

# OPINION PACERS

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## Our VIEW

### Respected coach

*Osborne impresses fans for 25 years*

After the fireworks, after the media interviews, after winning his 250<sup>th</sup> game, after etching just another spot in the history of college athletics, where is a man to go?

For Tom Osborne, it's back to work. Back to practice Monday. Same as ever.

He's had the same job for 25 years — impressive for any job, let alone the top job at a football powerhouse school in a football-crazed state. Nebraska has student athletes that last longer than coaches at lesser programs.

And he did what only 10 other football coaches have ever done. Tom Osborne won 250 games in only 25 years — an unparalleled feat.

Lavished in fireworks, HuskerVision shows, and cheering fans, Osborne did what he does best — deferred the glory to others.

"I've been a small part of this, and I really mean that," Osborne said Saturday.

We could have predicted as much from him. His mannerisms are as predictable as his game plans.

But like his football, Osborne is going to run his modesty right at you — see if you can stop yourself from respecting him.

Osborne has been described as "Football's Father Flanagan" among other such lavish titles (GQ magazine called him God). And for all the criticism his program has received the past few years for harboring less-than-perfect citizens, it's a testament to his character that he should walk away with such a title.

Osborne has endured much in 25 years, from criticism to expectations to crime to tragedy. From the top of the nation two years in a row to cry-baby fans weeping over a season with two losses.

But year after year, the loyalty of his players is never questioned.

Defensive end Grant Wistrom said winning Saturday's game was about no one but Osborne.

"Nobody wanted to be the person to let Coach Osborne down," Wistrom said.

But Mr. Wistrom's words beg a question. How long can Tom Osborne go?

How many more 10-plus win seasons, bowl games, spring practices and recruiting trips does he have in him?

At a time when college basketball is reeling from North Carolina legend Dean Smith hanging up the towel because he lost the desire, how is Osborne's desire?

At 60 years old, Osborne would be in the twilight of his career if he were a banker, a businessman, a bus driver.

But he's not that.

He's Tom Osborne.

Father Flanagan.

God.

Despite our differences in the past with the coach (he did kick us out of practices because of some editorial cartoons), he has never lost our respect.

And he has our support for another 25 years as the only title he ever asked for.

Coach.

## Haney's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

### More due credit

Dear Mr. Fredregill,

I would like to thank you and all of your fraternity brothers for helping out around campus and around Lincoln.

In this same light, I would like to thank: Bob Reynolds, a mechanic, for picking up a stranded driver outside Waverly; Alice Schmidt, a housewife, for shoveling her elderly neighbor's driveway in Waterloo; David Abbott, a physician, for clearing fallen branches out of a neighbor's yard in Omaha; and the entire Army National Guard.

Can you see where I am going with this, Jason?

You see, helping others in times of need, whether you know them or not, is a big part of being a Nebraskan. Our service stems from our proud heritage of barn raising and harvest times. We help one another out and expect that they would do the same for us in return if situations were reversed. I cannot believe you, a resident of Nebraska, would stoop to asking for thanks. Hundreds of thousands of people across the state volunteered to help those in need only because they were in need, not because they wanted "due credit."

Should Gov. Nelson thank each one individually?

Erik Sather  
sophomore  
biological chemistry

### So what is it?

Why is Barb Churchill so mad about contract marriages? It's just a proposed option, not a change in current marriage laws. She's mad at Don Stenberg because he won't validate her depression, and now he won't let her feel good about her divorce. Ugh. For what cause is she fighting? I've been reading all semester and I still can't figure it out. The biggest problem with her writing is that it's all reaction, no facts. All "pity me" and no self-reflection. I was 100 times more moved by the Waffle House column.

Victoria Kovar  
Lincoln

### Hunt this

As a sometime hunter, I was quite offended by Mr. Haney's cartoon in Monday's DN. While Mr. Haney may be quite sincere in his belief that hunters are either stupid or blood-thirsty, he is also quite mistaken.

The vast majority of hunters are out there to (1) put food on the table and (2) enjoy being outdoors in nature.

We are far more aware of how easy it is to get meat from the store, but we choose the hard way because it gets us outdoors and a chance to partake in the more natural environment away from cities and towns. Has Mr. Haney ever experienced just how difficult it can be for us clumsy, noisy, deaf and sniff-challenged humans to outwit a whitetail? I'd guess not.

Myself, I haven't gone hunting this year, and I've killed one deer my entire life (out of a good number of years trying). The kill is NOT the important thing to me — being out there in the woods is. If I'm success-

ful in killing a deer to take home to the freezer, great. If not, I still count every trip a success.

As for "Bambi," now there is a wonderfully unbiased example of ecology and wildlife management. Humans are the evil slaughterers, while the cute, little, woodlands critters are the innocents. Yeah, that makes for a really good scientific basis of maintaining a healthy, sound, wildlife population. If Mr. Haney thinks this is good, he should come to Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue and see the effects of a major population explosion amongst the protected deer. It's not pretty.

I know there's little chance Mr. Haney will change his mind, but I firmly believe that the DN should in fairness print the other side of the story, just to counter Mr. Haney's ability to put his own opinions out every single day.

James F. Cornwall  
graduate student,



## P.S. Write Back

Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail <letters@unlinfo.unl.edu>. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.