

A hellish vacation treasure: Murdock

Looking for a new hot spot? A Spring Break delight? How about white-sand beaches? Cows?

There's a dreamy little spot about 30 minutes from campus that goes by the moniker "Murdock." Replete with white sand beaches, there are dozens of tiny little cottages, each with a hell of a view.

Actually, hell isn't too far off. Seriously.

Rumor has it that hell lies about 5 1/2 miles south of Murdock. Granted, it is on a different meta-physical plane, but it is there. You can feel the difference. Murdock's close proximity to hell makes an obvious difference in its climate, raising the annual average temperature to about that of Phoenix, Ariz.

Beaches do not play a major role in the topography of Lincoln and its surrounding vicinity. They do in Murdock, dominating the docile countryside alongside fields

of green grass.

Cows graze on fields of green grass at night and spend their days at the beach. Just as all good cows should do. Occasionally they are milked, as necessity merits.

Outside of greater downtown Murdock lies the Pond. Cleverly named by now-dead town icon John Smith, the Pond is surrounded by beaches and rather tan cows with attitudes. On a clear day — which is quite often — you can see Charon, gate-keeper of hell and a really nice guy. He sort of floats across the beautiful, crystal, still pond. His pink boat is emblazoned with the town saying across its side:

"You can have a hell of a time in Murdock."

He usually waves a lot too, but never throws candy.

Incidentally, did you ever wonder exactly where the phrase "that's a hell of a tan" originated? Hell's been around a long time.

A hell of a long time.

So has Murdock.

Murdock's close proximity to hell may also give reason for the longevity of the town's existence. Murdock was founded in 1890 by Mr. Murdoch — note the spelling. Apparently a bureaucratic boo-boo in the filing section accounts for the name. Or a real selfless person.

Or a bad speller.

The population of Murdock is 240-245. In the summer, the population swells to almost 300. College students come home to live parasite-like off their parents. Parents likewise live parasite-like off their children, busily violating all sorts of child labor laws.

Murdock's summertime population glut makes parking a university-sized problem. Luckily, unlike Lincoln, Murdock doesn't have summer school.

A rather convincing selling point, don't you think?

I'm not trying to sell you on spending your summer there. Not yet. I am trying to get you to give it a try over Spring Break. Drive through the town. It's full of your kind of people.

The town highlight, Dairy Sweet Ice Cream Treats and Other Non-

Dairy Niceties, rests in downtown Murdock and is open for five minutes a day. No one ever knows what five minutes the "home of neat Sweet complete treats" will be open. Mystery and luck are part of the fun. Besides, we don't have a lottery.

Dairy Sweet's owner, "Hal," derives his rather clever nickname from his constant patter of niceties.

"Oh Hal! Some son of a batch left his tweezers by the blender again!" or "You damn kids would go directly to Hal if I had anything to say about it! Do not pass go! Do not collect 200 dallers!"

Hal tells limericks for a quarter, too.

And just think, Hal is only one of 240-245 people. That leaves 239-244 left to meet.

Murdock is its people. Its history is rich with them.

From Maxine Cline's book of Murdock history:

"In 1903, George Pickwell and his children were standing on the porch of their farmhouse catching hailstones. Lightning struck George and little Ray Pickwell. Ray was killed instantly. One of the older girls told the others to help her

Lincoln-bound? Videotapes await the sad, lonely

As Scott and I drove up and down O Street in my brown '81 Mazda GLC we were constantly harassed by short, ugly, dark-haired guys with glasses. They wanted us to drag race their jacked-up Pintos.

"Let's race, dirt ball," they said.

We happily obliged as we reminisced about past high school Spring Breaks, when we didn't have to worry about going on a trip — because we couldn't. Our parents wouldn't let us leave town.

55 mph, and through a red light.

Our parents fooled us. They told us we could go on a trip if we made it to college. We did, but our parents knew we wouldn't have enough money. We didn't.

But now here we are going 75 mph down O Street, college juniors, bright, good-looking, parental permission intact — and we're still going nowhere, for Spring Break, that is.

Driving down O Street at accelerated speeds gave new perspective to "the strip," as we calmly took in all that Lincoln had to offer in the way of fast food. "Slow down, there's a cop," Scott said. As I slowed down, I took a sharp right turn and then another and another.

