

**Anthony
NGUYEN**

Whom to blame?

We all contribute to politics' demise

Come Nov. 5th the majority of us won't be going to the ballot box to elect the next president of the United States. No surprise to most of us, huh? What's the reason for this apathy? Foot fungus? Halitosis? Nope — but it might as well be. Rather it's a culmination of politicians, the media and us, the people. Yes, it's not just politicians who have put the proverbial monkey wrench into the works, but our very own actions.

Let's look at some of the reasons given for running in an election (with layman's translations attached):

"Doing good for the country" (i.e. doing good for me).

"It was my calling" (my degree in social basket-weaving just isn't cutting it).

And most importantly, "I've got a plan for America" (the people around me are sick and tired of my loud-mouth, half-assed opinions, but unlike YOU, are rich enough to ignore me).

Cynical, huh? Well, yeah.

I mean, I'd like to run for political office one day — oh, 10, 15 years from now. But it's the attitude of the media and people, combined with the current political system which would make me shy away from just a position (that and the fact that a crazy Asian just can't cut it in today's political world).

But here are some reasons why I wouldn't want to run for office:

I wouldn't want 50 percent of the people to hate me before I even spoke a word.

I wouldn't want my immediate and distant family to be attacked, especially because one of them owns a puke green Ford Pinto.

I wouldn't want my caffeine addiction to become a "character issue."

My friends would get rich selling stories about my green beer/three-legged dog adventure.



"I wouldn't want my caffeine addiction to become a 'character issue.'"

People would blame me for "moral corruptness" in America. People would only remember my mistakes (like falling off a platform mid-handshake) and not listen to what I had to say.

Just look at all of those reasons. That's what happens to today's politicians if they run for office. If it's not the opponent digging up dirt, it's the media. Why, just the other day, a columnist from the Boston Globe offered 40 reasons why not to vote for Bill Clinton in November. Big deal! So I'm not supposed to vote for him. Are there 40 reasons why I should vote for Bob Dole or Ross Perot?

So who does that leave running for political office? Either a candidate who has stroked his or her own ego to the size of Mount Everest, or an insane, conscienceless person.

And that's the problem. We never get any reasons for voting for one candidate except for the "well my opponent sucks" argument. Don't

**Sonia
HOLLIMON**

Stop the stupidity!

One more bad day, and I go postal

Last week I got into a verbal altercation with a man at the Financial Aid office. It wasn't even one of the people who worked there, although I've had it in for them for about five years. No, it was the guy standing behind me, who claimed that the post office moved faster than Financial Aid. I told him that there was less chance that you'd get shot at financial aid. Somehow it deteriorated into me telling him he was a geek, and then he said something about homeless people. So I had to get ethnic on him, put my hand in his face and tell him to shut the hell up. The people at the back of the line looked relieved for the entertainment value this scenario provided.

Then, the other day I was in my car and these two kids next to me at the red light were sticking out their tongues. Just kids, right? Oh no, these urchins were wearing ugly rubber Richard Nixon masks. And their parents were laughing! I really do not believe in child abuse, but a warm bottom never hurt anyone. And I'm talking about their parents.

I saw three white people making fun of an East Indian family while at a stop light. They were warbling some attempt at a stereotypical accent and making references to Quik Shops.

And to top it all off, the Huskers took a beat down this weekend. Well,



"I realize that we all have bad days every now and then, but a big group of bad days is biting me in the behind, and it's really starting to hurt."

at least the world is back on its axis. People are just getting on my nerves. I know I always get riled after watching "The Real World," but I've missed the last three episodes. For some reason, I am finding it more and more difficult to be nice

bow! me over with such a display of logic.

We're just as much to blame.

Us? At fault? Gasp! As if! That's some attitude you've got there! No, you say, it's the politicians who make us angry with their lies and broken promises and tax hikes, blah, blah, blah. But in a representative democracy, when we don't go to the ballot box, we're saying, hey, I LIKE the way things are running ... not I'm fed up with the whole spiel. At least that's what politicians hear.

We complain that we only want the issues — that we are sick and tired of mud-slinging. But when some big scandal erupts, we glue our eyes and ears to the TV or newspapers. How many of you have read about some of the issues in this year's elections (really read about them) on the front page of the paper?

Instead, we see headlines about Clinton's campaign manager Dick Morris. We see headlines about Dole's lag in the polls. But it's the media's fault, we say. Is it really? Or are we now part of a cynical generation that drinks from this very fountain of scandal?

