'Home sweet home' not always accurate

By Pat Gentzler

It happens every year. As first semester finals draw to a close and Christmas vacation begins, UNL students pack up and take off, leaving campus a ghost town.

Some head for the snowy slopes of Aspen or Vail. Others head for the sandy beaches of Miami or Honolulu. Anything to escape the pressures, hassles, and headaches of school.

Many, however, because of lack of enthusiasm or lack of funds, choose to spend their leisure weeks in the cozy comforts of home.

You remember home. It's that place you go for the holidays where you don't have to stand in line at dinner, but you have to stand in line for the restroom. You get yelled at if you kick off your shoes in the middle of the living room, and you have a dog on your lap whenever you sit down to watch television.

During the final hectic weeks of the semester when even thinking clearly becomes a chore and studying is next to impossible, the peaceful bliss of home that we all remember, seems very appealing.

The peace and quiet that some remember, however, is often nothing more than imagination. Once home, all the realities of little brothers and sisters home on vacation, nagging parents, and barking dogs seem all too real.

Sleeping late is interrupted by seven a.m. phone calls and Captain Kangaroo. The television works during sister's favorite soap opera but blows up with a minute left of a tied basketball game.

Is this the peaceful bliss students so fondly remembered?

When the need arises to retreat from this vacation retreat, it is discovered that there are three cars parked in the driveway behind the one needed to escape the "bliss" of home.

There is no choice in this event but to stay home and watch sister's soap opera. Soon, the symptoms of daytime drama syndrome start to appear and those pledged to rest and relaxtion become anxious about Leslie's mental condition. Will Ron and Nancy win custody of Karen?

But just as Meredith is about to break up the relationship between her father and Jo, it's time to start school again.

Once soap opera withdrawal is endured and the regular routine of school is returned, we're all back to the pressures and hassles and headaches of school. Welcome back, to peaceful tranquility.

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wanted

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personals

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