

## Residence halls...

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roommate; you're living with 40 or 50 other people," Hulke said. "The walls are thin, and you feel like you can't be alone when you want to be."

But living with that many people can turn into an advantage, Hulke said.

"It's real easy to make friends when you live on the same floor, and share the same lounge and eat together," she said.

Greg Hanouw, a 1984 graduate who was an SA in Cather Hall for three years, said having a roommate is a big change for many freshmen.

"Your gut reaction might be, 'I hate this guy,'" Hanouw said. But, he said, freshmen should "stick it out" for a few weeks and try to make the situation work.

Rev. Bauer said many students come to him each year, usually to talk about a conflict with their roommate. The biggest problem, he said, is usually a difference in lifestyles. This is especially true if one roommate has a boyfriend or girlfriend who visits constantly.

The solution to such problems, Bauer said, depends on whether students have the "intestinal fortitude" to confront their roommates. If not, he said, students may just have to decide to live with the problem.

Wittstruck said if roommates do have serious problems, they first should talk to their floor's SA. Students must make an effort to solve the problem before any room changes will occur. No changes will occur during the first four weeks of class, Wittstruck said.

University Housing tries to assign compatible roommates by sending out room assignment questionnaires, Wittstruck said. Keeping smokers and non-smokers separated is the office's most important consideration, she said. Problems still occur, however, when freshmen check "non-smoking" because they don't want their parents to know they smoke.

Tolerance for other people and their differences is the key to residence hall living, Wittstruck said. Students should look at the residence halls as an opportunity to meet a variety of people.

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"If they can approach it that way," she said, "then half the battle is won."

Hulke and Hanouw both said the best way to take advantage of the other half of the battle is to get involved. Hulke said intramural sports are an especially good way to get to know other residents and develop a sense of community. Students can also get involved in floor and hall government, she said.

A favorite event in many residence halls, Hulke said, is an annual riverboat ride, when students take a bus to Bellevue to ride the Belle of Brownville. She said the halls also have floor exchanges, dinners and dances.

Fall Introduction of Nebraska Kids Week helps residence hall freshmen who have just arrived to UNL to get to know each other before classes begin, according to "The Good Life," a University Housing booklet. Each residence hall complex organizes its own set of events for FINK Week, which is the week before classes begin.

Hulke said another major pitfall for hall residents comes when they neglect their studies because they get caught up in the many social activities.

Wittstruck agreed, saying, "You have to learn self-discipline. We stress that studying is important if you want to stay here."

Hulke said that most halls leave their cafeterias open as study areas and smaller study areas are located throughout the halls.

Wittstruck said the halls provide many resources for students. SAs are especially important, she said.

SAs are upperclass men and women who are "our first line of contact" with students, Wittstruck said.

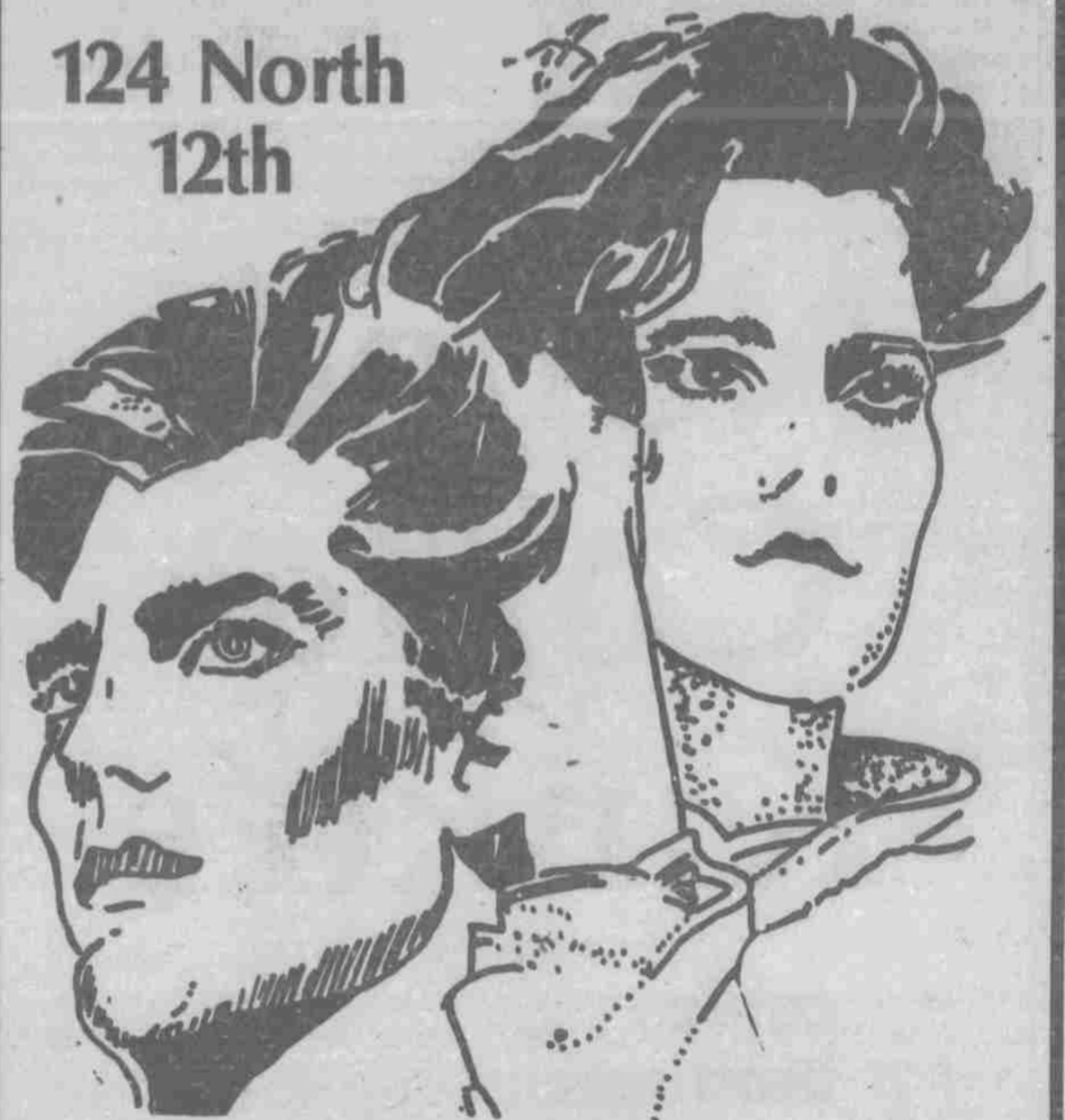
Hulke said SAs "try to develop a sense of community and make everyone feel that they belong."