If we want to change anything, we need to realize in the immortal words of Marge Simpson to "get off your keister, mister" — and do something about it. Don't write off voting as choosing the lesser of two evils.

Think of it as trying to make a difference in a system that continually frustrates us.

So, what do we have planned for Nov. 5th? Nothing, huh? Well maybe we should, 'cause if we don't, and the shit hits the fan, then it's partly our fault.

Nguyen is a senior biochemistry and philosophy major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

GUEST VIEW

**Joshua
GILLIN**

Acknowledging heritage point of pride, prejudice



about getting a tattoo. Most of my work around the house gets done on Saturday.

But I see being Jewish as a state of mind. It's been a part of my mother's heritage for generations. I have relatives who died in the gas chambers. I see it as a big part of who I am. In my eyes, that's all I need.

We don't need to kowtow to a man who people say came down from heaven. All of us are the children of God. Jesus was a good man, a good Jew, but the Jews do not believe he was the leader we are supposed to wait for.

Must we be sentenced to a lifetime of ridicule for not accepting him? Apparently so; so ridiculed that one man saw fit to try to exterminate us completely. Luckily, he only got six million of us.

I don't hold anything against Christians — I even tried to be a Christian once. It just didn't work for me.

So the fear and ignorance that causes prejudice continues in my life. I suppose there is a great amount of fear about Jews. Maybe it is the aloofness with which Jews respond to prejudice that causes people to do it — like children who try even harder to get the attention of adults who ignore them.

After all, we are the chosen people; why should a little prejudice bother us? We'll end up just as good, if not better than Christians, because Judaism was around hundreds of years before the Roman Empire adopted the religion based on a Jewish man the Romans killed hundreds of years earlier.

And if I hear the accusation that the Jews killed Jesus one more time, I'll likely go insane. The Jews were under Roman rule, practicing Roman customs (much to their behest) and crucifixion was a Roman punishment.

Jesus was a Jew (all those so-called good Christians who make ethnic slurs toward Jews should try to remember that). During the Passover holiday, a holiday celebrating the Jewish triumph over their Egyptian oppressors, Jesus caused quite a stir by preaching that no one but God had control over the people. Why wouldn't the Romans kill him?

But that is all speculation. I wasn't there, so I reserve judgment concerning those events. I only wish others would do the same.

I want the world to understand us, and if not understand us, at least tolerate us without malice. Nobel Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel once told a story everyone, Jews and Christians alike, could learn from. I only pray it could be this simple:

A Jew and a Christian were discussing religion when the Christian asked, "Why don't you believe Jesus is your savior?"

"Because," the Jew said, "we are taught to believe the messiah has not come yet."

The Christian became agitated at this answer, so the Jew said, "Listen; why don't we wait here together, as brothers, and when the messiah comes, we'll ask him, 'Have you been here before?'"

Gillin is a junior news-editorial and English major and the Daily Nebraskan AP Wire editor.

"If there is one thing I've learned in my two-plus decades on this planet, it's that being Jewish is something you don't go to great lengths to advertise."

I know what today is. Do you?

Today is Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. According to tradition, my people are supposed to fast today, the 10th day of the High Holy Days. We are supposed to show our appreciation for Yhwh, or, as my Christian friends call Him, God.

Oh, did I mention I am a Jew?

There aren't many of us here at this fine institution of higher learning. At least, if there are, we're not very vocal. If there is one thing I've noticed in my two-plus decades on this planet, it's that being Jewish is something you don't go to great lengths to advertise.

There are several reasons for this near-shame — none of which I fully understand. This country, despite its supposedly upheld doctrine of free religion, is overwhelmingly Christian, and the society in which I live has little tolerance for any deviation from that trend.

There is little wonder as to why that is, though. Judaism is not taught in our schools (of course, neither is any religion, but you didn't see public schools getting time off during these last 10 days, did you?)

My heritage is not openly accepted in Lincoln. The Daily Nebraskan, my own place of work, called Yom Kippur the Day of Remembrance (a completely different holiday) and said Jews go to church services. That's like saying the pilgrims and Indians sat down to Christmas dinner in a mosque.

Imagine the letters we would have received if something like that had been printed.

But there was only a trickle of letters, and even one of my superiors allegedly said he didn't think it was that big of a deal. Big surprise.

I shrug it off, though, as I think most Jews do.

Our God is our God; we must wait for a leader to come from Him and lead us to do God's will. So we wait.

And I wait.

To be fair, I don't practice Judaism. I eat pork. I'm thinking