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Editor

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To The Editor:

How to pretend to win an argument: You say, "X is true." Your opponent says, "No, here's the evidence against X." You say, "How can you possibly deny Y?"

When Sam Prentice says, "We're not a democracy" and I respond with arguments demonstrating that we are in fact a democracy, what was his response? He says that I am "disputing that we are a republic". This is plain dishonesty.

A republic is a government designed to benefit the people rather than its leaders. That's all it means. Most countries currently are republics. A democracy is a government in which the citizenry can, directly or through representatives, choose the laws and leaders. There is no contradiction between the two. The U.S. is both a republic (because we have no monarch) and a representative democracy (because we elect our lawmakers and executives.)

The rest of his letter contains unsubstantiated claims of voting irregularities and an unnecessary primer on federalism and the Electoral College. Yes, that's how the Electoral College works. I'm simply suggesting that, as we've done numerous times in the past, we should expand our democracy. Direct election of the president would be a great way to start.

Sincerely,

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