

OPINION

Thursday, November 9, 1995

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Daily
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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No choice

Powell's potential added interest, spark

You can still hear the whiny little voice from a tiny little man, standing between George Bush and Bill Clinton.

Ross Perot transformed the 1992 presidential election from another two-party, lock-step campaign into a three-way race filled with enthusiasm.

Perot's supporters believed in the man. And his candidacy brought issues to the presidential campaign that would not have otherwise surfaced.

Similarly, the same type of excitement potentially existed with Colin Powell. But Wednesday Powell announced he would not run for president.

Powell's support wasn't from the lesser of two evils mold. But rather, a large portion of the electorate felt excited about Powell and the idea of him leading the country.

Powell wasn't seen as another unappealing politician-by-trade. To many, Powell was a statesman in the traditional sense. He was nonpolitical. He was a man of conviction. He was a leader.

Many Americans felt they shared his values, if not his views. Without Powell in the 1996 presidential campaign, the race for the White House becomes much more drab—the sitting president vs. the senate majority leader.

Powell would have brought a new choice to the voters of the country and most importantly enthusiasm in a political system that continues to turn off the country's voters.

Listen in

FBI desires more wiretapping power

The FBI wants Ma Bell to play Big Brother for Uncle Sam. And you're the patsy.

In 1993 the Federal Bureau of Investigation received fewer than 1,000 authorizations to tap into private phone conversations — though no one's claiming that's all the wires it actually tapped.

Those are just the legal ones.

Now it wants the government to spend an estimated \$500 million (industry estimates run in the billions) to finance its plan to force the telecommunications industry to include a "back door" so it can go on listening — as service goes digital.

That's \$125,000 per wiretap in dog years, and it's a bad buy, for several reasons.

The most alarming of which is the possibility, make that the certainty, that somewhere down the line some group less trustworthy than the FBI will learn how to take advantage of this centralized wiretapping capacity.

The FBI does have a problem.

But it is not a problem of the American people — who have learned, through bitter experience, what a Frankenstein's Monster the FBI turns into when given too much sway.

Next it'll want all houses to contain secret video cameras.

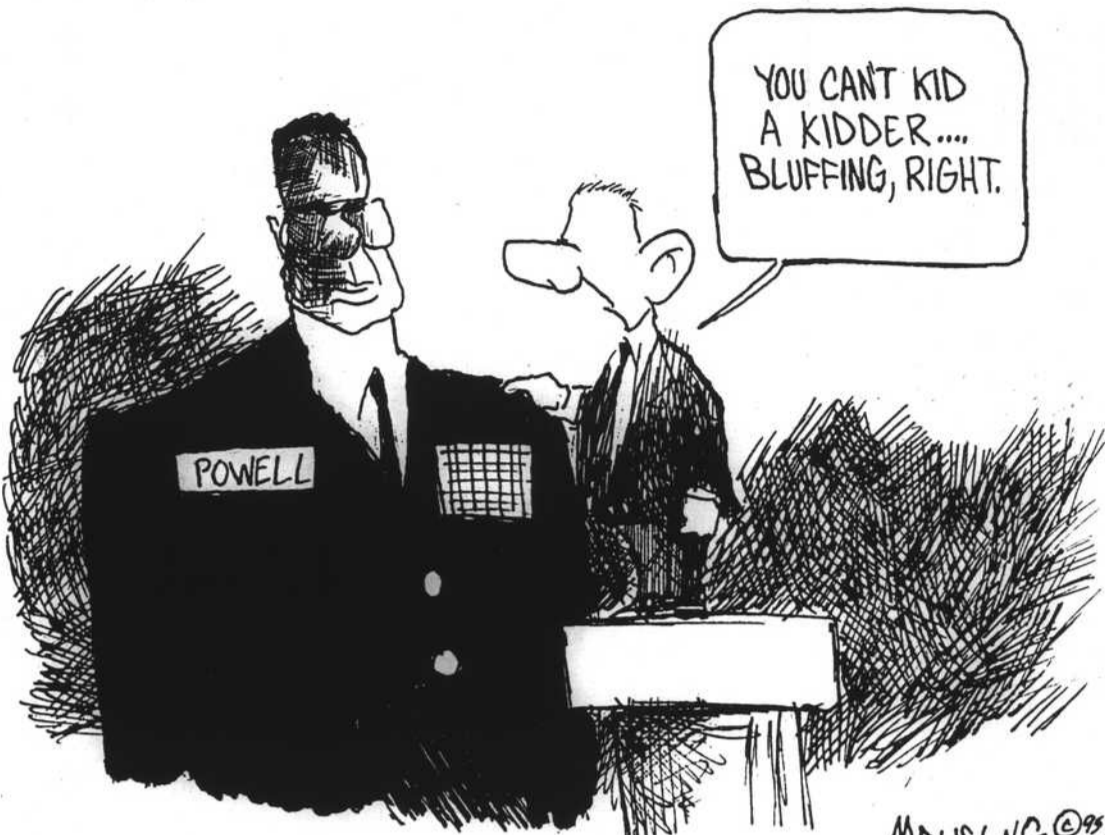
The FBI may have stumbled over the formula known for years in countries like Singapore: Crime is drastically reduced with the removal of even one basic freedom.

