

Entertainment trumps all to detriment of society

"It's still entertainment over education," Faculty Regent Patti Minter observed in Saturday's Daily News. She made the comment at the last WKU Board of Regents meeting.

Minter was the only dissenting vote in an otherwise unanimous decision approving the annual salary for the new football coach. Regardless of where you fall on the sports spectrum, it's hard not to applaud Minter for sticking to her principles and voicing what many consider to be a valid criticism of our current priorities in academe.

Certainly, she is doing what she was elected to do; i.e., represent the faculty perspective to the governing body of the institution.

The more I reflected on her rather simple and straightforward assessment of where academics stands in relation to athletics, however, the more I began to appreciate the profound truth behind her words.

It's not just entertainment over education – its entertainment over everything. We have become a

society that demands to be entertained 24/7. It's the reason many people get up in the morning; it gives meaning to their otherwise banal existence – and it begins early in life.

Many parents will do virtually anything to alleviate the sense of worthlessness and angst that comes from "not having anything to do." Apparently two words that strike utter terror in the hearts of many parents are "I'm bored."

As a young boy, I remember being able to "entertain myself." Somehow I was able to survive in a world without video games, shopping malls, 578 TV channels or the Internet. Today, many would consider such a world the very embodiment of hell.

Look, I'm fairly certain Patti Minter didn't have this interpretation in mind when she made her "entertainment over education" comment last week. I wholeheartedly agree with her; I just hope she realizes how right she really is.

**Aaron Hughey
Bowling Green**