

OPINION

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Daily
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All good

Mooser must put quality talents to work

Sorry, Tom George, looks like we jinxed you.

When we endorsed a candidate for the job of chancellor, you were our first choice, but certainly not the only choice.



As we bid a fond farewell to George we have to admit that any tears we might shed turn to smiles as we contemplate the prospect of having, for our new chancellor, James Mooser.

Really, it was a win-win-win situation for UNL, for which we can thank all those involved in hunting down three excellent candidates.

Mooser (pronounced Meezer) brings with him an impressive array of talents and ideas. We're sure to get along.

Our university is unique in its extremely accomplished athletic department, and the

correspondingly heightened attention with which it is followed.

Mooser has recommended that the chancellor have regular meetings with the athletic director and direct control over hiring coaches.

"The president and chancellor control of intercollegiate athletics is critical," he has said — and we could not agree more.

But our institution is more than its athletic department. So allow us to enumerate some of the things this chancellor should accomplish:

We'd like to have a chancellor who doesn't get rid of faculty simply because they disagree.

The new chancellor needs to fight to maintain UNL as the flagship of the university system.

Our ideal chancellor would keep the open standards of admission but raise the standards of achievement a student must meet to remain a student.

He would value diversity and recognize the strides UNL needs to make.

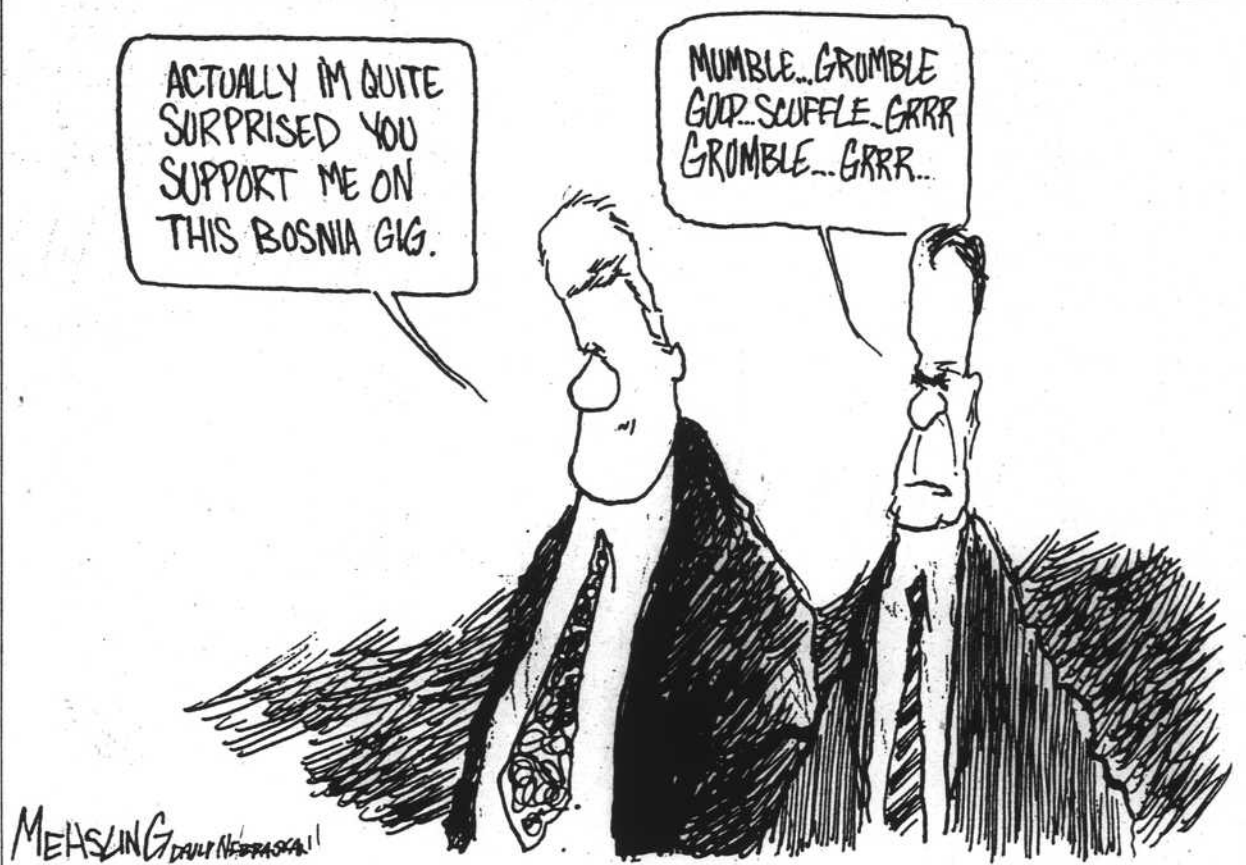
A chancellor should commit to lowering student costs.