"Close call, but we dodged 'em," I said.

The Pinto was not so lucky. We decided we were both hungry so we stopped off at a new fast food place — one that looked like a cross between a taco place and a body shop.

Video Station, 4550 O St., seemed like the perfect eating place. Nice colorful carpet, lots of big picture windows, a cool silver turnstile and a lot of reading material cluttering the walls characterized the joint. As we ate our overpriced bag of popcorn and drank caffeine- and sugar-saturated Pepsi products, we gazed around the store at all the movies.



"I haven't seen a movie in a long time," Scott said. "This store has a great selection and the prices are very reasonable — almost sexy."

"Scott, how can PRICES be . . . sexy?" "Flowers are sexy, laced underwear is sexy, Elle Macpherson, now she is sexy."

But before he could answer, I noticed Scott in the adult section — looking at the different titles and smiling with a "insufficiently ventilated" look.

After a dazed look myself — previously, I had thought Scott was gay — I realized that I had found my perfect Spring Break activity.

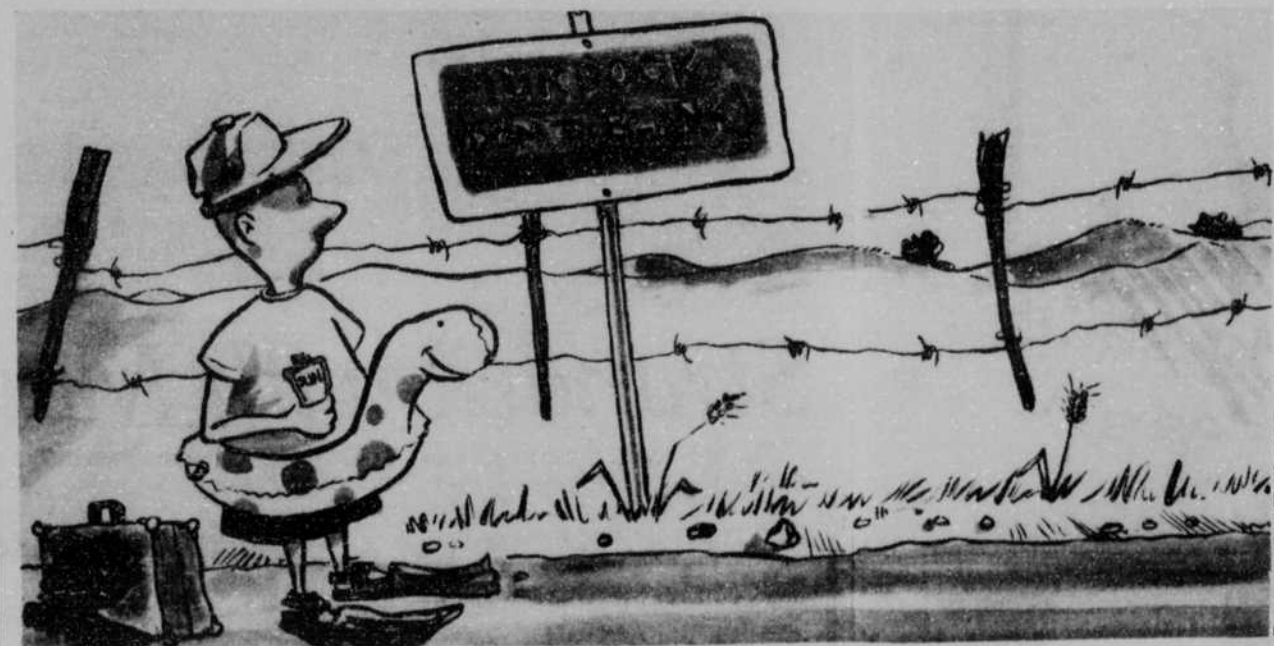
Scott and I left, but I made a vow to come back. I was not going to just do nothing over my break. I was going to do something productive.

No drag racing, no bar hopping, no books, I was going to the video store — Video Station, 4550 O St. — to be exact. I wanted a movie, a good movie, and maybe a car tuneup and some popcorn.

What better more productive way to spend a week than watching videos in the privacy of my own home.

When I walked in the store for the second time, I went straight to the "Latest Releases" section. On their shelves were "Young Guns II" (R), "Flatliners" (R), "The Freshman," "Days of Thunder" (R), and "Die Hard II" (R). These movies were \$2.49 overnight.

