

**CHRIS HALLIGAN**

**ASUN election drama descends**

It's hard to believe the ASUN student elections are upon us, like dark clouds on what could otherwise be a sunny day.

It's time for the Association of Students at the University of Nebraska elections (or ASUN Greek Elections if you prefer), the time of year when our university encourages individuals to fabricate, beguile and railroad the student body and to legitimize those individuals through newsprint and debate, the time of year when students begin to feel claustrophobic in their own homes and find their mailboxes and dormitory hallways stuffed with papers and people attempting to parlay votes.

It's the time of year when the fraternities and sororities begin to choose sides — not based on platform issues or political credibility, but on whether the candidate is in a popular house. Or whether people in their own houses are running with a certain party. Or if association with a winning election group will launch them into the hierarchy of the greek system, the cream of the crop, or, as the sub rosa members prefer to call themselves, the "royalty" among mediocrity.

Indeed, the student elections are upon us. Because I am a one-time victim of the "electoral process," I have taken this opportunity to give some pointers on what to look for and how to interpret the goings-on during this time of cheese whiz and equivocation.

This year we have not one, but two greek parties going head-to-head in "Greek Popularity Election '92," so-named because it's a foregone conclusion that there isn't a prayer in heaven a non-greek student election group will win anything.

But having two greek parties on the ballot makes for an extremely steamy and interesting situation within the greek system. Suddenly there is chaos. No one will be sure which party to "endorse." There will be heated meetings, possibly even fights, and the entire unification of the greek system will summarily become "ununified."

Note: This can work in the favor of any non-greek election group, because the vast majority of the electoral vote (the greeks) will now be split. If you can get one or two non-greek students out of bed on election day, you might just have a chance at winning a senate seat or two — maybe even a couple advisory board positions, if you're lucky. Here's your chance to defy history!

The two greek parties are called "COMMIT" and "ACTION."

COMMIT is headed by Andy Sigerson, the former campaign manager of the victorious UNITY party



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from last year. Look for some cheesy politics from COMMIT.

ACTION is headed by Alyssa Williams, a prominent member of a prominent greek sorority. Williams is known for her debating and leadership skills within prominent greek circles.

If what you are reading is giving you flashbacks to scenes from the "Godfather," you aren't that far off the mark.

There is a rule within the greek political stomping grounds that one should create a "puppet party" along with the "legitimate" party, so that the puppet party can do all of the dirty campaign work for the "legitimate" party.

Look for students being so naive and uninterested that the legitimate party and puppet party can even run out of the same fraternity without question. Does the UNITY/HORIZN conspiracy ring a bell?

However, before the puppet party can be put to good use, the legitimate party first must find some mud that the "angry and rebellious" puppet party can fling at its adversary.

Dirty laundry, mud, slander — whatever you want to call it, it's one of the mandatory ingredients for any student election. No matter how stupid a party may look, no matter how stupid and uninformed the members may sound, if it's got dirt — even stupid dirt — it's got a victory in the

bag. Dirty laundry for student election groups is like insurance on a plane — no matter how hard they crash and burn in debate or campaigning, dirty laundry on the other party will have them flying high in the public eye in no time at all.

Also mandatory in ASUN elections are the prefabricated platforms created by election groups to defend during the election and summarily tossed into the waste can the minute they are elected (If you are interested in running in the election this year, I heard that Kinko's is selling copies of some Prefab Platforms downtown).

These platforms will be choked with the usual rhetoric: the despicable parking problem, the despicable racial problem, the despicable apathy problem. This will be old hat for anyone half-involved on campus, so excepting about 25 students and the staff at the Daily Nebraskan, this platform should sound innovative and new to everyone.

You might also get the idea of a "president's breakfast" or two thrown in, where a student election group will vow to unite all of UNL's student activity organizations over Egg McMuffins and coffee. This will be the second vice president's reason for running. The past has proven this to be a truly monumental idea that will ensure victory.

Be prepared to see signs posted just about everywhere a staple will penetrate. "Vote COMMIT" and "Vote ACTION" signs will stare at you at every turn. You will begin to have nightmares of black-and-yellow ACTION signs chasing you to class screaming, "I'm Legit! Vote for me! Vote for me!"

You will wake up in a cold sweat, go to the bathroom and, like a scene from "Flatliners," you will be horrified to find hundreds of COMMIT and ACTION signs hanging all over your bathroom. Coincidence? I don't think so!

Good luck, fellow students, and fare well. Surviving a student election is like surviving in the Amazon with only a machete and a can of mosquito repellent. Luckily, the student elections are only a few weeks away, so the nightmares should subside by spring break.

