

Daily  
**Nebraskan**

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## A long way to go

*'The Greek's' remarks set King's dream back*

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.'"

— Martin Luther King Jr.,  
Aug. 28, 1963

"I mean all the players are black; I mean the only thing that the whites control is the coaching jobs. . . . The black talent is beautiful; it's great; it's out there. The only thing left for the whites is a couple of coaching jobs."

— Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder, Jan. 15, 1988

It's ironic that almost 25 years after the birth of a dream for the equality and humane treatment of mankind, one of the most prominent sports color commentators shows just how far the nation hasn't come.

Seeking comment on the progress of blacks at a popular Washington, D.C., restaurant, WRC-TV's writer-producer Ed Hotaling talked to "the Greek" about civil rights in sports. "The Greek" revealed his true colors.

"Well, they've (blacks) got everything; if they take over coaching like everybody wants them to, there's not going to be anything left for white people," he said.

"The Greek" also said black athletes are superior to white athletes because they have bigger thighs that allow them "to jump higher and run faster."

"The Greek" apologized minutes after the interview was aired.

"If what I said offended

## Quibbles & bits

*Magazine reports on UNL's 'maturity'*

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's annual snowball fight was featured in the December issue of National On-Campus Report. The story reported that UNL students from residence halls and Greek houses threw rocks, eggs and ice as well as snowballs.

National On-Campus Report is published semi-monthly and is distributed to college students all over the country. Way to go, everyone. We're really showing the rest of the country how mature we are.

A San Francisco laundry succumbed to pressure from women customers recently about the difference in prices of laundering men's and women's shirts, according to an Associated Press article. The firm charged women \$3 to \$4 for women's shirts while charging men \$1 to \$2 a shirt. The laundry has agreed to equalize prices and launder 3,000 women's shirts free of charge.

Assistant District Attorney

people, I apologize," he told The Washington Post. "I didn't mean for my remarks to come out the way they did."

CBS Sports showed responsibility Saturday when it terminated its 12-year relationship with Snyder. An apology couldn't possibly justify "the Greek's" appalling statements, in which he even managed to enlighten with a historical perspective.

"I'm telling you that the black athlete is the better athlete and he practices to be the better athlete and he's bred to be the better athlete because this goes all the way to the Civil War, when during the slave trading, the owner, the slave owner, would breed his big woman so that he would have a big black kid, see. That's where it all got started," he said.

"The Greek" also makes light of a greater problem in the National Football League — where no blacks hold head coaching positions.

It is not the first time a public figure has made ill-timed, racist statements. Last April, Los Angeles Dodgers General Manager Al Campanis said on a national network telecast that blacks "lacked the necessities" to hold management positions in baseball.

Campanis' comments came on the 40th anniversary of the entrance of black athletes into baseball. Campanis was fired 48 hours after his comments appeared on ABC's "Nightline."

On a day when our nation should be celebrating its progress in minority civil rights, a public figure instead dominates the limelight after making racist comments.

David Moon said other laundries in the area have followed suit because "they don't want to face the wrath of women."

Closer to home, farm women have complained to state Sen. Pat Morehead of Beatrice about private farm license plates that read "Not for Hire." Morehead has proposed LB900, which would change the plates to "Private." Morehead told the Omaha World-Herald that she may have difficulty getting the farm women to testify at the bill's public hearing.

Congratulations to the Nebraska basketball team for its 70-68 upset of Missouri Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Henry T. Buchanan's winning jumper with :05 left was sweet revenge for the Cornhuskers, who lost to the Tigers two years ago on a buzzer shot by Lynn Hardy. But this time, it was Buchanan and his Husker teammates who left the court in celebration, not the Tigers.



## Bill collectors rival boogie man

*Store's call causes Royko dry mouth, pounding heart, shakes*

**Editor's note: Mike Royko is on vacation for two weeks. While he is gone, we are reprinting some of his favorite columns. The following column first appeared July 19, 1977.**

My phone just rang and a man identified himself as being from my favorite bookstore. He asked me when I intended to pay the \$4.29 that was overdue on my account.

I said, "Uh, gee, how long have I been overdue?"

"Three weeks," he said.

"If that is true," I said, "I will pay it immediately."

"Fine," he said, and hung up.

I checked. He was right. I hadn't paid the \$4.29. I wasn't trying to beat the store out of it. Honest, it was an oversight.

The fact is, I usually pay my bills on time. I have to be prompt because of the terrible consequences. When I hear from a bill collector or get an angry letter from a computer, I get the shakes. My mouth gets dry, my heart pounds, and I begin panting like a thirsty basset hound.

