

Daily  
Nebraskan  
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## Small victory

*NU Foundation makes symbolic move*

Anti-apartheid protesters have won a symbolic victory. The NU Foundation, in a welcome move, has announced that it will partially divest of companies doing business in South Africa.

Although the divestment is only partial, following principles used for a state law on divestment, it shows that the private fund-raising arm of the University of Nebraska has acknowledged its quasi-public status.

The move also shows that the foundation was responsive to demonstrations in favor of divestment in the UNL community.

But the move means more symbolically than it does in substance.

Foundation President Terry Fairfield said the new policy would affect only one investment, worth \$1 million. And that investment probably no longer will be on the state's forbidden list of investments by Oct. 1, when the foundation plans to divest.

In effect, the foundation will be able to adopt its new policy without making anything but a symbolic move.

Even if Abbott Laboratories -- the company on the state list -- remains on the list, the foundation wouldn't directly do much to change apartheid in South Africa by pulling out its investment. Nor would the foundation lose much of its fund-raising total.

But the foundation apparently listened to the message of those who demonstrated for divestment. Now that message will be sent to corporations and to the South African government.

Protesters probably will continue their efforts toward complete divestment. But in asking for such a policy, the foundation can no longer be singled out, because it has stepped into line with state law.

State law, not foundation policy, is where any push for further divestment should originate.

A new system of classifying investments should be part of discussion on any new state law. The current principles allow for too much fluctuation.

Currently, firms that deal in South Africa are placed in four categories. Investments in companies considered to be making progress toward equality are exempt from the investment ban.

Abbott Laboratories apparently will fall through that loophole by October.

Another loophole lawmakers may want to consider is the foundation's private status.

Those seeking to verify divestment will have to take the foundation's word for it because of the organization's private status. Fairfield said the foundation would not disclose investments in its portfolio.

But as long as good faith is the only way to monitor investments, divestment will have more symbolic value than substance.

And the bottom line will continue to be apartheid.

-- Eric Pfanner  
for the Daily Nebraskan

## Americans should support programs that benefit all

Although I know little about you Andrew Meyer, because I am not a daily DN reader, your letter (DN, Sept. 18) prompted me to write. I just wondered if you are taking into consideration the fact that supporting something you might find personally offensive is part of being a U.S. citizen?

I, as a taxpayer, fund such things as the U.S. military involvement in the Iraqi invasion (which may lead to war), which I may not personally agree with because of my religious beliefs. My parents "supported" through taxes the Vietnam War, although they were personally against it. That is just a part of our representational government. Just because you do not directly benefit from the National Endowment for the Arts does not mean that some other tax-paying citizen would not.

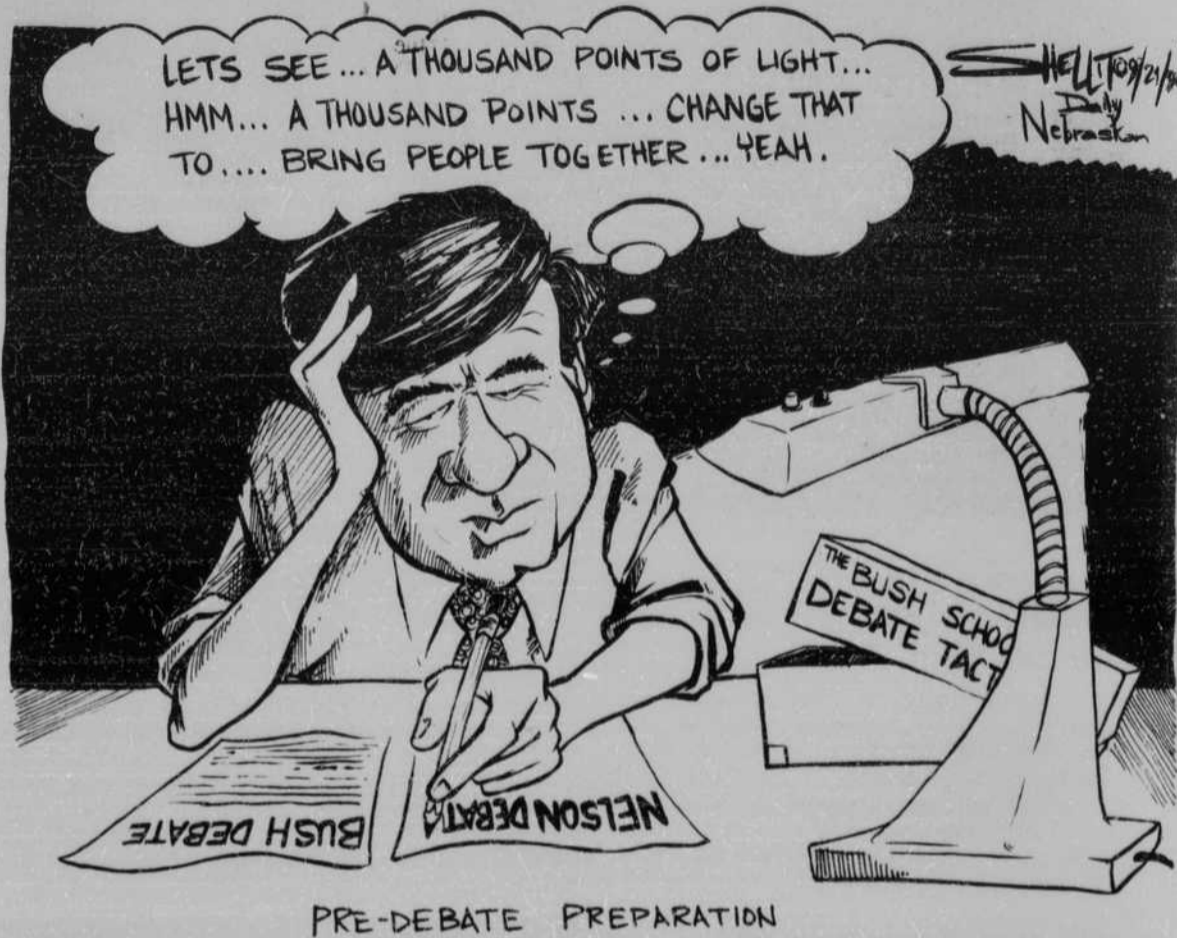
As far as art standing on its own in the free market, should education and health be there too? Being a pre-med major, I am sure you realize what a

