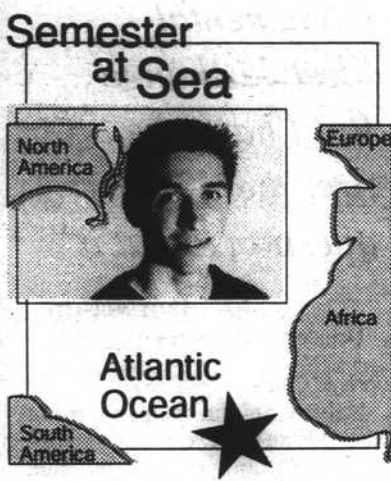


# The voyage continues

## Lessons learned at sea greater than those learned on land



Melanie Falk/DN

Imagine eating, sleeping, studying, partying, sunbathing, learning and living all in a space the size of one residence hall at Nebraska.

This is what I, along with my 629 new friends, am doing on the SS Universe Explorer.

We're crossing the Atlantic Ocean, a journey that is more than 3,500 nautical miles. The journey has opened my eyes to so many new things and made me aware of so many different types of people who are around me.

Life onboard is unlike any college in the world. In the morning, while I stare off the back of the ship and watch the sunrise, I contemplate my day ahead.

After breakfast, I make my way to the school union. Our union acts not only as the central meeting place for the students, but also as a center for pre-port events, cultural performances and classes.

The student body has a daily class in the union referred to as CORE, the first class of my day. CORE is a geography course designed to familiarize the students of the ship with the countries that we will be visiting. It builds an insight and background on international problems that the world faces and how they relate to me as a person.

I have begun to develop an awareness for the history, geography and political aspects of the world around me. The faculty has created an environment that makes our learning process better than any institution I have ever seen.

Our union also acts as our karaoke

bar, dance club, theater, coffee house and pub. The same place that I begin my day in, I end my day in with a drink. On this boat, at the age of only 20, I can legally drink. (We are in international waters.)

These adult teachers who we are supposed to take seriously during the day are the same people that we party with at night. The thought of asking your executive dean if he wants to join in a game of volleyball or basketball would be unreal anywhere else.

Alcohol has definitely been an issue onboard. Every night, the line begins forming at 8:30 p.m. to buy the first drink when the bar opens at 9 p.m. The evenings turn into a night of dancing and pure enjoyment.

Rules onboard state that students are only allowed to purchase two drinks at a time. The only problem with this idea is that there is a line that takes more than 30 minutes to go through to get your drinks. This causes the students to buy their two-drink minimum and then run to the end of the line while still drinking. This is turning some students into binge drinkers. The fun begins to break up with last call at 11 p.m.

Trust me, though, a lot more besides drinking is going on here. Only a few hours a day are spent in classes, but the learning that goes on is unbelievable. These classes cannot be compared to anything I have seen.

Semester at Sea has gathered the best teachers with the most knowledge from around the world. The courses are not necessarily based on academic achievement, but use the world around us to teach things that could never be taught at home.

Most of our class time is spent contemplating lessons

learned in the ports we visit. We use our experiences to relate the visits to what we are learning.

On our voyage across the Atlantic, we have been learning about apartheid, which always has been a controversial issue in South Africa. To demonstrate the feeling that one has when his or her rights have been taken away, the faculty created a reenactment of apartheid.

The deans chose "privileged students" who did not have to wait in lines and were able to use exclusive shipboard amenities. At the same time, non-privileged students had their rights taken away, such as no use of public bathrooms, no access to the weight room and no seating for classes.

This was the most overwhelming experience I have ever taken from a class. Students began after only one day to revolt against the restraints that were set before us. To demonstrate our anger, teachers and faculty were thrown into the pool and tormented for their behavior.

The feeling I had when I did not have the privileges I was used to is indescribable - the sad thing is that it was only for one day. It is an experience I could not have gained if I was not here. Semester at Sea is truly a hands-on experience.

Our captain, Capt. Malcolm, will be replaced when we arrive in Cape Town, South

Africa. In his closing speech, he left a quote that was overwhelming to me, "If this ship can go around the world with 20 nationalities in peace and harmony, why can't the world go around the sun in peace and harmony?"

I feel that people who I've been touched by onboard and ashore look at me not as an American, but as a friend. My experience thus far only can be put into so many words. Yes, time is spent in the bar and tanning by the pool, but the real time is what each student is making of the interaction he or she shares with the world.

