs. Colleges and universities are great at raising money today, Bennett says; in fact, they apparently raise tuition because they know the market will allow it. Why? "When the federal government is expected to help meet a large share of the difference between a student's wherewithal and the college's charges," he says, "colleges can more easily afford to let costs rise." If you can't afford higher tuition yourself, he says,

you can always get a government loan.

That's possible. It's also true that the NU Foundation raised \$22.4 million in 1985-86, setting an all-time record. But when NU is subjected to a midyear budget-cut game year after year — to say nothing of rising costs in insurance, utilities and other things — it's hard to argue that the university is awash in money. Tuition costs don't just go up at the whim of the institution.

As for the loan program Bennett advocates, it looks good on the outside. There wouldn't be a minimum payment; payments wouldn't be higher than \$50 per month during the first two years; students could borrow more and repay over a longer period. But making them pay the interest themselves, which they haven't had to do before, increases their financial burden during the years they make the least money.

One more thought: If Bennett's right about schools' so-called "greed factor" — which seems highly unlikely at NU — how likely would such schools be to hold down costs when they know students can borrow larger amounts?

Bennett has talked some sense in the past, as when he suggested some colleges and universities could do more to improve their educational product. But he doesn't totally understand why costs go up, and his solution for controlling federal education spending leaves students a bit cold. This time, Bennett should go back and start over.

## On-the-job child care

### Procter & Gamble sets good example

**T**he Procter & Gamble Co. of Cincinnati is setting a good example.

Procter is one of a number of companies offering child-care assistance to their employees, a number that has increased dramatically over the last several years.

About 2,500 companies offered day-care advice, programs or financial help last year. That number is up from 110 in 1978, 600 in 1982 and 1,850 in 1984, the Council on Economic Priorities reported. The increase is significant, but the report noted that the number is far short of what is needed. Approximately 44,000 companies in the United States

have more than 100 employees.

In leading the way the Procter company offers two months paid leave for new mothers, six months unpaid leave for new parents, and flexible benefits. The company has \$375,000 on two community day-care centers that give priority to its workers and \$35,000 to help open a referral service.

Child care is becoming a more important issue every year as the number of women in the work force increases. The reports said that in 1970, 24 percent of women with children under 1 year old were working. In 1985, it was 49 percent. At this point, child care should be considered as important as pension plans and medical benefits.

## Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the fall 1986 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Jeff Korbek, editor; James Rogers, editorial page editor; Gene Gentrup, managing editor; Todd Von Kampen, editorial page assistant and Tammy Kaup, associate news editor.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its

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According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.



## 'Oh, Jerome, take me away'

### Sleepy Southwestern town harbor for societal 'dropouts'

**S**ometimes it all starts to get to me — the studying, the stress, the social pressures — and I think how nice it would be to escape. Just take off. Mark my mail, "Return to sender, address unknown."

Some people go clean condos at Colorado ski resorts; others hide in the crowds of big cities.

Not me. If I ever decide to drop out of life, I know where I'll go.

Jerome, Arizona. There's not even a newspaper there. The last one, a monthly, folded a few years ago.

Only one paved road leads in and out of town. The highway's hairpin curves and sharp drop-offs make it a testing ground for new Jaguars, VWs and Chryslers.

Four-wheel drive is as essential as good birth-control methods. But even with it, the town's residents get snowed in occasionally. The kids get out cardboard and slide in the streets. Sometimes the adults do too. But mostly they spend those dark winter evenings in the town's taverns. "There's a lot of warm drinks served," says Nancy Smith, Jerome's vice mayor.

Smith, a 43-year-old from "back East," is a dropout herself. She came to Jerome 14 years ago to visit a friend. After two weeks, she sent for her things. She hasn't been able to leave since.

"I couldn't get out," she says. "It just has always held me."

Smith is curator and archivist of Jerome Historical Society. She can tell you just about anything about the old mining town.

Jerome was incorporated in 1883 and peaked back in 1928. About 15,000 people lived there, and three companies mined gold, copper, silver.

But by 1953, the mines had closed and the town's population dwindled to less than 100 — mostly retired miners, their families and professionals who just didn't want to leave. It was pretty much a ghost town.

In the 1960s, the "hippies" and artists began to move into the town's abandoned buildings and fix them up. They feuded with the oldtimers at first.

