

Governor should take a 'headmaster's holiday'

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts ranked 48th in per capita spending on public higher education in Fiscal Year 2002. (Chronicle of Higher Education, Jan. 18, 2002).

Since then the massive cuts in all levels of education will likely rank us 50th – dead last – in the country.

When thousands of students, faculty, staff, and other supporters of public higher education protested April 29, Gov. Romney's response was "I understand they got a day off. They must be very happy. I know we used to have something in school called the headmaster's holiday, which was a happy day." (The Republican, April 30). This is absolutely insulting.

Faculty and staff had to use vacation days to attend and students will have to make up their schoolwork.

Nobody should be "happy" about the severity of the budget cuts, whether they deem them necessary or not.

To respond so snidely to such massive budget cuts shows a grave disregard for public education.

Perhaps Romney was too long in Utah and he forgot our commonwealth's history – public education was born in Massachusetts. Maybe Romney's plan is for Massachusetts to take a permanent "holiday" from supporting public education.

If so, the only people who will be "happy" are those like Romney who are wealthy enough that they can send their children to the exorbitantly priced private colleges in Massachusetts, and don't have to worry about the long-term impact of the destruction of public education on our economic viability.

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