

Daily **Nebraskan**
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Down for the count

'Bonecrusher' Bentsen slams Dan Quayle

Only three days after Randy "Macho Man" Savage pummeled Andre the Giant in a pro wrestling match at the Omaha Civic Auditorium, Sen. Lloyd "Bonecrusher" Bentsen of Texas slammed Sen. Dan "The Hammer" Quayle of Indiana in a one-fall, vice-presidential debate.

And there won't be a rematch.

Democrat Bentsen and Republican Quayle squared off in only the third vice-presidential debate in history Wednesday night in Omaha. In their only head-to-head battle of the campaign, they traded blows for 90 minutes on issues such as social security, Contra aid, the environment, drug policy and campaign reform law.

What had political analysts talking after the debate wasn't the issues, but how Quayle responded to controversy about his Vietnam-era service in the National Guard and his mediocre academic record.

Quayle was waxing eloquently his qualifications for vice-president throughout the early stages of the debate. He showed his knowledge of national security, jobs and education and the federal budget deficit. He stressed that experience, not age, was the primary qualification for vice president.

But then he made a terrible mistake.

Quayle, 41, compared his eight years of experience in the U.S. Senate to that of the late John F. Kennedy — a feeble attempt to present himself as a fearless leader of a younger generation.

That was when Bentsen, 26 years Quayle's elder, came off the top rope with a flying elbow smash:

"I served with Jack Kennedy . . . I knew Jack Kennedy and I was a friend of Jack Kennedy," Bentsen said. "Senator, you are no Jack Kennedy."

"That was uncalled for," Quayle whined in response.

The remarks drew a roar from a bloodthirsty crowd, estimated at 2,600, and the ire of debate moderator/referee Judy Woodruff. On four occasions, Woodruff pleaded with the audience to hold its applause.

Bentsen's comment was definitely a cheap shot, but it proved to be the turning point in the match. Quayle struggled to regain his composure on the next few questions.

At times, Quayle seemed hard to pin down. NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw and reporter Brit Hume of ABC News, who served as questioners, tried three times to get Quayle to reveal what he would do if he had to step in as president.

"First, I would say a prayer — for me and for the nation," Quayle said the first time.

The second time he was asked, Quayle said he couldn't respond to a hypothetical situation.

Finally, after Brokaw brought up the issue a third time, Quayle said he would call together members of his staff and "talk with them."

And from there, the rest of the debate seemed almost anti-climatic.

Quayle's closing statement accurately summed up the debate:

"Tonight was a very important night," he said. "You saw Dan Quayle as I really am."

Yep, we sure did. And at the end, you were flat on your back. 1-2-3.

— Mike Reilley
for the Daily Nebraskan

opinion

Kerrey's fund-raising questionable

I read recently that Bob Kerrey is raising nearly 70 percent of his money for the campaign outside the borders of Nebraska. At a recent fund-raiser for Kerrey in New York, movie and television personalities applauded his candidacy. Next week Kerrey will be the guest of honor at a fund-raiser in California where liberals like Jane Fonda will again put money into the cam-

aign. I was under the assumption that Kerrey was running for the senate seat in Nebraska. Let's keep the Californians and the New Yorkers and the Bob Kerrey's out of Nebraska politics.

Teresa Peters
sophomore
English

BULL SHORTS

I sit here week after week writing these little things that make me angry, on this brand new Smith-Corona, which still has not been paid off. Why is it that I get a letter in the mail from the store that I bought this machine from that asks if I want to buy some insurance on the typewriter in case it breaks down? For X amount of dollars, which is about 1/4th the amount I paid for it, the company will fix it in case it fails to work. What has happened to the American pride in their work? If I pay mega bucks for a product, I expect the damn thing to outlive me!!!!!! I shouldn't have to gamble on an insurance policy. I'm not allowed to legally gamble on NFL games!

Remember last week when I was mad because the movies ran as many commercials as the Olympics? Well forget it; I saw a commercial that was selling videos that help you on do-it-yourself home projects. I became confused as an actor in the commercial held up a can of cola. The brand name was taped out, but the basic label was easy to recognize. Am I supposed to buy the video or the cola?

