

KATHY STEINAUER

City summer teaches life lessons

As my mom parked the car, I looked around and couldn't believe I was planning to spend the next couple of months in this house in this city.



I learned the fine line between paranoia and caution. Mom and I may have been a bit paranoid going to the store, but in Detroit, a little paranoia is good for bodily safety.

But I decided that it could be cool. I'm 21. I can do this, I thought.

Then mom and I drove to the grocery store, following directions from a guy who lived across the street. About a block from "home," I noticed a car full of suspicious-looking men following us.

We knew we were conspicuous. Two women in an Oldsmobile with Nebraska license plates were quite obvious in near-downtown Detroit.

Ideally, mom said in a typically motherly fashion, we should pull into a police station. But since we'd been in Detroit all of two hours, that was not possible. We decided to just go to the grocery store.

I changed lanes; they changed lanes. Mom locked the doors.

I pulled into the parking lot; they pulled in. I parked; they parked next to us.

Mom and I pretended to have the most serious conversation ever while the men got out of the car and walked into the store very calmly and very normally. I don't think they even saw us—the two paranoid Nebraska women sitting in the car next to them.

What a way to start my summer excursion in the Motor City. But that experience taught me one of the hundreds of things I learned this summer.

I learned the fine line between paranoia and caution. Mom and I may have been a bit paranoid going to the store, but in Detroit, a little paranoia is good for bodily safety.

My first night, the overnight low dropped to 40 degrees. The house I stayed in had a concrete floor and brick exterior.

That night was cold literally and figuratively. My spirits were as low as the temperature.

While trying to fall asleep that

night, I planned other ways I could spend my summer. I could fake a horrible illness in the family and say I had to go home. I could tell my professors that The Detroit News forgot they hired me and I had to work as a waitress or something instead.

I had to do something. I didn't care where I'd have to work, but that night I was sure I could never handle what I had gotten myself into. I'd walk beans for the summer if I had to—as long as I could go home.

I made a countdown calendar. I only had 65 more days in Motown. Only about 40 more days—I should say nights—of work. Then I could go home.

I missed a lot of the simple things while I was gone. I missed a lot of people. I even missed the corn.

But I also apparently missed a lot of rain. At least I can say the weather where I spent my summer was beautiful. Not too wet, not too hot. Just about right.

After a while, I realized the beauty of my predicament. I was spending my summer learning. I was spending my summer in a place where many people will never go.

Not that Detroit is where many people want to vacation. But it was a great place to learn about the news business.

I was there during most of the trials of three policemen charged with beating and murdering a black man, Malice Green. I worked many of the nights around the time Baby Jessica was

forced to leave the DeBoers, who live in Ann Arbor, about 45 minutes from Detroit. Dr. Jack Kevorkian assisted with another suicide the night before I left.

I also met a lot of friendly, fun people. I actually had a good time. The first night I was there, I was sure that was impossible. I planned to spend the next 60 days reading and sleeping a lot and figured my best friends would become Montel Williams and Phil Donahue.

Looking back, I know I'll never regret spending a summer in Detroit. I may have missed a rainy summer in Nebraska, but there will probably be more.

I may never go back to Detroit. I may never have the chance, so I had to take that chance while it was there.

I learned more than I ever could say. I learned about newspapers and life. And big cities. I saw firsthand some of the major problems this country needs to address.

But those stretches of cornfields and all those typical Nebraska things were actually welcome sights when I came home the first week of August.

One of the most important things I learned this summer was that while learning and traveling are wonderful, there really is no place like home.

Sometimes you have to get away from something to appreciate it.

Steinauer is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan opinion page editor.

AIM HIGH

THE DOLLARS AND SENSE OF JOINING AIR FORCE ROTC.

Air Force ROTC makes a lot of sense for many reasons. Start with the dollars: the eligibility to apply for scholarship programs that can help pay tuition, books, fees - even provide a \$100 tax-free income each month.

There's much more - you'll develop management skills and the ability to motivate others. Everything you learn will help you every day of your life.

Start by contacting

CAPTAIN NICK MOORE
472-2473 / RM 209, M&N BLDG

AIR FORCE ROTC

Leadership Excellence Starts Here

TEVA NAOT VASQUE MERREL

THE NAKED TRUTH ABOUT TEVA

The

MOOSE'S TOOTH

OUTDOOR SPORTS

4007 'O' Street 489-4849

TEVA NAOT VASQUE MERREL

THE FIRSTIER SURVIVAL KIT...

YOU CAN'T MAKE IT THROUGH SCHOOL WITHOUT IT!

REGULAR CHECKING...
Low \$100 Minimum Balance Checking!

- Unlimited check writing
- No monthly service charge with a low \$100 minimum balance in checking or \$1,000 in a Regular Savings Account
- FirstTier Teller ATM Card*

FIRSTIER EDGE...
Worry Free, Hassle Free Checking!

- Unlimited check writing
- No minimum balance
- Free FirstTier style checks
- FirstTier Teller ATM Card*

VALUE PLUS CHECKING...
Pay As You Go Checking!

- No minimum balance
- Low \$2.50 monthly service charge for 10 checks or less. (If you write more than 10 checks a month, there is a \$.35 fee for each check or automatic payment over 10.)
- FirstTier Teller ATM Card*
- Free FirstTier Teller ATM transactions

STUDENT VISA* CARD...
When You Need Cash Fast!

- No annual fee
- No co-signer needed
- Minimum \$500 line with credit approval
- 24 hour ATM cash access

*A fee applies to transactions at ATMs that are not FirstTier Tellers.

DON'T WAIT FOR AN EMERGENCY!

OPEN AN ACCOUNT NOW!

FirstTier
You're First Here™
FirstTier Bank, N.A., Member FDIC

BACKS TO SCHOOL

ALL '93 MODELS ON SALE

Huge selection of Cables & U-Locks

475-BIKE 27th & VINE

CYCLE WORKS

Open 7 days a week
Located between city and east campuses