But gradually the two factions came together to keep the town alive. Visitors today discover a thriving artists' colony, a conspicuous lack of commercialism and a sense of peace.

Despite the rapid population growth in the valley below and a steady trickle of tourism to the mountaintop, Jerome residents feel an enduring sense of isolation — a detachment from the rest of the world. An essence.

"It's a very relaxed place. A leisurely atmosphere. People are just into doing their own thing. They valley is red-necked and narrow-minded," Smith said. "Jerome is not."



Lise Olsen

But Jerome, too, is growing, at a rate of about 10 new faces a year. It's not Arizona's typical flock of snowbird retirees — the average is 39.

"Most people come to see a friend and fall in love," Smith says.

Others just see the 276 buildings perched on the mountaintop and feel drawn.

Today, about 90 percent of the town structures, built mostly between 1910 and 1930, are used by the 480 or so residents.

At city limits, Jerome is 5,000 feet above sea level and the city streets climb another 1,500 feet. Every home has a view. A lot of them are on stilts, "you look out your door on a neighbors' roof," Smith says.

Things don't change much in Jerome. But life goes on even when they do.

Back in about 1926, a couple of accidental mining explosions rocked the town and began shifting the fault that lies just below Jerome's surface. In the next dozen years, a whole block of main-street buildings fell down the mountain. One man locked his hardware store one Saturday afternoon; when he unlocked the door the next

day, he was temporarily blinded by a strange cloud of dust. When it cleared, the back of his store was gone.

One building on the ill-fated block survived — the old town jail. Folks call it the "sliding jail," because it moved more than 200 feet, across the road and down from its original site.

No natural forces have shaken the town since the 1950s. But the town's residents were very shaken up by the events of 1985.

Fourteen Jerome residents were arrested by federal investigators in a marijuana-ring round-up in October 1985. Among them were the vice mayor, a council member, the chief of police (Jerome has a force of three) and a former mayor.

"It was like we were on a blanket and got thrown into the air. Fourteen people were pulled out of their beds, some were with other people, some were by themselves," Smith said.

A helicopter bearing reporters and cameramen landed near the old town jail. The story made the New York Times.

And nobody in Jerome much liked the attention.

More than a year later, things are nearly back to normal in Jerome. The world doesn't bother Jerome and Jerome doesn't bother the world.

The big news — explosions at Chernobyl, attacks on Libya, arms deals with Iran — comes to the mountain through TV and radio broadcasts. Sometimes the tavern current-events discussions get pretty heated. But mostly folks mind their own business. They live and let live.

"We've been called anarchists, which may or may not be true," Smith says. "We are a community."

There will always be a Jerome, whether the tourists are there or not, Smith says. Even if the buildings start falling again or the geologists playing around in the old mine discover that vein of gold the oldtimes say runs right through town, Jerome will survive.

It always has. "There's something here," Smith says.

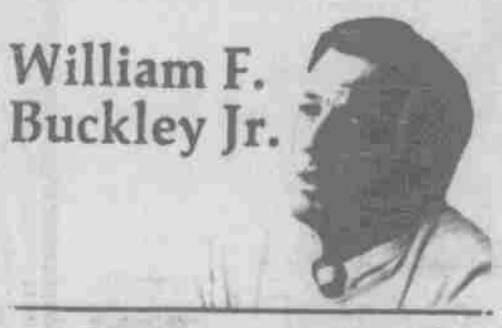
Olsen is a senior news-editorial major.

## The thrill of an off-course chase; Reagan's critics lose track of facts

**H**ere is an aspect of the imbroglia in Washington we ought to reflect upon; namely, the thrill of the chase.

It is a documented psychological phenomenon. We are separated from the beasts by the all-important possession of a soul, which, pace Charles Darwin, makes us closer to God than to a gorilla. But many appetites of the gorilla we do have. When we are hungry,

William F. Buckley Jr.



we lust, we violate sacredly proffered oaths, destroy families, become single-minded in our pursuit. And when we ride the hounds, little seems to matter other than to corner our quarry and destroy him.

This is an instinct one feels when on horseback pursuing a fox. It is the identical feeling of the spectator at a

we will even kill in order to eat. When

See BUCKLEY- on 5