

Honeymoon great time to hide away

By Chad Lorenz
Staff Reporter

Rob Zatechka will not be returning to Miami for the Orange Bowl next year, but he may be heading that way for his honeymoon.

The Cornhusker offensive tackle, who will graduate in May, will be married June 24.

Zatechka said he wanted to head south for his honeymoon to Florida, Texas, or California.

"We might just take a cruise," he said. "It's kind of all-inclusive, so there's not a lot of planning to it."

Not all students have Zatechka's options. School and work obligations and shortage of time and money can limit many students' honeymoon options.

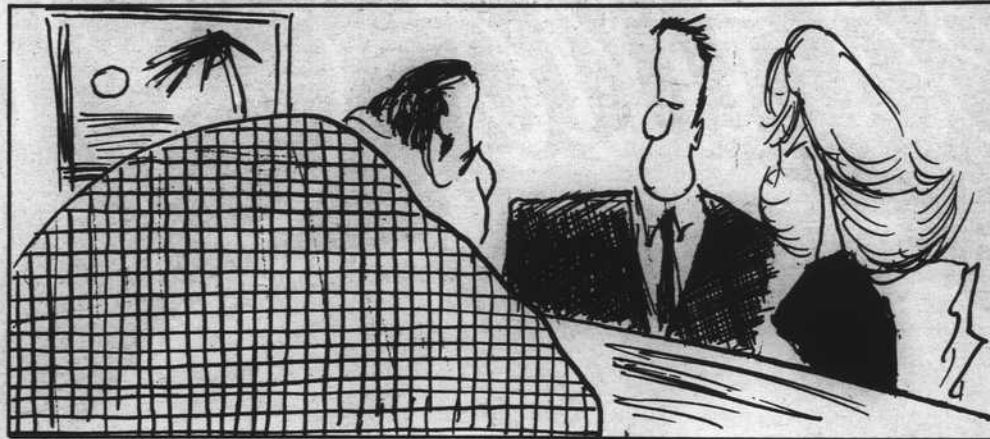
But the stress of matrimony is no reason to skip a honeymoon, said Bret Koenig, a junior secondary education major who was married last May.

"You kind of need it after a wedding," he said.

The Koenigs' honeymoon kept them in the Midwest. The newlyweds spent their wedding night in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Hotel.

The couple then set a course for Branson, Mo., spending a night in Kansas City, Mo., on the way there and back, he said.

During their four-day stay in Branson, Koenig



James Meshling/DN

said, they saw Las Vegas-style shows, lounged at the pool, shopped at the malls and visited Silver Dollar City.

"Mostly we just spent time with each other and relaxed," Koenig said. "We wanted to baby ourselves."

Koenig said he and his wife Emily chose Branson over a cruise because of expenses. Their Missouri excursion cost about \$1,300, whereas a cruise would have cost \$2,000.

He said they were also concerned about their honeymoon activities.

"We wanted to do a lot of fun things and not get bored staying in the same place," he said.

Laura Laurenroth, AAA Travel Agency auto travel counselor, said Branson attracted a lot of local honeymoon couples. Beaver Lake and Eureka Springs, Ark., she said, were also popular country hideaways. The breathtaking views and secluded, backwoods lodging were known to create a romantic atmosphere, she said.

"There's people out there who want to get out of the city and spend a lot of time alone," Laurenroth said.

The resorts offered outdoor recreations like boating and golf, as well as shows and tours, she said.

Linda Kunz, a consultant for New Century Travel, said Estes Park, Colo., was a hideaway in the mountains that featured hiking and backpacking, and nearby Central City offered gambling.

In Kansas City, Kunz recommended staying at The Plaza, where couples could rest at fancy hotels, shop at outdoor malls and take romantic carriage rides.

Kansas City also features riverboat cruises, golf courses, professional baseball and Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun amusement parks.

She said the best time- and money- saving alternative would be a short trip to Omaha for an evening at the Old Market or the Orpheum.

For some, like Zatechka, the Midwest is just a little too close to home.

Kristin Edwards, who will be married during spring break, said she and her fiancé planned to stay at the Disney resort in Orlando for their honeymoon.

Their five-night stay will include passes to all three parks at Disney World and sightseeing in Tampa, she said.

With frequent flyer privileges providing a free flight, the couple's cost will remain low. She said she expected the trip to cost about \$1200.

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