

'Real Life' as easy as reading a book



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

By Julie Naughton
Senior Reporter

Real Life 101: (Almost) Surviving Your First Year Out of College

By Susan Kleinman
MasterMedia Books

Nearly every graduate has fears about facing the real world. Fears about everything from how to adapt to the corporate culture to how to select an appropriate work wardrobe and from obtaining and furnishing an affordable apartment to making a budget.

Author Susan Kleinman addresses these concerns and more in her "Real Life 101: (Almost) Surviving Your First Year Out of College." In a breezy, entertaining style, Kleinman puts the fears of recent or about-to-be graduates to rest.

Kleinman, a 1986 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, drew on her own experiences and the experiences of more recent graduates and career advisers, to put together the advice she offers in her 28-chapter book.

Kleinman explains that she once faced the problems that students now are facing; she graduated from Penn without a job and spent her entire summer trying to get into a public relations training program.

"That slap on the backside they call graduation can leave you cold, alone and crying, and I was not looking forward to it one little bit," she wrote. "I received 57

'ding letters' . . . enough to wallpaper my apartment . . ."

Finally, Kleinman got her spot ("I decided that the only thing worse than going to a job was having to look for one.") With that accomplished, she had to find a clean, livable apartment, learn how to stick to a budget, and learn how to do her own taxes.

One of Kleinman's best pieces of advice concerns new graduates in jobs they hate. In her "I'll Show Myself Out: What To Do If You Hate Your Job" chapter, she advises students not to stay in a hated job simply to build credibility.

"Many of us take first jobs thinking we've got to stay at least a year or two, to build credibility," Kleinman explained. "We fear that leaving one job after only a few months will make us less desirable to a subsequent employer, and mark us as flighty or irresponsible."

"This is simply not true. If you can explain why you're unhappy with your job without being negative or whiny, and demonstrate that you have thoroughly researched the new company so that a good fit is more likely, your first strike probably won't be counted against you."

She goes on to name several people that left their jobs and didn't regret their decisions, and backs up her opinion with advice from a corporate head and a psychologist.

See REAL LIFE on 6

Seniors to leave mark around Mueller Tower

By Julie Naughton
Senior Reporter
and Julia Mikolajcik
Staff Reporter

The graduating class of 1990 will leave its mark on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus by improving the area around UNL's Mueller Tower.

The senior gift committee, made up of 10 to 12 student leaders, met last week to discuss various ideas for this year's senior gift. The committee also decided on a different payment plan for seniors.

Dave Zauha, Student Foundations president, said the committee agreed to raise money to plant flowers and install benches around the Mueller Bell Tower.

Zauha said a fountain also may be installed, depending on how much money is raised.

In the past, seniors were asked to give \$10 each year for three years. This year, the money will be raised in a different way, Zauha said. Seniors will have a choice -- to give \$25 over two years, or pay \$50 right away.

There will not be a set amount of money for the gift this year.

"We will build as much as we have money for," Zauha said. "Whatever money is raised will be

put into the improvements."

To raise the money, Student Foundations will sponsor a phone-a-thon, starting Sunday. The group has obtained a list of seniors, and will call them "until they're all called," Zauha said.

"In the past, they've always set an amount and come up short," said Theresa Klein, director of public relations for the University of Nebraska Foundation. "This year, Student Foundation decided to raise the money first and then decide what it would be used for."

The tradition of graduating classes taking up a collection to buy a gift for their university was resurrected by the class of 1985, Klein said.

Although the results of collections ideally are in place by the time five-year reunions roll around, this isn't always the case, Klein said. Sometimes, the pledges aren't raised.

Zauha said he thinks the senior project is important because it allows the seniors to leave a mark on the university.

"It lets the seniors give something back to the university," Zauha said. "They've spent four or five years here . . . and the gift will be something that the seniors can have a little pride in contributing to."



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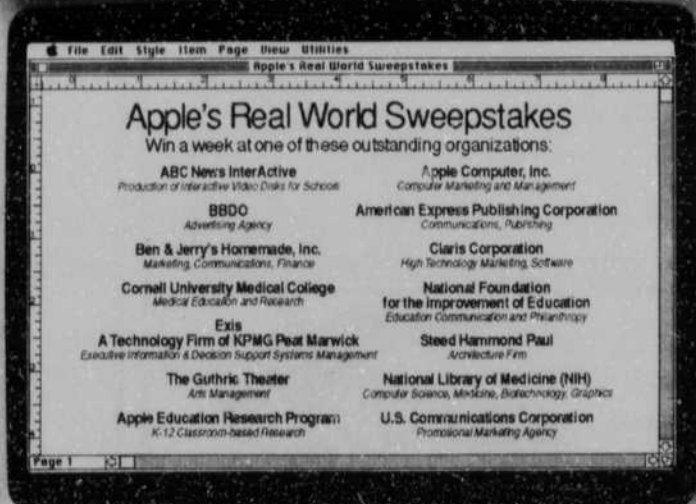


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