They also direct students to other resources on campus, enforce UNL housing policies on alcohol and guests and check people in and out of the halls at the beginning and end of the year, she said. They also help to organize hall activities, she said.

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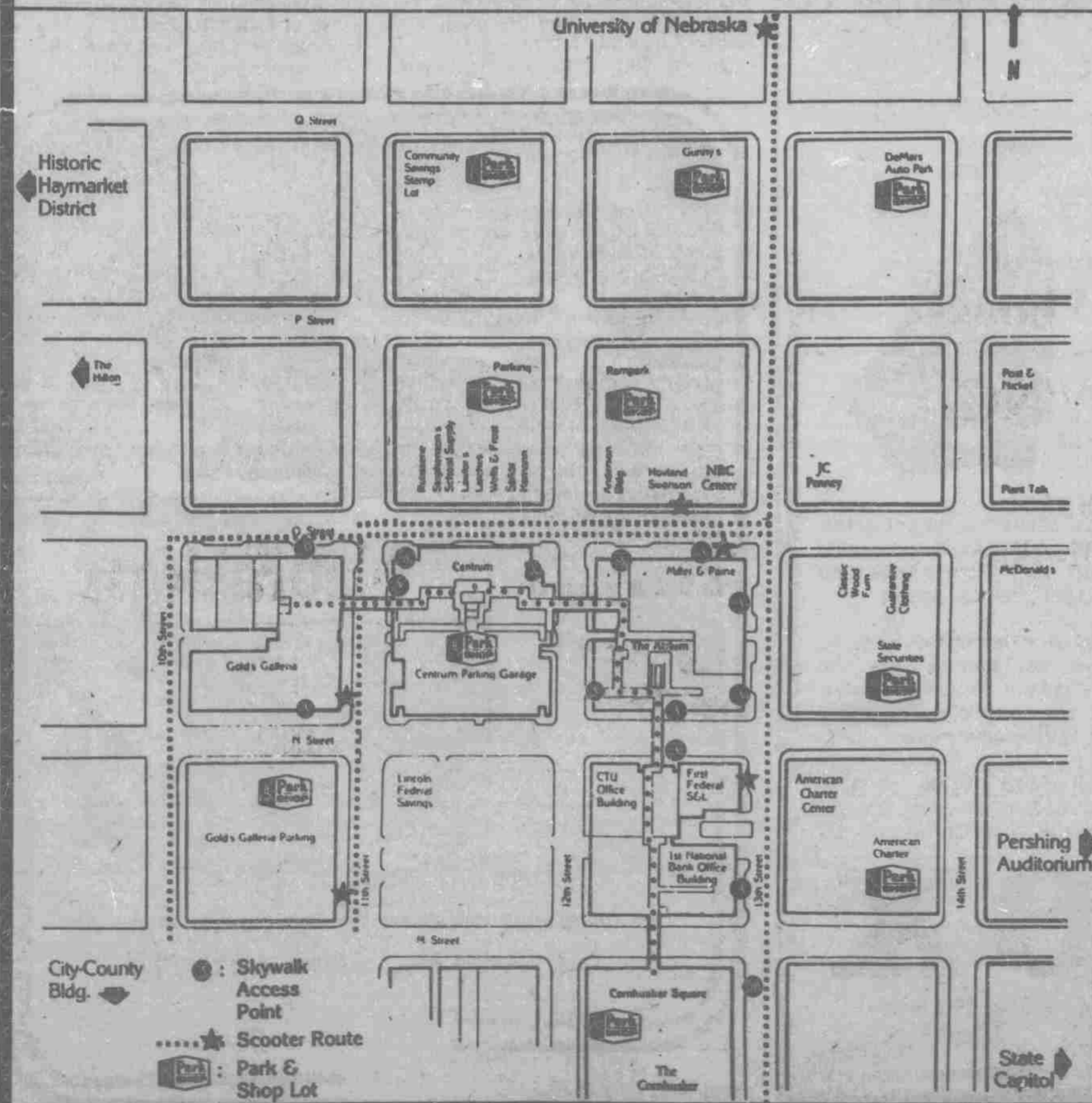
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