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Our VIEW

Moral minority

Improving recruiting means search for ideas

It's never easy to admit when something doesn't work.

But when looking at the steady-and-dwindling minority enrollment at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it becomes obvious that fessing up to the administration's flawed approach to recruitment is necessary.

Particularly in the case of black students, UNL has been unsuccessful in recruitment and retention. Currently, UNL's black student population has shrunk 10 percent from just two years ago.

It's time to confess, UNL.

But confession is just the first step; searching for new methods and new approaches to old ones is also essential. And perhaps some of those solutions lie to Nebraska's south.

In Missouri and Texas, university leaders have had the same goals as Nebraska, but their results have been drastically different.

The University of Missouri-Columbia has seen its black population nearly double over the past four years. And although several steps likely have been made to result in such numbers, one program in particular seems like it could be easily duplicated at UNL.

Though Missouri has the metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis to draw from, Nebraska could draw from minority communities in Omaha, Lincoln and smaller towns.

At MU, minority recruitment days are held in the state's two major cities, where campus representatives let prospective students know not only what the school has to offer, but also that there are people like them on campus.

Missouri has put its money where its mouth is with the construction of a black student center and substantial funding for minority scholarships.

A similar program is in effect at the University of Texas at Austin, where incoming students spend three or four days of the summer in student-orientation sessions — short summer camp-type arrangements at which new students congregate for the first and only time.

During the session, students live together in campus residence halls, learn about colleges, student groups and campus issues, and take academic placement tests. Students also choose a major, register for fall classes and attend new-students-only social events every evening.

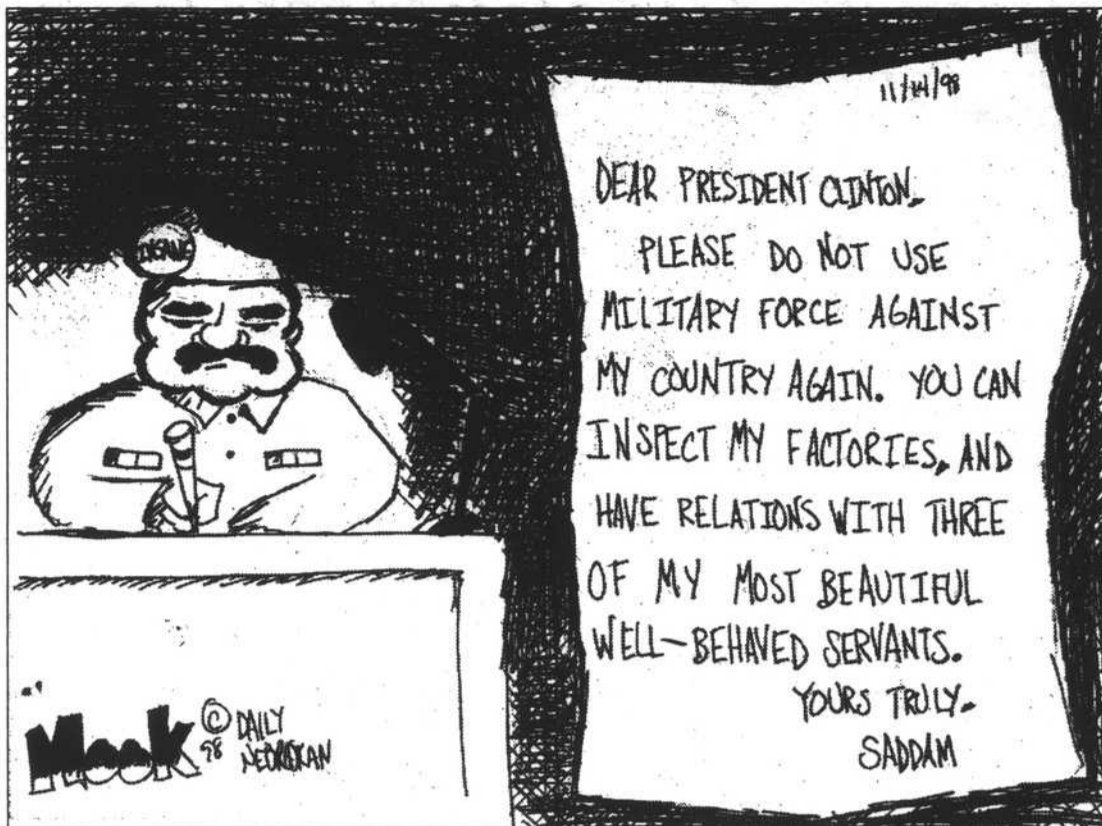
Students leave the orientation session with a network of friends they can lean on from day one of fall classes.

The network keeps students in school.

