

JEREMY FITZPATRICK

Freshmen: here's what you need to know

Someone I know graduated in May with two degrees after eight years at UNL.

He's working as a hotel operator now.

What does that mean? Your guess is as good as mine. But I don't think a college degree means as much as it once did.

So my advice to you in this column, which is supposed to be full of wonderful advice, is not to miss any opportunities while you're at UNL. Otherwise, you might end up scheduling weekend vacations by telephone.

Also, make sure you have a good adviser. If you don't, find a good one and see him or her instead. Good advice might just keep you out of hotel scheduling in the future.

You should also know that the class descriptions printed in the schedule of classes do not always resemble the actual classes. It's a good idea to check out the professor who is teaching the course or ask if anyone you know has taken it.

Now with that advice out of the way, we can get on with the more important information that you will not find in your New Student Enrollment packet.

For example, be aware that Lincoln has the most efficient police force in the world.

Well, actually not. The UNL and Lincoln police couldn't stop some-



If you leave your car in an expired meter for more than three seconds, a SWAT team will be there to give you a ticket.

thing as simple as bike theft to save their own lives. But, if you leave your car in an expired meter for more than three seconds, a SWAT team will be there to give you a ticket.

If you make the more serious mistake of parking illegally, one of Lincoln's illustrious towing services will correct your mistake. After you get a small bank loan to pay the bill, you can have your car back.

You probably won't need the police, though, because the major crime you'll need to worry about in Lincoln takes place in the stores that sell text books. You can count on getting about 65 cents back for a book you bought for \$40. If you wanted to take the class over, you could probably buy the same

book again for \$20.

If you think about fighting this, forget it. You'll have better luck taking on the New York Mafia.

Some other advice about life at UNL:

- Most overrated sports team: football. Despite highlights such as quarterback Tommie Frazier and I-back Calvin Jones, Nebraska football is a pale comparison to what it once was. The next step in Nebraska's scheduling of patsies is to play the Lincoln high schools.

- Most underrated sports team: volleyball. Football and basketball grab all the headlines, but volleyball can be just as spectacular. Although the departure of stars Stephanie Thater and Eileen Shannon will hurt the team, Nebraska volleyball is definitely something to see. Also, admission is free to students.

- Best restaurant close to campus: Lazlo's. The food is great and the prices are reasonable. If you try it once, you'll become a regular.

- UNL figure who should never do another commercial: men's basketball coach Danny Nee. If you've seen his air conditioning ads, you know what I mean.

- Most quotable figure on campus: Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit. Asked last season if the Kansas Jayhawk's bus breaking down on the

way to Lincoln affected the Kansas' performance, Pettit replied, "The bus didn't play."

- Worst sculpture on campus: the surfboard by Love Library.

- Best deal for UNL students: the Campus Recreation Center. Students get the use of a modern health club, covered by the cost of their student fees.

- Newsletter to avoid at all costs: The Ideal. If your political views are slightly to the right of Genghis Khan, you'll enjoy this light reading.

- Best movie deal: the Star Ship 9. Movies are only \$1.50, but bring your credit card to pay for the candy.

- Group that shouldn't be in charge of the University of Nebraska: the NU Board of Regents. Keep an eye on the regents and you'll soon see why.

- The most fun you'll ever have: Drop and Add. Every time is a brand new adventure.

- The way to avoid Drop and Add: Stand in line in front at the Administration building at 7 a.m. People actually do this.

- Job you don't want to have when you graduate from UNL: hotel operator.

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ANSWER TO PUZZLE

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High school images changed by college life

Last Friday I felt old. I don't mean the kind of old that makes you feel like you should be ready to apply for Long John Silver's over-80 club or the feeling that makes you wonder if you paid your last denture bill, but a mature "old" feeling that I didn't realize I was ready to feel.

