

# Bizarre people are campus fixtures—not freshmen

By Frank Hassler

Typically, the first Daily Nebraskan of every school year contains at least one article ripping the new UNL students—the freshmen.

This is not the article. Sure, the freshmen stumble around without the slightest idea of where they're going. So do most people the first time they're in a strange place. UNL certainly qualifies as a strange place. The freshmen are made fun of because they are new, but some of the most bizarre

characters are those who have been around the longest. The teachers.

This article, then is not to rip the freshmen, but to warn them. For all the differences in college life, you will find one similarity: A lot of teachers' personalities obscure the subject matter they're supposedly teaching.

Here are some types of teachers to look out for. These categories are not strict. One teacher may be part of several different types.

**THE ENTERTAINER.** This fellow feels it is his duty to keep the whole class in

stitches. After five minutes of him, you'll feel like putting him in stitches of a different kind.

You'll know him right away. If he comes in and says, "You'll never guess what I saw on the way to work," you have an entertainer.

You'll probably learn everything there is to know about his foot fetish, his dune buggy, his Hawaiian flower necklace collection, etc., and be treated to a slide show of last summer's trip to the tundra. Then you'll have to look at your schedule to see what class you're taking (or dropping).

**THE EXPERT.** This guy, through years of hard postgraduate labor, now knows all there is to know. Or so he thinks. His purpose is not to make sure everyone knows his subject, but to make sure everyone knows he's smart.

His lectures show his expertise. He can make Beginning Anthro sound like Boolean Algebra.

This self-appointed walking encyclopedia reveals his true colors when a student disagrees with him.

His eyes bug out, his teeth grit, his fists clench, veins pop out of his head, and he hisses: "Don't argue with me! I'm the teacher! I'm right."

These words should be grounds for a section change.

Hopefully, you won't have a class taught by the Career Schoolboy.

**THE SCHOOLBOY,** unlike the others, can be spotted by appearance. (All the better for a quick getaway.) He usually has a beard and is clad in wire-rimmed glasses, even though he may not be visually impaired (Don't they look professorial?) He wears a sweatshirt, khakis, sandals, and looks like he doesn't get much sun.

His lecture is filled with comments like, "Gee, it sure is strange being on this side of the room," and "I can't find my attendance roster."

He also says "into" a lot, such as, "I'm really into Bohemian whips."

You may not learn much about the class, but you sure do about the teacher. What a bargain for \$24.50 a credit!

Somewhat related to the "career schoolboy," is the "New Breed" type of teacher. He is sometimes identifiable by his wardrobe.

If you have an American History class and the guy comes dressed as George Washington's white horse, for example, he is New Breed.

Typical New Breed comments: Break up into small groups (try this by yourself sometime) and "No class for six weeks, and no assignments, either. Go out and see the world."

At the other end of the degree of difficulty scale is the "Grizzled Veteran."

**HE IS OLD AND** grouchy. His first line is usually, "I'm 167 years old, and I'm not happy to be teaching a bunch of college freshmen."

Followed by, "This class isn't going to be easy. You're all Fs until you prove to me that you're something else."

If you're smart, you'll prove that you're one of his ex-students.

"The "Grizzled Veteran" hates everybody, but at least he treats everyone the same. Not so, for the Favorite Player.

He does as the name implies. He selects a few students, (those who are experienced enough to spot him) and takes them under his wing. The rest of the class is history, no matter what the subject is.

**THE FAVORITE PLAYER** should be shunned by all those students who want an education in something besides fanny-kissing.

The legendary bad teacher is the hypnotist. You'll be able to tell him, too, if you find yourself marrying a considerate, good-looking rich member of the opposite sex.

This is because you are asleep and dreaming. Stay awake long enough to find the door and use it.

Of course, though, there are some good teachers here. If you're lucky enough to find one, keep your mouth shut. A lot of good teachers get fired if too many people find out about them.

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