

# Munson for president

*Pencil sharpeners, toilet seats, tutors and Todd – a perfect combination for ASUN*



**TODD MUNSON is a junior broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.**

Pop quiz, hotshots: What's the bigger farce?

- A) WCW Wrestling
- B) ASUN Elections
- C) The Jerry Springer Show.

If you answered "B," congratulations. You've obviously survived one before. If you answered "A" or "C," don't worry, little freshmen, if this quiz is given next year, you'll know the correct answer.

Last week, I attended a debate between the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska parties. I should have known not to attend when they handed me a pair of those eye-grabby things from "A Clockwork Orange" as I walked in. I tried to question their purpose but was cut off in mid-sentence.

"Be sure you turn these in before you visit the reprogramming station," said a faceless automaton in a monotone voice.

I tell you what, those business college students are as ubiquitous as frostbite at an arctic nudist colony.

"What the heck," I thought, "it can't be any worse than my barium enema last week." I was wrong. And not the "pardon me, I thought we were doing the Viennese Waltz" type of wrong, but the "you just called a heavily intoxicated Navy SEAL a sissy" type of wrong.

With my ocular restraints in place, I was ready to see some sparks fly and possibly some name-calling. Instead there were answers to questions that Willy Wonka couldn't sugarcoat any better. Because I love each and every one of you out there in Readerville, I will spare you the excruciating details. Just believe me when I say more sparks fly by rubbing two pieces of stale bread together than watching an ASUN debate.

I just realized something. I've been writing about the candidates as if you all know something about them. Unless you are the candidates themselves, I know you don't know a thing about them, so allow me to explain their virtues, or lack thereof.

This year's election is kind of different. There are two parties as usual, but this year, instead of being one greek-type party and one regular student's party, they both come from a heavy greek background.

They both have keen names too. There's Commit Us, er, COMMIT, and Gross Puss-filled Lesion, uh, VISION. They both share virtually the same inane platform. "More committees to try to, maybe, make something happen." In my four years here, I have yet to feel the impact of anything ASUN created.

Essentially, in both parties you have a group of smug elitists who think they are the chosen ones to lead the university to success and fame. In ASUN elections, they see an opportunity to pad an otherwise dull resume. For example, why does a math major feel she can run student government?

A week and a day from now, the elections will be held. The result is a scam worse than the Academy Awards.

What really bothers me is those who don't exercise their right to vote. If history repeats itself, something like 14 out of 24,000 students will vote in the elections. Because of the wishy-washy attitude of students, pinko fascists, like those running for ASUN, assume control of the university.

So what to do? It seems like it doesn't matter whom you vote for – the holier-than-thou sect of the university will gain control.

Ah, what the hell, vote for me.

That's right, in the spirit of Frank Barela, Russel Hirshan, Mildred Howard, Ross Perot and all the others who tried to crack into government as third party candidates, I declare myself eligible as a write-in candidate for the ASUN presidency.

I'm the logical choice for the third party. I'm mentally unstable enough. My 2.89 GPA puts me in synch with 95 percent of the students here. Along with my rip-roaring GPA, I'm here on student loans – no scholarship or trust fund for me. I was president of my second grade class. I won by one vote because the kid I ran against didn't know you could vote for yourself. I studied for two years at the London School of

Economics, so I should be able to cut costs.

Hold on, I don't want to lie, yet. In reality I received a much-earned D+ in Economics 210. And I'm not afraid to say I have inhaled.

ASUN elections are a joke, but I'm not joking when I say: "Write me in as president."

Think of me as the dude who represents everyone who's never voted in a student government election. It will be an interesting experiment. No Web sites or silly banners for me. In my campaign, I vow to stick to my allotted \$25 budget that comes from one plasma donation.

Like my two new opponents, who suck worse than a broken vacuum, I too have a platform; only mine is in seven simple parts:

1) Declare the Friday before the first home Husker football game a campuswide holiday from class! Everyone's invited! We'll get some bands in, have a barbecue and shake our booties until kickoff the next day.

2) Erect a giant marquee announcing campus events next to the Nebraska Union. The reason nobody shows up for campus events is because it requires a healthy dose of dumb luck to know about them.

Tonight, David Silverman, Animation Director for "The Simpsons," which happens to be the greatest television show ever (yes, this is a gratuitous butt-kissing as it is a dream of mine to someday write for the "Simpsons") is speaking at the Nebraska East Union. The only way I knew about it was because I saw Bart's head behind a flyer for a 1977 Pinto.

3) Toilet seat covers in all university restrooms. 'Nuff said.