In high school, our choir used to perform a show called "Expressions." In our high school minds, this was the show above all shows and everybody, and I do mean everybody, went to this show. We used to be so proud of "Expressions" because it was a show that was created from our imaginations and reflected our high school innocence. The show was a night when every budding boy and girl looked up into the spotlight and dreamed for a second that they were a star.

Before last Friday, I had not stepped foot in my high school since a year ago May when I graduated. It felt weird as I walked down the familiar corridors of freshly painted blue lockers and fake marble tiled floors. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry because in that blue hallway represented a time for me when life was easier and new.

I sat in the auditorium anticipating the same excitement I used to feel for "Expressions." I kept waiting for my heart to rise with each guitar line just like the way it did in high school. As I watched students that I had never seen before dance and sing on the stage that I used to love, I realized that all of "Expressions" were a part of my past that I could never experience again.

Something else happened to me when I shook my principal's hand and



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was handed my diploma last year, something that at the time I didn't understand. That diploma was actually more than just a piece of paper promoting me into the real world, giving me that diploma was also telling me, "Thank you Kim, you served your time, please don't come back."

But the truth is I don't want to go back. I don't want to go back to the days of zits and pre-prom stress. It was nice while it lasted, but I don't miss it ending. I know this sounds cheesy, but it's true, college changes your perspective on life.

If someone had told me that my life was going to change as much as it has in one year, I never would have believed them. But, as I look up my old friends from high school, I realize that we all grew up, we couldn't help it, and we couldn't stop it.

Within a year, I stopped caring about what I looked like for school

and opted for the tumble-out-of-bed-wear-what's-ever-clean-and-on-the-floor method. I used to care about what kind of car I would be seen driving in. But after my cute, sun-roofed Jetta broke down, I realized it doesn't matter what a car looks like, but if it can get you from point A to point B.

My vocabulary has also changed. At the university, you no longer take a "test"; the proper term is "exam" — it's much more sophisticated and scholarly. And one more thing, remember those stylish over-the-shoulder totes that say "Esprit" on them are fine for high school, but at the university, all you need is a sturdy, non-nonsense backpack to get you from class to class. Get a good, dependable backpack because you'll carry your life in it.

However, don't fear what's here at the university. College only intimidates those who weren't strong enough to be here in the first place. If you think college is only about drinking beer and parties, you're wrong — sort of. College is a lot of fun and there are a lot of parties, but there's also so much work, that at times you'll sit in your dorm room and wonder if it's all worth the trouble. Remember, the

pain is plenty, but only temporary. The benefits you gain from meeting new people, learning new ideas and understanding life a little more than what you knew before you came here will carry you through the rest of your life.

I learned all of that here in college, but the most important lesson I learned was that life doesn't center around me. It wouldn't make that much difference to the world if I wasn't here, the world would keep rotating with or without me. That's why I have to make my mark while I'm here and while I can. The only way to get noticed in life is to go running after what you want with a battle axe in one hand and a megaphone in the other. That's what I intend to do.

And if you're like me, you won't know you've changed until you go back to your hometown high school. As soon as you smell that familiar scent of gym socks and see those tardy slips, you'll know that life has elevated you from pom poms to power ties, bubble gum to tax forms and from adolescence to adulthood.

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P.S. Write Back

The Daily Nebraskan wants to hear from you. If you want to voice your opinion about an article that appears in the newspaper, let us know. Just write a brief letter to the editor and sign it (don't forget your student ID number) and mail it to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 'R' Street, Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, or stop by the office in the basement of the Nebraska Union and visit with us. We're all ears.

"A friend dragged me to the Modern Art Museum. He tried to explain a toilet bowl mounted on the wall but was soon complaining that his ultra hip shoes hurt his feet."

While contemplating a solid black canvas, I realized my Birkenstocks were beautiful.

It must be the way they cradle my feet because the only thing aching was my head from trying to figure out what this stuff meant. Next we saw an empty pedestal. My friend called it, 'a statement.' For a moment I considered putting my Birkenstocks on it. Now that would be a statement.

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