

# attention!!

A funny thing happens to a lot of people once they've been away to college for a few months; they start to appreciate a lot of little things that maybe didn't seem that important before leaving home — things like paid bills, free food and name-brand garbage bags. (I found out the hard way why the generic brand was such a bargain.)

But one of the things I've probably come to appreciate the most is mail — any kind.

I've grown to like my junk mail — at least there's something in the old P.O. Box. This affection took a little time to cultivate. It had just been a reflex for me to toss anything into the can that had "occupant" or "you may have just won..." printed on the front of it. But after two straight weeks of an empty mailbox, I began to look forward to those mail-order catalogs and letters from Joe Barton. At least it looked like I was getting something.

I'm probably overly self-conscious about the matter, but I always get this feeling that I can walk into a post office unnoticed. But then when I open my box and it happens to be empty, everyone in the building seems to suddenly

notice me and my empty box. That's where the nonchalant expression comes in. You know the one. You stride off very calmly with this "Oh, mail — who needs mail?" expression on your face.

I know — it's paranoia gone overboard, but who says you have to be mature in college anyway?

There's some sort of sweet revenge in slamming the empty mailbox door and silently saying to it, "Okay, I just won't check you for two weeks!" Maybe it's some sort of psychological power trip, but it always makes me feel better, anyway.

I now realize the truth in the old cliché, "If you want to get mail, you have to give it," or something like that — and I've taken it to heart. Why limit yourself to just friends and family?

You know you're getting older when you actually send in for those free samples, coupons and catalogs, and perhaps even fill out the questionnaire your congressman sent. But that's okay. At least Mom and Dad can't say I haven't learned SOMETHING at college. *Sherri Roberts is a sophomore journalism major.*



**This week's attention!! photo series was taken by Sharon Neyland, a sophomore general studies major.**