One last note: You can do one thing to make the harassments and railroading of this year's student elections all worthwhile. On election day, cash in on the candy. You should be able to load up on enough to last you until Halloween. Then make a point of not voting!

Halligan is a junior political science major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

**Americans reluctant to help sick criminals**

I'm writing in response to the Alan Phelps article concerning Jeffrey Dahmer and his case ("Jury's finding lacks sanity," DN, Feb. 17). I agree that the jury members must have come up with a logical explanation for Dahmer's actions that most of us overlooked.

Anyone who could believe that Jeffrey Dahmer was or is sane obviously doesn't know the difference between insane and sane. And I believe this may have been the case. These were average Americans on the jury, which in all due respect would lead one to conclude that none of the jury members were certified psychologists or psychiatrists. Even so, we must trust that these jurors practice good judgment when given information. Unfortunately, when they

were given the facts by professionals (Dahmer was/is "sick") they chose to ignore it. The question is, "Was it right?"

These were average American citizens, average citizens who are engulfed in a society that believes in revenge. I believe that accusation was proven when the verdict was read. The jury had heard various testimonies by psychologists, and it still assumed its unforgiving position.

This is when I no longer may wonder if the society I live in seems very selfish. This case was treated unfairly and truly American. Americans think the best thing to do when a case like this comes along is to throw the criminal in a cell to rot. Are we too ignorant to see that this neither solves any problems of the individual nor our

society?

Jeffrey Dahmer could be taken to a hospital and thoroughly examined, where we could possibly learn what caused his outburst of destruction. Maybe we could learn something that could better the American people and their society, but then God forbid we learn something from a "sick" criminal. At least that seems to be the attitude in this case. Or maybe it's just the lack of compassion for a human being, whether sane or insane. In either case, I truly hope that there may someday be a change in this selfish and unforgiving society.

Brandy Shultz  
freshman  
psychology

**Dahmer would not benefit from rehabilitation**

In regard to the column about Jeffrey Dahmer ("Jury's finding lacks sanity," DN, Feb. 17), I must say that I am more surprised by the attitudes of the DN than ever. How on earth can you possibly think that Dahmer could be rehabilitated? Much less be allowed back out on the streets of the nation?

People say that the death penalty is no good as a deterrent. Even more people find that rehabilitation is fruitless and only a waste of money as the criminals repeat their acts more often than not. Remember Willie Horton or the murder that happened in Omaha

when a man released on probation committed murder again.

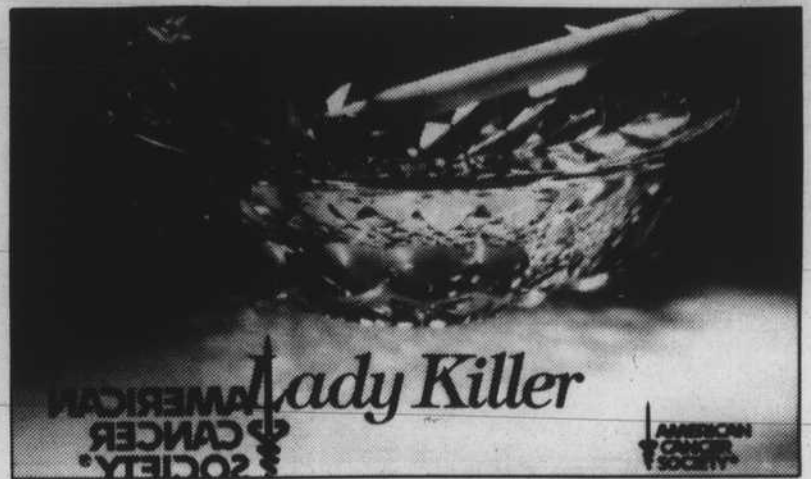
Dahmer cannot be reformed because what he did was something that he liked to do. You can pour as much therapy down his throat as you like, but you have to realize that there will always be that desire in him to repeat what he did, to have some kind of intimate union with another person. What will he do then? Will he remain good, or will he eventually revert to his old ways? The money, more often than not, is a repeat of past crimes.

When the death penalty was repealed by the Supreme Court, many

members of death row in California were released. Eighty percent were returned behind bars for new crimes, many of which were murder.

This is not the Star Trek society or a Utopian society. Nor can we afford to give to those who have committed serious crimes when the innocent go without jobs, food, shelter or education. For now, the murderers and hardened criminals will simply have to suffer.

Jason A. Beincke  
junior  
English



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