

Former starship commander wants to be student forever

I have a dilemma. I graduated last May and I've spent my summer being lazy and piddling around as the Daily Nebraskan editor.

Oh sure, it was a good experience and I got my cartoonist thrown in jail, so it wasn't like I wasn't accomplishing anything, but I was just delaying the inevitable.

Summer is almost over and now it's time for me to get serious. I need to think about the future. I'm an adult now and I need to find my place in society (or outside of it).

There's just one problem. I've found out that I'm afraid of the real world.

No, not that show on MTV, although a fourth season of that happy crappy is pretty terrifying. I'm scared of getting an 8 to 5 job and working 5 days a week.

A lot of my friends are signing up for fall classes and making plans to shift their part-time hours to coincide with their school schedule.

They're thinking about partying, skipping classes, football games — all the things that go along with a quality education.

Meanwhile, I'm applying at different school districts, hoping to land a job in a flooded market.

I'm thinking about paying back student loans, finding a long-term vocation, screwing the system — all the things that go along with post-education life.

It's fair. I spent my 5 years here at the university and now I'm done. I need to step aside so the next generation can step in.

But I'm James T. Kirk. I don't want to give up my Captain's chair to some bald guy just because he doesn't have a gut and can act a whole lot better.

Maybe that's a bad analogy, but I'm trying to make a point here. I want to be an undergraduate student forever. If there was any way that I could get at least minimum wage for it, I'd be taking classes until the Simpson trial ended (or I died of natural causes, whichever came first).

So now I'm in this transition



Joel Strauch

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phase. Maybe I'm more like Macauley Culkin. I want to be a cute little kid forever, but now my voice is cracking and everybody's starting to realize how ugly those features look on a teenage kid.

It's getting harder to convince people that I'm still too immature for full integration into our society.

I need to make a decision and I need to make it soon.

I just went to my niece and nephew's baptism. And just like at every function where more than my immediate family is around, I got asked the same question over and over.

"So, do you have a job yet?"

What's this big thing about having a job? I had a job in high school. I carried out groceries at the granddaddy of all food stores — Skagway — but nobody seemed that interested in where I was working then.

Don't those people at Skagway serve a purpose in society? Wasn't I making a contribution then? Well, I guess probably not.

But what's the hurry to jump right in and start plowing away at a job I might hate. A job that might not be as

easy to escape from as a retail position.

Maybe I'm lazy. Or paranoid. Or both.

I think I'm just a little scared of facing the big picture. If I get a serious job and work forty hours a week, I'll be just like everybody else — another face in the crowd who's getting older and less fun.

But there is a solution. There's this wonderful thing called graduate school. They set it up just for people like me. People who aren't quite ready to let go of university life. People who have become institutionalized.

It's just like Morgan Freeman said in "The Shawshank Redemption:" "First you hate it here. Then you learn to tolerate it. And finally, you can't live without it."

Not that I'm comparing UNL to a state prison (although I've had a couple professors who make the Shawshank warden look like Tinkerbell), but I think the statement fits.

I had some problems adjusting to college life and it took me a while before I really buckled down and enjoyed the studying and learning. And there was always that point during each semester where I'd pray that it would just be over.

But now that I'm out of it, I'm having very bad withdrawal symptoms. I've talked to some other friends who have graduated, and we've all been having similar dreams about signing up for classes and other college memorabilia.

I just want to make sure and let those students who just started or still have a long way to go. Don't let people push you into doing something you don't want to do. The only people who graduate in four years (or less!) are those over-excited workaholics who can't wait to get out in the real world.

Live it up. The real world will still be just as corrupt and competitive in a year or two.

Strauch is a graduate of UNL and the editor of the Daily Nebraskan.

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Smith's sentence

I find the judgmental attitudes pro-death penalty supporters display regarding Susan Smith's sentence to live with the memories and consequences of her own actions interesting.

Newsweek magazine asks who deserves to die and wonders why since we are a country that supports capital punishment, so few people are put to death.

It reports that no one wants to accept blame for the current stalemate.

Prosecutors blame judges, who blame courts, who blame the law, which gets passed down by Supreme Court justices, who don't speak.

Maybe when it comes down to it, society is made up of people created in the image of God.

We may get angry and feel vengeful with capital punishment looking like a great scapegoat to vent our own anger as God did with Noah and the flood.

But we can't escape the image of our creator who is adorned as a loving, merciful being who admitted to learning from his mistakes and promised never to send another flood but sent us a teacher who would grant us eternal life.

Maybe our society puts so few people to death because we are made up of creatures created after the likeness of God, and from Jesus Christ we learn that God condemns no one to death, but an eternal life of living with the consequences of our own actions.

God is not going to put anyone to death, why should we?

Vicki Claassen

Heng Kit Pon

Dec. 9, 1970-Aug. 2, 1995

Those of us who knew Kit will remember the many ways he touched our lives. He was a man of quiet boldness. He had a big heart. We will miss him and feel a great loss.

We want to thank each one of Kit's friends and classmates, the Malaysian students, the international community, and various University departments and officials that helped Kit's family during this challenging time. The support and care you gave to Kit's family and to us was wonderful. Thank you.

NU Life Students and Harvest Community Church