

problem-solving skills were highest in students who received 2 years of the special program, next best in those who had 1 year, and worst in those who received the standard curriculum.

The findings of a nationwide survey on the attitudes of Americans toward the arts, conducted by Louis Harris and released this month, found that 9 in 10 Americans believed that when children get involved in the arts in school, they "become more creative and imaginative," "develop skills that make them feel more accomplished," and "learn to communicate well." Over 8 in 10 Americans also feel that exposure to the arts "helps young people develop discipline and perseverance" and helps them "to learn skills that can be useful in a job." The Pawtucket youngsters confirm these beliefs.

My second example stems from a 2-hour public forum organized as part of the 16th International Sculpture Conference in Providence last week. At this meeting, numerous civic, cultural, and business leaders came forward to show how the arts have served to stimulate the economic revival of downtown Providence. What is happening in Rhode Island is happening nationally. Nonprofit arts organizations create nearly \$37 billion in economic activity in the United States every year, and support 1.3 million American jobs.

The arts are one of the best and the cheapest ways of improving the economy. The arts stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns. Roger Mandle at the Rhode Island School of Design has repeatedly demonstrated the importance of design to both the economy and greater ease in every day life. Existing and available cultural resources are frequently cited as one of the prime reasons businesses select to move to a community. The arts can literally turn a community or neighborhood around.

One of the best illustrations of the impact of the arts on the economy is tourism, and tourism is the fastest growing economic market in the United States today. In Providence, the Providence Performing Arts Center and Trinity Square Repertory Company have brought countless audiences to their theaters, with many people spending money on restaurants, shops, parking, and the like that would not do so otherwise without the presence of the arts. Recent discussions among the museums in the downtown area have led to the exciting concept of a Museum Mile connecting these cultural institutions through a collective effort in marketing, fundraising, parking, transportation. The result will attract visitors from all over the country to Providence. When the arts is good, more people are employed, and more taxable income generates more revenue for our State and local municipalities.

There are more artists per square mile living in Providence than in any other city in the United States, and

this number is likely to increase with the passage of proposed State legislation that would provide State income and sales breaks to artists living or working in the central business district. One bill would exempt these artists from paying sales tax on plays, books, musical compositions, paintings and sculpture. A second bill would provide these artists with a personal tax exempt. The Rhode Island House Finance Committee has voted its approval. In praising the effort, Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. states: "These bills, while supporting our artists and arts, promote economic development and tourism and will create a more dynamic synergy among the Arts and Entertainment District, Capital Center and the Province Place mall."

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to consider these examples from Rhode Island, to understand the far-reaching positive impact of the arts on both education and economy, and to join together in a bipartisan effort to appropriate \$136 million for the National Endowment for the Arts as requested by administration. It is important that this agency is funded sufficiently to be able to continue its worthwhile and extremely effective endeavors to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

The recent Harris Poll referenced above shows that Federal support for the arts remains solid and strong. Surprisingly, Harris also found that a 61 percent majority of Americans—to 37 percent saying "no"—would be willing to be taxed \$5 more in order to pay for Federal financial support for the arts. Fully 86 percent of all American adults are exposed to the arts in the course of a year. These people believe the arts to be important and would sorely miss them if they were not there.

#### SENATE PAGES—SPRING CLASS OF 1996

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today the Senate bids farewell to a group of young men and women who have served as U.S. Senate pages for the spring semester.

These young people have been witnesses to vigorous debates on a number of issues of national significance—truly spirited debates. Just this past week, they watched as Senate Dole gave his final speech as a U.S. Senator.

We in the Senate appreciate all that they did to serve the needs of this body—and those needs were many. The Senate pages serve a very valuable and important role in the day-to-day workings of the Senate, and we very much thank them for their work.

As these young people return to their respective communities, it is my hope that they will take with them a better understanding of how this Government works, and understand the necessity of working together to achieve a common goal. Perhaps someday, one or more of them will return as Members of the U.S. Senate.

To the pages, on behalf of myself, the majority leader and all Members of the

Senate, we wish you well, good luck in the years ahead, and we say thank you.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of the names of the pages of the spring class of 1996 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### U.S. SENATE PAGES—SPRING CLASS OF 1996

Tracy R. Clark, Vermont.  
Christie M. Curtis, New Jersey.  
Janelle D'Ambrosio, New York.  
Ford P. Davidson, Washington State.  
Abigail David, Virginia.  
Carl Kean, Arkansas.  
Autumn Fredericks, Mississippi.  
Elisabeth Hagadorn, Michigan.  
Richard Hutchinson, South Dakota.  
Thad Larson, South Dakota.  
Brooke Lawyer, Mississippi.  
J. Wesley McCleave, Alabama.  
Evan Meyer, Indiana.  
Elizabeth Reaves, Vermont.  
Joshuah Roberts, Arkansas.  
Dorothy Robinson, Delaware.  
Heidi Sann, Massachusetts.  
Devin Sullivan, Montana.  
Alyssa Thornburg, Pennsylvania.  
Jennifer Wilking, Wyoming.

#### LAKOTA FUND GROUND BREAKING

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to talk briefly about the tireless efforts being undertaken by a local nonprofit organization in South Dakota to improve the severe economic conditions on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Over the years, numerous national press articles have documented the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation as one of the most impoverished areas in the country. The arid nature of the land lends little to farming and ranching. Banks, department stores, paved roads, and even safe drinking water are not to be taken for granted. Even amidst the stark majesty of its landscape, the vibrant tourism industry of western South Dakota remains a whisper of promise. Quite simply, on the Pine Ridge Reservation, the basic economic infrastructure that we all take for granted, struggles to exist.

Ten years ago, a group of Pine Ridge residents, dedicated to improving their local economy, created a peer lending program called the Lakota Fund. After forming partnerships with private foundations and Federal agencies for seed money, this unique program began processing loans for economic enterprise on the reservation. It mandated enrollment in financial and business training courses and required groups of loan recipients to cosign for each others' loans. This unique lending approach, emphasizing trust over credit, created a strong sense of teamwork in the area that has enabled many budding entrepreneurs to realize their dreams.

Before participating in the program, one young woman was unable to fulfill her dream of buying a house for her family. However, after successfully starting her own business and repaying her loan to the Lakota Fund, she was able to purchase a home, thanks to the establishment of a good credit record.