

Experience molds brother's life

I laugh at the stupidest stuff. And a lot of the time, it's not out loud.

For me, my brother's graduation was a trip. I was sitting around, watching him do the same things I did three years ago. Shaking hands, laughing at bad jokes, thanking people he didn't know.

His girlfriend was there. Her graduation party was the day before. They hung close to each other, more for safety than anything.

They are coming here to Lincoln as boyfriend and girlfriend — high school sweethearts. He'd probably smack me upside the head if I called them that.

It is eerie how similar we are. I was in his same shoes just three years ago. Graduated, in love, and we were coming to school here together.

Now, the new shoes I wore to school are worn out, dusty, muddy and old. I don't talk much to that girl I came to school with. The woman I know now is different.

I am old now. I do old things. Like get engaged and write resumes. I look at my brother and I have hope for him. He is young, and his whole college life is ahead of him.

When I came here, I didn't know



Matthew Waite

which way was up. Since I am the oldest, I was the first child of my parents' to go to college.

I came to the Daily Nebraskan right away and it has changed my life completely. I have been given opportunities that I never even dreamed.

There was a word in there that I am going to repeat: opportunity.

When my brother was opening his graduation gifts, one of his high school counselors gave him a picture frame that had a small poster in it. The top of the poster read: "The harder you work, the luckier you get."

Coming to school here is just the start. You are going to be handed more opportunities than you can be-

gin to imagine.

The problem is, you may not recognize them. Many will just pass on by.

At that same graduation party, people kept telling me that I am lucky to have done all I have. As a journalist, I covered the Harold Lamont Otey execution, crime, punishment, courts, drama, emotion, life. I have been to Bosnia to cover that area's fragile peace.

I never thought about being lucky. I used the old Star Wars line "In my experience, there is no such thing as luck."

Believe what you want about superstitions. College is about opportunity. To learn, to party, to love, to hurt, to travel, to fail classes because you only showed up for the tests. (There is no excuse for this — trust me.)

Now entering my fourth year, I get to watch my brother grow and learn in his first year.

And I get a chance to maybe get to know my brother. Maybe contribute to his delinquency.

Just another opportunity. Another semester in college.

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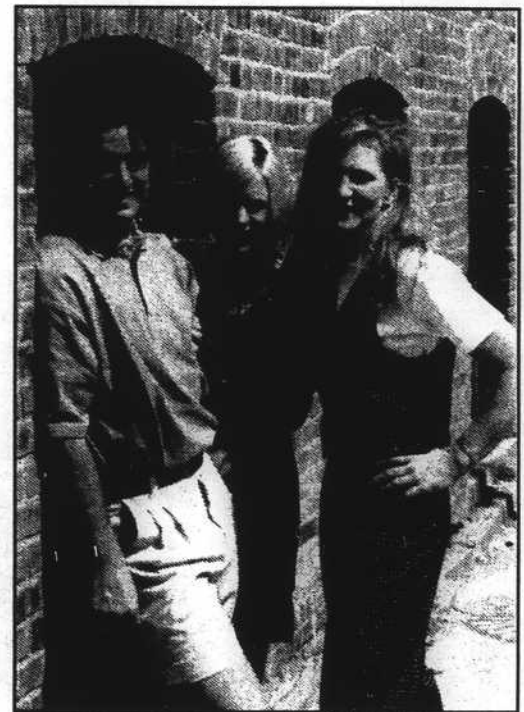
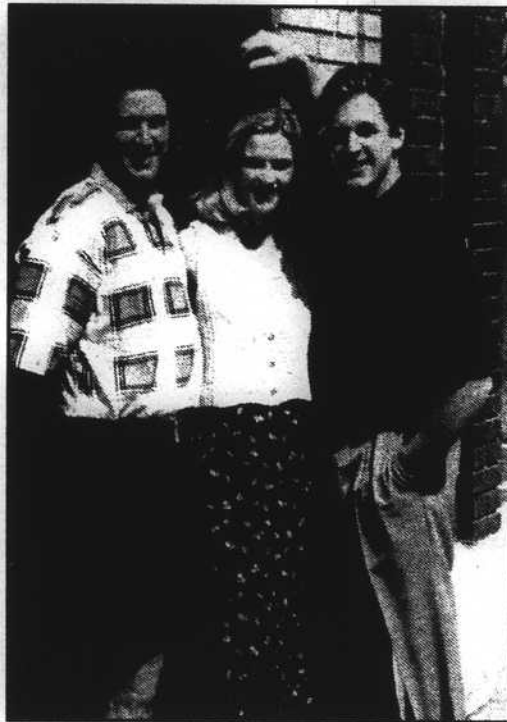
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