big business health care has become. Do you then agree with the rationality that the person who can pay for the operation gets it? Is that the type of "free marketplace" you want?

I, as a human being, have compassion for people in general, and demand my freedom (even though it costs) as a U.S. citizen, whether that be through an endowment for the arts, or healthcare agencies for the needy (neither of which I may directly benefit from.)

It seems as though you are either very selfish, or you want to change our style of government or you see the world more materialistic than humanistic -- all of which I do not agree with. I say abolish the "if I don't directly benefit from the service, why should I have to pay for it" attitude!

Nina Neubert  
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PRE-DEBATE PREPARATION

## Imagination yields to information

*Someone somewhere told us we couldn't dance, act, sing, write poetry*

My roommate used to be a poet. She was pretty damn good, too, although I've only read two of her poems. They're hanging on the wall in our kitchen.

One of them is about flying, and the other is about growing up. At the bottom of the poems it says, "by Kelly, July 6, '80."

She wrote both of them when she was 12 years old.

Kelly doesn't write much poetry anymore. She reads a lot of it for her English classes, and she writes about what she reads, but she doesn't write the poems themselves. And we haven't put anything new on the kitchen wall lately.

That's not unusual for a college student. Unless someone keeps telling us that our poems are good, that we can make a living from them, we don't tend to post them on the kitchen wall.

Robert Fulghum wrote an article for Newsweek about that, as part of a special edition on how to teach our kids.

Fulghum, the man who wrote, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," and "It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on it," says in the article that "society puts its best foot forward in kindergarten and first grade."

He goes through a series of questions asked of children in kindergarten -- how many can draw, sing, dance, act and write poetry.

The vote is unanimous each time. No one has yet told the children that they can't do these things, so they are more than willing to try them, and ready to show off their skills.

Fulghum then says to ask those same questions of a college audience. Any positive responses, he says, probably will be qualified with answers like "I only draw horses. I only dance to rock 'n' roll. I only sing in the shower."

Somewhere along the line, someone told us we couldn't draw, sing,

dance, act or write poetry. Or at least told us we couldn't make a living at it. So we stopped trying.

Fulghum goes on to talk about how we are sent to school to learn the rules and regulations of society, "because we believe that knowledge is better than ignorance."

Children run up and down the street. They skip and dance and play furiously every day. Grown people don't

would probably be good enough only to line the bottom of the bird cage. And I can dance, but I'll probably never be asked to perform on "Star Search."

Fulghum ends his article with a list of things that he learned during all his years of teaching. One of them is that "imagination is more important than information."

But beyond kindergarten and first grade, with a few exceptions, the opposite is true. Very few teachers are more concerned with helping students push the limits of their imagination than with teaching them a select group of facts.

And very few students are as concerned with thinking as they are about memorizing the material for their next test.

Maybe that's the wrong way to go about things. How many people would be dancing in the streets if they hadn't been told that it was unacceptable behavior?

And how many people would be writing poetry if they hadn't been told that writing poetry was not a very serious career move?

My roommate will probably never be asked to give a poetry reading, although I have no doubts that she could do it well. Kelly's given up poetry-writing for more "serious" studies. She's going to be an optometrist.

And that's not necessarily a bad thing. The world needs eye doctors, and Kelly has wanted to be an optometrist for a long time.

She's worked hard at it too -- a lot harder than she ever worked at being a poet.

But until she starts practicing as an optometrist, the things she has to show for her work are not as tangible as the poems she wrote when she was 12.

After all, Kelly doesn't frame her chemistry exams for the kitchen wall.

Edwards is a senior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan Diversions editor, the writing coach and a columnist.



Amy  
Edwards

do that. Somewhere along the line, someone told us that it is not "normal" behavior for adults to sing and dance in the street (unless it's raining out and they're barefoot).

So we send our children to school to learn the things that are important in life, the things that "everyone should know" -- things like reading, writing and multiplying fractions.

But by teaching children the same set of facts, and giving them the same requirements, we teach them that it is OK -- in fact that it's good -- to be like everyone else. We take away their originality and sap their imagination.

We tip the scales toward necessary tools for success and away from electives like dance, choir and art classes. Those things are nice, but we don't really need them to get along in society.

I don't know about you, but I probably will never have to multiply fractions to get along in life. But if somebody were to ask me "do you know how to multiply fractions?" my answer would be yes.

If the same person were to ask me if I could sing, or draw or dance, my answer would be a little less positive. I can sing, but you'd probably cover your ears. I can draw, but my drawing

## letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to sub-

mit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Letters should be typewritten.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.