

Heather
LAMPE

No plunger, no problem

Long, complicated rite of passage to 'slobhood'



When I was 15 years old, I took the solemn vow of slobhood. In high school I only cleaned my room on threats of death from my parents. During my first years of college, several roommates, who have since entered sanitariums, endured my tirades with the dishwasher. OK, so I refused to rinse the dishes, but what do they call it a dishwasher for?

Now I am married, and I have been forced to rethink my solemn vow. I married a personality completely opposite of mine. My husband — bless his sink scouring heart — is an anal-retentive neat-freak.

He loses his composure when surrounded by clutter. He becomes unglued at the sight of dusty furniture. He also doesn't hold my belief that it is immoral to take the lives of the little fungal spores and bacteria that live on our shower door.

But rather than divorce him for his unfortunate flaw, I decided to make some modifications in my vow

of uncleanness, and for this I was going to need some help. So who else could I turn to but the diva of deodorizing, the goddess of clean grout, the ever helpful Heloise.

For those of you who haven't heard of Heloise, she is a woman who has dedicated her life to making America the land of tidy households. While I was vowing to be a slob, Heloise was changing the way we look at baking soda.

I recently found Heloise's Helpline on the Internet, but I'm finding it difficult to follow her strict, regimented plan.

For stale carpet smell, Heloise recommends sprinkling the carpet

with baking soda and then vacuuming. I did what she said, but my baking soda was old and chunky, and I ended up burning out the vacuum cleaner. I guess you're probably not supposed to use the baking soda that you put in your refrigerator. Oops!! She really needs to specify.

Since then, I've developed my own hint for stale carpet — it's called opening a window.

To kill the poor, innocent mildew on my shower tiles, Heloise recommends wiping the tile with a three-fourths cup of bleach mixed with a gallon of water. Again, I messed up the directions and forgot to ventilate

the area. Because of the two or three hours I spent scrubbing and inhaling, I have lost some of my short-term memory.

Uhhhh, now what was I talking about before? Oh yes, the moldy shower tiles. My own hint for moldy shower tiles is to shower with your eyes shut and not to lean against the walls. When you have to move out, bribe your mom to come over and clean the shower for you. If she refuses, you might lose \$50 of your security deposit, but at least you'll remember your name.

Heloise's Helpline on the web also includes a section on speedy answers to the problems encountered by unexpected guests. This is where Heloise finally gets real.

- Some of her tips include:
- Stashing anything — that doesn't belong in the rooms where the guests will be — in a bedroom closet.
 - If there's no time to vacuum or dust, just dim the lights.
 - If there are dishes in the sink, load them in a plastic dishpan and stow it in the oven.
- Those last few hints Heloise may have stolen from the slobhood code of conduct that was established by me in 1989.
- Heloise, my lawyers will be in contact.

Lampe is a senior news-editorial and English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.



MATT HANEY/DN

Kasey
KERBER

Fallen stars

Getting education is always worth time, effort



Do you know what Herman Melville, Tom Cruise, Mike Tyson and Demi Moore have in common? None of them graduated from high school.

Neither did Nicolas Cage, Quentin Tarantino, John Travolta, Jim Carrey or Roseanne.

And lest we forget Michael J. Fox, Joe Pesci, Celine Dion and Billy Joel.

These and another 28 other celebrities listed in the Sept/Oct. issue of *Spy* magazine never made it through high school.

So, chances are, some of your favorite stars don't have a diploma on their wall or a cap and gown in their attic.

What they do have, however, is MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF DOLLARS!!!

I find it ironic. I'm finishing an additional four years of schooling to get a degree... which will get me a better job... which will make me more money... which will still be thousands upon thousands of dollars less than the salary of an uneducated Hollywood star.

Let's be honest: After four years of college, I'll make less in a year

than an actor does for making a yogurt commercial.

I'm not bitter though. Actually, I think it's a shame.

You see, there's a word you can use to classify stars who went to Hollywood without a high school diploma — determined.

But it's not a word I'd use. I'd use — stupid. (And no Mike Tyson, it's not spelled "stupid.")

Yet even sadder is the fact that many of these stars have become role models to young people.

Some critics might say you can drop out of high school and still become a dynamite role model.

I'd disagree. I'd say if you couldn't make it past study hall and high school English, you don't have enough ambition to be a role model for plants.

Take for example Peter Jennings. The news anchor for ABC News is probably regarded as one of the most knowledgeable men in America.

Yet Peter never walked the aisle, shook his principal's hand and had his picture taken in a dorky black gown and mortar cap. He was a high school dropout.

Heck, I'm half tempted to send Peter a letter asking what the Pythagorean theorem is. He'd

probably crumple it up, look around the newsroom suspiciously and mutter: "The bastards are on to me..."

But don't get me wrong — there are stars out there capable of becoming good role models. They're the ones who went back to school.

