

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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A mediocre Quayle

Bush's running mate a useless addition

When the media went Quayle hunting last week, most of the stories missed their mark. But some of the stories flushed out other interesting tidbits on his not-so-illustrious past.

The jury is still out on whether or not Dan Quayle used family ties to enter the National Guard. He may or may not have attempted to cover the truth about his service record, even though early quotes from him about his record changed from "I don't know," to "I don't remember" to "maybe."

Quayle may not even be a hypocrite for sporting warhawk political sentiments with a lawchicken past.

None of that matters, though.

Quayle should not be the vice presidential candidate because he's a lightweight in the biggest chug-a-lug contest in the United States.

His record speaks for itself. At best, Quayle was a mediocre high school student who used family clout, greenbacks and posterior kissing to swindle his way into DePauw University.

Once at DePauw, Quayle mustered a D average in his political science major and earned the nickname Eddie Haskell (of "Leave it to Beaver" fame) for his growing expertise in posterior kissing.

Quayle then pulled more strings to get accepted into Indiana University law school where he once again proved himself the epitome of mediocrity.

After graduation from law school, Quayle moved on to the family business. After a few years, he was asked to run as a Republican candidate for Congress. He surprisingly won against an eight-term Congressman and moved to Washington D.C., where he spent two terms building up his reputation for mediocrity.

As a senator, Quayle, with the help of a strong Senate staff, improved his political record and began to show promise that someday, possibly while still in his 70s, he might be able to command respect.

But now Quayle stands a coattail ride and a gunshot wound away from the U.S. presidency.

George Bush has made a monumental mistake. In his attempt to draw on a larger voting base, Bush has narrowed his support to the right. He's also catering to those people who prefer candidates who most resemble their favorite soap-opera stars.

The vice-presidential candidates should provide a presidential candidate a slight voting advantage in some region.

The vice-presidential candidates should also provide the promise of acceptable leadership in the absence of that president. Lloyd Bentsen does this for the Democrats. Quayle does nearly the opposite for the Republicans.

Bush made a mistake. If he will not admit his error, then Quayle should.

Quayle, for the good of his party, should remove himself as the Republican vice-presidential candidate.

— Bob Nelson
for the Daily Nebraskan

BUSINESS AS USUAL IN YELLOWSTONE



Columnist sees through media glitter

Americans should look beyond television for important issues

I'm sick of hearing about the Dan Quayle saga, as most people are by now.

So why am I bringing it up again? It's not to talk about Quayle, but rather to talk about us. You know, "we, the people."

But first and, I promise, briefly, about Quayle's service in the National Guard — that's perfectly honorable by my standards. About family influence to get him there — that causes some question in my mind about his credibility.

Because he supported U.S. involvement in Vietnam and then did what he could to avoid combat makes him a hypocrite. I place his alleged affair with lobbyist Paula Parkinson in the stupid and tasteless category.

What really bothers me about the whole affair is that Bush even chose him in the 1st place. Was it his experience, his opinions on current issues, his ideas for the future of America?

Apparently not. I'm sure they had something to do with his choice, but from what I have read and heard, I can't find much evidence.

During what I watched of the Republican National Convention, the commentators repeatedly remarked about how Quayle, being young and attractive, would appeal to baby boomers and women.

It could be that I too easily trust the judgment of the commentators, but I was stunned by their discussion. "Is that why he was chosen?" I asked myself. They certainly implied it.

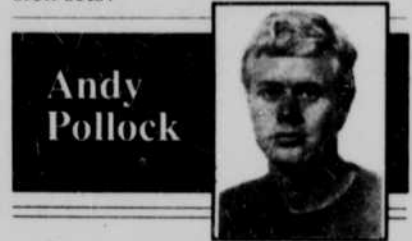
How demeaning and backwards this theory of choosing a vice presidential nominee seems; especially coming from one of the two major political parties.

During times when people are fi-

nally beginning to realize that women, and yes, even young people have minds of their own that can see through more than a pretty, young face, why must this type of theory be reverted to?

But do we see beneath the face? And by "we" I mean not only young people and women but most Americans.

Do we see through the glitter, and the grime, that appears on our television sets?



Andy Pollock

Surely Bush and his campaign staff are not completely ignorant about the way people think and what they think about. Unfortunately, and oddly enough to most thinking Americans, Bush and staff probably do know what they are doing in this case.

Throughout all the fuss about this hypocritical hawk and his National Guard duty, I have not heard much about his past experience, his opinions on current issues, his ideas for the future of this country. Surely these come into play with the job for which he's campaigning?

But for the most Americans, including the average University of Nebraska-Lincoln student, they are boring and irrelevant issues. The hot issues, the real issues, are those scandalous love affairs, those totes of tea 20 years ago and those efforts to dodge the draft.

And who's to blame? Americans shouldn't be lynched for failing to know or care about what really makes the nation tick. They should be yelled at, yes, but the real blame goes to the press.

That includes the print media. But it's the broadcast media, television in particular, that bothers me the most.

As I have learned in various journalism courses, the media, while not specifically telling us what to think, tells us what to think about. It sets the agenda for our thoughts, discussions, decisions.

I don't criticize the print media so much. If people want to understand a story, all they have to do is read the fine print below the headline. And I've read stories about Quayle's experience, or lack of, in newspapers and a couple magazines.

Television, the pop media that has entranced America with its shallow coverage, leads us astray and leaves us susceptible to the vice-president choosing theories of Bush and staff, and Dukakis and staff.

As the 1988 presidential, and vice-presidential, election draws near "we, the people" need to smile or laugh at the great "headline news" we're bombarded with, or simply turn the damn stuff off. We need to avoid this trap that holds us as bait for hungry political candidates.

We need to investigate each candidate and decide for ourselves who best represents our opinions and attitudes, not just who smiles best in front of television cameras.

Now all we need is the opportunity to do so.

Pollock is a senior news-editorial major and is a Daily Nebraskan editorial columnist.

opinion

READER

Reader supports Contras

I'm writing in response to Jim Anderson's letter (Daily Nebraskan, Aug. 29) that referred to what a failure the funding of the Contras has been.

I wonder who has been giving Anderson the information he has. What you need, Anderson, is some real information on the happenings in Nicaragua.

May I suggest a book? Please read "Requiem in the Tropics".

Daniel Ortega is a Marxist-Leninist and is very open about being one. No, the Contras haven't overthrown the evil Sandinista government, but they have slowed them down. Communism is real in Central America. If aid is stopped we may end up with a war in Central American countries.

Anderson stated that the United States is "extremely paranoid" about communism. But how can that be when people like you shrug communism off as a regular type of govern-

ment? How can you say you believe in freedom? I don't want communism in Central America — it's too close to home. Look on a map, Anderson, and open your eyes to the truth. Daniel Ortega is a very evil man and sees Marxist-Leninist as a popular tool for himself and his brother.

Aid to the Contras is the only way for the United States to prevent war. If this aid is stopped, the communists will take over Central America. Then the death of young American soldiers can be laid upon your conscience. You're the one who said the Contras' cause was a failure. Time to stop spreading propaganda. Get the facts Mr. Anderson and stop believing what you've been hearing and find the truth yourself.

Annette Dyrda
freshman
pre-medical technology

letter

POLICY

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Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

editorial

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