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Clean-up engineered World needs to see real Omaha

Keep America beautiful — at least until we put away the television cameras.

That seems to be the philosophy Omaha residents are taking in preparation for Wednesday's vice-presidential debate. Omahans want to show America its good looks — even if its not authentic.

According to an Associated Press article, they're showing off their "Midwestern friendliness" by sweeping up sidewalks, raking yards and lining streets with flags. Cab drivers will be armed with index cards listing the city's strong points.

All this for a televised debate between Republican Dan Quayle and Democrat Lloyd Bentsen.

And Omaha wants to clean up the streets in another way, too. Police officers have been ordered to transfer the homeless to an Omaha shelter three days before and one day after the debate. Heaven forbid, we wouldn't want the candidates, the media or the rest of the country to see a serious problem that's plaguing the country.

Nope. It's easier just to sweep them under the rug until the company leaves. Police chief Robert Wadman denied that the order was to conceal the homeless, saying the temporary policy resulted from an offer from the Open Door Mission.

But a few days after the debate, the homeless will be wandering the streets once again.

The cleanup drive even has a name: "Smile Omaha. The whole world is watching." The "whole world" needs to see Omaha as it really is, not what they want others to see.

Omaha mayor Walt Calinger has said: "This is the time to put our best foot forward."

Let's just hope Omahans don't wind up putting it in their mouths in front of a television audience.

— Mike Reilley
for the Daily Nebraskan

opinion READER

Campus beware of drivers from Lancaster county

As we begin our senior year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we find ourselves looking back at our brief stay in Lincoln. Charles Dickens once said, "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times."

Now, we all have different ideas of what constitutes the "best of times" (football games, Friday afternoon clubs). However, we feel that any out-of-towner, who owns an automobile, can stand united on a "worst" front. Specifically, Lincoln city drivers.

Lincoln drivers, why does having a "2" in front of your license plate number automatically make you a road hazard on wheels? Although we are both from Omaha, we are not alone in our observations. Friends from Crete, Grand Island, Columbus and, good heavens, even Gothenburg, agree with us. Lincoln drivers need a crash course (not literally, of course) in considerate operation of motor vehicles. Let us cite a few examples:

O Street. It is the main street, is it not? It has a 40 mph sign on it, does it not? Why then do Lincoln drivers perpetually putt along at a brisk 30 mph? And while we're on the subject, why do 2-county cars bunch up on the road like a herd of scared sheep? It's incredibly frustrating to be boxed in by three cars when there's a 10-mile empty stretch in front of the lead car. We're sure many readers can empathize.

We must admit, though, that Lincoln drivers do demonstrate one fascinating trait worthy of psychiatric research. Namely, the Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde syndrome. Those meek Jekylls on our capital city streets — people,

who wouldn't dream of running a yellow light, suddenly turn into maniacal Hydes on the highway.

Their lunatic habits are nothing short of criminal. Sixty-five on the highway? Ha! Try Interstate 80. The road is not a safe place for us conscientious, law-abiding, big-city drivers. Why do those little Lincoln feather feet all of the sudden take on an anvil-like quality when confronted with an open stretch of road? It's not just the speeding. Want to drive fast? Fine. We just ask that Lincolnites leave the student driving in Hollywood. It is not necessary to come within six inches of our bumpers before switching lanes. Our highways are simply not that crowded.

Of course, once back in the city, they revert back to their original tedious, "I have all day to get somewhere" patterns of driving. We went through this on a recent trip to Kansas City. Moving off the interstate, we found ourselves in a half-hour traffic jam. When we finally reached the source of the delay, it came as no surprise to anyone that the inconvenience was caused by a Lancaster-county van.

In viewing the local problem, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles. This bureau had the insight to provide other operators of automobiles with a visual warning of impending disaster. Specifically, the "2." Look for it. It could save your life.

Michelle Ebadi
senior
English/elementary education



Think you're pretty cool, huh?

This simple test can weed out the morons from the masters

Now that classes are back in session and the nights in Lincoln are getting longer, students are abandoning most of the summertime activities in favor of warmer, indoor fun.

Like dating. Of course, it's a year-round pastime, but the cold winter months make it more fun. After all, keeping warm with friends of the opposite sex is one of the brighter sides of winter.

At the onset of the 1988-89 "season," it's important — especially for men — to evaluate one's dating prowess in comparison to the other several thousand students you'll be competing against.