Michael Stock, a native Murdockian, is an English major and Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment staff reporter and columnist.



Brian Shellito/Daily Nebraskan

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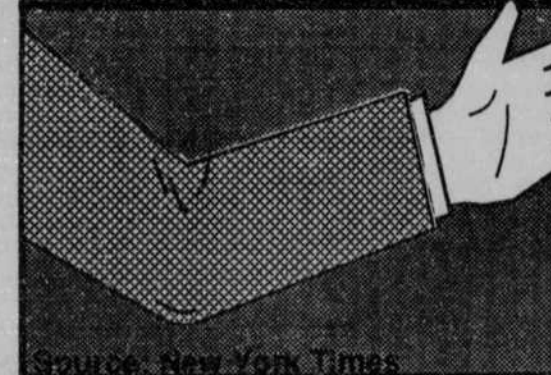
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Study#	Restrictions	In House Stay Dates	Schedule Repeat Dates	Physical Dates	Pays Up To
13577-3	Men 19-40 Non-Smokers	April 8-17		Monday March 25	\$800
13765	Men 19-35 Non-Smokers	April 4-8 Plus Returns	April 18-22 May 2-6 Plus Returns	Monday March 25	\$900
13770	Men 19-35 Smokers Only	April 4-8 Plus Returns		Tuesday March 26	\$300
13463-5	Men 19-45 Non-Smokers	April 2-9		Tuesday March 26	\$600
13118-1	Men 19-35 Non-Smokers	April 5-10	April 26-May 1 and a Return May 8	Wednesday March 27	\$1100
13685	Men 19-35 Non-Smokers	Weekends plus returns beginning April 6		Thursday March 28	\$1200
13263-5	Men 19-45 Non-Smokers	April 7-11		Monday April 1	\$375
13118-2	Men 19-35 Non-Smokers	April 12-17	May 3-8 and a Return May 15	Tuesday April 2	\$1100
13463-6	Men 19-45 Non-Smokers	April 12-19		Wednesday April 3	\$600
13457-2	Men 19-45 Non-Smokers	April 18-May 20		Monday April 8	\$2700
13577-4	Men 19-40 Non-Smokers	April 21-30		Tuesday April 9	\$800
13674	Men 19-45 Light smokers	April 19-22	April 26-29 May 3-6	Thursday April 11	\$600
13050-V	Men 65+ Non-Smokers	April 23-May 4		Tuesday April 16	\$1000

New York Times Top Ten List of Fiction & Non-Fiction Books



Source: New York Times

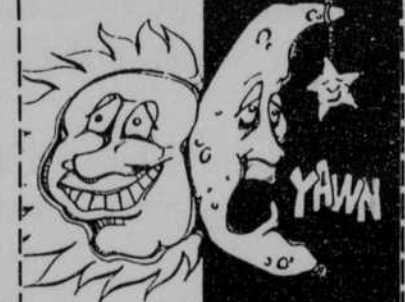
- FICTION**
- #1 The Silence of the Lambs by Thomas Harris
 - #2 The Bourne Ultimatum by Robert Ludlum
 - #3 Bitter Sweet by LaVyrre Spencer
 - #4 The Anastasia Syndrome by Mary Higgins Clark
 - #5 Dances with Wolves by Michael Blake
 - #6 Straight by Dick Francis
 - #7 The Gold Coast by Nelson De Mille
 - #8 Sleeping with the Enemy by Nancy Price
 - #9 Caribbean by James Michener
 - #10 Bright Star by Harold Coyle

- NON-FICTION**
- #1 From Beirut to Jerusalem by Thomas L. Friedman
 - #2 Not Without My Daughter by Betty Mahmoody
 - #3 Saddam Hussein and the Crisis in the Gulf by Judith Miller & Laurie Myroie
 - #4 The Rape of Kuwait
 - #5 All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten by Robert Fulghum
 - #6 A Peace to End All Peace by David Fromkin
 - #7 The Search for the Green River Killer by Carlton Smith
 - #8 The Road Less Traveled by M. Scott Peck, M.D.
 - #9 Armageddon, Oil and the Middle East by Walvoord
 - #10 Megatrends 2000 by John Naisbitt

Scott Mauer/Daily Nebraskan

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