

Her name is Wei-Yung Chu—but call her Alice.

Alice is a 19-year-old Chinese student from the mid-levels district of Hong Kong.

While in Hong Kong she attended a Catholic high school where Italian nuns taught English to Chinese students.

After college, she spent one semester at the University of Ghana, in Africa, before deciding to come to the United States. Her reason for choosing UNL—her brother was already enrolled here.

Arriving in Lincoln, she was surprised by the flatness, because her first two glimpses of the U.S. were of New York and Chicago.

"I didn't realize we were at the airport because it was so small," Alice said.

She found most of her friends at first were the Chinese students she met through her brother, but after a time she began to mingle with American



students. Now she spends most of her time with them.

She said at first she found it strange to hear everyone speaking English, but soon became used to it.

Alice said she likes the dress styles here because they are casual. In Hong Kong dress codes are stricter.

She said she likes the United States, but there are a couple things that do bother her. She had a hard time learning to like the food, but doesn't mind it now. Also some people treat her differently.

"Some people still think you're a martian or something—like you're a different human being," Alice says.

She had heard about UNL's football team before coming here, but she has not turned into a Cornhusker fan and gets tired of "Big Red" promotions.

Alice doesn't know what she'll do after graduation, but if she has to leave the states she'll have had a good impression.

"I like it here," she says.

The cheapest rent for \$75 and, according to Boykin, can best be described as a hovel. Another one near the Capitol is a tiny two room, cockroach infested, third floor walk-up. Another house is completely occupied by foreign students. On the top floor, five students each pay full rent and share one bathroom.

If willing to endure a long waiting period, married students can live in University housing. The rent is inexpensive and the utilities are paid, but the physical conditions are hardly any better than those of the apartments on the general market.

Again discrimination can not be proven, but foreign students say they sometimes feel they have been denied housing because of their nationality or skin color, according to Boykin.

Several years ago a foreign student was told an apartment had already been rented. The student had an American friend return to the landlord and enquire about the apartment. The American was told it was still available.

Boykin said she urges foreign students to call and enquire about an apartment before they go to look at it.

Buying a car is another problem for a foreign student. Many do not realize how expensive it can be to drive a car, or they do not have the know-how to avoid bad deals on used cars or when they need repairs.

Since insurance is so expensive, many don't bother to buy any.

Then there is the safe driving problem.

"There are a heck of a lot of accidents," Boykin said. "I wish I could get them (the foreign students) all to take the safe driving course offered by the state patrol."

Boykin said the Foreign Student Office will supply any student with pamphlets discussing the costs and dangers of buying a car. The office is also distributing a tenants' rights folder.

UNL Ombudsman Jim Sutter said foreign students have disadvantages as consumers because they are not aware of their legal rights. As such they are more vulnerable to being taken.

Boykin said foreign students hesitate to file complaints with the housing authorities because they do not know they have the same legal rights as Americans.

Sutter suggested that the new student legal rights commission sponsored by ASUN could be a source of information and help.

But there is a more fundamental source of problems. Beginning at home and continuing until they get back, the foreign student has to cope with the United States government.

Before he ever sets foot on U.S. soil, the U.S. emigration office has begun to impose its regulations on the foreign student. After he is accepted by the



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