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From the Editors

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From the Editors

Our final issue of Volume 49 marks the termination of what seems, upon reflection, to have been a very brief experience in the College of Law, and an even more brief experience in our respective roles on the Senior Board of Editors for the *Nebraska Law Review*. Incidental problems and difficulties inherent in any editorial capacity have at times posed seemingly insurmountable obstacles threatening the publication of a timely legal periodical. These difficulties have ranged from dealings with the printer, to publication format; from the editorial process and those inevitable deadlines for junior members, to dealing with those authors, over whom we have no control, who assure us that they will submit a timely lead article by a certain date, and then fail to live up to their self-imposed responsibilities. There seems to have been an abundance of this latter type of crisis, and unfortunately Volume 49 is not replete with lead articles. For the most part we have been a self-sustaining publication, relying upon the efforts of our own individual members, in order to achieve our goals of publication excellence. We have been fortunate in obtaining a few lead articles of high quality for the edification of our readers, and as a result, have realized the majority of our goals.

It can only be hoped that if our brief career in the law school and on the *Law Review* has taught us anything, it is that a lawyer cannot properly represent his client and meet the responsibilities of professional life unless he assumes, and lives up to, his responsibilities with an attitude of self-pride. Only if we as lawyers take pride in the development of our work product can we hope to serve our clients and add something constructive to the legal process. Our experience has taught us that there are some attorneys who do not have that personal pride, and one may deduce that they are not fulfilling their other professional obligations and responsibilities. That we as individuals can change this attitude in the profession as a whole is doubtful; that we must constantly strive for such goals ourselves is absolutely imperative.

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In our last issue we expressed our gratitude, on behalf of the student body at the College of Law, to the Nebraska State Bar Association and the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys for their support in our efforts to secure the permission of the University administration to conduct our separate graduation exercises. Defying both logic and reason, administrative red tape has engulfed

our seemingly simple request, and it appears that our efforts were futile. The administration insists upon categorizing the law school as equivalent to an undergraduate course of study, and has apparently justified their refusal to honor our request on one ground: that we are too late with our request. This rationale seems credulous in light of the fact that the request was initiated on September 18, 1969. However, the most serious ramification of this decision is not in terms of whether there will be a separate graduation for the College of Law. Rather, it is important as it demonstrates the priorities which the University has established with respect to the College of Law, placing it at or near the bottom of the priority list. What this means in terms of the college's reputation, *adequate* facilities, and most importantly in terms of faculty turn-over is frightening, not for those who will leave these halls in June, but for those who have not yet entered the College of Law, and who desire to acquire a legal education in an appropriate atmosphere, to be taught by a competent, established, and well-equipped faculty, in an *adequate* physical plant.

The University of Nebraska offers only an initial proving ground for the young law professor, allowing him to become familiar with the teaching profession and begin developing his techniques and writing, at a salary which, initially, compares well with other similar opportunities. What it does not offer for the professor is the opportunity to expand his intellectual capacity and add more to the legal profession, to become established in an institution and assist in the development and maintenance of its fine reputation, while realizing some of the monetary benefits which his students will shortly realize and surpass. Because there is no incentive to stay, young professors move on to better facilities and higher pay. As a consequence of this problem of turn-over, the quality of education must eventually suffer, and because the retention rate of law school graduates in this state is so high, it is the citizens and taxpayers of this state who, in the long run, suffer most.

The graduating seniors at the College of Law leave behind an extremely distressing situation. What is worse, no one, except the law faculty and some students, really seems concerned, least of all the University administration. It is hoped that by bringing this situation to the attention of the Nebraska State Bar Association something constructive can be done, either in terms of bringing some pressure to bear on the administration, or in terms of private funds in order to assist us in our efforts to rectify this disturbing situation. Whether the citizens of this state in particular receive representation in legal matters by counsel who have had the best training available is, to a large extent, dependent upon the quality

of education offered by the College of Law. It is only logical to conclude that as the quality of education deteriorates, deterioration of the quality of representation offered cannot be far behind.

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Of the fifteen members on the Senior Board of Editors, three will enter the military upon graduation; one will clerk for a federal judge; and two will go into government work in Washington, D.C. The remaining nine will enter the ranks of private practice, five of them remaining in this state. We leave the College of Law with a feeling of anticipation, hoping sincerely that our readers have enjoyed Volume 49. Next year the Editor-in-Chief will be Rodney Confer, and we wish him good fortune while serving in that capacity.