At UNL, students' pre-enrollment exposure to the university is usually limited to New Student Enrollment days. One afternoon of campus tours and presentations is hardly enough to give students a head start on making friends, establishing connections and getting used to the idea of college life.

The Daily Nebraskan thinks a program similar to those at MU and UT would be a solid and positive first step toward increased minority enrollment in Lincoln. UNL's administration should examine these programs and take a serious look at bringing them here.

Mook's VIEW



DN LETTERS

NU's evil fans

(Shannon Heffelfinger, "KSU knows how to win; its fans don't," Monday) Sorry you let a few people ruin your experience in Manhattan. I am sure that is just what it was: a few people. But your views are a bit myopic. I attended KSU from '83 to '87. If you know our history, you'll know how good we were back then; in a word, "pathetic." Scores of the NU-KSU games back then were usually 60-plus to 3.

I attended many a game, both in Lincoln and at KSU. I assure you 100 percent that the behavior of our "fans" is not unique. I can think of two times I attended a KSU-NU game in Lincoln and was abused by YOUR fans.

At that time you had beaten us 15-plus times. I was repeatedly taunted by NU fans about this and numerous other things. Why? Because we dared to root for our soon-to-be alma mater. Were we rowdy? Not in the least. It is hard to be rowdy when you are No. 1, with your girlfriend; No. 2, losing 35-0 at the time; and No. 3, in a sea of red. We were called so many names that we had to leave early. We had had enough. Nebraska fans, I had decided, were rude, obnoxious, insensitive and complete jerks.

Oh, did I mention I also played at KSU during those pathetic years? I was a walk-on and played one year. I have been taunted and called names and had things tossed at me as I stood in the tunnel. Trust me, it happens everywhere.

Your players, fans and football program are just like everyone else — not all saints and not all sinners. You say, "I have never seen Nebraska or any other program belittle an opponent before the game." Did you see any of the Notre Dame-U of Miami games in the '80s? Did you see any of the NU-Oklahoma games of the '80s? How about Ohio State University-Michigan, every year? Somehow, I doubt it.

You claim not to be writing with a sour-grapes attitude, but all the cheap shots sure come across like it. Somehow, I doubt you would be writing this column if NU had won. No sour grapes, indeed.

Michael Glynn
KSU fan

Let us enjoy it

I understand your comments about the fans yelling at Crouch after the game, but this is no different than Nebraska fans yelling at K-State players that "you'll always be K-State, and we'll always be Nebraska." Crouch played a great game and yes, he did get face-masked. This brings up the personal foul that wasn't called on KSU's third-down attempt at Nebraska's 11 yard line when Bishop was hit in the head late.

First of all, to the introduction of the game, it was great. If we had lost, you would have laughed at it. But since Nebraska lost, you turned bitter about it. Nebraska has had a dynasty and will continue to have it. Kansas State has only started ours, and beating Nebraska was a big step for our program. Nebraska fans and players trying to downplay it is only a sign of sour grapes and may be a little fear that this might have been the passing of the torch.

Second of all, don't dog on your team being 8-3. It is a great football team that got beat by a great football team. Every school has poor fans (even Nebraska, Colorado's being the worst) and Kansas State does, too. On the comment about next year, we lose two key linebackers, one quarterback, one receiver and one running back. All these are big positions, but what people don't know is who are behind them: Frank Murphy, Travis Litton, Ben Leber, Jonathan Beasley, David Allen and a Clemson transfer at a linebacker position. Next time you talk about next year and how bad Kansas State will be, do your research before you open your mouth and remove all doubt.

Finally take a

stats of the game, and eliminate Kansas State's turnovers, and Nebraska is not even in the ball game. Let us enjoy our win. We haven't beat Nebraska for 29 years. How the hell would you act? Probably a lot like Kansas State fans did. Good luck to Nebraska. Kansas State needs you to keep winning.

Pat Goering
KSU fan

Oh YEAH?

I couldn't agree more with this article about the fans at KSU. I had to order the game out here in Michigan, and it looked like NU was playing one of the old Miami Hurricane teams. I think those people out in Manhattan better grow up and learn what a true winner acts like.

Their players were such hot dogs, and their fans weren't much better. This is not a dynasty; this is a one-year thing. My hats off to Bill Snyder, but Michael Bishop is the whole team. If he falls, they fall. Wait till next year — don't be surprised if NU isn't the No. 1 pre-season favorite.

I think Eric Crouch just won the No. 1 quarterback job. I think Bobby Newcombe should go back to wing back and punt returner so we have more weapons. Why waste a talent by making Crouch the No. 2 QB? He played his heart out in the biggest game in a long time.

I hope KSU enjoys it while it lasts. If KSU wins the national championship — good for them, but I hope they doesn't disgrace the Big 12 while they win the championship. KSU has a lot to learn — maybe they should watch a real winner in NU.

Patrick Nichols
NU fan

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