

# OPINION PAGES

## OUR VIEW

### Eraser

*Fans will remember what records forget*

In his career at Nebraska, Tommie Frazier won 33 games and lost only three. He scored 79 touchdowns and totaled 5,476 yards of offense. Frazier will be remembered as the greatest quarterback in NU history.

But after four years and two national championships, what do Frazier's records mean? According to the Big 12, nothing.

Barry Sanders, Mike Rozier, Billy Sims, Thurman Thomas, Danny Manning, Robin Ventura, Michael Johnson, Roger Clemens and Earl Campbell. These men represent a much larger group of athletes whose records — as of July 1 — no longer exist on a conference level.

Their accomplishments will be remembered by their fans, but the Big 12 has chosen to erase them from history.

Saturday, Texas Tech plays at Kansas State in the first-ever Big 12 football game. Red Raider quarterback Zebbie Lethridge may have a hand in four touchdowns, giving him an edge to become the Big 12's most proficient quarterback ever. Lethridge's mark will mean little.

The Big 12 has decided to keep the records set by those athletes whose eligibility has not yet expired. In other words, Jacque Vaughn, a senior point guard this fall on the Kansas basketball team, will certainly establish the league record for assists. But nearly of all Vaughn's magical passes will have come in the Big Eight.

Yet Frazier, who played at the same time — in the same conference — as Vaughn for three years, earns no mention in the new league's record book. Instead, Lethridge, Koy Detmer of Colorado or James Brown of Texas will set the record as the Big 12's most successful signal caller.

Nebraska has not changed; neither has Texas, Kansas, Baylor, Colorado or Oklahoma.

This new league is a merger of 12 great traditions. When the Big 12 advertises itself as the best football league in the nation, it cites Nebraska's two consecutive national championships as evidence to back up its claim.

Erasing the records serves virtually no purpose. For at least five years, most conference marks will mean nothing, because they will be broken every season.

School records will still stand, meaning that Frazier will hold Nebraska's record for career wins. He will also have more wins than any quarterback ever to play in the Big 12, but he won't hold the Big 12 record — even though Nebraska is a Big 12 school.

When the Big Eight agreed to accept Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor and Texas Tech into its league, it didn't envision erasing decades-old legacies.

Sadly, that's exactly what has happened.

## MEHSLING'S VIEW



## GUEST VIEW

**Paula LAVIGNE**

### At hell's door Time in New Orleans opens eyes

This weekend, after the sun went down, I took a walk.

OK, who cares, right? (Unless you were that guy yelling from the black Buick).

Well, this was a big deal to me because it was the first time I was able to go for a walk at night for more than three months.

It's also the first time I left The Club off my steering wheel, carried my wallet with me downtown and didn't lock my bedroom door.

It's not like I lived in hell this summer. I lived in New Orleans, which is just down the street from hell, but the devil wears drag.

New Orleans, though designated as an All-American City, has the nation's second-highest murder rate.

Knowing this before I left, I feel pretty lucky that I came out alive, unscathed and with all the same possessions I arrived with.

Someone tried to steal my purse on a street corner, but, other than that, the only thing that accosted me was a four-inch flying cockroach.

I spent an evening at a housing complex, I walked around the French Quarter by myself and got used to the four or more weekly homicides. This was after a few weeks of hysterical paranoia.

Not to say this seasoned me, but after all this, I'm going to go out on a limb to say that despite all the gang rumblings, Lincoln residents really don't know how good we have it when it comes to security.

Although I learned to love New



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Orleans and got “used to” living there, what I had to get used to was constantly looking over my shoulder, religiously using The Club, never carrying my wallet downtown, not being able to walk down my street at night — which was a comparably safe street for New Orleans — and rarely going anywhere alone.

Basically, in New Orleans, you live in fear.

And it's sad that for several generations, people have just had to get used to this fear. It has become a part of their social fabric, and even though a lot of people will deny this has had any effect on them, I don't

buy that.

You could feel a certain tension. When you talked to people, they were guarded and wary. Nothing was ever getting better, and this downward spiral was the status quo. It just seemed that things had gotten so bad that there was no hope.

Now, I still believe that anyone can get shot down anywhere, even Main Street, Small Town, U.S.A., but knowing that I was moving back to a town where a homicide would still make the front page was a comforting thing.

Even though people in Lincoln wouldn't leave their doors unlocked or their car windows rolled down, the paranoia is pretty tame.

Living in caution is fine. It's wise. But living in fear is not. It's sad.

I think Lincoln is at the caution stage, so when people talk about how the city is becoming dangerous, I laugh, really, because it's nowhere near as bad as it could be. But, I admit, it's not fair of me to laugh at what I may see as naivete because it's a good sign that people don't even want to tolerate the relatively little crime happening right now in Lincoln.

Hopefully, that means that Lincoln will care before crime creates a condition here parallel to the fear in the city that care forgot.

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