

ALAN PHELPS

Cards help make distant friends

I came in the mail just yesterday — and not one moment too soon. I'm writing, of course, about my official Clinton Victory Card, provided to me free of charge from the good folks at the National Card Company of Chattanooga, Tenn.



On the front of the baseball card-type Victory Product is a heartwarming picture of Bill and Hillary standing beside the Victory Bus out on Campaign Trail Smiley.

I flipped over the card and found that the reverse side listed all sorts of useful information, such as which states voted for which candidate back in November.

But that wasn't all. Along with the Free Victory Card was a press release detailing how the National Card Company, in celebration of the victory and all, has printed up a 10-card "Road to the White House" set, and I CAN COLLECT THEM!

That's what I love about this job. I feel the power of the press flooding through my body, much like the wave of victory that propelled Clinton to the White House. All I had to do was sit at my desk, and my free Victory Card dropped right into my lap, all the way from Chattanooga, Tenn.

According to the press release, the 10-card set shows all aspects of our new chief executive, including "Clinton, the listener;" "Clinton, the motorcyclist;" and "Clinton, the builder."

"The cards show Clinton in roles that all Americans will understand," the letter exclaimed. I'm not sure I understand "Clinton, the builder," myself. I wasn't aware he built things.

The press release told me to contact Lewis Revels in Chattanooga for more information. Lewis wasn't around on Thursday afternoon. But Michael Gonzalez was.

"I couldn't really guess," Gonzalez said. Apparently, the phone number I was sent wasn't for the folks at National Card Company, but for Chatta-

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nooga Coin and Stamp, who only distributes the cards.

"We just take orders," Gonzalez told me. He hadn't seen the "Builder" card yet, but he told me that 10 of them would cost \$9.95. Gonzalez speculated the "builder" card showed Clinton "coming up the ranks to the presidency."

Could be. I told Gonzalez I was interested in how much the cards would be worth to traders. I asked him if, for example, two Nixon cards might equal one Clinton. Unfortunately, there are no other presidential cards; as far as Gonzalez knew, anyhow.

He agreed with me that comparing Clinton cards to other cards, such as maybe Mickey Mantle or Babe Ruth, would be like comparing apples and oranges.

That's the trouble with these speculative investments.

Gonzalez said that during the race last fall a bunch of cards of the three candidates were printed up, and 10

Perot or Bush cards can be ordered for \$10. That makes all of them about equal.

I thought I might ask Bill Clinton what he thought of that, but the White House number was busy. When I tried to call back later, I mistakenly dialed area code 212 instead of 202, and reached Rob Imbriano, a producer for ABC television in New York City.

He said that the idea of collecting Bill Clinton cards didn't thrill him, although he pronounced his name Rob as "Robe," which seems kind of fishy.

"I was a big baseball card collector when I was a kid, but it stopped there. It doesn't really excite me," Imbriano said. "I like my Nolan Ryan, Willie Mays, but Bill Clinton, no, I don't think so."

Imbriano also told me he was on a deadline, and that his department was "fightin' hard to change this number." Evidently, people call him all the time when trying to reach the White House.

My producer friend seemed a bit suspicious of me, and he was careful to write my name down. I told him that I'd put him in the paper if he put me on television, and he said it was a deal.

That's the whole point behind trading baseball cards — making new friends. And I made a friend today, thanks to Bill Clinton "Road to the White House" Victory Cards. Rob, or Robe, Imbriano, toiling away in the rat race of Manhattan, knows that he has a friend in the far-off wasteland of Nebraska.

It's the power of the hobby, and a beautiful power at that. I hope that when Rob/Robe changes his number, he tells me what the new one is.

Maybe one day when my Victory Card matures in value, he'll swap a Nolan Ryan for it.

Phelps is a junior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan managing editor and a columnist.

RAINBOW ROWELL

Big breasts: a fashion liability?

The decade of the breast is at its close!

Yes, the time has come for the planet's greatest fashion minds to release what's hot and what's not for 1993. According to a reputable women's magazine, this year will be — surprise, surprise — filled with more wacky seventies clothing. One of these days, those velvet bell-bottoms have got to make a real comeback.



Adieu falsies, implants and Puffs Plus with aloe. Ladies, the time has come to put away your push-up bras and get yourself a corset!

WHOA — here's the real news — 1993 will be the return of the smallest-chested woman.

Adieu falsies, implants and Puffs Plus with aloe. Ladies, the time has come to put away your push-up bras and get yourself a corset!

Somewhat, I think the wonderful world of women's fashion is making a big mistake, a bigger mistake even than assuming people will actually buy bell-bottoms en masse again.

It seems a little silly — darn near ridiculous, in fact — for body types to go in and out of style. So what if small or large breasts are in or out this year? If you've got 'em, you've got 'em. You can't just buy a new and improved pair.

I'm no Madonna. (I mean, I'm REALLY no Madonna.) But, even I have worn some really lame things in a pathetic attempt to be cool in the eyes of my equally pathetic peers. In the seventh grade, I tried wearing a Swatch around my ankle. No blood reached my feet during my junior high years because I used 80 safety pins to taper my jeans.

But help me out. There's not much that even the most devoted fashion slave can do about her chest size.

"Gosh, small breasts are all the rage in Milan. I guess I'll have mine taken in a few inches!"

Colors and skirt lengths and hairstyles can all come and go, but short of surgery, we're stuck with our bodies.

I'd like to know who makes the final decision in these matters. I'm not sure, but I think rapidly aging French men, while enjoying unpeu du cafe and chain-smoking say, "Coco, these breasts, they tire me."

"Qui, Yves, it is time for a change." Do they break into a round of Les Marseilles and bring back Twiggy just like that?

And, why does it have to be breast size? Why not head size? "Yes ma'am, all the hot models have big heads. They can hardly hold them up on the runways. I have two words for the stylish woman in 1993: Charlie Brown."

It couldn't be like that because that wouldn't satisfy a society obsessed with S-E-X.

And yet, parts of the male anatomy don't come in and out of style. Do GQ and Esquire ever hail the return of the small penis?

You know, I'm usually slow to

embrace hard-line feminist conspiracy theories, but most fashion magazines claim to be advocates for women. The better ones sandwich stories about successful, interesting and real women in between all those pages of advertising and pictures of Cindy Crawford.

It doesn't make sense for these same publications to encourage women to hate or feel wrong about their bodies. Most women get enough encouragement elsewhere.

We invite the fashion gods to dictate what we should put on our bodies, but when they tell us what our bodies should be, aren't we letting them go too far?

When I shared my new fashion info with my rather buxom roommate, did she say, "Who needs them? I like me just the way I am."

No, she immediately assumed all the world's small-breasted women had staged a letter-writing campaign just so that she would look dorky in this fall's sweaters.

"My one asset! What will they take from me next?"

It's sad that whether small or large breasts are in, about half of all women will always be out.

That's all right. I guess women are used to feeling miserable about themselves.

Well, maybe it's not all right.

But, don't despair Ms. 36DD, you can still be chic this year. There is always that seventies boat to jump on! Stock up on hip huggers and hot pants. Maybe you can hide those atrocious breasts behind a denim vest or a Kit Dymomite mega-collared.

And, don't forget, this year bell-bottoms are really here to stay.

Really.

Rowell is a junior news-editorial, advertising and English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

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