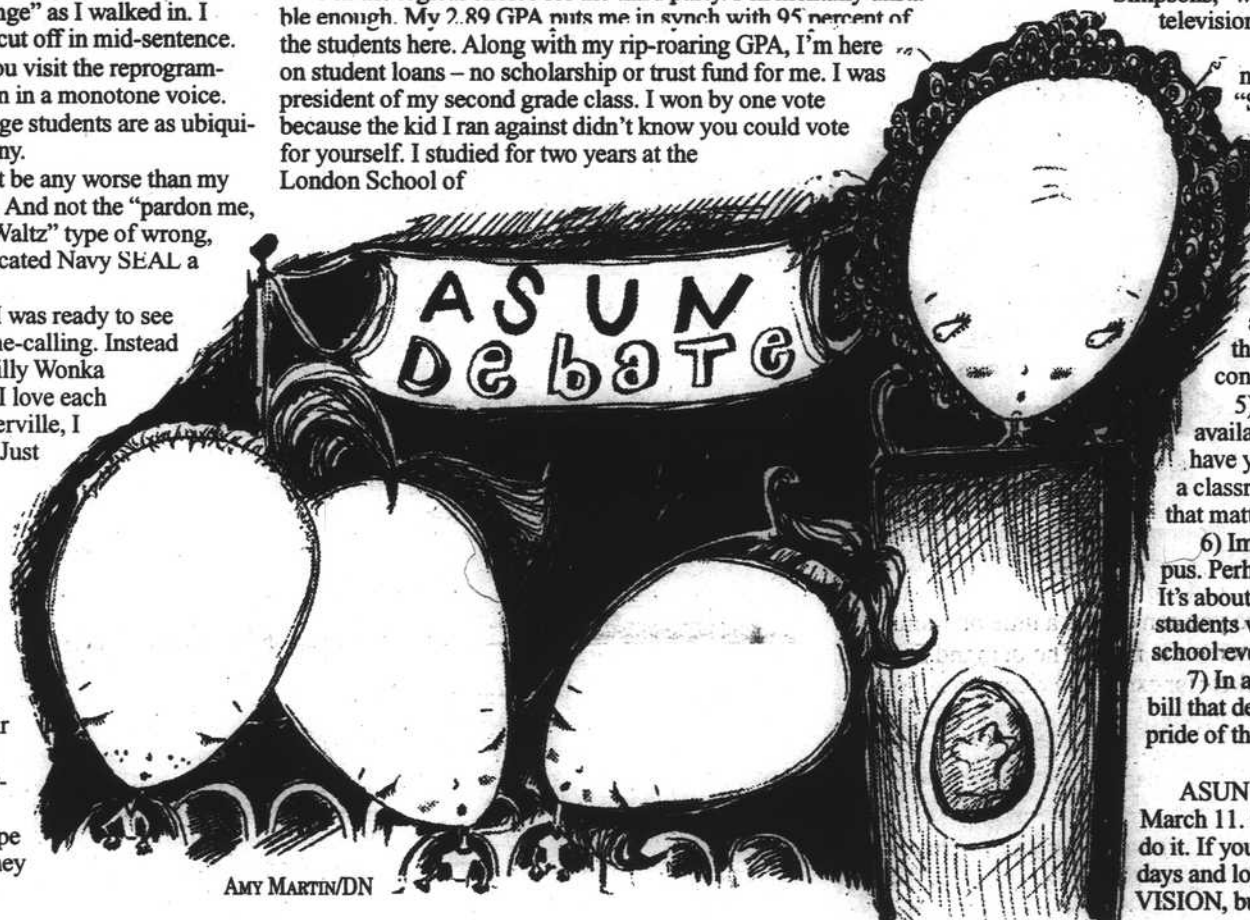
4) Make tutors available to the average student. Let's forget about the nine honors students here and concentrate on the rest of us.

5) Make pencil sharpeners readily available. I know this sounds stupid, but have you ever seen a pencil sharpener in a classroom, the union or Love Library, for that matter?

6) Improve the bicycle parking on campus. Perhaps an indoor garage for bicycles. It's about time we do something nice for the students who risk life and limb to make it to school everyday.

7) In a final display of sucking up, enact a bill that declares the Teachers College as the pride of the university.

ASUN elections are next Wednesday, March 11. If you've never voted, get out and do it. If you want UNL to become sun-shiny days and lollipops, don't vote for COMMIT or VISION, but write in Todd Munson.



AMY MARTIN/DN

# Shut the Gates

*Computer magnate Bill Gates needs to be stopped before he takes over everyone's soul*



**CLIFF HICKS is a junior news-editorial and English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.**

Bill Gates tried to buy my soul the other day.

