

Baseball theory shows Democrats to win election

By Kathy Harmon

Scratch the Reagan-Carter debate and cancel their political advertisements. The outcome of the election is already decided and has been since October, according to one UNL professor.

"In an election year, if the National League wins the October World Series, and this year they did, then the Democratic Party will win the nation election," said Keith Mueller.

Mueller, an assistant political science professor, has been teaching a five-week class on the presidential election.

The class ends Tuesday, election day, with 48 percent of the students attending class predicting Reagan the winner. Forty-four percent of the class members say Carter will win, according to a poll taken in the class last Thursday. Undecided votes accounted for about 8 percent of the class.

The baseball theory is based on the idea that teams seem representative of certain social classes and thus political parties, Mueller said.

Seventy-two percent of the class believes the theory may be as valid as any other way of predicting the outcome of the election, according to the poll.

Mueller said National League teams come from the heritage of the old Brooklyn Dodgers inner city team. He said this is in line with the Democratic Party ideals.

"They typify the Democratic attitude about politics in general," the professor said.

He said the American League is the league most often associated with the Republican Party, and also Mickey Mantle, the New York Yankees and Yankee Stadium.

Mueller came across the baseball theory in a New York Times article, which was written in 1976 by Norman Siegel. Siegel got the theory from another journalist, Jon Margolis of the Chicago Tribune.

Mueller said the theory has been valid through 67 percent of the time since 1903 and 100 percent since 1952. In other words, out of 18 elections, the political party was consistent with the winning baseball team 12 times, he said.

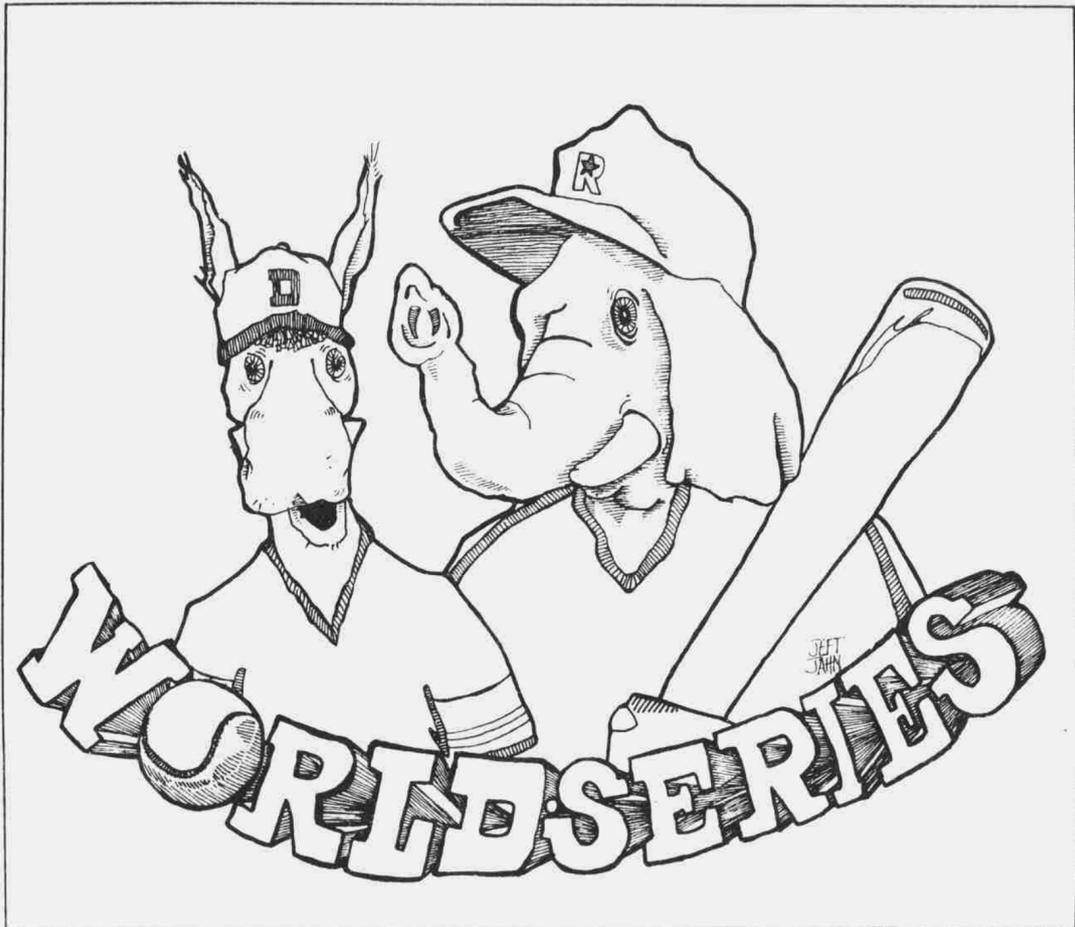
Mueller said he has not been able to find a direct link between the two, but he said he thinks the baseball theory

is as good as any of picking a presidential winner, especially because it is statistically sound.

