



James Mehlsing/DN

Center has hot menu

By Becky Keasling
Staff Reporter

Something's cooking at the culture center this fall.

The smell of enchiladas and eggrolls will greet students when they visit the newly renovated kitchen at the center.

Coordinator of Minority Programs, Reshell Ray said the center is the only facility on campus that has its own kitchen.

When the kitchen is renovated this summer, it will enhance the center and the community, Ray said.

Besides food, history is also important to the culture center.

The center is currently celebrating its 10-year anniversary at its current location of North 14th St.

Before 1985, the center was located at 17th and Y St.

The former culture center was established in the late 1970's, Ray said.

"UNL has a long history of providing a place for students of color," Ray said. "A lot of schools

have centers for specific minority groups, but UNL has one truly multi-cultural center."

The center has a lounge area, computer lab, study lounge, game room, and a meeting space for minority students. Also, the center has two large rooms that can be reserved for classes, speakers, and seminars.

The center offers a wide variety of programs such as the ARMS program and the Shades of Leadership celebration.

ARMS is a minority leadership program which helps students of color explore their identity in a predominately white campus.

This program gets minority students involved on campus through leadership, he said.

Another main event is called the Shades of Leadership. This program is a celebration for students of color, and each year they recognize minority leaders.

The culture center's main goal for next year is to make the center more visible, Ray said.

Many of you may be moving into Residence Halls or On Campus Housing Units, but don't let the whiners at the Residence Hall Association or the New Student Enrollment tour guides fool you.

Within days, you'll be calling these living accommodations what they are: DORMS.

Dorm life is a rather unique experience. I myself had quite a time living there (although you couldn't get me to move in again — it's like elementary school, you had fun while you were there, but you sure as hell can't return.)

One of the craziest things about dorm living is sharing a room with somebody.

Come on, before I came to college, the last person I shared a room with was my sister — when I was five! (And the psychiatrist bills for that one are still taking a lot of weight out of my wallet.)

And now here you are, in an eight-by-eight, sleeping with a person that you quickly discover you don't know that well.

They might have any number of previously unknown habits: snoring, sleepwalking, the uncontrollable urge to stab someone in the middle of the night, just to name a few.

It is not my intent to frighten you, but let me regale you with a story about my own dorm roomie.

I moved into the dorms, intent on having a single room (it was more expensive, but it would have been worth it).

Instead, I was greeted by this javelin-throwing giant of a man from New Jersey.

I asked for privacy, they gave me Bob.

Now Bob was a nice guy if you could get used to his alcoholic singing, candid-camera womanizing and ability to flatulate on command. (I had to be constantly aware of the outgoing message on my answering



Joel Strauch

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machine).

Needless to say, I had an interesting semester.

Another aspect of dorm life that I will pro/con for you is Validine (or as it is known in the PC world — the UNL Campus Food Service).

I know it sounds like some mood-altering drug, but it's not. It's the cafeteria-style eatin' that you will quickly form a love-hate relationship with.

It's sounds perfect. All the food you can eat, delicately prepared for your dining needs. The only thing they don't do is bring it out to your table.

There's only one catch; 80 percent of it is unedible.

It looks real, but it's like those wax fruits. If you eat it, you get sick.

Maybe you have an iron stomach, but be careful. One of my friends kept a jug of Pepto-Bismol in his room for use upon his return from dinner.

But I don't want to ruin your appetite completely (or piss off the Validine employees to the point where they might make me the main entree).

Some of the stuff is pretty good. But you need to stick to the food that you know.

There's always cold cereal. I remember one bad week where I had three square meals of Lucky Charms every day.

One thing to consider if you are above the legal drinking age and live in the dorms, you cannot partake in a glass of wine after dinner — or even a harmless fifth of Jack Daniels before vomiting.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is a dry campus (at least that's what it says on paper.)

I suppose there are hooligans out there who will attempt to sneak alcohol into their rooms. (I remember one time when Bob brought up a keg in a television box.)

But remember, the residence halls have a crack team of security experts, trained in martial arts, search and reconnaissance and balloon shaping.

There are a lot of benefits to living in the dorms as well. There's a person on each floor called the SA (Student Assistant) who gather the dormies around and have neat meetings and play flag football and plan get-togethers with floors of opposite sex dorms that never pan out.

Dorm life can be a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, become involved in campus activities and learn new crocheting techniques.

Just be prepared for the Bobs of the world and accept that you have to live under someone else's roof, if just for a little bit longer.

Strauch is a graduate of UNL and the Daily Nebraskan Summer Editor.

The UNL Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association invite you to become a part of our Greek System. Share in the traditions of academic excellence, philanthropic involvement and leadership development



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