From: "John Ziegenhagen" <ziege006@UMN.edu>
To: "John Ziegenhagen" <ziege006@UMN.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2005 10:32 AM
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U calls this a role model?

The University of Minnesota administration wants us to become "one of the top three public univer-
world." They cite Berkeley as a model worthy of emulation. I disagree.

Each year, the University of California-Berkeley becomes more elitist and intellectually impover-
shores up its position in the U.S. News and World Report rankings. Last year, the number of Af-
students admitted to UCB dropped 29 percent, from 298 students in 2003 to 211. Other popula-
texperienced steep declines, as well. That is just one example of how the race for rankings has i-
UCB.

I earned my Ph.D. at Berkeley. That is why it hurts me to see UCB turn its back on educational
authentic excellence.

Now, the University of Minnesota is taking the same tack. The average ACT score of students f
who earn less than $30,000 is 17.8. The average ACT score of a student whose family makes $100,000 is 23.3. With more selective and restrictive admissions, the U of M student body will b
and whiter. Why won't the administration just admit that?

MARK PEDELTY

Minneapolis

The writer is an assistant professor for the general college at the University of Minnesota.

Mike Adler's April 14 letter, "Research is good; access is better," asserted that improving resear-
the University of Minnesota would come at the expense of the U's charter purpose, to make edc
available to qualified Minnesotans. In reality, the U has three missions, none of which is too exp-

It is a research institution, churning out ideas, copyrights and scientific miracles that create eno
in the Minnesota economy. It also is a learning institution for students who benefit from a stellar
environment. The U is training these students to achieve in a globally competitive economy, a n
impossible feat without first-class research capabilities. These students will be your doctors, law
teachers in a few years — we shouldn't limit their educational experience.

Finally, the U is a public service organization, applying expertise to local problems (as required
grant charter). The Agricultural Extension service is one example of this, and it relies on the University's status as a top research institution.

Watering down any of these would make the U ineffectual. Every Minnesotan has a stake in the University and should demand that legislators invest in each of these missions.

LOREN RAE DEJONGE

Minneapolis

How many guns will make us safe?

I admit that it is entirely possible that an armed guard might have shot the assailant in Red Lake lives. However, I don't think that's the point.

Where do we stop? Should schools have their own bomb squads, their own nuclear defense with many weapons does it take to be safe?

If there was another school attack, an armed guard may come in handy, much like a scuba tank handy if you drove your car into a lake. Should we start encouraging people to wear scuba tank drive? Minnesota does have a lot of lakes.

School violence is tragic. Student safety is important. But I, for one, believe that always preparing for the absolute worst is a pretty sad way to live your life.

STEVE CRANE

North St. Paul

In response to Carol Olson's April 11 letter, in which she claims that a letter writer blamed the shootings on President Bush because he didn't respond quickly enough, I do not understand this blame the shootings on the president?

It is true that he did not respond immediately, unlike his predecessor after the Columbine shooting. It is the president's responsibility to respond to tragedies immediately and not wait four or five days. What great leadership he would have shown had he said a that tragic event. But, alas, he did not.

TOBY OBERG

Roseville

Ruben Rosario's April 11 column on "school shooters" has one suspiciously glaring omission: the hugely disproportionate number of these disturbed youths (including Red Lake's Jeff Weise) who were on psychotropic drugs. One wonders why he left out this obvious connecting thread.

Even the timing of school shootings is provocative. Kids brought guns to school for more than a without incident; the killings only started after doctors began prescribing these drugs to teenage numbers, despite their known homicidal and suicidal side affects.

Or is this yet one more example of the mainstream media avoiding anything that might steer att from "guns" as the problem? After all, Rosario has no trouble vilifying those who advocate arms calling them "knee jerkers," in spite of the fact that in the only incidents where school shooters were successfully stopped it was by armed students and teachers.

JOHN CAILE
Eden Prairie

The writer is the spokesman for Concealed Carry Reform Now.

Low taxes help charities

During the current legislative session, DFL Sen. John Hottinger used clergymen as political pawns collectively suggested that it was "sinful" for Gov. Tim Pawlenty not to raise taxes.

It's important to note that some of the Twin City clergy publicly backed the wrong horse in the lam
election; they are glad to have a shot at trying to embarrass the state's Republican administration

The redistribution of wealth from rich to poor has always been a key liberal strategy. But one of efficient ways to get more money into the hands of those in need is to process it through a middle
state government. The best thing the governor can do to help all citizens is to keep the economy keeping taxes low — which is just what he's doing.

Charitable contributions can be a much more efficient way for those "more blessed" to transfer those in need. Because of Gov. Pawlenty's more responsible tax policies, many citizens have more and available — for tax-deductible donations to worthwhile organizations of their choice.

JOHN HOLLEY

Ironton