

# OPINION PAGES

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

**"To be honest with you, I never wanted to play football. I wanted to be a trash man."**  
 — Former NU running back Mike Rozier, after a street shooting almost killed him in his hometown of Camden, N.J.

**"If I had known that my four offspring would be spit on, their belongings destroyed. That they would be physically and verbally abused because they had a 'nigger-lover' for a mother, I wouldn't have done the exercise."**

— Former Iowa elementary school-teacher Jane Elliot, on her decision to teach her students a lesson in racism with her now-famous "blue eyes/brown eyes" experiment

**"It always feels good to get back to Indian Country. There's just a different vibration in the air."**

— UNL law professor John Snowden, on his practice of taking his Native American Law students to visit some of Nebraska's reservations

**"We can look at death in two ways: as an enemy or as a friend. As a person of faith, I see death as a friend."**

— Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, on his faith prior to his death

**"The Giants are getting a steal."**

— NU defensive tackle Jason Peter, on the New York team's decision to draft his brother Christian

**"Our offense has carried us for 20 or 30 years. So I guess it's time for us to start paying them back."**

— Peter, on the No. 1 Husker defensive team

**"He gets involved so much that every time he gets the ball, you hold your breath."**

— Nebraska Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride, on playing against Iowa State tailback Troy Davis

**"We're killing the fly with a sledgehammer."**

— Lt. Gov. Kim Robak, on the federal welfare reform bill passed by President Clinton in August

**"We want to detoxify corporate America, extend the roof and be fair."**

— The Rev. Jesse Jackson, on racism, sexism and hostility in the Texaco corporation and throughout corporate America

**"It sucks to lose."**

— Kansas State Volleyball Coach Jim Moore, after Nebraska beat KSU for the 54th-straight time

**"We don't have much of a bench, but what we have, we can work with."**

— True freshman Cookie Belcher, NU guard, on the depth of the Nebraska basketball team

**"Please respect our privacy and let us enjoy this wonderful and exciting time."**

— Michael Jackson, in a statement following his marriage to Debbie Rowe, who is carrying his baby

## MEHSLING'S VIEW



## LETTERS

### UNFAIR INCRIMINATION

When I think about the Daily Nebraskan, I think about a bunch of aspiring young people hoping that one day they will write for big-time newspapers. I think about individuals with a heart for news and a desire to get it right. I think about learning, making mistakes and writing some great pieces from time to time.

I must say that I was extremely disappointed that the DN's reporter mentioned three former Husker players in connection with Tyrone Williams' case. Shame, shame, shame on you! These three men were not on trial. Mr. Williams was. You had no right — journalistic or otherwise — to mention their names. Mr. Brennan lost the case for Mr. Williams and wanted to throw the blame on others. Now these men will have to face the scrutiny of an allegation which is totally unfounded without substantial facts.

Now, if the DN has facts, write a story. If not, don't implicate individuals who are not on trial in a criminal proceeding. They may have had bad judgment if they were with him. However, as far as we, (the public) know, they did not do anything. Tyrone Williams did. To mention Mr. Brennan's quote that they "influenced Williams" without more information is wrong — not good journalism. I would expect respectable people to admit the mistake and apologize immediately.

Learn now before all of the writers reach the big time. It's like my mother used to say: "Something you can do, isn't necessarily something that you should do."

**John L. Harris**  
 special assistant  
 Office of the Vice Chancellor for  
 Student Affairs



### GAYS IN SCHOOLS

A Wisconsin school district is paying almost a million dollars to a former gay student for not protecting him from being repeatedly harassed by fellow students. I hope this sends a very strong message to school officials all across the nation that this serious problem must be addressed.

School is a terrifying and traumatizing experience for kids who are gay or merely suspected of being gay. I know, because I lived it. I am a 43-year-old man who has never forgotten being a little boy of 9 who discovered his "difference" and felt so alone, and received verbal and physical assaults during school.

One way we can make our schools safer is to discuss gay issues in the classroom. Otherwise we send the wrong message to youngsters, gay and straight: that gay life is not worthy of discussion, that it is permissible to make jokes and taunt classmates, that gay people are not real human beings.

Should such issues be discussed in school? You bet. That's the function of education: to open students' eyes, minds, hearts and souls to the world around them. They don't necessarily have to agree with everything they read or hear, but they do have to try to understand it.

Straight students need to talk about gay issues, just as whites must learn about the civil rights struggle, non-athletes must take physical education and youngsters preparing to live in the 21st century must know the history of ancient Greece and Rome.

Like it or not, homosexuality exists. It surrounds us every day. Today's students will be tomorrow's world citizens. They will have gay and lesbian co-workers, bosses, neighbors. Perhaps they'll even have a gay or lesbian child. What better place to begin hearing, discussing and thinking about gay issues than in school?

We need to clear up the STAGGERING amount of myths, misinformation and just plain propaganda about homosexuality. We need to substitute actual facts and information.

Some people will listen to the question, "Should the schools teach about homosexuality?" and their ears will register only two words: "teach" and "sex."

We do not want to teach your kids to have gay sex. That is absurd, and that is propaganda. What we gay people are asking is that schools teach the following:

1. That we exist — an undeniable fact.
2. That we have made many contributions to society: Walt Whitman's poems, Willa Cather's novels, Alan Turing's invention of the computer — again an undeniable fact.
3. That families come in more than one form and that some students have gay parents — again a fact.
4. And finally, that anti-gay activity hurts everyone, gay and straight, as well as being detrimental to education and to business. What's the worst that could happen if truth, understanding and tolerance are taught? That more kids would be gay? Nobody believes that. But maybe a little hate will be lifted.

**William C. Stosine**  
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