

JUSTIN FIRESTONE

New semester with old attitude

Congratulations! You have survived the first week of the spring semester here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I'd like to commend you for making UNL the No. 1 state-run university in Nebraska for the 125th straight year. Now, let's make some observations for the semester so far.



Somehow, you decide that watching "Beavis and Butt-head" will be more entertaining than solving definite integrals or balancing chemical equations.

First, you've probably spent less time in class this week than you have standing in various lines. Lines for books, drop/add cards and loan checks are some of my favorites. I like getting up before the sun and waiting in lines because it keeps me busy.

After purchasing your books, you may have thought the Mafia somehow runs the bookstores. You've had to buy books you'll probably never use, and you'll get back about half of what you paid for them.

You may have also moved back to a residence hall or a greek house. You might have noticed the smell of beer and cigarettes when you first arrived, but now it smells like something has died. Most likely, rotting food has caused this smell, or it could be the pile of dirty clothes on your floor.

Speaking of rooms, those of you with roommates have no doubt thought of at least ten ways to silently kill them in the night.

In the residence halls, you've probably lost three or more pounds. Something about the food has made you eat less. You've either skipped a meal or have gone out to eat.

Many of you who brought your Super Nintendo or Genesis still have a "video game headache." You've probably played a rematch of the Orange Bowl on Bill Walsh College Football, or maybe you've predicted the outcome of the Green Bay at Dallas playoff game with Madden '94. Maybe you're still trying to get to the "minus World" on Super Mario Bros.

If you commute to campus, it's a safe bet you've parked illegally at least once. You've driven to campus,

hunting for a spot within walking distance and have finally seen one.

"Is that a parking space?" ran through your mind. Then you saw it was handicapped only. You wondered cynically if there were enough handicapped people there to warrant so many spaces. You gave up and decided to "make your own parking space."

On campus, you're becoming more physically fit by either walking or bicycling great distances to and from classes. You probably have thought that a herd of people is following you, because everywhere around you, you can hear the louder and louder crunching of footsteps on gravel.

While walking, you've no doubt passed some of the great pieces of art here at UNL and said: "Look! A big surfboard," "It's a big red K," "We paid for that?" or "I coulda done that if they gave me \$200,000, too."

Also, you've met lots of people who stand outside, trying to hand you coupons or fliers. You've either been polite by taking their propaganda or have offended them entirely by refusing.

Once inside class, you've discovered that it's important to dress in layers. While one class may be extremely warm, your next class might have a wind chill factor. One of your classes may have lots of loud noises because of construction or prehistoric radiators.

One classroom may be extremely comfortable and modern; another makes you think that you're in a prison cell. You've begun to question the stability of some of the ancient build-

ings and wonder if it's okay to wear a hard hat to class.

At your room, you've probably thought a lot about doing some homework. Somehow, you decide that watching "Beavis and Butt-head" will be more entertaining than solving definite integrals or balancing chemical equations.

After watching MTV, you see that the "Ron Popeil Pasta Machine" infomercial is coming on. You're so stunned by how much the machine can make and do — it even comes with a bagel cutter — that you forget about your homework entirely.

You've also been reunited with old friends. Some of your old friends may not be back this semester, however. You've no doubt heard interesting stories about some of them who flunked out last semester, because they were either drunk or high all of the time and/or never went to class.

Finally, you're especially glad that the Daily Nebraskan is back. Your favorite parts of the paper have returned, namely Calvin and Hobbes, the police report, the classified ads and the crossword puzzle.

Well, those are all the observations I've made for this semester so far. Amazingly, they're the same ones I made last semester. I hope you have a fantastic spring semester here at UNL, the No. 1 state-run university for the 125th straight year.

Firestone is a sophomore economics major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

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