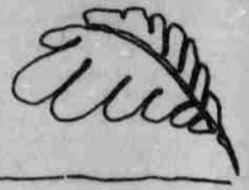


# editorial / opinion



## to the editor



Dear editor,  
 Last Wednesday an article appeared in the Daily Nebraskan concerning faculty absences. In it, Faculty Senate President Franklin Eldridge indicated it had been his experience that tenured faculty members met their classes. He was further quoted as saying, "It's the first-year assistants or the graduate assistants who haven't learned what the world of work is like who don't meet with their classes."

Regardless of whether tenured faculty members consistently meet their classes, it is inconceivable that such a blatant generality about graduate assistants could be made!

Recognizing that graduate assistants are not without blame, there are many of us who are dedicated both to learning and teaching.

Consequently, we take great offense at such oversimplification and mindless tactics.

N. Steven King  
 Charles D. Zeier  
 De Lana Cromer  
 Carol Raish

### groupspeak

## Student court potentially powerful

Editor's note: Doug Voegler, chief justice of the ASUN Student Court, submits this week's Groupspeak, an introduction to the court, its structure and powers.

By Doug Voegler

UNL's student government was modeled after the national government with three coequal branches: legislative, executive and judicial. ASUN senators and executives often lament students' apathy toward their government.

However, the judicial branch of student government has felt this apathy most acutely.

The ASUN Student Court decided five cases during the 1965-66 term and four in the 1966-67 term. For the next two years there were no reported cases. In the 1969-70 term three cases came up. Two cases were decided in 1971, and one in 1972.

At this point the ASUN Court vanished for all practical purposes. It was completely forgotten and ASUN did not even appoint court members. In 1974 litigation started again, with two cases coming up. The 1974-75 term saw four cases.

There are two possible reasons why the ASUN Student Court, in comparison with other ASUN branches, is not greatly used: either the university is a setting of perfect justice, or else students know very little about the court.

Seven students sit on the court—six associate justices and the chief justice, who must be a law student. Each associate justice must be at least a junior with a minimum grade point average of 2.75.

Now, for the first time in several years, the court sits with full membership. Serving this year as associate justices are law students George Rhodes and John Vihstadt, and undergraduates James Curtiss, Dennis Onnen, Maxine Schoenrock and Don Wesely.

The ASUN Constitution (Art. VII, Sec. 3 (B)) gives the court jurisdiction over: 1) matters of impeachment, 2) in-

terpretation of the ASUN Constitution, 3) contested elections, 4) matters concerning organizations when referred to the court by the administration, ASUN, or an individual student, and 50 other matters arising under the bylaws, organic acts or ordinances of ASUN or arising out of the exercise of the powers of the ASUN executives.

It is not necessary to "sue" someone (naming a person or group as defendant) to use the court. Rule 25 of the *Judicial Code of the Student Court* allows any student, group or organization desiring clarification on any matter within the court's jurisdiction to petition for a declaratory judgment. Students can represent themselves, or have other students act as their attorneys.

The ASUN Court has potential to become the most powerful organization on campus, more powerful than the ASUN Senate. In *In re A.W.S., 1 ASUN St. Ct. Rpts. 58* (1966-67) the court held that ASUN is the university's supreme governing body and that all powers possessed by ASUN were subject to determination by the court.

In a recent case involving the 1974 Homecoming Election, which received statewide publicity, *Brantz & Onnen v. Grice & Eiberger, 1 ASUN St. Ct. Rpts. 102* (1974-75), it was established that the ASUN Student Court has the power to order the ASUN chief executive to carry out its decisions.

The ASUN Constitution assures a student fair treatment in the framework of student government and organizations. The ASUN Student Court is the only campus institution which can guarantee student fairness and justice.

Because of the nature of judicial function, the court cannot properly solicit litigation. It must patiently wait until a student or organization brings a case to exercise its powers.

The ASUN Student Court has great potential, and if students use it effectively and frequently, it can become the most important campus institution.

### Stereotyped graduate assistants

Dear editor,

Prof. Franklin Eldridge probably wouldn't like to be stereotyped as an absentminded drudge who is so preoccupied with cranky notions and irrelevant research that he doesn't know who students are, much less care about teaching them anything useful.

