

OPINION PACKETS

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Quotes of the WEEK

On the retirement of Tom Osborne

"The hours have been long, but that's what I wanted to do. If you are going to call the plays on Saturday ... there are no shortcuts. What I've come to realize over the last couple of months - three months - is that I was not going to be able to sustain that pace for any length of time."

Tom Osborne, on one of the reasons why he retired

"I'm in reasonably good shape. I'm not going to keel over right in front of you or anything like that."

Osborne, on his heart troubles

"He got to watch 150 guys on this team grow up and the thousands that came before us. He's been like a father figure to us all."

Fullback Joel Mackovica

"Tom Osborne's major concern when he spoke with us was that the character and quality of the football program remain intact. He said 'I don't want someone else coming in here and jerking my kids around by the face masks.'"

Chancellor James Moeser

"Do I wish he was still coach? Yes. So does everyone else in Nebraska. It's a wise person who knows when to hang it up."

Gov. Ben Nelson

"Coach came in and he tried to crack some jokes, but nobody was laughing. We knew."

Linebacker Eric Johnson

"You can't put into words the kind of bond we have with Coach Osborne. You can sit and talk for hours. And I know five years from now if I see Coach Osborne, I'll be able to give him a big hug and it will be fine."

Offensive lineman Matt Hoskinson

"Maybe he'll come to my YMCA basketball games."

Mike Osborne, on his father having missed him play high school football

"I think you come to a crossroads where you know exactly what you want to do in life. He just came to the point where it was his time."

Denver Broncos lineman Neil Smith, a former Husker

"Sixty years old isn't really that old, but it's probably time for him to take a rest."

Johnny Rodgers, a former Husker

"Legend. That's the only word I think of. Tom Osborne represented the very best this conference had to offer and represented the very best in college football. He'll be missed by everyone."

Bill Snyder, Kansas State head coach

Haney's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Thanks Tom

I would like to take this time to express my deepest thank you to Tom Osborne for all of the things he has done as head coach here at UNL.

Having been born and raised in Nebraska, Husker football has always meant a lot to me. We have all been lucky enough to have had Osborne be the person to lead all of Nebraska and our Huskers for the past 25 years. I wish him luck in all he does following the Orange Bowl, and wish Frank Solich luck in taking over the helm.

To Mr. Osborne: You have given both the students and the entire state of Nebraska one more reason to be proud to wear Husker red. To the football team: Let's bring home one more for Dr. Tom!

Leigh Ramert
junior
mechanical engineering

On admiration

Dear Tom Osborne, While I must admit that I am not the world's most die-hard football fanatic, I do enjoy watching Nebraska play, and I was part of the crowds that gathered in the streets both times that we won the National Championship. I was proud of our football team.

But what I admire the most is not necessarily the wins, but the character behind them. I just wanted to join countless others in showing my support and thanks for all that you have done.

Thank you for your life and commitment. Thank you for your unwavering faith in God, for your care for your players, for the dedication that you have passed on to others, and for your integrity, class and dignity. These are the reasons that I am proud of Nebraska football.

May God be with you and bless you in all your future endeavors.

Barbara Zach
junior
mathematics and music

Well allow me to retort

This letter is a response to Mr. Harbison's guest column (DN, Wednesday). The column was interesting, challenging and, in a word, ridiculous. While he was in the library researching the academic indiscretions of Martin Luther King Jr. for his column, I hope that he spent a little time in the American history sections. It is in those sections where hypocrisy is most prominent and prevalent.

If hypocrisy is indeed the issue with the King holiday as Harbison claims, then Martin Luther King Jr. is perfect for this country as an American hero. Why, you might ask?

Well, it's this country that offers credo after credo that reeks of integrity, justice and honor. It is this country's currency that says, "In God We Trust," yet every endeavor is made to rid this land of anything that resembles God.

It is this country that says, "all men are created equal," yet racial/ethnic minorities, women, poor and the disadvantaged are subjected to the kind of treatment that animals should not have to endure.

Yes, it is this country, with all of its greatness, that must admit being the model of hypocrisy around the world. How can this country talk to any other country about human rights abuses? Why do you like that the United States didn't involve itself more in trying to rid South Africa of apartheid? The hypocrisy would have been clear.

Clearly, it's the individuals that are revered most in this country led by example as slave owners, adulterers, liars, cheats, treaty breakers - you name it.

And what does that mean? Well using Harbison's logic, these individuals are not worthy of reverence, honor or even respect. Now, that is if you look at the whole person.

So, what do we do? I say let's open the files and look at the lives of this country's heroes to see if they truly deserve recognition as great people. Let's do it.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy in this country is grounded in the fact that what he did is indisputable. Unlike any of this country's so-called heroes, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his life fighting for the rights promised to him in the documents that govern this land. None of the others with holidays or special observances did that.

Martin Luther King Jr., armed only with the love of God and a philosophy of nonviolence, led a movement that changed the face of this country forever.

None of the "founding fathers" did that. Not Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Franklin, Lincoln, none of them. But that does not mean that they are not great in their own right.

Plagiarism is wrong, there is no doubt about that. And as an administrator here I discourage it wholeheartedly. What Martin Luther King Jr. did in the academic arena, right or wrong, should be scrutinized in the context. Whatever punishment he deserves or deserved for plagiarism he should have received. However, the holiday is not about that, so do not throw the baby out with the bath water.

This country is famous for its hypocrisy and we need only look at our beloved officials in government in recent history for the best examples.

Remember Nixon and Watergate, Reagan, Ollie North and the Contras, and Clinton, Paula Jones, Whitewater. Where does it end? There are some role models for you. Should we take their pictures down from government walls all across this country?

Mr. Harbison says to honor Martin Luther King Jr. at UNL would be hypocritical. To the contrary, I say it would just be the American way.

John L. Harris
Special Assistant
Office of the Vice Chancellor
for Student Affairs

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