

Editorial

Priceless...

The battle between liberals and conservatives rages on. The liberals favor a cooperative policy, one that gives aid to those in need. The conservatives argue that to give support to the poor and needy encourages failure and mediocrity. They favor a strict free market approach that rewards enterprise and success. The conservatives argue that true competition encourages quality and achievement.

The African problems shatter the idea that need is always caused by laziness or lack of motivation.

There are times when the strong should help the weak. American history is a story of cooperation as well as competition. A blend of these approaches is necessary.

A minor skirmish in this continuing debate was fought on campus Wednesday. Provost Ruth Levanthal met with members of the Humanities Department to discuss the needs and fate of the humanities at Capitol Campus.

The faculty presented the provost with a partial list of improvements they thought were necessary to their department and the campus. The provost in turn presented the faculty with a list of reasons why their requests could not attract funding.

The humanities do not have bottom line benefits. The arts are not a growth industry. Economic development is the focus of the people and agencies who fund University programs. Humanities may get left behind because its economic benefits can't be demonstrated in the same way that business or engineering training can. These are some of the points Levanthal used to explain her position.

The implication is the humanities are not competing successfully and should be abandoned. But, there are considerations beyond economics.

Some things are priceless. This is what a thing beyond value is called. Priceless. The word creates thoughts of wealth that cannot be measured.

The Hope Diamond, the largest in the world, is priceless. There are a few other gems that have worth because they are unique. Some are the largest. Others have a richness of color. They are all priceless.

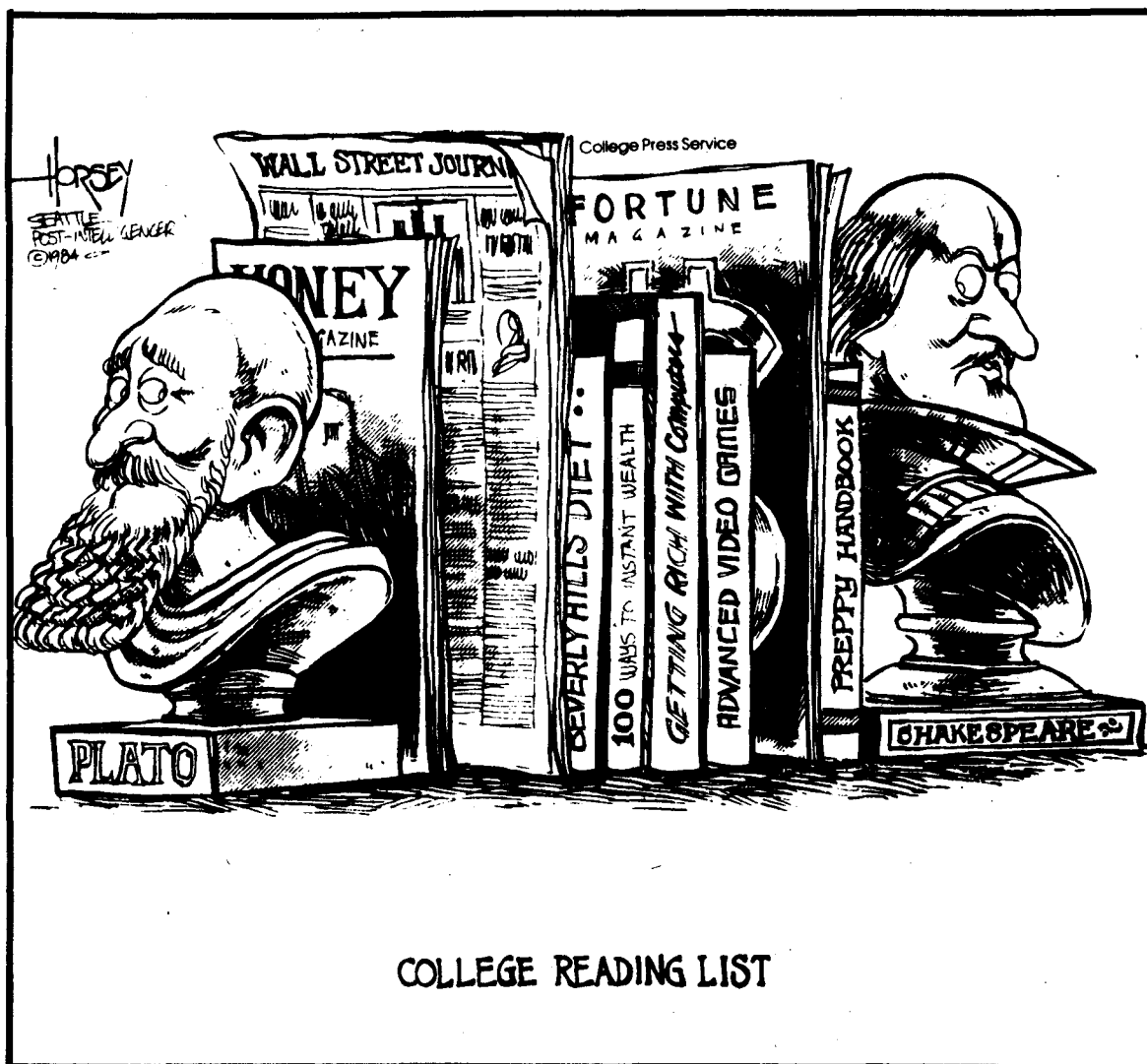
But, the treasures we most prize are not accidents of nature. They are the result of human effort: A rare piece of ancient sculpture; the recorded history of mankind; An original manuscript by Shakespeare. All are priceless.

