

# Freshmen find home isn't always home

I thought I'd write down a few thoughts, some my own and some borrowed, for you freshmen who had a rough first semester.

One of the worst things about college is those first few trips home.

For the first time in your life you have almost complete control of your life and lifestyle.

Unfortunately, many abuse this newfound freedom and forget, or never learned, that with freedom



**Bill Allen**

comes responsibility. Mainly, responsibility for yourself.

You can blame your parents for not preparing you for this responsibility, but eventually you have to forget blaming and accept things.

I think that's why the freshman dropout rate is so high. It's not so much that they can't handle their classes as it is they can't handle the responsibility for themselves.

Almost all of us know people who come up here

and partied their first semester away and treated classes like something that would go away if they were ignored.

Suddenly staying out until 3 or 4 a.m. isn't unusual, even on a school night.

You find yourself with a different person every weekend and only realize what that did to you when you find someone you really care about.

And the phone calls from your parents say how proud they are of you and you feel guilty, but only until you hang up the phone. Or late at night.

Then you go back home for the first time.

I think many people who get back home for the first time miss the fun of the university. You're back in Ogallala, or Papillion, or wherever and you see that everything is pretty much the same as it was when you left a month ago. You wonder how you ever enjoyed running around on a Saturday night in such a dull place.

Your parents, of course, still go to bed at the same time they always did, and by then you might be leaving.

All they want to talk about is school, which is what you know the least about and you can't tell them about a lot of other things.

You can't tell them about coming home at 5 a.m., knowing you have a midterm at 10:30 and you haven't even begun to study.

You can't tell them why you don't want to call the guy or girl you were dating before you left for college. And it's hard to just sit around the house.

I remember the worst part for me was trying to look up old high school friends.

These were people you grew up with. You knew what their dreams were. You got drunk for the first time with these people. All through high school you thought life would just go on like that forever. It was hard to accept the fact that someday everything would be different.

It hurts when you realize that the friends that

didn't come to college have so little in common with you now.

The next few trips home are more insightful. By now you've given up trying to recapture the good times of the past and you've learned to enjoy the time you have with your family. You argue with your parents less, and you can sleep in the room your little brother has almost entirely taken over without feeling resentful because it's not the way you had it.

You open up the hometown paper and feel a sense of longing when you see people you know getting married. You start thinking that maybe you missed something while you were away getting educated.

I said at the beginning that these were thoughts for those freshmen that had a hard time their first semester, but I'm sure a lot of upperclassmen can remember some of these feelings.

By the time you are here two or three years you are a little more accepting of the way things are. You start to form ideas on how your life will be.

That's scary, too, when you start to feel caged in as little by little your choices are narrowed down.

So you won't be able to be a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, but at least you know that you can be a physicist. Just a little more hard work.

And maybe you can't buy that Ferrari for a few more years. At least you can make it.


Security takes the place of a lot of dreams.

And, for you freshmen, by then, the trips back home are fewer, but you look forward to them more. And you don't feel bad about the way things used to be back home. You realize that not a lot of things do change.

People just grow into the years.

Hopefully you've begun to realize that you should have fun at college, and you should have fun in life. But with that fun should come responsibility for yourself.

Ultimately, you're the one you have to answer. It's much easier if you have the questions narrowed down.



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## Editorial lacks logic

The editorial regarding the controversy surrounding whether to change the women's lounge in the Nebraska Union to a 24-hour student computer center (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 3) must have taken a full two minutes to think through (though the word 'think' is not really appropriate here). The issue concerning the value of the Women's Resource Center is not in any way connected with the issue of the women's lounge, yet the editorial ties the two together. It is interesting that this form of logical fallacy is often found in the writings of sexists, racist and bigots.

Regarding the issue of the women's lounge, the editorial makes the error of assuming that since only 170 women signed the petition, only 170 women use the lounge. Such an assumption might be expected of an elementary school student, but surely not a college student.

Finally, the editorial makes the unwarranted assumption that the desires and needs of one segment of the student population are more important than those of other segments. Obviously (according to the editorial), the desire and need to keep the women's lounge is only the desire and need of mere women.

I hope some thought will go into future editorials.  
Jeff Schank  
graduate student  
philosophy

## Don't aim at NSSA

As a UNL student, I feel compelled to respond to the position taken by the Aim party regarding the Nebraska State Student Association. I feel clarification concerning the NSSA's role in the promotion of higher education is needed. I would also like to point out that I am not a member of one of the other parties seeking an ASUN victory, only a concerned student.

NSSA represents individual students, not campuses. Each student pays 50 cents per semester on all of the member campuses. It is the individual student who is important to the association.

If the members of Aim are so concerned about specific campus issues, then they should openly address those issues, not the organization that has been working to promote the student's perspective and working to gain tangible benefits.

I do not feel the NSSA should be used as an issue in the ASUN election. The NSSA has made significant gains in its short (3-year) history. It is time to actively support the NSSA and work within its proven mechanism. Pull up your sleeves and get involved! Contact your NSSA representative on this campus (116 Nebraska Union), contact your state senator, and voice your opinion on those issues that

concern you as a student.

Patrick D. Edwards  
junior  
architecture

## Letters

## Cartoon misrepresents

I am writing in reference to your editorial cartoon of Jan. 23. In an attempt to characterize the debate regarding the governance of the university, it is my opinion that the cartoon did a great disservice to all entities represented.

It is with particular dismay that I view the characterization of Sen. Kilgarin. While Sen. Kilgarin is one of three sponsors of LR225, which I take the cartoon is meant to address, the manner in which the senator is represented is both unfair and misleading. Throughout her legislative career Sen. Kilgarin has been an unyielding supporter of higher education and the student perspective. The senator's voting record in committee and on the floor provides clear and specific proof of her commitment to quality higher education in Nebraska.

Deb Chapelle  
executive director  
Nebraska State Student Association

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