

# OPINION PACES

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*Our*  
**VIEW**

## The name is the same

*Honoring Osborne is appropriate move*

The NU Board of Regents unanimously voted Jan. 17 to christen the Memorial Stadium football field Tom Osborne Field.

They said they did it to honor Osborne — who guided NU to three national championships and 255 victories in 25 years — for the tremendous contributions he has made on and off the field to the Nebraska football program. The regents even waived a board policy developed in 1993, which required a five-year wait before a facility could be named after a person who retires, leaves or dies.

But by honoring Osborne, are they dishonoring the veterans for which Memorial Stadium was named?

The Nebraska Veterans Council argues that is exactly what the regents are doing. The council has unanimously condemned the regents, publicly opposing the new name.

John DeCamp, a spokesman for the council and a Vietnam War veteran, said naming the field after Osborne has the "net effect of desecrating and denigrating Memorial Stadium and erasing the memory of the deceased veterans to whom the stadium and field were dedicated."

We disagree.

First of all, we are talking about two different things here. Naming the Cornhuskers' football field Tom Osborne Field does not hurt the veterans' cause or erase the honorable accomplishments for which Memorial Stadium was named. Memorial Stadium will remain Memorial Stadium.

But the field that it encompasses was never given a name. Why shouldn't the regents take the opportunity to honor Osborne by stamping his name on the field that belongs to the program he helped to build?

Second, clearly distinguishing the field from the stadium does not set a precedent. Several NCAA Division I schools have separate names for the two.

The council has encouraged Osborne — who originally said he felt uncomfortable with the regents' vote — to speak with the regents on its behalf. Osborne refused. He doesn't want to appear ungrateful. And in a show of support for the veterans' cause, Osborne has repeatedly said he wants the stadium to be known as Memorial Stadium just as much as he wants it known for his accomplishments.

But some veterans appear worried the spotlight will shift from their accomplishments to those of Osborne. But isn't the spotlight big enough for both Osborne and the veterans? Why must honoring one great man insult other great men (and women)?

DeCamp has said that if the regents don't reverse their decision to name the field — and it appears likely that they won't — other actions will be taken. Maybe DeCamp and other dissenting veterans would be wiser to follow Osborne's lead and recognize his accomplishments as well as their own.

It's the honorable thing to do.

*Haney's*  
**VIEW**



*DN*  
**LETTERS**

**... and no one cares**

In her column, "God is good" (Wednesday), Katya Ovcharenko quotes Nietzsche as saying, "God is dead, we have killed him, you and I!" It is interesting that Ms. Ovcharenko begins her defense of Christianity with this quote since, if God is dead, it is the Christian faith that holds the bloody dagger in its gnarled fist.

The "death of God" did not truly come about until the advent of Christianity. Up until then, almost everyone believed in one form of deity or another. It was only when Christianity adopted the absurd idea of taking the Bible literally and adopting such incredible ideas as original sin that the rot set in.

All of Christian dogma depends on the idea of original sin. Original sin rests on the notion that because some poor schmuck, who we can't be sure existed, took the "all-you-can-eat" sign at the Lord's Buffet too far and got kicked out. So, because Grandpa got too carried away with his fruit platter, all the rest of us are born into this world with an automatic, one-way ticket to hell, which we aren't really sure exists.

And stop trying to blame Christianity on Jesus. Jesus was not a Christian, Jesus was a Jew. When Jesus was asked by the rich man how to be saved his reply was to follow the commandments, and in his parable of Lazarus and the rich man (different rich guy) he stated clearly that if the teachings of Moses and the prophets were not enough to save a person, even a man rising from the dead wouldn't do any good.

Christianity has had nothing to do with Jesus since the fourth century. God is good, but Christianity is a sham.

**Mark E. Buhdorf**  
senior  
classics

**Fight the good fight**

I am Linda Crump and I recently became an assistant to the chancellor and director for affirmative action and diversity programs. I'm writing to the university to ask all of us to become responsible for the things we choose to say and do.

I was discouraged that a faculty member would choose to send a message that appears to be contrary to the goals of creating a welcoming community at our university.

I hold dear the free speech rights and obligations of the First Amendment. I honor its power in preserving and protecting our nation.

I write to you because we have all chosen to be part of this community of diverse interests, and as members of this community we all have responsibilities and obligations as well as rights.

I'm asking each of us in this community to "taste your words before you spit them out." This requires thinking about the (effect — intended and/or unintended) that our words and deeds will have on others around us. It involves balancing our individual right to say or do something in light of our choice to be a part of a community. It involves knowing what it means to be a responsible member of this community and acting in ways that create a community where we all can be nurtured to reach our full potential.

This community should be alive with healthy debate on a variety of issues. The debate should stimulate intelligent conversation. Creating this type of debate without creating a hostile environment takes creativity, intelligence and a personal sense of responsibility. I believe that we have the potential to make this a reality in our community. It is the responsibility of all the members of our community to act in a responsible manner. We all need to taste our words.

**Linda Crump**  
assistant to the chancellor and  
director for affirmative action and  
diversity programs

**Free admission**

I am responding to the column (Monday) by Jim Vance ("Admission of guilt"). His failure to be clear about what he is talking about exemplifies for me the source of quite a bit of our difficulty in race relations in this country today. The body of the column uses the terms "preference," "plus," "affirmative action," "favoritism" (and) "lower standards." Unless we describe explicitly what

we mean by words such as these, we contribute further to the confusion rather than helping our society move on toward greater racial equality.

The danger in my judgment is that we will treat the subject in the broad strokes that Mr. Vance used and thereby simply confirm readers' current beliefs. If I have doubts about affirmative action and I read a column such as "Admission of guilt," my doubts will be reinforced. I won't be challenged to question my ideas or to explore the issues any further.

I hope that everyone in the United States agrees that equality of opportunity is basic to our form of government. As far as I can see, that agreement does not conflict with a broader consideration of talents than simply whatever is measured by ACT scores in admitting a person to college. Others are found in the arts, as well as in other areas of human potential. Diversity of culture is one of those talents that higher education legitimately can include in determining admission. Race is an imperfect indication of cultural background. I would prefer a better measure.

A survey of all published studies will reveal that less than one-third of the variability in college grades is predicted by entrance exam scores. While college grades fare a little better, they are far from perfect also. Thus, in my view, two things are wrong with the claim that affirmative action is lowering admission standards. It assumes that: 1) admission should be based on the sole talent of intellectual ability (even here, there is more than one type — mathematical, verbal, visual, etc.); and 2) the measures we use of intellect are highly valid and reliable.

Ideally, we should be discussing these issues widely and publicly on this campus, especially this month during Black History Month. That discussion will be taking place in some of the events scheduled for this campus and the city this month. John Harris can send a list to anyone interested enough to ask.

Short of that ideal, all of us can restrain our impulse to treat such subjects lightly and superficially.

**Vernon Williams**  
coordinator of career counseling  
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