

Delivery poses challenges, perks for drivers

By Gerry Beltz
Senior Reporter

Through brightest day, through darkest night, through rain, snow and ... security buildings?

The delivery driver creed doesn't exist in such a steadfast form, but the job involves more than just bringing pizzas and flowers to our doors.

Kevin Fox, for example, a UNL junior majoring in biological sciences, works 15 to 20 hours a week as a prescription delivery driver for Four Star Drug at 1340 N. 66th St.

"The benefits of it are the hours," Fox said. "There's enough hours to be working, but not so many to impede studying."

Dan Torghelle, produce manager at Leon's Food Mart, 32nd and South streets, also does deliveries, taking bags of groceries to people all over the city.

"On the average, I deliver about three bags to each customer," Torghelle said, "but I've delivered up to 12 bags at one time."

Many of the customers whom Fox delivers to are elderly, invalids or couples busy with their careers. Fox said he enjoyed the people he met on the job.

"They are all very appreciative about getting their prescriptions out to them that they wouldn't be able to get themselves," Fox said.

Torghelle has done more for some of his customers than just dropping off groceries, he says.

"I've done everything from fixing electrical outlets to taking out the trash and picking up the mail," Torghelle said. "I'll help if I get the

sense that they have no one else who would help them out."

Both Fox and Torghelle said receiving tips for their deliveries was infrequent, but does occasionally happen.

"There's this one couple who has faithfully made an order with us every Wednesday for the last five years,"

company car — a Chevy Cavalier Wagon — instead of his own vehicle.

"That's the plus," Fox said, "because the wear and tear on your personal vehicle takes up a big part of your tips and profit on maintenance."

"In terms of delivery, the best delivery jobs are when you use the company car or truck."

Torghelle said learning the outlay of the streets was one of the toughest parts of doing deliveries.

"I still carry the same phone book in my car," Torghelle said, "but once you get it down, it just goes boom-boom-boom (snapping his fingers three times)."

"Now it feels like I'm just following a path."

It isn't just figuring out where someone lives that can be a pain, Torghelle says.

"The weather stinks," Torghelle said, "and security buildings can be tough to deal with."

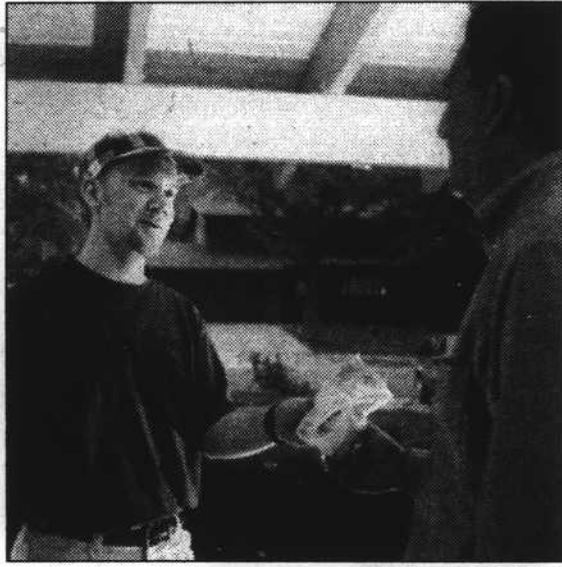
Fox said his skill as a driver helped him to become an efficient delivery driver.

"Street knowledge and pizza delivery has helped me the most," Fox says, "and how to avoid traffic tie-ups and evading crazy drivers."

"I enjoy driving, and that's what makes the job easy, where others might be overwhelmed by rush hour traffic."

