

Dear Brian-

January 2, 2001

TV  
1/9

Out here in the Wisconsin countryside  
we are ELECTORAL "college kids" as well as  
C-Span fans.

Our favourite college is located in the  
heart of the Constitution and we're hoping  
it doesn't lose its accreditation in the  
day ahead.

I've enclosed an article I wrote for  
The Iola, Wis Herald and a Tee Shirt from  
the Athletic Dept for you. You may

remember me from my Hill days  
(1958-1988) and appearances on early

C-Span

Hoping you have a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Best Wishes

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# Electoral College demise unlikely

BY [REDACTED]

OGDENSBURG – When they graduated from Harvard and Yale, Vice President Al Gore and Gov. George W. Bush thought their college days were over ... wrong!

Now that one has graduated and the other one has flunked out, the critics of the Electoral College are calling for its constitutional accreditation to be withdrawn.

"Repeal this antique from the 18th century and go to the direct election of the president and vice president," they say. "It's undemocratic and it thwarts the will of the people. We live in a democracy, don't we?"

At this point, would you please repeat after me: ... I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America ... and to the republic for which it stands ... to the republic.

Yes, we have just repeated the first reason why the Electoral College won't be repealed. As our Pledge of Allegiance points out, we are a republic, not a democracy.

A second reason why the Electoral College will survive is the U.S. Senate, which is quite undemocratic in its organization. Every state has two senators, regardless of its size. That means Wisconsin, with one-fifth of the population of California and five times the population of North Dakota, has

*equal voting power* with those two

states.

A third reason there will be no basic change lies in constitutional history, which reveals four fascinating instances where the Electoral College was severely tested, but passed with flying colors: Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr in 1800, John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson in 1824, Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J. Tilden in 1876, and Benjamin Harrison and Grover Cleveland in 1888.

A fourth and final reason there will be no basic change in this constitutional institution of higher learning is the Constitution itself. It takes two-thirds of both the House and Senate and three-fourths of the states to amend the constitution. It seems unlikely that either the U.S. Senate or the small states are likely candidates for political suicide.

There we have it ... a college for the next century, based on the fundamentals of the last one ... and to the republic for which it stands.

*Attorney [REDACTED] spent 30 years on the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives.*

**Remember:  
New deadline for ads  
& editorial is now  
Thursday!**