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# Dirty trick played at Abel

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

The culprit who left a smelly surprise in an Abel Residence Hall elevator admitted to the act Thursday.

The hunt for the vandal who put human feces in an elevator Feb. 16 came to an end when Benjamin Braiggs, a 20-year-old freshman from Columbus, was caught in the act on videotape from a surveillance camera in the elevator.

"It was a stupid thing to do, and I apologize to the custodians and students here in Abel," Braiggs said. "It was a stupid thing to do."

Braiggs said he and a group of about 15 men on the ninth floor decided around 2 or 3 a.m. that it would be a good prank.

The feces, found on the floor of the men's bathroom, was scooped up with a pizza box and dumped into the elevator, Braiggs said.

Abel Residence Hall staff viewed the surveillance tape, provided by the maintenance supervisor, which showed a man with dark hair dumping the feces, said University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing.

Deb Mullen, Abel Residence Hall complex program director, said the residence hall's staff viewed the tape and made a positive identification of Braiggs.

Bushing said during questioning, Braiggs admitted to a university police officer that he put the feces in the elevator. But Braiggs denied any connection to feces found in the showers on the same floor where he lives.

Mullen said an investigation into feces found in the showers is ongoing.

The search for the vandal also was aided by information provided by students and staff who replied to Mullen within hours of the distribution of a Thursday morning letter to all Abel residents' mailboxes, Mullen said.

The letter informed students about someone leaving feces in the Abel elevator and in the showers in Abel's ninth-floor men's restroom, Mullen said.

The letter also offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and prosecution of the vandal, Mullen said.

The feces found in the elevator was similar to a problem a few years ago, when someone defecated in the stairwells. Mullen said offering a reward was beneficial in that investigation, so she thought it would help this time.

It was also important to inform students about an incident that poses a health and safety risk, such as feces in the elevator and showers, Mullen said.

She said she could not comment about the reward and would not say if it had been awarded to anyone.

She also could not say if discipli-

**"It was a stupid thing to do."**

**Benjamin Braiggs**  
UNL freshman

nary action by the residence hall staff will be taken against Braiggs because it would be confidential.

Braiggs said the talk around the residence hall was that he might be kicked out of the hall.

If the rumor is true, Braiggs might not be able to afford attending the university because he has nowhere to stay and didn't think he would be refunded for this semester's room and board, he said.

"It's going to end up costing about \$4,000," Braiggs said. "I'm probably going to end up going home if I get kicked out."

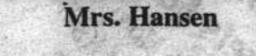
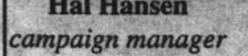
Braiggs has not given the names of the other men involved in the prank, but he is planning to talk to Mullen to see if it would help his situation and possibly decrease the punishment, he said.

He is expecting a decision on his punishment within about a week, he said.

Braiggs was cited by the university police for criminal mischief, Bushing said.

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## Three out of four mothers agree: the A-Team needs your vote

	<p>"I support the A-Team because of their plan to establish an On-line voting process for student elections. I pity the fool that doesn't vote A-Team on March 1."</p> <p>--Mrs. Schafer</p>	
Mrs. Schafer		Joel Schafer (for president)
	<p>"If I were a student, I would vote A-Team because they are the only party which supports the abolition of credit-card solicitation on campus. Credit-card debt is a serious problem and the other parties have no plan to deal with it."</p> <p>--Mrs. Peterson</p>	
Mrs. Peterson*		Riley Peterson (for vice-president)
	<p>"I think the A-Team is the only party seriously committed to involving new students in ASUN. Every year, the established parties prattle on about involving more people, but every year they fail and they don't deserve another chance."</p> <p>--Mrs. Webber</p>	
Mrs. Webber*		Joel Webber (for second v.p.)
	<p>"Maybe I shouldn't have let him eat so much dog food as a baby or perhaps it was some other factor in his early development, but for some reason my boy's brain just doesn't work right. Personally, I think the A-Team needs your vote like I need a hole in my head."</p> <p>--Mrs. Hansen</p>	
Mrs. Hansen		Hal Hansen campaign manager

\*Asterisk indicates endorsers receiving financial compensation for their statements.

This is a paid political advertisement of the A-Team Party, Christina Reisselman, Treasurer ASUN Student Government Elections, March 1, 2000.

## Law & Order

### Woman accuses stepfather of sexual assault

Police responded to a call at about 1 a.m. Tuesday from a 28-year-old woman who had reportedly been sexually assaulted by her stepfather.

The woman was riding home with her stepfather, a 39-year-old from Lincoln, when he pulled the car over at Overland Station, 2805 NW 48th St., Lincoln Police Ofc. Katherine Finnell said.

Once stopped, the man attempted to remove her clothes, Finnell said. The woman resisted, and he reportedly punched her in the face, giving her a bloody nose and a swollen eye.

He penetrated the woman with his fingers before she escaped from the car and called the police, Finnell said.

Police arrived at Overland Station before the man left. The police report said blood was found on his fingers and on his pants, but he denied any physical or sexual contact with the woman.

He was arrested on counts of attempted first-degree sexual assault and driving under suspension, Finnell said. His bond is set at \$50,000, and he is scheduled to appear in court today.

### Man arrested on drug charges

The Lincoln Police Narcotics Unit arrested Richard Deollos, 40, on a war-

rant Monday night.

Officers contacted Deollos at his residence, 1428 Huntington St., Apt. 4, at 8 p.m., Finnell said.

Upon his arrest, Deollos put up a fight with the officers. Police then searched him and found 4.025 grams of methamphetamine.

Deollos was charged with resisting arrest, possession of a controlled substance and possession with intent to deliver.

### Man arrested for exposure in park

Police arrested a man Monday who previously was involved in a Feb. 15 indecent exposure incident.

A mother and her daughter were out for a walk in Bear Park, 2400 Park Blvd., on Feb. 15 when they saw a man sitting naked in a van masturbating, Finnell said.

The two women got into their car and drove around to the front of the van to record its license plate number and notify police, Finnell said.

Police identified the van Monday and arrested Robert K. Johnson, 46, of Omaha, for indecent exposure, Finnell said.

Compiled by staff writer Derek Lippincott

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