A good chancellor will know how to raise money and be able to sell the Legislature on the fundamental truth that the university is an investment in Nebraska's future — economically, politically and in terms of its reputation as a good place to live and work.

And he should listen to students.

Not just say the words "listen to students" in campaign speech tones, but really listen.

He should be accessible to students and think of himself as an advocate for them.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The world is watching

Dear 48 Hours,

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of all the citizens of Nebraska, even if most of them don't appreciate what you have done for them.

If one less girl gets raped, one less man loses an eye, one more criminal gets convicted, it will be worth it.

The lunacy of this Big Redneck football cult has got to stop.

Even your affiliate, KMTV in Omaha, tried to distance itself from you.

The best they could do was to get Johnny Rodgers, another infamous Heisman Trophy winner, to pan your story.

He, of all people, said the athletes did not get preferential treatment in the so-called "justice" system.

Devaney got him off armed robbery charges when he played for UNL. KMTV will never be accused of journalism.

They, like the rest of the football cult cheerleaders, will never dare question the witness tampering and obstruction of justice their cult's high priest, Tom Osborne, has so heavily laid his "healing" hands on.

Ron Osborne
Omaha

Which Huskers play

How much does winning mean to you and Tom Osborne? Apparently everything. My fear is that other schools do business as you do.

What kind of values are you teaching athletes when you put them "above the law?" Shame on you.

The coverage on the network newsmagazine is enough to turn me off of football, Nebraska-style, forever. Shape up quick.

Georgeanne Redinger
Stone Mountain, Ga.
via e-mail

48 Hours

I have no particular ax to grind, and have graduated from Western Michigan University many years ago, a school not noted for its athletic excellence (and probably better for that fact).

But just from the hip, it SEEMS to me that the nasty underbelly of athletic victory is the frequent diminution of personal values.

Something is obviously very wrong with your athletic department's values. Exactly what is not clear, except that any organization will gradually, inexorably, take on the characteristics of its leader.

That is an absolute fact of human nature, and you can quite literally take it to the bank.

It is the reason why Daryl Gates is truly responsible for the LAPD mess, and is also the reason why Osborne should probably be prosecuted for various civil and criminal behaviors.

He's running what most objective legal observers would call an ongoing criminal enterprise.

R. McKim Deegan
Grand Rapids, Mich.
via e-mail

Every day

I'm sure I'll be in the minority for saying I'm glad CBS profiled violent and allegedly violent Cornhusker football players on "48 Hours".

I'm appalled to have Nebraska represented by a No. 1 team that includes bullies and an athletic department that supports them.

Would these young 'men' be getting the same breaks if they were not part of the Big Red Machine? I think more than trying to castigate Nebraska football, the program was trying to point out a real social/behavioral problem and that it can

happen to the "best" and that it needs to be dealt with instead of denied.

I'm very disappointed in Coach Osborne for letting any player who has admitted to or been convicted of wrongdoing remain an active member of the football team.

It may be advantageous and maybe even profitable, but it isn't right.

R. Wurm Clark
Alumnus, class of '82
Lincoln
via e-mail

Burma Shave

I used to live in Lincoln before moving to Iowa in 1969. Bob Devaney's daughter was in fact a student teacher when I was in fourth grade and our entire class attended her wedding where we got to meet our idol... Coach Devaney.

The University of Nebraska and its football tradition means the world to me, but recently I have been ashamed to admit that as well as tell people I used to live in Lincoln.

I watched "48 Hours" this evening and seeing what Coach Osborne has done makes me ill.

How can the young people in Lincoln or for that matter any athlete in the Midwest have respect for rules or even the law, when coaches and assistant coaches circumvent the very legal system that supposedly protects us.

The victims in the show cry out for justice, yet the University of Nebraska and in particular Coach Osborne live by a different set of rules.

Coach Osborne needs to know that he must live by the same rules we all do. Unfortunately he doesn't have a clue.

Patrick Keenan
Overland Park, Kan.

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