With that in mind, my mind drifted this weekend from studying for three major exams to formulating ways to evaluate individual preparedness.

So, with four years of college life behind me, here's a simple quiz to test your height of readiness.

Unfortunately for women reading this column, this quiz is only for men. I have little perspective of what the average woman is thinking on a daily basis. Sorry!

But then again, you've always got Cosmopolitan . . .

1. How many times since you turned 16 have you been on a date with a girl/woman?

- a. Over 100.
- b. Enough to know my way around.
- c. A few.
- d. What's a girl?

2. At which place would you most likely meet women?

- a. In the Bahamas, where I spend all my weekends.
- b. Just about anywhere.
- c. Drug/alcohol rehabilitation.
- d. At your weekly "Satan Kicks Ass" meetings.

3. Which opening line would most suit you?

- a. "Hey! Want to take a ride in my Ferrari? Say yes, and it's yours."
- b. "Hi. Could I buy you lunch?"
- c. "Er, uh . . . you wouldn't want to go out with me, would you?"
- d. "God! Is that a run in your stocking or just your leg? Hah. Just kidding, toots."

4. When you ask a strange woman (as in "one you've never seen before") to dance, does she:

- a. Say no, then suggest a trip back to her place to listen to the new Lloyd Cole album?
- b. Say yes?
- c. Say she'll have to ask her boyfriend, the linebacker, first?
- d. Stare at you a couple of seconds, point at your face and laugh, while simultaneously pouring her drink on your pink high-top sneakers?

5. Which of these places would you choose as a first date destination?

- a. Paris in the spring, or to Rome to eat at one of your favorite Italian restaurants.
- b. A classy restaurant somewhere here in Lincoln, or even a trip to Omaha, if you both really love the place that much.
- c. A friend's house to watch "Faces of Death" and "Debbie Does Dallas" on his VCR.
- d. An exhibit at Pershing Auditorium entitled "Our friend the socket wrench" and to the Emerald bowling alley afterwards for beers.



6. After how many dates does the woman usually let you give her the first kiss?

- a. Before you remove your hand from her doorbell while picking her up for the first date.
- b. At the end of the first date (if you were a gentleman, of course).
- c. When she's passed out drunk on the floor and can't protect herself.
- d. "Kiss? You're supposed to kiss a girl at the end of a date?!"

7. While deeply engaged in a kiss, what are you most likely to do?

- a. Plot the rest of the weekend you're about to spend with your date on the Caribbean cruise your father's corporation is paying for.
- b. Close your eyes, take it for what it's worth, hope she enjoys it as much as you do and not get overly excited.
- c. Grab her below the belt and giggle immorally.
- d. Plan your escape route, because when this stranger you grabbed on the street gets free, she'll scream for the cops.

8. When you suggest a quiet evening at her/your place, which scenario would make you most comfortable?

- a. Having your date ask over and over to see your bank book and list of your father's assets?
- b. Watching a good movie on television, listening to some quiet music, sipping on champagne and curling up in each other's arms by a crackling

fire.

9. When a woman stares longingly into your eyes, apparently waiting for you to kiss her, do you:

- a. Stare back, even more longingly?
- b. Smile and wait for her to make the next move, but continue to plot what to do if she doesn't?
- c. Make ridiculous faces at her and drool down your chin?
- d. Shout, "What the hell are you lookin' at?!" and punch her in the mouth?

Bonus question: In moments directly following passionate intimacy, what are the most likely first words out of your mouth?

- a. "Let's go back to my yacht and do that for the rest of the night . . . on our way to Jamaica."
 - b. "I want you to know that I'll remember this forever, and that you mean much more to me than just a friend."
 - c. "Damn, girl, why don't you shave your legs?"
 - d. "Sorry I farted."
- OK, now for the big payoff. For every "a" answer, give yourself four points; three points for "b" answers; two for "c" and one for "d." The bonus is worth nine, five, three and one point, respectively.

Scoring:
45-35 — What are you doing in Nebraska?

25-34 — You're a pretty good guy who probably gets along well with women. Undoubtedly, you're easy-going and have no difficulty communicating during a date. Let's hope you have a high-paying job, though, because word gets around fast.

18-24 — You're a social dreg with little hope of spending your life with anyone but a small animal — if you're lucky. Perhaps a career in gynecology would suit you just fine.

9-17 — When does your parole end, and what monastery are you considering?

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