Neither do I like to be stereotyped as a flighty novice who knows so little about "what the world of work is like" that I, unlike my worldly wise and thoroughly responsible superiors, am liable to skip my classes whenever I have a fancy to.

If Eldridge cannot demonstrate that what has the earmarks of a derogatory stereotype is in fact an accurate description of graduate student teachers, then I think he owes us an apology.

Marvin Katilius-Boydston

**IF YOU LET A FRIEND DRIVE DRUNK, YOU'RE NO FRIEND.**



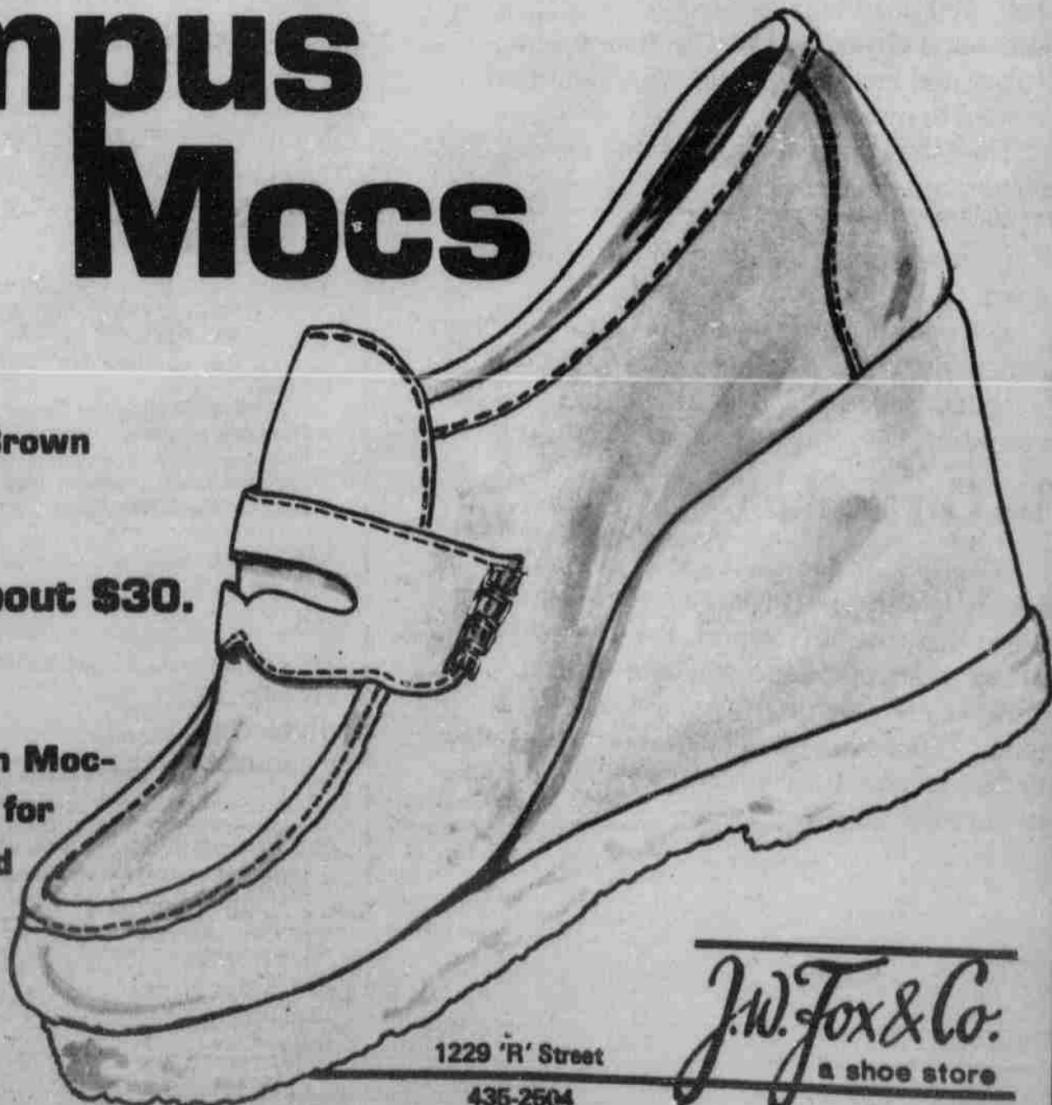
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