

OPINION PAGES

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"If you drop a dead cat from high enough, it will probably bounce back. But it's probably not in the cards for prices to be back up where they were this summer."

— George Pfeiffer, UNL professor of agricultural economics, on hopes that grain prices will rebound

"Their defense is like bees. They have 11 shirts to the ball every time."

— Missouri University tailback Brock Olivo, on the Huskers

"It's kind of like an insult to your manhood if they can run the ball right down your throat when you're going out there to prove them they can't."

— Cornhusker rush end Grant Wistrom, on the motivation behind Nebraska's No. 1 defense

"My wife asked me what it tasted like, and I said it tasted like vodka because I chased it with a shot of vodka."

— Political science professor Bill Avery, describing the taste of the boiled sheep eyeball he ate while visiting the former Soviet republic Kyrgyzstan

"I would feel comfortable saying someone could lose fingers if they were holding one."

— Fire investigator Brian Nehe, on pop-bottle bombs

"If Coach Pettit would have told me at my house to walk on a redshirt, I would have done that in a heartbeat."

— Toie Young, star volleyball player at Kansas State University, on Pettit's reluctance in recruiting her

"It's tough to go into the sea of red two years in a row."

— Missouri Football Coach Larry Smith, on playing in Memorial stadium

"Vengeance is for God, not for us."

— Mennonite Rev. Steve Ratzlaff, speaking to German Russians on the anniversary of Russia's 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and calling for remembrance of their ancestors' suffering, but not revenge

"I don't mind sitting on the bench. I've got to pay my dues."

— Former Husker Erick Strickland, now the fifth guard on the Dallas Mavericks' roster, on his first season in the National Basketball Association

"The Chinese say 'There is danger in every opportunity, and there's opportunity with regard to every danger.'"

— Beverly Ledbetter, a consultant hired by UNL to scrutinize the climate for women athletes on campus, on the university's high-profile image

"We aren't scared of Nebraska."

— Minnesota Soccer Coach Sue Montagne, prior to her team's NCAA Tournament match-up with the Huskers

MEHSLING'S VIEW



LETTERS

BEVY OF BEVERAGES

Coke, Pepsi or 7-Up? Personally, I don't like any of the above. One of the things that I love the most about this institution of higher learning (apart, of course, from the excellent education I'm getting) is the fact that there are at least three pop machines on campus where I can purchase DIET DR. PEPPER!!!

Seriously, I think it is wonderful that we currently offer so much variety, and I don't think that it would be worth any money involved to take away this choice from students.

Barbara Zach
sophomore
mathematics and education



NATALIE LINSTROM/DN

BANDAGED BIGOTRY

Well, here we have another guy (notice, no racial description) crying about affirmative action's opponents. I am writing in regard to Reynaldo Anderson's ignorant response (DN, Nov. 13) to Nick Wiltgen's column on the reverse discrimination that is rampant in today's society.

Anderson's claims of white supremacy are totally unfounded — just because our ancestors made mistakes in the past with minorities doesn't mean that we have to put certain groups above others or give them special advantages. The thought of living as an individual foremost is also very much in line with the belief in God. We all have the choice to believe in the one and only almighty being, and if we do, then we should be concerned with the beliefs of others. I am, however, in

agreement with Anderson on one point. The opinion that affirmative action is "only a band-aid for a larger problem" is very true. Some minorities have the feeling that, because of past persecution, they should receive this preferential treatment in many areas of life — not only employment.

I, being a minority myself, feel that rewards should be based on qualifications through equal opportunity rather than appointing a select few to posts because of their color.

J.J. Harder
sophomore
broadcasting

'VITRIOLIC DIATRIBE'

I wanted to write a well-reasoned response to Reynaldo Anderson's response to Nick Wiltgen's column regarding affirmative action. Instead, I'm going to write another "angry

white guy" response.

Mr. Wiltgen wrote what appeared to be an insightful, well thought out personal opinion about the possible negative implications of a government-sponsored affirmative action program. What he got in response from Mr. Anderson was vitriolic diatribe. Wiltgen tempered his writing with phrases challenging the implication that "the solution to bigotry is more bigotry," and he charged people with the "responsibility to judge people only as individuals."

Anderson chose to pepper his response with phrases like "angry white guy," and "neo white supremacist, sexist." Anderson then implied that all of "you" discriminate based on gender, "you" participated in Native American genocide, "your" own Constitution regards black people as three-fifths of a human being (animals?), and "yet still(?)" rape black women behind "your" white women's backs. Who is "you"? Is it Wiltgen? Is it all "angry white guys"?

Affirmative action may have a benign purpose and it may serve to remedy past inequities. Then again, maybe it will only serve to perpetuate separateness. In any event, one thing it will probably not eliminate is ill thought out, venomous, foul-mouthed, bastardization-of-vocabulary-and-history "opinions" like Anderson's.

I'm an "angry white guy." But I'm not angry about affirmative action. I'm angry that people like Anderson believe that by labeling someone else a racist or a bigot, it gives them free license to be one themselves.

Joel J. Agena
third-year law student

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P.S. Write Back



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