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ALISSA KALKWARF, a senior English major, rides down O Street in her new Blazer on a warm spring day. Kalkwarf bought her new truck from Dillon in Blair last semester.

Penny-pinching graduates can find new car bargains

By Jackie Blair
Staff writer

One of the first things that many seniors want to do right after graduation is trade in their klunkers still holding on from high school and purchase their very own hot rods.

There are a lot of deals for graduating seniors buying their first cars. Some places give discounts or rebates for seniors who will be graduating in the next six months or have graduated within the last two years.

For example, Park Place, on 49th and O streets, gives seniors a $600 graduation rebate, and Lincoln Dodge, at 1235 West O St., gives a $400 one.

Kelly Klostermeyer, a recent UNL nursing graduate, said she and her fiance ended up buying a car from Saturn of Lincoln, at 3330 Superior St.

"Saturn really liked selling cars to younger people because they realize they will be buying cars in the future," she said.

"... If you have a good deal at one place, make sure that there isn't a better deal somewhere else."

Alissa Kalkwarf
UNL senior

Saturn of Lincoln has a set price and no graduation discounts. However, Klostermeier said the sellers are not pushy. Alissa Kalkwarf, a senior English major, bought a new Blazer a couple months ago.

"Never feel pressured to buy," Kalkwarf said.

Kalkwarf bought her Blazer from Dillon in Blair with no graduation discount. She said the sellers at Dillon are nice, and they didn't pressure her, and the managers even remembered her when she came back a month later.

"I recommend going to Dillon," she said.

Melissa Becker, a senior business administration major, said she has been looking for a new car, but she wants her father to go with her when she's ready to buy.

"The salesmen treat you better when there's a guy with you," Becker said.

Mike Anthofer, a systems administrator at Nebraska Hall and Klostermeyer's fiance, agreed with Becker.

"The car dealers see men as the primary decision-makers," he said.

Kalkwarf said a lot of places gave her trouble, probably because she was a woman.

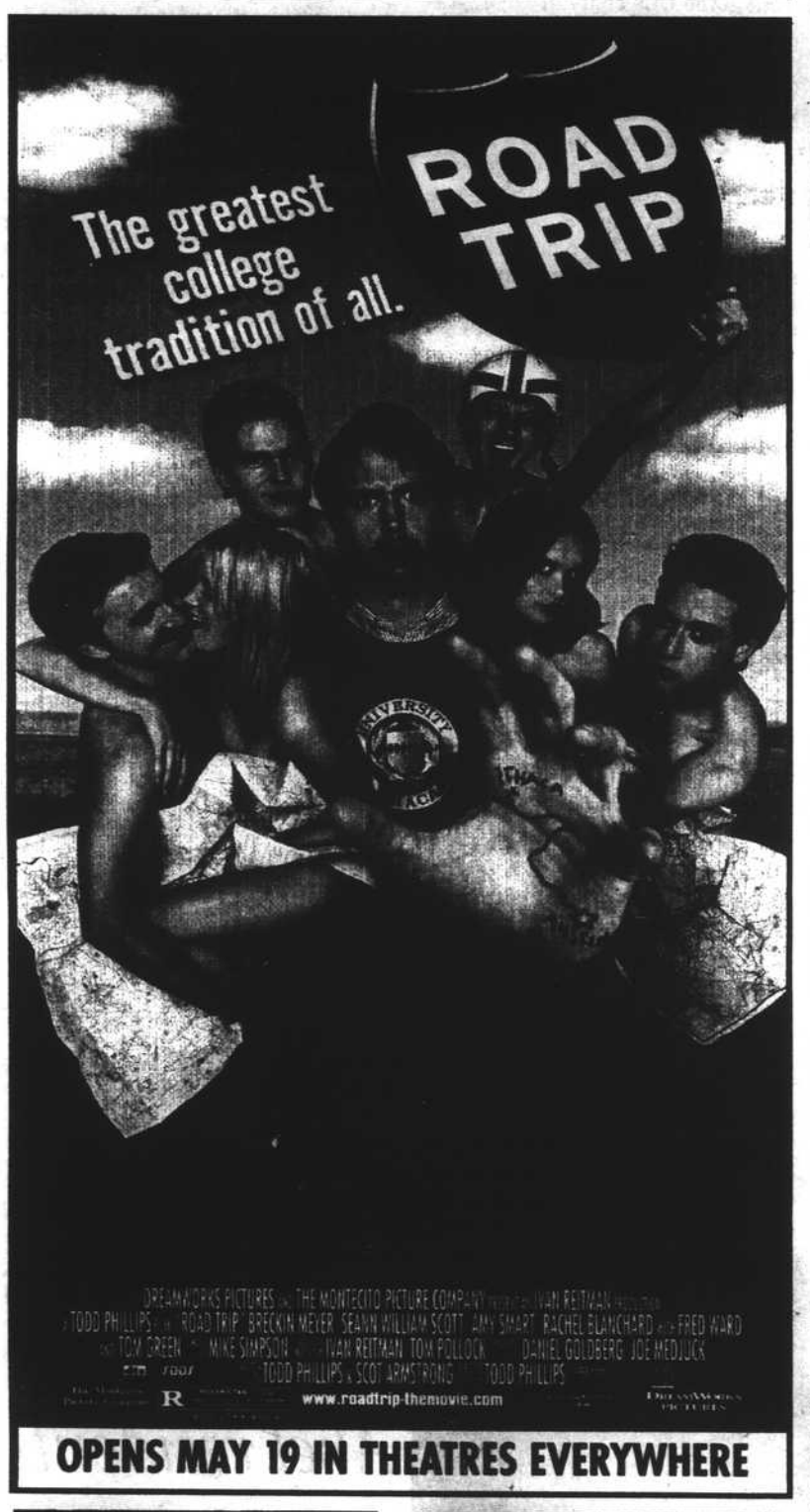
"The salesmen didn't bother to help me too much," she said.

Kalkwarf gave some advice for seniors who are hoping to purchase a new car sometime soon.

"Make sure you shop around," she said. "If you have a good deal at one place, make sure that there isn't a better deal somewhere else."

All in all, Kalkwarf and Klostermeyer both said they had good experiences. Anthofer had a different opinion.

"I'm now officially in debt," he said.



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