

Columnist's restless mind produces variety of thoughts

Random thoughts on a late, late night or a very early morning. I can't tell which is which anymore.

The presidential sweepstakes start in earnest this week with the formal announcements of Ted Kennedy and Jerry Brown. President Carter will announce Dec. 4. Howard Baker announced last week.

tom prentiss

With all the advancements our society has made, it's too bad no one has come up with a better way to elect a president. All these primaries are interesting, but I refuse to believe in any system that makes New Hampshire a kingmaker in any area. The influence that state has on the election is excessive, bordering on the absurd.

If I had my druthers, I'd come up with a simpler solution of electing a president. For example, how about placing the Republican and Democratic nominees on television during the Super Bowl?

Put each one on a certain station and then tell the viewers at home to turn to the station with the candidate they wanted elected. With some help from the people who bring up the Nielsen ratings, we could have a president in no time.

This plan does have a flaw, however. If enough people were watching public television, we could end up electing Mister Rogers as commander-in-chief. Picture that. I can hear Brezhnev now. "We are eyeball to eyeball with the Americans and their leader just winked at me."

Wouldn't it be nice if all those cheerleaders on the sidelines of professional football games would go away? If people want to behave that way, I think they should be given a mirror. Maybe they like all their stupid yells and dances, but some of us don't. I don't think T and A belongs in the NFL or anywhere.

Our recent monsoon-like rains last week got me thinking. On Tuesday, everyone ran from the rain like the Wicked Witch of the West. But, if it had been a Saturday home game, how many people do you think would have stayed away? Looked like the same rain to me.

Not all journalists are like Joe Rossi and Billie Newman on Lou Grant. It just seems that way. However, most photographers do resemble Animal in their grooming habits.

Did you ever get the feeling that the only way to see your adviser without waiting is to graduate and come back

for Master's Week?

I didn't lose any sleep when Billy Martin was fired from his job as manager of the New York Yankees. Martin, a card-carrying mouthoff, was fired when he hit a marshmallow salesman in Minnesota. Boy, are you tough Billy. Maybe next time you can take on Mr. Whipple of Charmin tissue fame.

The recent Student's Day met with limited success. Its organizers should be congratulated for their efforts, no matter how futile. It was evident that many students are concerned with the quality of education here at UNL. Too bad the regent's don't show the same concern.

Words of advice on different subjects:

Avoid cocktail parties in Seoul, South Korea. They can get messy.

If you plan on flying out of Lincoln anytime in the near future, make reservations now if you haven't already. Just about every flight is booked solid for upcoming vacations. And with the recent cutbacks of flights by United and Frontier Airlines, I wouldn't be surprised if the Lincoln Municipal Airport just withered away. Maybe it already has and nobody is telling us.

Contracts involve difficult area of law—enter with care

Entering into legally binding contracts can be confusing. The word "contract" encompasses the wide array of promises, agreements, leases, loans, etc. that we enter in daily life. The subject matter presents an area of law that is far too complicated to address with any detail in a short article. However, the following information can help you avoid legal problems.

I. When entering into a written contract or agreement, always read the entire agreement carefully before signing, to insure that you understand and are aware of all of your obligations and rights. If

IV. Even where a contract or agreement has been entered into, contractual rights may prove unenforceable because of a defense to the information of the contract of the inclusion of a term which is contrary to law.

Example: Minors are legally incapable of incurring binding contractual obligations. Therefore an agreement with a person under 19 years of age may prove unenforceable in Nebraska.

Example: No rental agreement may provide that the tenant agree to the limitation of any liability of the landlord arising due to active and actionable negligence of the landlord.

V. Oral contracts or agreements can be just as binding and enforceable as any written contract. Some contracts such as the sale and purchase of land must be written to be enforceable. For more routine matters it is often easier and more convenient to have an oral agreement. However, a written contract provides the parties with a record that each can readily refer to.

VI. Consumer sales contracts may be subject to protective laws such as the Federal Truth-in-Lending Act and the Nebraska Home Solicitation Sales Act.

The Federal Truth-in-Lending Act may require that certain information regarding the interest rate, the financing, and the repayment be disclosed to the consumer. There are remedies available if the law is violated. The Home Solicitation Act may allow consumers three days to rescind or cancel certain door to door sales contracts.

VIII. When a contract has been breached or broken, the aggrieved (wronged) party has a duty to react in a manner such as will mitigate and not add to his or her damages and losses.

Students are encouraged to ask legal advice from the Student Legal Services Office at 237 Nebraska Union, 472-3350. The Better Business Bureau can be a good source of information regarding local businesses and the Nebraska State Attorney General's Office has a consumer protection division which does have jurisdiction to investigate certain types of consumer complaints.

The above information should not be considered a substitute for legal advice. The solution for any one problem necessarily depends upon the exact facts and circumstances.

Robert Lange
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guest opinion

you fail to read the entire contract you may be making promises that you are unaware of. Once you sign a contract you are agreeing to what it says and are bound by its terms.

II. Transactions such as real estate contracts, credit purchases, insurance policies and loans can involve lengthy and complex contracts. If you have any questions be sure to review these contracts with an attorney before you sign them. Less involved contracts, such as rental agreements, record and book club memberships, and charge card purchases are just as binding as the more complex contracts and you will be expected to fulfill the promises that you make upon signing them.

III. When you sign a written contract you should be careful to make sure that all of the agreement is set forth in writing and that there are no blank spaces remaining in the contract. For example, if you sign a lease wherein you agree to rent the apartment and in addition, the landlord orally agrees to accomplish various stated repairs and remodeling, be sure that this oral agreement is added to the written lease. This can be accomplished by writing the agreement on the lease by hand and then initialing and dating this addition and requiring the landlord to do the same.



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