'Useless' majors important to society

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People love spending lazy days watching television. They love reading novels, going to plays and musicals, playing video games, sightseeing and doing pretty much everything that is considered a leisure activity. Yet, they consistently bash the people who go to college to pursue the areas of study to create these pastimes.

A few years ago, a reporter on NBC's "Today" show said the five most useless college majors were Fine Arts, Drama and Theatre Arts, Film and Video Arts, Graphic Design and Architecture, in that order. The extended list goes on to include Religious Studies, English and even Journalism.

Just searching the internet for a few minutes will reveal hundreds of articles, blog posts and forums specifically about these "worthless" majors. It has become a generally-accepted belief that choosing to major in any of the aforementioned subjects is a waste of time and money.

However, critics often fail to realize that what they're saying is hypocritical. Screenwriters who went to school to study film are producing television shows that people are binge-watching on Netflix. English majors are writing these critics' favorite novels. Journalists are publishing the articles that they're using to support their angry rants about their child's college education going down the drain. Architects are designing buildings they stop and marvel at on vacations. The list continues endlessly.

Truth be told, no one would really see the importance of these career paths unless they were to completely vanish. If everyone thought this way, if all of these careers disappeared because people started listening to critics who bash them, then the world would be in an uproar. All of our main sources of entertainment would vanish, leaving boring

communities filled with nothing but doctors, lawyers, teachers and any other job that society has deemed useful.

Furthermore, how can we even assign a definition of useless in this context? How can we define anything as useless when clearly the public benefits from the people who pursue these majors? Not everyone goes to college with only their future salary in mind.

Money-hungry thinking like this is probably why 52.3 percent of Americans are unhappy with their jobs, according to Forbes, a business magazine. Rather than following their passions, people are following their pockets, striving to make as much money as possible while disregarding their own satisfaction.

In the legal field alone, people study law because of how much money lawyers make, rather than because that's truly where their hearts lie. There are now too many law school students with too few available legal jobs. Those who are actually passionate about law are now turning away from it because of its negative reputation. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, poor job prospects and cut-throat competition aren't exactly appealing to most.

It doesn't matter how successful someone is or how much money they have if they wake up dreading each new day more than the last.

Some people argue that these majors are useless because they lead to unemployment and failed careers. Although no one can ever say for sure that someone will be unsuccessful, someone must have made it work. Many of these majors can lead to some of the highest paying jobs.

This idea of useless majors is causing people to turn away from their dreams and aspirations to pursue something that they believe society has labeled as a worthwhile career path. College students shouldn't graduate and realize a few weeks into their job that they hate what they're going to be doing for the rest of their lives.

Seeking daily entertainment has become so routine for most people that they don't even think about who's responsible for making it happen. Next time you go to look down on someone's major, take a look at your own life. I'd like to see you try to go without the fruits of their labor. ❏