I didn't have much of a choice, really, as much as I would have liked to keep it, but I own a computer and Bill told me, "Well, I'm afraid you'll have to give me your soul if you want to keep using the computer."

"Don't take my soul, Mr. Gates! I'll ... I'll ... get a Macintosh!"

He laughed that insane, megalomaniacal laugh of his and looked at me with that domineering look in his eyes, and said, "I just bought Apple, son."

"Nooooooooooooooooooooo!!!"

And then I woke up, but it wasn't that much of a dream, I'm afraid.

Bill Gates partially owns Apple. Bill Gates wants the Internet as his

own personal playground. Bill Gates wants to own art and religion.

Haven't you wondered why he's trying to control the world? Bill Gates was the ultimate nerd in high school. I'm starting to think his whole quest for world domination is simply so the man can get a date.

I'm not exaggerating things when I say Gates wants the world. He really has put money into Apple computers, which is turning to mail order only. (Wait, they get more money so now they're not in stores? Huh?) He owns digital reproduction rights to the majority of the world's art classics, and he was, at one point, attempting to bring the Catholic Church into the digital age – for a small profit, of course.

The man who's got the cajones to try and make a profit margin off the big G scares me just a little.

And Gates still wants the Internet.

It was funny, but Barbara Walters interviewed Bill Gates not long ago, regarding this whole scandal that Gates is in up to his arms. Let me give you the skinny:

Gates makes Windows '95, which almost all computers come with. He's including his Internet browser in the program, giving it for free. Gates says it's not illegal because he's not making profits (directly) from the browser and that people can still change over. The

Justice Department says it is because the program doesn't say "Internet Explorer" anymore, just "The Internet." And trying to extricate Explorer from Windows '95 (or '98, '99, '00 or whenever the next version comes out) is kind of like trying to give yourself a quadruple coronary bypass while on laughing gas and riding on Disney's "Space Mountain."

Walters, in her piece that had more fluff than the pillows of five-star hotels, asked Gates about this and he said he was simply trying to give everything simply. He even made an analogy about how selling Windows '95 without Internet Explorer was like buying a car without the wheels. He was just giving people the whole thing at once.

Well, no, Bill, giving us Windows in any form with Explorer is not only like selling us the full car, but forcing us to use your kind of gasoline for as long as we own the car.

I'm on the side of the Justice Department. I don't like being forced to have anything. If Gates thinks it's so essential to put a browser in the new operating system, why not include both Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer? Oh wait, that'd be playing fair; never-mind.

He's even changed the way the windows look so that each portion

of your hard drive now has its own address. Everything LOOKS like Internet Explorer on your desktop! I think if Gates could beat the U.S. mail system, he'd do that too!

Doesn't this seem like a strike at world power to you? Your hard drive is suddenly just like the Internet. "My Computer" is suddenly in its own little address bar at the top of the screen.

Back, foul Gates-demon, back! Beyond all of this, Explorer has this teeny-tiny flaw in the program. It is possible, using only the regular Web, to crash computers via remote. Or insert a virus. Or tell a computer to erase itself. Or any other number of endless things. There are ways through which Explorer lets anyone with the know-how do whatever they want to with your computer.

So, if Gates wanted to, he really could hold the world at bay; force all our screens to constantly show pictures of cheese; subliminally influence everyone to lust after him. Heck, the boy's got to get a date somehow. But I don't know if I want Gates scouring through my hard drive.

It's about time someone did to Gates what he's been doing to us for years.

The Justice Department has the chance to stop this before it goes any further. The mythical Windows '97, which has gone to being Windows

'98, will have full Gatesian control unless they stop him. Send letters to the Supreme Court, the Justice Department, Gates himself, anyone with power! You may think I'm a doomsayer here, but I'm tellin' ya, if Gates wins this one, it's curtains for the free Internet that we know.

Since Gates controls the Web browser, he controls the Web, and through the Web, he controls just about everybody.

If we win, the Supreme Court will tell Gates to pull every line of code related to Explorer from Windows out and force him either to give it away for free like everyone else, or better still, sell it like every other program on the market.

If you think the program's so good, Mr. Gates, let it stand on its own merits rather than thrusting it on people. But you and I both know that sucker would plummet a lot faster than the Titanic did, and make a heck of a lot less money.

I hate to say it, but it is possible that Gates could win. If he does, we will silently lose control of the Free World, and Orwell's nightmarish "1984" just might come true.

I'd quote some of it for you, but I'm pretty sure Gates has bought that, too.

And now Gates is trying to buy my soul. Yours as well. I don't know about you, but Emperor Gates has an awful ring to it.