Speaking of commercials, have you seen the one where the kid is practically going in his pants when his mom is eyeing his report card. She confronts him on the way he is eating his alphabet soup and he shows her an A and two Bs. The kid says these are the grades he will get next time. Unfortunately, they cut off before they show the mom boxing off the kid's ears.

I have been concerned lately about my neighborhood. My apartment could use some repairs, the weeds around the place are getting pretty out of hand and vagrants collect across the street. Fortunately, I learned something from Omaha and contacted the people who are in charge of the vice-presidential debate. I have been able to add a presidential debate to the schedule, airing from my living room. The streets are free of all the homeless and my building and surrounding area have been spruced up with a grant from somewhere.



Columnist complains of burnout

After three papers, LSAT, Pollock struggles for column idea

Have you ever been at a loss for what to say, or what to write a paper about? Well I have, and I am. It's this editorial column.

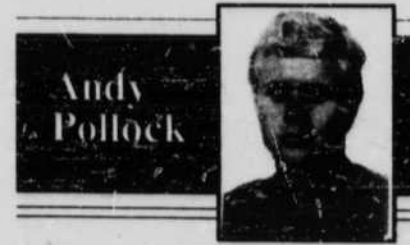
You see, after the fifth week of my fifth year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I have reached that hallowed point of college burnout. I've termed my last two weeks as the "two weeks from hell." It has been the kind of half-month that makes me wish I was out in that real world — whatever that's supposed to be.

Saturday, a number of UNL students took the LSAT. No, it's not a Big Red football primer, it's the Law School Admissions Test. I was one of those lucky souls who was tested on how well I can take a test and brave those vicious nerves that had been eating me alive for the last week or two.

Thank God that the test is over with and I can study with a clear mind again. But one test couldn't knock me down from my seat of college enthusiasm. The final blow came when learning that I had four papers due this week. After putting in a considerable amount of time studying and worrying and trying not to worry about the LSAT, I found early this week that I'd exhausted my energies.

Well, now that I've faithfully submitted three of those papers and after half of a breath of relief, I'm struggling to rebound and write this column.

The "two weeks from hell" notwithstanding, this semester has not been so bad. It is my last at UNL, and I'll admit that I'm beginning to see the light at the end of the semester. In a few months my undergraduate education will be just a collection of memories.



Andy Pollock

These memories, for a long time, I'm sure will be vivid. Not all of them will be good, not all bad, but they will reflect thoughts, experiences and emotions I had while attending UNL.

One thing I expect to remember the most is the hectic confusion and frustration of times like the "two weeks from hell." I've come to realize that it's during these times that I learn the most about myself and the way I think.

So what have I been thinking lately, besides ABCDE answers to LSAT questions? One question that has been haunting my thoughts is "why am I here?"

Personally, I'm here to dabble in a little bit of everything. Sure, barring catastrophe, I'll graduate with a degree in news-editorial journalism, which I'll value for the education it

represents. But I'm also satisfied with testing the water in many areas. Isn't that what college is for? There are only a few places where people can see what kinds of philosophy, literature, history and social sciences interest them.

Evidently, more students do think that is what college is for. According to a Daily Nebraskan article (Sept. 23), enrollment in humanities courses at UNL has been growing in recent years.

The increase runs against the national trend of drastically falling enrollment in humanity courses. It also runs contrary to reports last year that most students attend college in order to secure better jobs after graduation — their degree, a glittering ticket to the job market; the means of getting that ticket, a boring routine that one must grin and bear.

So I've rambled on, I've bitched and moaned, but now I've run out of space. It's a lot easier than running into space. I promise not to make a habit of rattling on about the life in hell of one college student, but sometimes there seems no better thing to do than complain. And sometimes it's nice to hear others do it so you don't have to. Then you can appreciate what you've got.

So have a good weekend, enjoy yourself and remember it well.

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

editorial

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