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News Journal

OPINION

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Quote of

“When jobs and cash are in s
legalizing marijuana would
prudent and
— Ka

Sunday, October 25, 200

to seek the
Democrats' 1972
presidential
nomination. So
in an almost
admirably
straightforward
attempt to buy
the votes of the
elderly, he
successfully
championed an
automatic COLA
— cost of living
adjustment
— for Social
Security.

His campaign
fizzled but his
achievement
endures. His
COLA is the
entitlement that
proves that the

system will expand until
on itself.

Obama has now established
Social Security COLA as the
architecture of the
culture that is modern lib-

erating achievement: It is
ent to which you are entitl-

men you are not entitled to
pays 57 million Americans
Social Security beneficiary
ther recipients of federal

s — are entitled to \$250
suage the disappointment
t been injured by inflation.
e cost of living declined 4

year, the 57 million are
to the actual COLA, but
e going to be declared entit-

for the misfortune of not
g misfortune.
y, retirees received a 5.8
LA, the largest since 1982,
ecause of a surge in energy
h since then have declined.
e, after lifetimes of accu-
-americans over 60 have the
worth of any age cohort.
ays “we must act on behalf

EDITORIAL

Career academies work

The move toward focused career academies that let area high school, and even middle school, students immerse themselves in specialized skills that can lead to a lifetime career strikes us as a sound — and needed — adjunct to the traditional educational curriculum.

Certainly, there's still room for a traditional approach for many students. Despite increasing pressure to declare their intended

Technical jobs can offer money that college grads can't earn.

college majors at younger and younger ages, many young people don't figure out what they really want to do until college or even later. There still

needs to be room for students to discover themselves and their future path in a place like college, which exposes them to so much more.

And the academies don't lock students into anything; they can still go on to college. But the students get a chance to decide whether a particular career is right for them through hands-on experience.

It has been clear for years that the traditional, broad-based, liberal arts education path leaves too many students unprepared for life after high school, whether that means college, technical training or going right into the workforce.

And it has been clear that too many students miss out on good, well-paying technical jobs that don't require a college education because

they were never introduced to them or taught the kinds of skills needed. There are plumbers, electricians, programmers and skilled technicians in many fields — such as health care — who can earn more money than many college graduates, while filling positions crucial to the local economy.

For instance, the 43 academies in Escambia County schools introduce students to skills needed in fields such as health care, engineering, criminal justice, culinary arts, Web design, education, design and building construction.

There's also solid evidence that high school academies are good for students' overall academics. As the News Journal reported last week:

■ 97 percent of career academy seniors received a diploma, compared to 88 percent of traditional seniors.

■ The average GPA for an academy senior was 3.11 compared to 2.83 for a traditional senior.

■ Fewer than 3 percent of academy seniors received a suspension, compared to more than 10.5 percent of traditional seniors.

Maybe those numbers reflect the fact that career academy students are more motivated and focused than other students. But if so, the fact these students gravitate to them is a big plus. Too often motivated students are not sufficiently challenged in school. The career academies help provide that challenge.

Part of an effective, efficient school system is its ability to recognize the different career paths students will take, and the ability to provide appropriate, effective educational tracks.

think that what I'm paying for is the cost of the cup, the dispensing machinery and the labor; the soda itself must be practically worthless, since they are willing to give you much more of it for a fraction of the original cost. The soda is pure profit, so the more they sell — at almost any price — the more they make.

Naturally, they try to spend money, not save it. You spend more for what you are buying. They spend by telling you that the portion brings you more.

Now, on to health care.

Opponents of government health care claim that the sector is more efficient. Before provides health care. You must ignore, however, that private insurance companies have a much higher overhead than Medicare because they spend so to weed out, and deny the people they believe all need health care, or payment for procedures doctors for those people how managed to get a p

The insurance companies, told, are there to help our costs and “manage” us “wisely.” That's the bring.
So why can my local pharmacy sell me a



Wernicke
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