The professor did suggest, however, that a voter's team winning the World Series may cause activist behavior that carries over into the election.

Mueller said people usually laugh when he tells them the theory.

To sum up one student's thoughts about the theory, "It just shows you can manipulate anything to indicate something."



Concerned with soil loss

UNL iunior runs for district direction of NRD

By Pat Carraher

A UNL junior has decided to run for the district director position of the Natural Resources District.

Jay Langenberg, a business administration major, said that he has become very concerned with some problems dealing with the loss of some of our natural resources, namely, our soil.

"One problem we have," Langenberg said, "is that we

have backwash, that is, fertilizer and things like that, which is running off fields and is running into the water that we use for drinking water. These things have been proven harmful to children when they drink the water."

There are a number of other problems that Langenberg said he would try to correct if elected in the non-partisan election.

Langenberg said that irrigation is lowering the water tables too much, and that no one has the power to do

anything about it. He said that he would work to give the NRD more control over the ground water tables.

"No one really has any control now," he said.

Langenberg said the NRD should be allowed to be more active in ground water management.

Langenberg said another problem was leakage by gas and oil pipelines. If he is elected to the four-year-term of district director, he said he would advocate responsible allocation of money to useful projects that would correct problems like this.

"Another problem is soil erosion," Langenberg said. "There's a lot of land being used up." He said if farmers were told of how to make better use of the land, they would be willing to do it.

"All we have to do is to get the information to them," he said. "We could do this by putting out the information through the extension services, and making it easy for the farmers to get hold of it."

According to Langenberg, many of the problems which is interested in deal with irrigation, and most of the irrigation is located in the western part of the state.

However, Langenberg said that what is needed now is a sincere effort all over the state in order to correct the problems.

Langenberg said that he is running for the director position of the Lower Platte South, Subdistrict 5. He said he believes he will defeat his opponent, and also mentioned that it is possible he may run again in 1984.

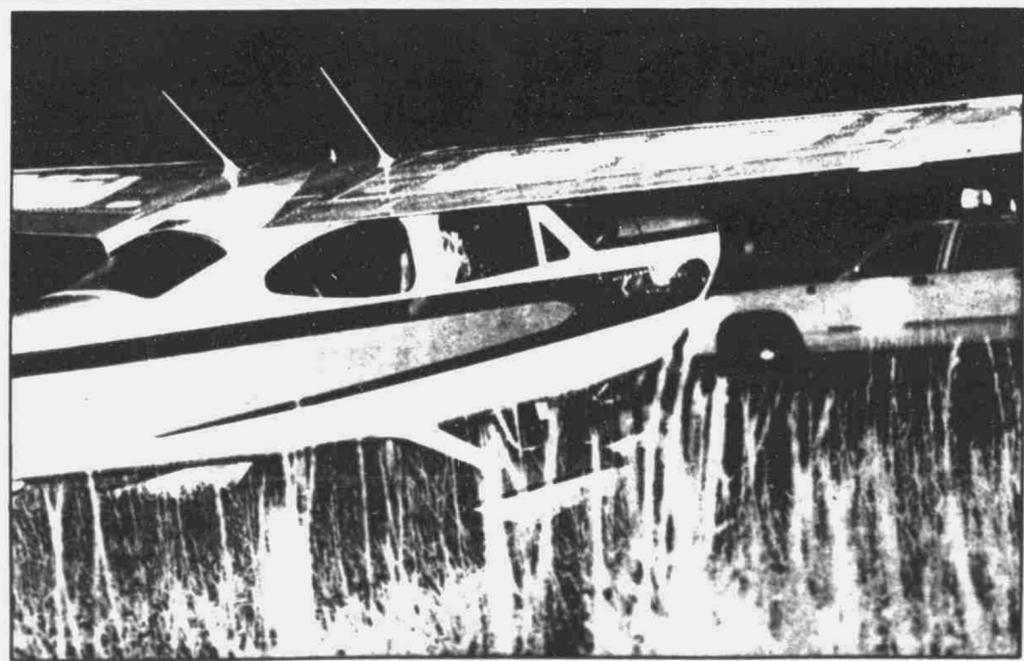


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Fuel-related engine problems led to the Saturday night collision of an airplane and a van on U.S. Highway 34 northwest of Lincoln. The Lancaster County Sheriff's office reported no injuries.

inside monday

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