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Let's make a deal

DN changes to suit students

We're a tabloid-sized, student newspaper, which puts a lot of limits on what we can report and print, but we're going to do our best to remember you. We have a responsibility to inform you on what's happening in the world, the nation, the state and the city. But this year, the most important news you'll see in the *Daily Nebraskan* is what's happening right here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

To do that, We - you and I - need to strike a deal.

We'll give you something aside from a crossword puzzle to kill time in that three-hour lab. We'll give you the information, in both our print and online editions, that you really want and need.

Here's your end of the bargain: If you know about something that other people might want to read, you have to let us know. Write, call, fax, e-mail or stop down. If you're in a student organization, give us a schedule of your events. If you know of something or someone noteworthy, drop us a line. The best way to get your story in the paper is to give us all the details, and give us a call to make sure we've got it.

And the person you can call is

Involvement

Chad Lorenz. He's our new assignment editor. You might see Chad stop by your organization's meeting or you may get a call from him now and then to check in. If you don't hear from Chad, he'd still like to hear from you.

Chad's going to be where you can see him. Because the only way we're going to find out what's going on with you is to be out there where you can see us. I hope you'll see this as a welcome change.

And there are other changes you might not see. Our staff structure is different, and includes a new design team. We've moved to full pagination, which means we can design and lay out the pages on our new computer system. We're planning to move into our expanded office space in the Nebraska Union basement late this fall. Our display advertising department has moved into Lyman Hall while its offices are under construction.

Our online edition also is under construction. You'll see a lot of great things happening here, because stories that can't run in the regular edi-

tion will run on the web. And we hope to have expanded coverage of student groups and intramural sports there, too, along with university calendars, links to related sites and other goodies. You also can use the web to see past editions of the *Daily Nebraskan*, visit our staff or send us e-mail. Our goal is to be more interactive so you can be more reactive.

Throughout the year, you'll see more things in the *Daily Nebraskan* that are specifically for UNL students. One of our ideas is to create a special "I" series on student involvement. The semester-long series will feature student organizations and other campus or local volunteer groups students can join. Each story will be signified by the I icon, which also can be found on the online edition.

Another idea, prompted by a reader's suggestion, will be a "For Your Money" occasional feature on what the university is doing with your tuition and fees. We're going to try to start a "Hot Topics" series where we take an in-depth look at issues such as financial aid, diversity, housing and tuition. Another attempt we're going to make is a daily section of campus briefs, with themes such as student

honorarys, faculty, greek and residence hall announcements and other accolades, facts or events.

Our commitment to giving you the latest on international, national, regional and local news remains. And we will continue to provide you with in-depth sports coverage (and all you ever wanted to know about the Big 12), along with daily insights on what's hot in the Lincoln and regional arts and entertainment scenes.

As I have said before, we can't print everything. Some days we just don't have the room. Other days, more timely, breaking news event may force others to get bumped. Our reporters also have full class schedules, so please be understanding if we miss something or just can't produce an article now and then.

We try to be fair and balanced and diverse in all our coverage. We do not have any agendas, and we're not out to "get anyone."

We'll do our best to be the best. If not, let us know.

Call (402) 472-2588. Fax (402) 472-1761. E-mail questions to dn@unlinfo.unl.edu or letters to the editor at letters@unlinfo.unl.edu. Check out our online version at <http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb>.

Or stop down and visit. Though it's a little dusty because of the construction, you're welcome to see what's going on. We're in the basement of Nebraska Union on the southeast side.

And, hey, maybe I'll even hang up my medal.

You get a medal for 12th place.

It isn't a stellar medal, but it was the first time in high school that I'd ever placed in a cross country meet. I was so excited the next day when I scrambled for the sports section in the local newspaper. There were the results of yesterday's meet, but the list stopped at 10.

I was enraged! How could they not know medals are awarded to the first 15 runners? How could they forget me? I wanted to call up whoever typed in those results and give him a piece of my mind.

In the grand scheme of things, I'm sure my name - in type smaller than this - was one of the least important parts of the paper to anyone else.

But I felt forgotten.

I was then, and still am, a newspaper reader, just like everyone of you reading this column today. I also am the editor of this newspaper, and I don't want any of you to feel forgotten.

Guiding light

Starting the semester right



TODD MUNSON is a senior broadcasting major and a *Daily Nebraskan* columnist.

Hello and welcome to the finest land grand institution in the state, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. UNL has so much good stuff to offer; from intercollegiate Frisbee to a tractor testing track, that life on campus may seem a bit confusing. That's where this handy guide comes in. After spending almost half of a decade at UNL, Todd has learned countless techniques to make college life easier and is now willing to pass them on to you absolutely free. So new students - or old ones who are still confused - sit back and read this handy guide.

As a freshman at UNL, you get to live in university housing. Your new 8-by-12 foot cell, er, flat with urine-sample yellow concrete walls will look more like a swingin' pad that something you'd find at the local prison.

The first step is to cover the floor. You can either do what Mitzy, the confused debutante, would do and go to a carpet store and pay way too much for a custom-cut rug of Dupont Stainmaster, or you can do what my roommate and I did. We went to the same carpet store and after a lot of mooching, walked out with enough carpet samples to cover our whole room and still have a closet full of extra pieces.

The advantage of modular carpeting is that it never has to be cleaned or vacuumed. Picture this: Some drunken fool stumbles into your room and yaks up a case of Busch Light on your rug. Puke may stain carpet, but not modular carpet. Gently peel off the befouled piece, hand it to the boozehound to keep as a trophy, and replace at your leisure.

With the subject of carpet covered, let's move to furnishings.

As for posters and the like, just think about what exactly you're putting up. Guys, do you really think that decorating your room with centerfolds from your back issues of *Swank* will draw chicks to your room? All that will get you is sticky walls.

The door to your room is also a great place to express yourself. Just remember: Think before you hang. You might think it's cool to show off the rebel in you by mounting discarded packages of beer or, better yet, anything drug related to your door. Just don't be shocked when a man kicks it down on a Friday night. While you're waiting to be bailed out of jail, just think how easy it will be to clean up annoying bong water stains with your new modular carpet.

After all this hard work, you outta be pretty famished. Fortunately, there is plenty of free food to be had on campus and, for some reason, free food tastes better.

The best way to scam a free meal is to go to the first meeting of any club on campus. You see, to recruit new members, clubs entice you with the promise of free victuals. My personal best was six free meals in one week. All I did was fake affiliation to six different religions. Sometimes you need to put down a fake name. Watch out: If you don't, those Jehovah's Witnesses can be quite persistent.

The final section of this guide is perhaps the most important - money. Along with free food, there is plenty of free money to be had.

The easiest way is to let the money come to you. Any time you have the chance to apply for a credit card, do it. If you're accepted, it will be a fun ride to high interest debt, if not, at least you got a pocket dictionary. Months later when the company calls to say you have a problem with not paying your bill, turn the tables by telling them it's their problem for giving you the stupid card in the first place. The creditor will then thank you for your time and never call again.

Lincoln is also a great place

to sell your body to science. The only problem with doing this is that it's technically work and can hurt a little. On some occasions, it's even been known to give you an extra chromosome. The easiest way to get the money you would earn by selling your body is to call your nervous mother. "Hi Mom, just calling to tell you I can't make it home this weekend because the laboratory says I'll need bed rest after they stop my heart." The check will be in your mailbox by morning if your mother hasn't already delivered it herself the night before.

Now that you've finished this guide to easy living, cut it out and keep it in your shoe for future reference.

By the way, if you ever see Todd, the esteemed author of this guide, buy him a



MATT HANEY/DN