aveling opens eyes to other cultures

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exposure to foreign countries.As she matured, she wanted to get away from the tourist traps and submerge herself in the culture, she said.

"You can go around to all the major sights but you learn more if you're talking to the people who live next to the sights."

Thompson's first experience living with international people was during a six-week stay in Ecuador with a program called Amigo de las Americas.

She lived with a family in a small village where there were no electric lights or telephones, teaching the villagers English and basic sanitation.

"I had never done anything like that before," Thompson said. "It opened my eyes to how others live and feel."

She found the people there were hard-working, caring and happy, even though they had virtually nothing, she said. All they needed was the basic elements for survival.

She learned to admire the families' commitment for each other, she said. Every member of the family worked and took care of each other. The people took care of all the children, especially those who had been orphaned.

"It felt good to be in an environ-gland, Japan and India, she makes one ment where everybody respects each point clear — people have to see the other and looks after each other," Th-, world for themselves. ompson said.

travels.

Total strangers always invited her comfort zone." to their homes, offer her something to eat and a place to sleep. They just other students at the University of Newanted to be friendly and find out braska-Lincoln to do the same. about her and the United States.

I have traveling in all these countries,' she said.

In most countries Thompson went to, she was embarrassed by fellow Americans who acted like stereotypical tourists, she said. They would flash their money around and ignore the and try to take her efforts elsewhere. people, she said.

They're rude, they're condescending. They treat people like crap."

To break the typical tourist mold and make more of her trips, Thompson travels with no agenda, no hotel reservations and hardly any luggage. "Just get off the plane and go,"

Thompson said. "You just go the way it's right for you to go at that time."

Among all Thompson's stories of trips to Vietnam, Spain, China, En-

"How can you experience life with-Thompson found that caring, out experiencing things that aren't friendly lifestyle during most of her common or comfortable to you?" she asked. "You need to step out of your

Thompson has tried to encourage

She recently has tried to rally sup-"I have never felt so much love as port for a study abroad scholarship program, but meetings with the student affairs office and the Association of Students for the University of Nebraska have given her the same excuse the money is not there.

Thompson will graduate in May

She plans to spend the summer in London, and return to Ecuador next fall.

Because her life has been shaped by her experiences around the world, she wants others to expand their lives outside the confines of just one small, distant part of the world.

"The world is a beautiful place and there's so much to learn," she said.

"You're depriving yourself of an incredible experience if you don't do it."

Snowy weather doubles Lincoln traffic accidents ACCIDENTS from page 1

While an increase in accidents when the roads are slick is to be expected, some of the days saw accident totals more than 60 higher than the daily average range.

On Nov. 10, 1995 — the first snow of fall 1995 - police officers were dispatched to 134 accidents. On Dec. 21, 1995, officers were dispatched to 100 accidents; on March 3, 1996, officers were dispatched to 95.

Surprisingly, the amount of snowfall had little relationship to the number of accidents. On Nov. 10, 1995, officers were dispatched to 134 accidents as 4.1 inches of snow fell. However, on the next busiest day for the police, Dec. 21, 1995, only 1.2 inches fell.

Police records show that the number of snow-day accidents decreases as the winter rolls along. While snow days in November and December saw accident totals sev-

eral times the average number. snow days in late March had accident totals only slightly higher than the average range.

Heermann said the department does not bring on extra officers to help with the increased workload, but it does reassign some units to help out. She said the traffic unit is often reassigned, adding five or six officers to the effort.

Larry Anderson, an insurance agent at Allstate Insurance Company, said every insurance office in Lincoln feels the effects of snow and freezing rain. He said each office will see two or three accident claims after a good snow.

Anderson said his office received two or three claims from this past weekend's snowy weather.

Sometimes, Anderson said, he thinks motorists don't use common sense.

"They get in a hurry and don't think about things," he said. "It's a lot of common sense, really.'



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