These are pieces of a puzzle that tell us who we are and what we have done. They are essential in helping us discover where we are going. They are priceless.

There are things that have value that can't be measured by money. Human activity at its best is not dictated by economics. It is moved by a need to know and understand.

We need our scientists and technicians to know the human past and present of their efforts.

We need the humanities. They are priceless.



COLLEGE READING LIST

“TV is my guide”

Television has really helped me to become a better person. I had been going through life convinced my parents had shown me the proper way to act, but a closer inspection of television's more popular shows has shown me a better way. I have learned varied things covering the whole spectrum from how to treat women to how to drive my car properly.

The old me thought that women actually meant what they said. If they gave “no” signals it meant no, “yes” signals meant yes. From “Three's Company” and “Too Close for Comfort” I learned that yes means no and I have been able to save myself from some potentially embarrassing situations. The Suzanne Somers character on “Three's Company” and the blond daughter on “Too Close for Comfort” shattered my original idea of women. Although they wear clothes so tight it would be impossible for a wrinkle to ever form, this in no way means they are trying to attract men. Every time either of these characters has invited a man to be alone with them, the poor sucker falls for the same trap I would have fallen for and actually tries to make sexual advances. The audience cheers as our heroines slap the faces of these sexual perverts. Armed with this knowledge, I have been able to turn down the last five invitations from women who asked me to go back to their apartments. Although I have been taking many cold showers lately, at least I have been saved

from making several social faux pas.

I thought the proper way to deal with people in a business setting was to treat them fairly and establish a good reputation. From J.R. Ewing in “Dallas” I learned that you should try to give the shaft to your friends at every opportunity and try to ruin their lives as well as their businesses. In my experience however, I have found it hard to bring a person to his knees when the largest purchase I made was \$200 for

Cynicism & Humor



Alan Pincus

auto repairs. Maybe I'll have to wait until I have a larger income before I try to ruin people's lives. But, at least now I'm ready.

In the old days I thought if I ever struck it rich, I'd settle down to a life of leisure and comfort. Now, through watching “Hart to Hart” and “Matt Houston,” I have learned that if one becomes a millionaire the proper ambition should be to get people to shoot guns at your head at least once a week. I'm so stupid that I would never have figured this one out on my own, I had an innate fear of guns, but it's obvious that all these gangsters

and hit men can't hit even a stationary target, so my fears were unjustified.

I was taught to be a defensive driver and never learned the joy of putting the accelerator to the floor. By watching “The Dukes of Hazard” I have learned that when you are put into a difficult situation in an automobile, the best way to get out of trouble is to gun the engine and try to get the car airborne if possible. Just recently I was approaching a large pothole in the highway. My misguided instincts told me to slow down and avoid contact at all costs. However, having just watched the Duke boys in a similar situation, I put the pedal to the metal and tried to jump it. For some reason my 1970 Volkswagen did not go airborne like the “General Lee” and I suffered extensive damage underneath. Maybe this is a blessing in disguise as it may give me an opportunity to screw my auto mechanic in a business deal.

I'm sure there are many other lessons I can learn from TV. Just the other day I saw a great soap opera. It showed what you do to your neighbor's wife when he goes away on a business trip. I'll have to try it out as soon as possible. I've learned that my instinctive reactions are probably the result of an improper upbringing and I have been able to turn my personality around. I think that television can be a great learning tool and everybody can change their lives for the better as I have done.

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