

ASUN

ASUN senators approve impeachment procedures

BY KIM SWEET
Staff writer

With the memories of President Clinton's impeachment trial and acquittal still lingering in the air, the student senate approved a procedure Wednesday to impeach executives and senators.

Two members of the student court, Craig Strong and Christina Shields, presented the student court's proposal to ASUN, which outlines a process of impeachment for the president, first and second vice president, a senator or a justice of the student court.

The bylaw amendment states that the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska can enact the impeachment process for violations of local, state or national laws, NU Board of Regents rulings, the Student Code of Conduct, the ASUN constitution or any other student senate legislation.

Other impeachable actions include incompetent or negligent performance, disregard of the authority of the student senate, intentional mismanagement of funds or any other injury to the integrity of the senate or its committees, the bylaw states.

If the senate calls for the review of an officer or senator, a committee would be formed to make a recommendation to the senate.

The committee would then recommend impeachment or no action. If the committee recommends impeachment for a senator, a majority vote of the senate would be required to ratify the article of impeachment, the bylaw states.

For the president, a two-thirds vote would be required to ratify the article.

If the article is approved, the senate would appoint a prosecutor

to bring the article of impeachment before the court. The student court would be responsible for trying the case.

The student court has the authority to impose penalties such as a verbal or written reprimand, removal from office or prevention from holding any offices in ASUN in the future.

The decision to formulate an impeachment process came last fall after it was discovered no such process was in place, Strong said.

While the question of impeachment loomed for President Clinton, the student court learned from observing the U.S. Congress that it was important to have an impeachment process in place at the student senate level.

"There was a realization at that time that it was good to have (impeachment procedures) in place ahead of time," Strong said.

Previously, the bylaw made no mention of impeachment procedure. Strong said the bylaw simply stated the student court had the power to impeach and the student senate had power to draft articles of impeachment.

Shields said that if a situation ever occurs where impeachment becomes a possibility, the new procedure could make the process less politicized.

Marlene Beyke, ASUN director of development, said no student senate president from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln had ever been impeached.

The senate voted 26-2 to accept the bylaw amendment.

While having an impeachment procedure in place may comfort some, Strong said he hopes it is not needed too soon.

"We're glad it's there, but we hope it's not used unless it's needed."

Candidates set sights on student communication

BY BERNARD VOGELSANG
Staff writer

ASUN senators should concentrate more on problems of students and better notify them on the issues student government is working on, senate candidates from the College of Arts and Sciences agreed at a forum Wednesday.

Jeff Nicolaisen, a Voice candidate, told the 10 students who attended the forum in the Nebraska Union that senators should pay more attention to the concerns of students. He said senators respond too often to what the university administration wants instead of representing the students.

"Senators should better voice the students opinions in issues like alcohol and parking," he said.

Voice candidate Dustin Manhart said arts and sciences senators also should concentrate more on problems students face in their own college than on universitywide problems.

Voice candidate Beth Augustine said she wanted to post boxes in the College of Arts and Sciences in which students could drop notes with their problems and ideas.

Gina Todero, a Voice candidate, said she would set up office hours for students if she were elected.

"I want to listen to students and solve their problems," she said.

Manhart said the college's size made it hard to understand what students from different departments wanted.

"The availability of senators for interaction with students can help solve this problem," he said.

Manhart said students in the college were not aware of the issues their senators work on.

"An electronic newsletter with ASUN news and events could improve that," he said.

Urrvano Gamez Jr., the only Focus candidate who participated in the forum, said briefings in class about the issues the ASUN senate discusses could also be a good plan.

Natalie Hoover, a Voice candidate, said senators should also ask for comments from students when they give briefings in class.

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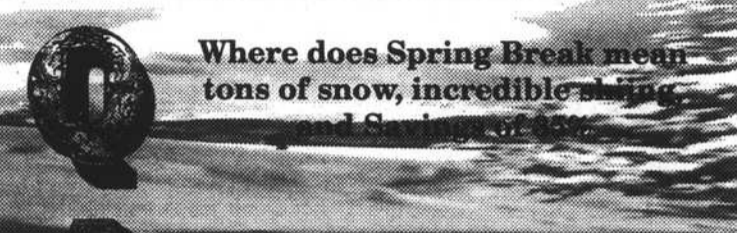
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Teen-ager's mother sued for abortion, therapy costs

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in the fall of 1996, but they disapproved of the relationship after they learned that he used drugs, Leanne Detmer said.

"My parents said they couldn't accept the fact that I was pregnant," she said.

Leanne Detmer also testified that Mills had told his mother that the couple was sexually active and Bixler occasionally brought it up in conversation when Detmer was at the Bixler house.

Earlier, Lancaster County District Court Judge Jeffrey

Cheuvront dismissed Mills from the suit because the sex was consensual.

Kirk Wolgamott, one of the Detmers' attorneys, said that "Dallas was noticeably absent" from the process.

The teens had sex 15 to 20 times at her house, his house and the home of a friend, Cheuvront said.

"The issue is whether (Bixler) had a duty to act," Cheuvront wrote. "Certainly it is foreseeable that harm can result to a person of tender years who finds herself pregnant."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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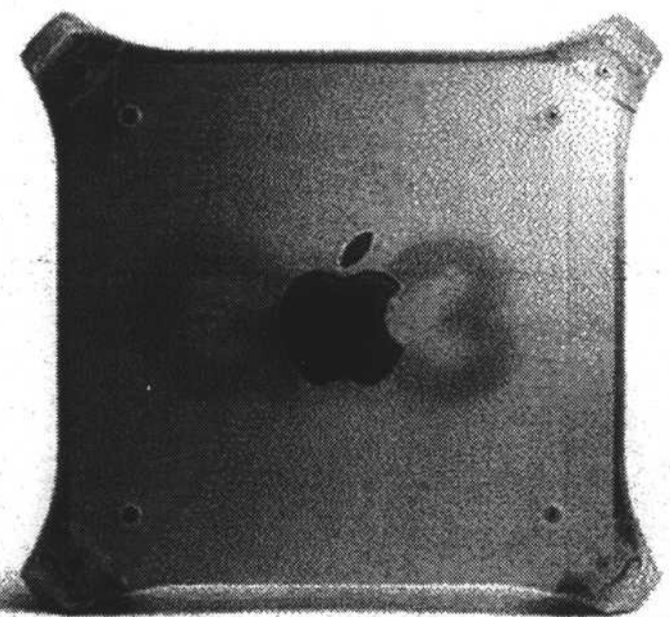
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