One such star is Emmitt Smith. The running back for the Dallas Cowboys graduated from high school, but skipped his senior year of college to enter the NFL draft.

Yet years later, Emmitt went back to the University of Florida and finished his degree. He kept a promise he made to his mother and a promise he had made to himself.

It's a story today's college athletes should keep in mind before skipping what little schooling they have left.

But keeping all this in mind, you may still be asking the question — what does it matter?

"I'll still be paid less than a famous dropout will," you might say.

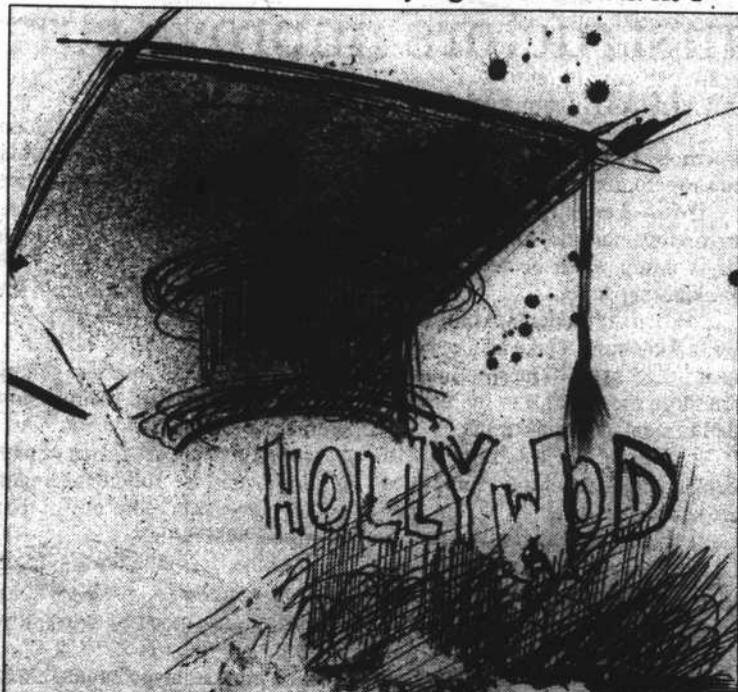
True, destiny sometimes is not a kind thing. But who knows? Maybe one day you'll hit it even bigger than Drew Barrymore (OK, we'll all hit it bigger than that).

At the very least you'll be more educated than your average Hollywood star.

So when midterms finally do roll around, it doesn't matter how badly you're doing.

You at least MADE it here...

Kerber is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.



JIM MEHLING/DN

Girly-men

Show no fear of feminine side

SEATTLE, Wa. (U-WIRE) — Though they have the privilege of being able to pee standing up on camping trips, men are at a real disadvantage. For the most part, being a "man" doesn't allow a guy to explore his feminine side. Any deviation from being a manly man makes people wonder on what side a guy likes his toast buttered.

I'm not suggesting men put on big sister's prom dress. I'm talking about shedding a few tears after seeing "Terms of Endearment," or cooking a nice meal for reasons other than to impress a girl. I'm talking about having the balls to push today's narrow masculine boundaries.

Fear of the feminine starts out in boyhood, when girls are gross but a scab collection is really cool. Fathers take their sons out to throw around the old pigskin. When the son gets knocked in the head with a football traveling at close to the speed of sound, the first thing Pop says is — "Be a man. Don't cry."

From a young age, boys are taught that the less feminine a man is, the better. When has a father been comfortable with his son wanting to play with a doll? And how many fathers suggest a day of grocery shopping as the backdrop for a day of bonding with junior? I doubt that "Let's clip coupons!" is a phrase said by daddies in many of America's homes.

The feminine man has not been embraced by the media either.

"Charlie's Angels" portrayed women who took on the traditionally male role of private dick as strong and sexy. But were the tables ever turned? Did Aaron Spelling ever create a show about a man who's a strong and sexy seamstress?

"Charlie's Angels" and "The Bionic Woman" were two shows that inspired a lot of young girls to empower themselves by incorporating a little masculinity into their femininity. There was a time in the early '80s when all I wanted to do was throw people over cars and shoot guns, but the closest I got to that was having a lunch box showing Wonder Woman and her 8 inches of cleavage on the side of it.

Where were the shows that compelled boys to express their feelings or do anything else considered feminine?

Women have told me on several occasions about boyfriends breaking down and sobbing like babies when the relationship ended. Tears, wailing, snot coming out the nose, the works. This is proof that most of you men aren't unfeeling fatheads; you have just been suppressing your sensitive side. I think it's time to let it out.

Cry when you get a paper cut! Write poetry! Wear women's underwear! Just don't suppress yourself. Men who accept what they feel are smarter, deeper and much more attractive to women. It's not an easy feat, but peel off some of that macho facade society has forced upon you.

— Hannah Lindsay
The Daily