I have a morbid fear of bill collectors. This stems from a traumatic childhood experience. Almost everybody who grew up in the old neighborhood has it.

For a few days each month, everybody in the neighborhood would turn

out all their lights when the sun went down. And they would all sit around their apartments or houses in pitch darkness.

"Why is it dark?" a kid would ask. "It's good for your eyes," the old man would explain.

That wasn't the reason. We were ducking bill collectors. Until the next paycheck came, nobody answered the

phone or a knock at the door. All the cars were parked six blocks away so they wouldn't be repossessed.

You couldn't scare any of the kids in my neighborhood by saying the boogie man would get us. But we were all terrified of Friendly Bob Adams. To this day, the fear lingers. People don't hear from bill collectors very often. Instead, we have the computerized letter that begins: "Dear customer: WARNING — YOUR ACCOUNT IS OVERDUE. IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN . . ."

I once got that kind of letter from a credit card company. I hate credit cards. But if you have one and try to

pay cash, nobody trusts you.

That evening, I turned out the lights, locked the doors and wouldn't respond to any knocks.

I wouldn't even answer when my kids yelled: "It's us, Dad, unlock the door." Bill collectors can disguise their voices. The kids slept under the porch that night.

I deal only with companies that send out gentle, kindly letters. If I forget to pay a bill on time, I want to hear from a nice computer that says: "Hi, Cherished customer: We hate to bother you, and we're sure it's only an oversight, or the Postal Service's fault, but we thought we'd drop you a little reminder that you are a teensy bit late in your account. If your remittance is already in the mail, feel free to spit in our face."

So that is it with me and the bookstore employee. Even before my \$4.29 gets there, they will have a letter telling them to scratch me off their credit card list.

It's not that I think the store shouldn't have called. It was absolutely right in doing so. If I owe \$4.29, and I'm three weeks late in paying, I don't blame the worker for getting nervous and phoning me at work. For all he knows, I might have skipped out to Costa Rica.

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Royko is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist with the Chicago Tribune.

Val Novak  
freshman  
Nebraska volleyball player

## Osborne pay editorial a joke, reader says

Congratulations on the special "parody" editorial (Daily Nebraskan,

Jan. 14). It had a great comic premise — that Tom Osborne has to do anything better than he already has to justify a higher salary. And the gag about a 10-2 record being mediocre — you guys slay me.

As an amateur comedian to another, though, you should have tried to work in a few other nutty facts. For example, you might have mentioned that Osborne is the second- or third-most-successful active coach and that he has taken an amazing number of his teams to New Year's Day bowls. The clincher, though, the snappy punchline to the editorial, should have said something about the free enterprise system, in which very successful people with jobs that receive a lot of media exposure can demand the highest salaries.

Those criticisms aside, it was the wackiest, zaniest editorial I've seen in a long time. It really whetted my appetite for the end-of-the-semester parody issue.

Greg Dawson  
senior  
history

Editor's note: The editorial mentioned Osborne as being one of the winningest active coaches as well as his 8-7 record in bowl games. The parody issue will appear April 1.

## Letters

### Athletes work hard for tuition and board

After reading a letter last week ("NCAA pampers athletes," Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 15), I was upset that students don't realize what athletes go through. The letter basically implied that athletes don't do anything and that they get everything handed to them on a silver platter.

Being an athlete, I know that this is true to a point. Yes, we do get room, board, books and tuition for free in the eyes of the public. But if people would think about it, this is not at all true.

Imagine starting days at 6 a.m., having to walk in the strength complex in Memorial Stadium to lift weights. I know that when most students have a 9:30 or 10:30 class, they would sleep at least until 8 or 8:30. Also think about going to practice and busting your butt for three hours for what? Why would you do this?

It's work. It's just like anyone else. We athletes work for a living. Our salary, though, isn't given to us in a check that we can spend on jeans, it's given to us through payment of books, classes and tuition.

If one would take the total amount of money athletes receive through scholarship and divide it by the total hours the athletes actually use up in

their day devoted to their sport, one would find out that athletes earn less than the minimum wage.

Why? To entertain the public, that's why. What else would people do on Saturday afternoons than watch Nebraska football? Why are most home events (especially football and basketball) sold out? Athletes are actors. They entertain the public, just like television shows entertain people. If no one enjoyed it, then sporting events would not be one of the highest income sources at the university.

In conclusion, I ask that people realize that athletes would work as hard as, if not harder than, anyone else at this university.

Unless someone can actually say that they have experienced the physical as well as mental pressures (such as traveling) that athletes do, then they shouldn't judge how "easy" athletes have it.

Val Novak  
freshman  
Nebraska volleyball player

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