

Jessica
Kennedy

Ms. Knew-It-All

College years prove to be full of humbling, learning experiences

I'm a Lincoln girl. So when I came to the university in the fall of 1993, I thought I knew it all; the city, the campus, the universe...

In fact, if I recall correctly, all the freshman seemed to know it all. Coming off graduation highs, the world was ours for the taking. We hit campus with cars loaded with attitude, nervous excitement, new towels and enough electrical equipment to power the Vegas strip.

We had arrived.

I'm sure things haven't changed too much in the past four years.

Moving to the halls was a great chance to leave my family behind (all two miles), but the event was not without trepidation. See, as a funding contingency, I had to live on the Honors Program floor.

Visions of Urkel and Pointdexter filled my head. After suffering severe high school academic and extracurricular burnout, I was ready for some quality social time. I didn't think a bunch of nerdy math and science people would be much fun. I had my heart set on a "party" dorm.

But to my pleasant surprise, I found two floors of interesting, exciting and normal people. Men and women who shared similar fears, expectations and interests that I did.



MATT HANEY/DN

My roommate and I, though both (essentially) only children, ended up having a marvelous time living together. We lived together again last year and still remain close friends.

As an ex-student assistant in the residence halls, I can't guarantee everyone will have a great roommate experience, but I can assure you that with a little effort and a little help from your SA, you can have a safe, happy and even fun experience in the halls.

I can also assure you the food is not as bad as people say. The staff works very, very hard to provide a wide variety of foods that should appeal to everyone.

Some other advice for dorm survival: don't buy all your supplies now. Wait until you get settled and then see what you need. Things like towels, health and beauty items, a shower caddy and shower flip-flops are good ideas, though.

Gals, from personal experience

I'd also advise bringing comfy and modest sleep apparel. There's nothing like a three a.m. fire alarm where you find yourself standing in front of hundreds of people in a skimpy camisole and short tap pants.

For the guys: remember your floor is more than an expansive and elaborate locker room. Visitors do not want to see you in tight-whities or be subjected to disgusting amount of male B.O.

Academically, it may be tempting

to let homework slide, sleep in or just skip class. But let me tell you, you're going to be fighting that GPA for the rest of your time at NU. In my case, after an abysmal ride through Chem 109, I spent four years trying to rebuild my GPA.

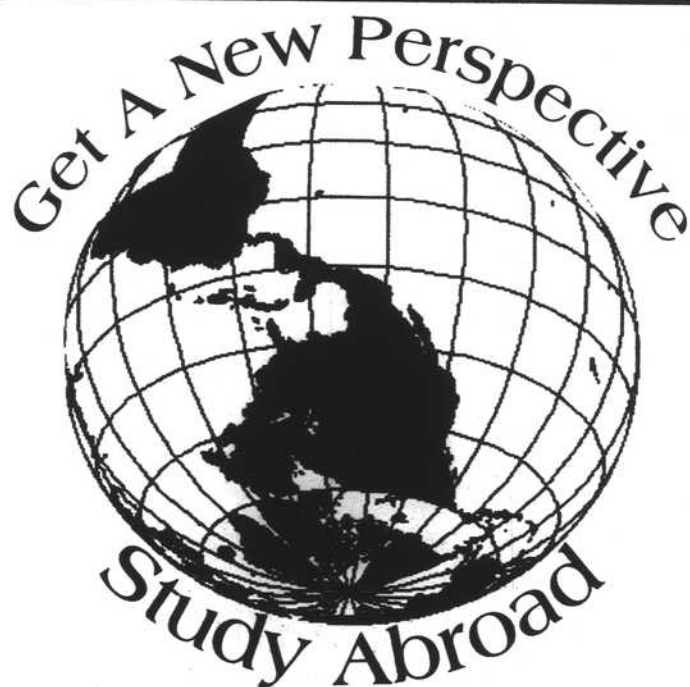
Just remember: for as much as professors tout knowledge and information as the superior goals of a class, know that they're full of hooey. Grades are of the utmost importance. Never once have I had a scholarship or an awards committee ask me what I learned in a particular class. Those types of committees are much more interested in GPAs and extracurricular activities.

Although you may not be able to do as many activities in college as you did in high school, either because of more time studying or working or socializing, find time to get involved.

There are hundreds of groups on campus with hundreds of different areas of interest. If you don't get a listing of all those groups during NSE, ask your NSE leader for one or stop by the Student Involvement. Someone there can help you find an organization to fit your needs.

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