

E. HUGHES SHANKS

Voting essential to democracy

I'm convinced the federal government doesn't want people to vote.

Except for some public service announcements and an occasional poster encouraging people to vote, government shows little interest. Compared with gun legislation, voter turnout is hardly an issue at all.

I think the federal government should be held responsible for low voter turnout. It's strange, but the government shows more interest in what kind of gun I own than it does in my participation in the political process.

I don't believe in making voting mandatory. However, a government that doesn't make it easy for all eligible voters to be registered and fails to work hard year-round to increase voter participation is acting irresponsibly. In a democracy, it is the responsibility of the individual and all government bodies to increase participation.

The government should enlist the help of candidates for public office. They are simply voters who are asking for more responsibility. Why not give it to them? It is logical that they be given more responsibility than the average citizen.

If I were a candidate for public office, I would want to represent as many people as possible. What greater honor is there for a candidate in a democratic election than to be working to increase political participation while campaigning?

Without voters, government is nothing. But a government elected by only a few voters is not representative and therefore not legitimate.

As a citizen in a democracy, my responsibility is to be a part of the democracy. If I don't vote, how can I claim to be a part of it? Like the



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right to own a gun, the right to vote is a fundamental right. Lawmakers work hard to protect that right. Why don't lawmakers work equally hard to get people to vote?

Not voting is as irresponsible as misusing a gun.

My responsibility as a gun owner — if I owned one — goes far beyond simply owning it. And gun owners know the government has plenty to say about that. In much the same way, my responsibility as an eligible voter goes beyond simply owning the right to vote. To be a responsible citizen, I've got to vote.

Wasn't the Revolutionary War as much about one's right to bear arms as it was about one's right to be represented in government? It seems to me the right to vote goes right along with the right to own a gun. Just like in owning a gun, it is the responsibility of voters to use their right to vote responsibly.

People who don't vote are to blame for the way things are in society. The people who actually "elect" government officials are the ones who don't vote. I don't blame elected officials for high taxes.

Once elected, they have the right to exercise their opinion, whether I like it or not. The nonvoters are to blame, because they let it happen by

not participating.

Refusing to vote is not an exercise of freedom. Refusing to vote flies in the face of freedom. If gun ownership can be regulated, why not voter registration? If there are laws dictating the use and ownership of guns, why not laws to prevent the misuse of the right to vote?

It seems only fair that participation is rewarded in some way. Perhaps voters should not be taxed as heavily as nonvoters.

About 26 percent of my pay-check is deducted. Most of that is income tax. Some people have more than that taken out. I blame the amount of taxes I pay on the people who don't vote.

As long as more than half of the electorate refuses to vote, things are made the way they are not because of who gets elected but because of who did not vote. Only in countries where people have no right to vote and bear arms are elected officials most to blame for society's problems.

Maybe that's why our elected officials are so interested in gun laws — so they won't be run out of office with guns.

Shanks is a graduate student and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

KIM STOCK

Book curves into absurdity

I'm smarter than you are. Actually I don't know for sure if I'm smarter than you if you're Asian or Jewish. But if you're white or black, consider it an intellectual sacrifice on my part for me to be conversing with you.

You're welcome. I always knew I was mentally superior to the rest of the world, and now I have scientific proof. According to the book, "The Bell Curve," written by Charles Murray and the late Richard Herrnstein, IQ is inherently determined by race.

The book explains that on average Jews and Asians score the highest on IQ tests. Whites score somewhere behind Jews and Asians. The group with the lowest score is African-Americans, who score about 15 points lower than whites.

Murray and Herrnstein also have stated the cognitive elite rise to the top of the intellectual ladder and become our doctors, politicians, and other successful leaders. They maintain that the people who are in our "underclass" are there because they simply aren't smart enough to succeed in life. Their IQ's are inferior to the likes of people like me.

What a pity. Because of this information, I would like to boldly make a proposition. I know you will accept my ingenious proposition because I am, after all, superior to you. I also am sympathetic to the reason your mental capacities limit your ability to think of a similar idea.

All state and federal financial aid and scholarships for college should be ultimately given to Asians and Jews first. It's important that we — Asians and Jews — be given the most opportunity to be educated since we are more likely to succeed.

Whites and African-Americans, of course, should not be allowed to enter prestigious Ivy League



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colleges because they can't possibly appreciate the academic challenge a school like Harvard has to offer.

Following this logic, whites should be able to enroll in state-funded schools like UNL or the University of South Dakota. However, these schools should be funded only after Asian and Jewish universities are satisfied with their allotted funds. After all, it's only understandable that smarter people deserve better educational departments.

Since African-Americans are the "dummies," they ought to be strictly limited to trade schools. If they do — for some odd reason — desire to attend college, they must only attend community colleges.

However, what African-Americans don't have in the brain department they do make up for in their physical capacities. I encourage all African-Americans to succeed in a sport.

In 1966, Nobel Prize winning physicist William Shockley had the right idea. He advocated that all people with low IQ's become sterilized. Those with high IQ's should donate their sperm to sperm banks. This way, the stupid people would die off and help humankind to become as smart as me.

Don't be offended with this idea. This is simply Hitler's eugenics theory in action.

Then, logically, the government should completely abolish any welfare and affirmative action

policies. We know the people who are on welfare are those with the lowest IQs. By giving these people money, we are perpetuating the problem.

People on welfare obviously are not smart and cannot succeed. Their IQs are too low. This is why people get on welfare and never get off the program.

Let's not pretend we can better "inferior" people by giving them money. Nothing we can do will help people with low IQs.

As far as all those other whiny minorities who want to be treated special just because of their skin color, they have got to accept the fact that their race is a cerebral handicap.

African-Americans wouldn't have jobs if it wasn't for affirmative action. We all know they aren't really knowledgeable enough to have the jobs some of them want. We should rid ourselves of affirmative action because this program is only causing the work world to be cluttered with incompetent people.

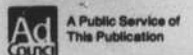
I accept my more important place in society with great responsibility. I know it's my place, as a member of the mentally affluent Asian race, to be sympathetic to the needs of people less fortunate than me. I will never stoop so low to take my superior status for granted.

Just don't drink in my water fountain.

Stock is a junior education major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

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