Why a great 'U' matters

"A few years ago, I went to an event here on campus that honored the late world-renowned Regents Prof. Paul Meehl. He said something in his response that evening that I want to echo tonight. Meehl ... accepted this latest in a life filled with awards, accolades, honors and distinctions by thanking the taxpayers of Minnesota. He understood, as I do, that it is the people of Minnesota who, through their willingness to pay the taxes, allowed this university to grow, flourish and provide advanced education for the sons and daughters of miners and merchants, of farmers and construction workers, of truck drivers and shoe shiners.

"Sadly, that horizon of greatness in education and opportunity is no longer embraced by our state's elected leaders. They seem willing to trade in Minnesota's tradition of excellence and affordability in higher education for a growing reputation of mediocrity that is shameful, shabby and cheap in every sense of the word. It is one of the reasons I support [President] Bob Bruininks' efforts to return this university to a nationally ranked and respected research institution."

D.J. Leary, accepting an award Thursday from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota.

Everybody needs an editor

A commercial for an antidepressant shows an actress remarking, "And I have to say it's nice that there's a low risk
of sexual side effects." Or that the risk of sexual side effects is low?

**Blow, winds!**

"A lively and lasting sense of filial duty is more effectually impressed on the mind of a son or daughter by reading 'King Lear,' than by all the dry volumes of ethics, and divinity, that ever were written."

**Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Robert Skipwith, 1771.**

*From the editorial staff*