Editorial policy

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Letter policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others. Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted. Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St. Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.



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DAILY NEBRASKAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Process of elimination

You have to admire Paula Lavigne. After all, it takes courage to display before some 25,000 students her "Kelly Bundy" approach to foreign policy.

I'm going to spell it out nice and clear what would happen if America chose to become isolationist.

1. America would be just fine.
2. The rest of the world would experience complete economic ruin.
3. Little countries like Kuwait and Israel that rely on our protection would be destroyed, bringing peace to regions through elimination of opposition.

Yitzhak Rabin was a fool fighting for a lost cause. Peace will never come to a region where Jews and Muslims are living side by side. The only way peace will come is for one side to be eliminated.

The Middle East has problems but they are not America's problems.

Scott Knutson
Sophomore
English

In a handbasket

Regarding Mr. Vance's letter printed on Nov. 6 — the athletic department is not 100 percent self-sufficient. Each person on this campus contributes to the university in one form or another.

Many contribute in support services, on advisory boards and through philanthropy projects.

Then of course there is you who plays a game for himself, the most selfish reason I can think of.

I have a question. What about the team? Don't you want to play in the hopes that your contribution, big or small, will benefit the team?

Regarding funding: I, along with 25,000 others, help fund the university through our tuition and fees.

Alumni and ticket holders help to support the athletic department. Try playing a sport with no one in attendance.



James Mehsling/DN

You feel you should be judged as normal students, I believe that too. But then you suggest the "UNAD" is a campus not to be counted with the university.

That is asking for special treatment.

As you hope, I do support people's right to make their own decisions. But if you believe I should support someone who assaults another, repeatedly breaks the law, or sexually violates another, you can, as you so eloquently phrase words, go to hell.

Jennifer Pickinpaugh
Senior
Management
via e-mail

Character

Is quality control an issue for DN columnists? Mark Baldrige has consistently bored or offended me for the last few issues without any apparent repercussions. His inane State of the Addict column a few weeks back was the beginning of my disgust with the man's character. The Fried Piper — dancing alone; leading his faithful, drooling masses.

His Nov. 6 column, Wastin' Time in a Hazy Mind was once again comin' up a zero.

Does anyone appreciate intelligence anymore? His trite collective consciousness philosophy was as flaccid as his understanding of the word "personification."

Give this English major (?) a quarter for the but.

Let his space be filled by a person with something intelligent to say.

Matt Cook
Freshman
Undeclared

Sticks and stones

In response to Debra Cumberland's column of Nov. 8, I would like to remind her that the right does not have a sole monopoly on demonizing political rhetoric.

The left wing mastered the art of divisive language years ago. They are experts in the creation of class warfare.

Any Republican plan in Congress is instantly labeled "mean spirited" and "taking away from America's poor children." Presidential aides claim Republicans want to see America's elderly disappear.

How much more vilifying can you get? Anyone who disagrees with the left is instantly labeled a racist, sexist, tyrannical monster who wants to toss Americans to the arms of big business.

It seems that in today's open, free thinking society it is OK to label someone, as long as that someone is a conservative.

In the column itself Debra claims she wants to see words used for peace and healing, yet she herself uses words for her own political rhetoric.

Yes, this kind of talk is nothing new, and it comes from both sides whenever someone does not want to debate issues. Take a bit of your own advice and quit tossing irresponsible labels about.

Michael Blum
Freshman
Biological Sciences
via e-mail



Post it

...to the

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Letters must be signed and
include a phone number for
verification.