

OPINION PACKAGES

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Luck? We don't need luck."
 — Husker quarterback Scott Frost, as he ran onto the field before Nebraska's 19-0 loss to Arizona State

"The national champions fell. It's big news. As far as myself goes, I'll shoulder all the blame for this loss. But the entire offense has to play better."
 — Frost, after the loss

"It was one night of one season of one year, and I think people need to remember that. We haven't given up on ourselves."
 — Husker I-back Damon Benning, on the loss

"Sometimes they only tell LIES."
 — Scrawled on a mysterious box thought to be a bomb outside the governor's mansion

"The only metaphor I could think of for Tom Osborne was God. And I don't mean that in an 'Oh, gee whiz' type of way, I mean the way I think of God is the way I think of Tom Osborne."

— Tom Junod, writer for GQ magazine, on his nine-page profile of the Nebraska head football coach

"Everything looks like a bomb to me."
 — Lincoln Fire Investigator Bill Moody, on caution shown in dealing with the suspicious package outside the governor's mansion

"I am alive. Let's all live through this and begin a new life."
 — Li Gwang Su, a North Korean agent who was captured by South Korean troops, in a taped message to lure other North Koreans out of hiding

"Maybe I've just read 'Humpty Dumpty' too many times because I'm not sure it's a good idea to put it back together again once it has fallen apart. They should just split Bosnia up between Serbia and Croatia and be done with it."

— Andrew Wedeman, UNL assistant professor of political science, on the civil war in Bosnia

"We had tons of phone calls from people who didn't want it."
 — Suzan Connell, resources coordinator for Lincoln City Libraries, on "Sex"

"I really believe the Board of Regents is the closest thing we have to royalty in the state of Nebraska."

— Regent candidate Andrew Sigerson, on regents' access to free football tickets

"We were in a tiny little room that didn't have any heat, but we were students so we were used to it."

— Cinnaman Dokken, owner of A Novel Idea, on the store's first location

"Now he has cooties."
 — Daily Nebraskan editorial, on 6-year-old Johnathan Prevette, who was suspended from school activities because he kissed a female classmate on the cheek

"I've never seen such irresponsible parenting in my life. Parents walk in with their 13-year-old kids and want to get them tattooed. And they get mad that I won't do it. I'll go broke and starve first."

— Tattoo artist Ron Clayton, on The Ink Addition's policy to not give tattoos to minors

MEHSLING'S VIEW



LETTERS

SEX OFFENDER, AGE 6

Just when I thought I'd seen it all, especially in an election year, the name Johnathan Prevette crosses my path as I am carrying out the daily routines involved with higher learning. Normally I would not be interested in such a name out of the blue, especially one that belongs to a 6-year-old. But the catch this time was the words "sexual harassment" attached to the news excerpt. This commanded my full attention.

Then, I find out that young Johnathan has been punished for the unthinkable crime of kissing a girl on the cheek. Why would this command national attention? Because evidently there is a law in Lexington, N.C. that strictly forbids such a display of "felony affection" by a first-grader. Not only that, it was only about a third-degree offense. I say this of course because it might have been considered second-degree if it had indeed been on the lips and first-degree if he had slipped her the tongue.

Amidst this utter stupidity on the part of the Lexington school district, I wonder how this would've looked in court.

As the judge belts out in a low, gruff voice, "How do you plead, son?" a young figure in a suit and tie stands up, head barely clearing the defense table, and manages a faint, "Not guilty."

OK, so maybe he won't ever see a courtroom for his "profoundly offensive" actions and maybe he won't (hopefully, for his sake) be hounded by talk shows nationwide. But there's a lesson here, I think. One that is well worth noting—one I might address directly to young Johnathan.

Kid, if you're going to get in trouble anyway, next time...go for the lips.

Aaron Cooper
 sophomore
 English



GUN SAFETY

In response to Mark Albracht's column, "Guns out of control," I have to agree that guns are "impersonal weapons making killing physically effortless." But I have to disagree that guns are "the sole reason why we have the highest murder rate in the industrialized world."

Availability does not equal action. Responsibility for your actions is the answer. There are people in this world with no sense of responsibility and no conscience. These are the people who use guns carelessly. Those who are educated about guns and gun safety know the time and place for them.

It starts by educating people about guns. People learn from those around them. If we teach responsibility, we get responsible citizens. Do not eliminate guns and our right to own and use them. Eliminate ignorance through education.

Tim Fandrich
 senior
 human resource management

BACKSEAT COACHING

I want to thank Trevor Parks (DN Sports Opinion, Sept. 25, 1996) for easing a lingering fear I have had for years. Mr. Parks, I have lost many hours of sleep over the possibility of something tragic happening to the entire Nebraska coaching staff. I have always wondered how we would carry on without the coaches, but you and all the other football "geniuses" on campus have convinced me that no matter what, Nebraska football is in good hands. Why, I'm sure that if you were the coach we would be striving for national title number four! Why don't we just get rid of a coach like Tom Osborne, who obviously is incapable of the kind of talent assessment that must come natural to you.

Sarcasm aside, the last time I checked, the coaching staff was still intact and making decisions on its own (thank goodness.) Tommie Frazier is gone, but the Tom who put together the system that made Frazier so great is still around. Yes, Trevor, Osborne's decisions may not always be popular and, in fact, not always right. However, at least he has the record to back himself up and the integrity to stand up to the unrealistic expectations put on both him and his team. No team goes undefeated forever, and Osborne would be the first to tell you that.

If Tom Osborne says Scott Frost is the man, who are we to say different? Should events fall so that Matt Turman becomes the man, then I will cheer for the Huskers just as any true Nebraska fan should. The real test of being a fan doesn't lie in the ability to stand behind a team that never loses, it lies in standing behind a team!

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 psychology

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