

If colleges and universities do not teach the necessary and historic methods of arriving at truth, they will fall short

— Bohanon

COMMERCE

Of Wal-Mart's enemies, unions understandably want a piece of its pie But Wal-Mart would not be nearly as competitive if it had to pay the artificially high wages demanded by unions — or to deal with the inevitable inefficiencies associated with union representation

— Schansberg

as much as rediscover its ancient and lasting values

At the Miller College of Business at Ball State, we have been asking business leaders for a number of years what they are

looking for in college graduates. In the fall of 2003, I had the privilege of discussing this issue with the business-laden advisory board to the college. Interestingly, what they told us was in line with what other colleges of business are hearing.

The business community's concern with recent graduates is not that they are technically incompetent. The students are well-versed in their major areas of study. Accounting graduates know accounting, marketing graduates know marketing. However, what graduates lack is the ability to integrate knowledge from a variety of areas. They lack the ability to see problems from the overall perspective of the business.

The advisory board listed a number of desired attributes for graduates. Businesses are looking for graduates who have broad knowledge, who have an ability to make connections and see the larger picture. They want graduates who are self-starters, who can think analytically and logically, who can make inferences and reach conclusions.

In short, businesses are looking for graduates who can access knowledge from many sources to solve real-world problems. Of course, this is exactly what Archimedes did. Education that emphasizes general problem-solving may be more valuable to students, business and the state than many might imagine. This is corroborated by evidence indicating economics majors, trained in more general, interconnected and abstract ways of thinking typically command higher salaries in the long run than majors in more applied fields of business.

The great purpose of higher education historically has been the unrelenting, unbiased and unbought pursuit of truth. We may do many things in the academy, but if we do not emphasize this pursuit and teach the necessary scholarly and critical methods of arriving at truth we will fall short. Perhaps undergraduate higher education needs not so much to reinvent itself

While some of the complaints about Wal-Mart may have merit, most are based on a failure to recognize the workings of competitive markets. Wal-Mart is accused of exploiting workers in a variety of ways. But how can they maintain an active labor force with that reputation? Wal-Mart is accused of seducing the poor to buy their product. But are poor people being attracted by low prices or allured by some

uses which wealthier people often sniff their noses at — immensely popular activities at NASCAR — similar to bowling and romment going back to sports for an analogy. Wal-Mart is a convenient target because they are snobs who would never set foot in such a "low-brow" shopping environment. Wal-Mart is a convenient target because they are snobs who would never set foot in such a "low-brow" shopping environment. Wal-Mart is a convenient target because they are snobs who would never set foot in such a "low-brow" shopping environment.

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COMMERCE

The teacher unions are boycotting stores because of Wal-Mart's support for publicly funded vouchers

— schubenberg

magic formula they're piping through the ventilation? Wal-Mart is accused of forcing American communities to accept box-like buildings. But cities are free to negotiate more suitable arrangements with Wal-Mart — and many have done so. Wal-Mart is accused of making huge profits. But it's also a huge company with prolific sales and its 3.6 percent profit margin is well within the norm.

the retailers who would not need to compete with Wal-Mart. Producers always benefit from restricting their competition — whether farmers or textile companies, whether the post office or the public schools. While professional golfers would love entering tournaments — or allowed him to play with extra weights strapped to his legs — the better answer is not working to eliminate or reduce Tiger, but rising to his level.

Cooperation, not Consolidation

by Jim Herman

There has been much in the news lately encouraging cooperation between city and county government. Most times disappointment, failure, turf battles and stalemates are words used to describe the cooperation — or lack thereof — by these two entities. I take exception to the current trend depicting the two government always as antagonists. I would like to point to a few success stories in the communications field. Until recently, the Allen County Sheriff's Department and the Fort Wayne Police Department were on two different radio systems. We could not talk to each other and we used different radio codes. Communication between the two was through telephone. A city police officer would call his dispatcher to relay a message to a county dispatcher; the county dispatcher would relay the message to the county officer. It often resembled the game "telephone." Precious minutes were often lost because for two officers to talk, four people had to be involved. Where are we now? Through cooperation, the city and the county together purchased a new radio system that is state-of-the-art. We now are on the same system with the same radio codes and officers talking to each other directly. They can be put on talk groups when all are working on the same assignment. They also can communicate with each other through mobile data terminals (computers). The County Dispatch Center can take calls for the city and vice versa. Both dispatch centers can communicate through data terminals, radio or telephone. The centers are next door to each other separated by a glass wall, but

Likewise, the most recent protests have come from the teacher unions — as they encouraged people to boycott Wal-Mart at the start of this school year. Of course, the teacher unions want Wal-Mart to become unionized. And they're upset that Wal-Mart's foundation has financed charitable scholarships for the poor and has supported publicly-funded vouchers. The former is most amusing. When you see people getting upset at charity, you know their selfish interests are being harmed. Forcibly eliminating or restricting Wal-Mart — or any retail store — would hurt consumers, workers and suppliers who would be deprived of legitimate opportunities to buy, to work and to sell. The beneficiaries of such restrictions are



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Indiana Policy Review  
Fall 2005