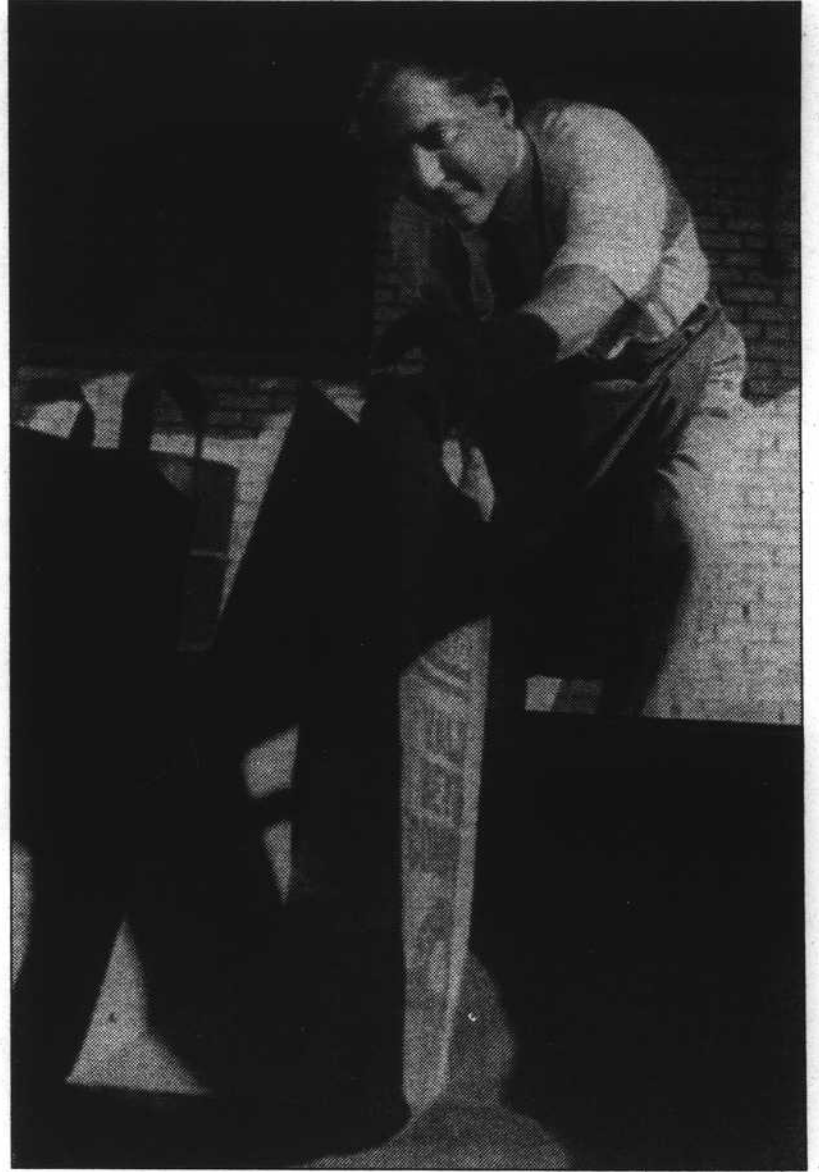
Today, however, is the last day Torghelle will be loading up his red Toyota to deliver groceries all over the city. He is moving on to other pastures, and said he would miss the people he has met.

"I've been saying goodbye already," Torghelle said. "There's a couple of them I'll keep in touch with," he said.



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Kevin Fox delivers prescriptions in the evenings and Saturdays for Four Star Drug.



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Dan Torghelle, produce manager at Leon's Food Mart, loads groceries in his car Wednesday.

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Book Reviews

"My American Journey"
Colin Powell
643 pp. NY: Random House, 1995

The lion's share of memoirs written by public officials and statesmen are pontifications of otherwise distinguished careers.

Clark Clifford's memoirs, for example, comprise a 700-or-so-page ego trip in which he takes credit for everything short of writing the Constitution.

Henry Kissinger's memoirs, which span nearly 2,500 pages in two volumes, are ridiculously detailed and pompous. Similarly, George Schultz's memoirs are 1,200 embellished pages of how the secretary of state managed the national security of the world.

Last month, Colin Powell added to the long list of memoir authors by publishing "My American Journey."

And in 643 pages, he says very little.

The few worthwhile points Powell makes could have been summed up in a magazine article.

On the Iranian arms deal, which later spiraled into the Iran-Contra affair, Powell believed it "would die of its own foolishness." He adds that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger thought along similar lines.

In addition, Powell writes, nobody at the Defense Department had any idea that significant illegal arms trading was going on.

Powell refutes the argument that by leaving Saddam Hussein in power, the Persian Gulf War was incomplete. Since the United Nations mandate of liberating Kuwait was fulfilled, he says, the war's objective was successful. He then follows with several pages of biting criticism of the media's handling of the crisis.

Powell says that President Clinton asked him to replace Warren Christopher as secretary of state, but he disagreed with too many officials at the State Department to accept the offer.

The majority of the book consists of extensively detailed portraits and cliches of family members, friends, military comrades and government officials. Powell offers very little analysis of issues, even in the defense arena, and not one remark about his political preferences.

What emerges is a light-hearted story of a can-do-no-wrong American hero. Like Clifford's, Kissinger's, and Schultz's volumes, Powell's work becomes less interesting after about the first 100 pages.

Powell's book should be read for enjoyment and amusement, but no responsible individual should read this work and decide whether or not Powell should enter the presidential race.

For that, you'll have to look further.

— Neil Feldman

PEOPLE people

CD-ROM too accurate for Eastwood

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The past got a blush out of Clint Eastwood.

At a party Monday night to introduce a CD-ROM on his life, the year 1960 was clicked on a timeline, filling a restaurant with the strains of Eastwood singing "Rowdy-Cowboy Wedding Song."

"There were things I would just as soon they hadn't delved into," an embarrassed Eastwood said. "But it's very impressive what

they've been able to do with the technology."

Eastwood isn't technologically inclined.

"I have a computer in my helicopter. That's about it," the tough-guy actor said.

The two-disc CD-ROM, called simply "Eastwood," includes two hours of clips from his movies, an hour of interview footage and a trivia quiz.

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