

Dream a little dream

Impossible goals may not be impossible after all



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Have you ever had a dream? I'm not talking about the sensations you experience when you sleep, but rather the kind of dream you can go out and pursue and maybe accomplish one day after hard work and a few lucky breaks. Ever had one of those?

Webster's dictionary defines dreams as aspirations and goals; to me they are much more than that. A goal is something I expect to achieve, like getting a job. Hell, I'm sure somebody will hire me. A dream is not only to get a job, but the perfect job.

To a journalist, for example, a goal would be employment at a newspaper, any newspaper for that matter. A dream is to get the job at *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post*.

Like I said, it takes a lot of hard work and a considerable chunk of luck to make a dream come true, but that should not keep you from trying. The loftiest goals are realized every

day, everywhere in the world.

Last week I saw parts of the Grammy Awards show on television. Most people in the audience might have seen glamour and big name stars, but more than anything, I saw dreams coming true.

Many of the artists who received their first award seemed to be overcome with joy and the feeling that everything they had invested in their dream had finally paid off.

I am sure most of the Grammy winners have had times of self doubt and times when others told them they could not make it. Still, they overcame all this to reach the top of their profession.

The same could be witnessed at the Olympic Games. Athletes were earning the sweet fruits of their hard labor. Thousands of practice hours, pain and abstinence from some of life's pleasures were forgotten in the one moment of victory.

There must have been many times in the lives of these athletes when they just wanted to quit, when they wanted to go out drinking instead of cross country skiing through some dark Norwegian forest. I think in the

end it paid off for them.

Admittedly, these are some large-scale dreams of people who excel in their special areas of expertise, but the same holds true for every one of us.

Sure, graduating from college is a goal, but honestly, it does not take that much for most of us to get out of here with a degree in whatever, especially if we have the necessary financial background and support from our families.

Still, to some it is much more than that, like being the first person in a family to graduate from a university. That is a dream come true for everyone involved.

I have some dreams of my own, several of them involving the girl in my English class (but that is a different matter), which I am trying to accomplish in my lifetime. I will probably fall short of achieving many lofty goals, but at least I'll do my best.

For a long time, I was not sure whether I could fulfill all the requirements and come up with the money to do all my undergraduate work here at the University of Nebraska-

Lincoln.

Now, just weeks away from graduation, I can look back, knowing I have accomplished something special. I finished school in three years and still managed to be on the Dean's List. If my goal had been to simply graduate, I'd be a junior with a 2.8 GPA right now, but with every little success I pushed myself harder to do even better.

Don't sell yourself short; have the courage to dream. Many of you might think everything is coming to you easily, but maybe you are kidding yourself. Maybe you can achieve your goals, simply because they were not set high enough in the first place.

Along with my regular applications, I will also send out resumes to many places at which I would simply love to work. Honestly, I do not expect to ever be an anchor on "Sportscenter" (or get any other job there), but it'll only cost me a couple stamps to try.

Chances are, I will get rejected from my "dream jobs", but I'd prefer that over not having tried at all. Maybe I will get a lucky break. What if demographics call for a goofy-

looking German? I owe it to myself to apply.

I have talked to many students who will graduate with me, and I feel as if many do not even realize their own potential. Some of my friends are incredibly gifted, but they are not giving potential employers the chance to find out because they refuse to apply for jobs which they would be absolutely perfect for.

I hear excuses like "They would never hire someone like me," or "There are no job openings." It makes me sad to see they have given up before they ever tried.

Sometimes I wish I could take their resumes and send them out myself. Maybe one day they would find a positive response in the mail to realize their dreams had come true.

To all graduating seniors, do not sell out. It is not too late for you to dream, not too late to hope for something which you never thought possible. In the spirit of this column, I would like to endorse the Cinderella candidate for this year's ASUN election. Todd Munson, friend and colleague, keep reaching for the stars, you have my vote.



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For the last few days, the Daily Nebraskan has been ASUN's newsletter, and I apologize for this.

However, I regretfully will contribute to this manifestation today. Some things just need to be said, and may God have mercy on my soul.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska: You love it; you hate it. Some of us care for it; some of us don't have a care in the world for it. We need it, though. To be honest, I am in it. I am the second vice president of our student body and damn proud of that fact. I enjoy what I do and respect ASUN. And guess what? I'm not greek.

This year ASUN has done everything in its student governmental power by becoming more inclusive and more interactive with the student body, but the time has come for ASUN to search internally. ASUN has done everything possible to represent outside concerns. Now it needs to look on the inside.

Oklahoma State student government had an election system very similar to ASUN. There were organized parties running for office where the presidential, vice presidential, senatorial and advisory board candidates ran under one party. Last year, Okie State decided to try something different. They are using a new structure where only the presidential and vice presidential candidates could run under a political party. The senate and advisory board candidates had to run as independents.

Their reasoning was someone should not become a student body senator merely because his or her name is affiliated with a political party. They should become a senator because they have a sincere interest in representing their constituents. I usually don't give many props to any states that border Texas, but Okie State's idea sounded interesting and definitely worth merit.

Last November, I had a mildly drunken discussion about this issue with the president of the student

body of Oklahoma State at a bar in Boulder, Colo. She convinced me this was the best for ASUN in two words: "It worked." I was positive this was for us.

The system that exists just does not fly. Each year a monstrosity of a student government campaign develops where everyone is elected merely because they are allied with a dominant greek campaign. It is a system where merit has no meaning beyond the presidential and vice presidential candidates.

My fellow nongreek brothers and sisters, we all know someone who would absolutely love to witness the joys and battles of ASUN membership. However, five-sixths of us are not greek and would rather not suffer the embarrassment of losing a race solely because our opponent has his or her name coupled with a six- or seven-letter, obscure action verb.

Opponents of this idea claim the political parties give numbers to ASUN. In other words, they fill the spots. First, more students would run for office if the system was fair and based on merit, especially if ASUN tried damn hard to make the new system known to the students. Encourage everyone to run. Hell, freshmen are impressionable. You convince them, they become older and then they strap on the Stratocasters, plug in the Marshalls and ASUN rocks.

Secondly, I really don't think anyone on this campus would prefer a fully loaded ASUN with its members not giving a damn about an ASUN with a smaller membership to one that works its ass off for the students.

All of us would desire the latter. People want to be involved with student government, but the current system destroys those hopes.

The sincere interest in student government this change would produce is terribly crucial, but even more importantly, ASUN would become a more mature student government. In last year's election, one minority won one senate spot - one minority. This should be proof positive that the current system is defunct and outdated. The only possible way ASUN can represent a constantly changing cultural

climate is to place their

candidates on a level playing field.

Besides, with the current system, only a white greek person allows a minority to be a part of a student government campaign. If that doesn't justify my proposed change, nothing will.

On Wednesday I attended the third out of four ASUN debates this year. I posed the question concerning the abolition of the political parties for senators and advisory board spots and received two very different answers.

Sara Russell and the COMMIT party agreed the party system should be dealt with. They agreed ASUN is being hampered by a lack of work ethic and "whiteness" within the organization.

John Weichmann and the VISION party disagreed, mentioning how the party system helps ASUN. This is a fundamental difference between the

two campaigns. COMMIT is insightful and acknowledges ASUN flaws, as I am doing today, but VISION disregards this insight and wishes for an unchanged student government.

This is why I, as an outgoing member of ASUN, pledge my support for Sara Russell and the COMMIT party. These student leaders understand that in order to help fix this university, ASUN must fix itself.

COMMIT knows that, like everything, ASUN needs change. VISION does not.

But it is your choice: Do you want the old or the new?

Party time

Changing ASUN responsibility of student body

