

OPINION PAGES

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"On Nov. 6, Bill Clinton is going to be to most surprised man in America."
— Presidential candidate Bob Dole, four days before Clinton was re-elected

"The only poll that matters is that poll that closes at 8 o'clock (Tuesday) night."
— Democratic Senate candidate Ben Nelson, on an Omaha World-Herald poll that indicated a dead-heat race a week before the election

"I'm going to be on the right side of the gun tomorrow."
— Gov. Ben Nelson, announcing that he was going hunting the day after he lost an ugly battle against Chuck Hagel in the race for the Senate

"I've been bit by that dog twice now, so we'll have to wait and see."
— Democrat Patrick Combs, after being defeated by Doug Bereuter, on whether he would make a third bid for the 1st District seat in the House of Representatives

"He's been fighting battles in Washington, D.C., and I think that's more of a dangerous battle than the one I fought in Bosnia."
— Famed U.S. Air Force pilot Capt. Scott O'Grady, endorsing Rep. Jon Christensen, R-Neb.

"I have a hell of a lot more respect for what candidates go through."
— Nebraska Supreme Court Judge David Lanphier, on a judicial watch group's campaign against him

"If we lose, we'll be going to our grandma's house on Christmas."
— Texas Tech Football Coach Spike Dykes, referring to the remainder of the Red Raiders' Big 12 season

"Every year, we've had pain. It's just been inflicted in different ways."
— Nebraska Basketball Coach Danny Nee, on his young team's "growing pains"

"You can't play Nebraska like we did."
— Oklahoma Football Coach John Blake, on his team's 73-21 loss to the Huskers

"They'll be good because they're using my players."
— Missouri Basketball Coach Norm Stewart, on Nebraska's recruitment of Tyronn Lue and Cookie Belcher

"It's a very moving piece ... what we call a 'six Kleenex piece.'"
— Karen Libman, of the UNL Theater Department, on the production of "A Shayna Maidel," which depicts the struggles of a Jewish family in the aftermath of the Holocaust

MEHSLING'S VIEW



LETTERS

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

This letter is a response to your Monday, Nov. 4, 1996 column "Winner takes all" by Anthony Nguyen concerning how he says the Electoral College defeats the democratic process.

This was a very interesting column to read, but I must respond because I feel it is very misleading. Anthony Nguyen states that "the Electoral College is not a symbolic institution, but a real threat to how we determine who sits in the Oval Office." This definitely is not true when it comes to the Electoral College.

I understand his concern when he states that when it comes to Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, that the vote doesn't count. Technically it does, but it's not nearly a major concern with persons running for office.

This makes many people angry. But I must say this is not the reason why your vote doesn't have any major power.

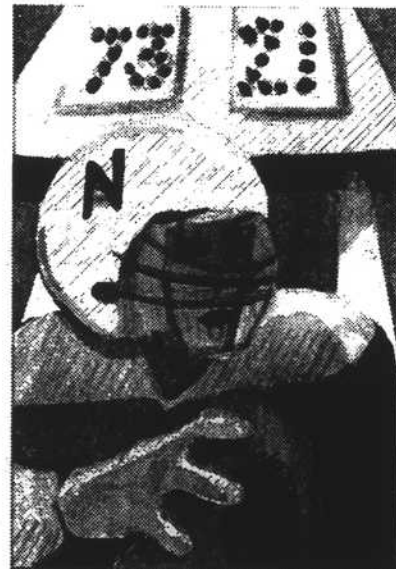
The reason is that states like Nebraska, Wyoming, etc. have very small populations, so why should they have as many electoral votes?

Also Nguyen mentioned that yes, the number of U.S. Representatives that Nebraska has matches the Electoral College, which is five, compared to other states that have many more representatives like Illinois or California.

But he fails to mention that every state has the same number of senators. This was created to balance the power of every state.

Nebraska has fewer representatives in the House, the House controls the purse, so why should such a minority have equal power in U.S. expenditures when hardly anyone lives in his/her state? This is nonsense!

Also, yes, a candidate only needs 270 votes to win. This is due to the



NATALIE LINSTROM/DN
Electoral College, which is totally legitimate.

Nguyen states that he would like to see candidates spend more time in Nebraska and other small states. He says without the electoral college the extra 800,000 votes would mean a lot.

Yes, without an Electoral College candidates would have to spend more time here. But I'm sure most people would agree with me that we need campaign finance reform.

Without the Electoral College, candidates would have to spend more time in every state and costs would go through the roof!!

But when it gets down to the "Nitty Gritty," candidates would spend more time in states like Illinois, California, New York, and so on anyway. In the recent election, 39,765,381 votes went to President Clinton, 33,386,575 went to Dole, and 6,843,743 went to Perot. These are the popular votes, not the electoral votes. Clinton clearly won this. Even by popular vote.

Daymon K. Seals
freshman
biology

FOOLISH FAN

It never fails! Every year, some weenie complains about Coach Osborne running up football scores (letters, Nov. 4). There is absolutely no logic in telling your team to take the field and not try their very best on every single drive.

It is unfortunate that the Cornhuskers face some incompetent football teams. But that does not negate the fact that, in order to elevate oneself to the title of national champion, one must treat every game (and every drive during that game) as a learning experience. Nothing is gained (by either team) in being unmotivated so as to not hurt the other side's feelings.

Finally, if Coach Osborne hadn't had third-string players on the field last Saturday, the opposing team never would have scored even a single point. Seems to me Osborne was being pretty generous.

Tom Eads
senior
political science and English

MUSIC CRITIC

I've had it. I'm sick of the stupidity exhibited every day in the DN.

I can live with the pathetically obvious typos (the female kitchen) and the endless one-sentence paragraphs, but when a "music critic" calls 311 a ska band, I have to draw the line. Does he have any idea what he's talking about?

Instead of answering that, why don't you ask the Toasters or the Skatellites. Hell, even the Bosstones would probably know the answer to that one.

K. Sornson
first year law

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