My dreams are coming true thanks to my parents and family ... these dreams and lessons will live in me forever.



David Jane/DN

Andrew Broer is a sophomore secondary education and English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

# The eye of the hurricane

## American justice system should be consistent when setting bond



If the experience of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter hasn't shown us there is something dreadfully wrong with the criminal justice system, then perhaps the ongoing case of another prominent athlete will.

The athlete is Ray Lewis, a middle linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens professional football team. Lewis was charged with the double murder of Richard Lollar and Jacinth Baker on Super Bowl Sunday. It is a highly notable case, especially since he is the second pro football player in three months to receive such a charge. The other is Carolina Panther wide receiver Ray Carruth.

Considering that Lewis was arrested for murder and incarcerated for nearly three weeks, there is significant preliminary evidence against him. He already has been linked to the scene,

and supposedly his limousine was used as a getaway car. He also has been known to have associated with two known felons, Joseph Sweeting and Reginold Oakley, who also have been charged in this case.

But Lewis has maintained his innocence, and it would be wrong to convict him before his trial is complete.

After being formally charged by the Atlanta court for double murder on February 17, he was given a bond hearing. A \$1 million bail was set.

For most of us, Lewis' bond would stick us behind a steel wall with no way out. But as a three-time pro-bowler who is considered by many insiders as the best linebacker in pro football, \$1 million is not an impenetrable wall. Instead, it is a small percentage of the multimillion dollar contracts that the pro football elite receive each year. Lewis is part of that elite, and to no one's surprise, he posted bail.

Lewis' bond was a mere formality in his own attainment of freedom. Lewis was not only a millionaire himself, but a man surrounded by other millionaires. A number of NFL players testified at his bond hearing on his behalf, and so did Baltimore owner Art Modell, a billionaire in his own right,

as well as a man who wants to keep Lewis on his team.

What happens now is that Lewis will return to his Maryland home while awaiting trial, but he does have stipulations. Lewis is not to use alcohol or drugs, and he must return home by 9 p.m. He is also under a gag order.

But even with stipulations, Lewis is afforded luxuries that most people in his case could never afford. Murderer or not, his money has allowed him to buy himself out of the legal system.

For the 90 percent of the population who don't earn seven-figure salaries like Lewis, a \$1 million bond is equivalent to no bail being set at all. Without any reasonable way to make bail, they sit in jail, innocent or guilty, awaiting a court date that could take months, and returning to captivity each night while their trial drags on.

The Atlanta court tried to make a statement to Lewis by giving him a bond at \$1 million. They wanted him to know that they meant business.

But did they succeed in making that statement?

Hardly.

Bonds are not in any way based on a percentage of individual personal income. A \$1 million bond could have

gone to a garbage man. Yet the courts don't recognize this.

If the Atlanta court has done anything, it has done Ray Lewis a huge favor, while shortchanging the rest of the American population.

If they really wanted to make a statement, they should not have allowed him bail.

Instead, they continued to allow the rich their continued dominance over the justice system.

In this country, white-collar crimes are treated with more leniency. It is the people who show up to trials in business suits rather than prison jumpers who are more likely to be judged innocent.

By no means is Lewis already a guilty man, and he should not be viewed as such. Nor is it Lewis' fault that an Atlanta judge decided to set a bail that was within his means.

The outcome of his trial may take months to be resolved. If he is innocent, then perhaps it is fair that he was let out of captivity before his trial. Why should he be imprisoned for any amount of time if he didn't commit a crime?

Of course, why should anyone else, professional athlete or not, serve time

for a crime he or she didn't commit?

Doesn't the law say innocent until proven guilty? And though Lewis has more freedom than most in his situation, by his stipulations, he is still in some ways a prisoner.

On the contrary, if Lewis is guilty, the court system granted months worth of freedom to a murderer. It's as if the court system can't make up its mind to incarcerate him or not, so it goes a beleaguered halfway and gives him a curfew.

Either way, the bond system is out of whack and out of line. The bond system in America blatantly is saying those who have money can go free, while those who don't can't. So much for the myth that all Americans are equal.

If the court wants to let people charged with crimes out of jail until they are convicted, then so be it.

Or if it wants to keep people who are charged with crimes in jail, then that's fine as well, as long as it is consistent.

But if a person is accused of crime, especially murder, should a checkbook really decide who goes free?

Trevor Johnson is a junior English and secondary education major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.