

OPINION PAGES

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Our VIEW

Return to sender ...

From: Daily Nebraskan
<letters@unlinfo.unl.edu>
To: Bill Byrne, Director of Athletics and Chris Linder, ASUN Homecoming Committee Chair
Subject: Re: Tailgate apology

TO: Bill Byrne and Chris Linder: Wise up.

The students who showed up to "Tailgate on the Turf" (oxymoronically billed as a "new tradition") came to see Tom Green, a comic known for his exceptionally rude behavior and uninhibited anti-social behavior.

They think he's funny.

Maybe if you'd watched his show, you'd have known what you were getting yourselves into: the episode where he installed a sculpture in his parent's front yard (of his father and mother doing it "doggy style") for instance. Any of the shows where he needles people into physically attacking him might have given you a clue. Unfortunately, your stuffy reaction has only exposed you to national ridicule. Your memo is now linked to the front page of his Web site at www.tomgreen.com.

You have played into the rascal's hands.

Mark Baldrige, Daily Nebraskan opinion editor, for the Editorial Board

>From: System Manager
>Subject: Tailgate apology

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>TO: Students, Faculty and Staff of
>the University of Nebraska:
>We are writing today about the
>performance that took place during
>the "Tailgate on the Turf" event
>Thursday evening in Memorial
>Stadium. While the intent of the
>evening was to provide a fun event
>for students and a renewed interest
>in Homecoming, the performance of
>Mr. Tom Green was offensive. The
>Athletic Department finds Mr.
>Green's actions totally
>inappropriate and apologises to all
>who were involved.
>In the spirit of cooperation, many
>groups on campus worked together
>to make this event possible. It is
>unfortunate that it was tainted by
>this unpredictable artist. While the
>information regarding this event
>stated:

>"Tom Green's humor is directed
>toward a mature collegiate
>audience."
>We did not anticipate a performance
>of this nature. Please accept our
>sincere apology.

>Bill Byrne, Director of Athletics
>and Chris Linder, ASUN
>Homecoming Committee Chair

Editorial Policy

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Obermeyer's VIEW



DN LETTERS

Editor's Note: So many long letters were generated by the events of TailgateGate that we cannot here reprint them in their entirety. To view them in all their pristine, uncut glory, visit the DN's Web page at www.dailyneb.com.

An Outrage

I am outraged that the members of the UNL Scarlets performance team and others unwillingly became the target of entertainer Tom Green's objectionable antics.

Tom Green violated the University of Nebraska's Policy on Sexual Harassment.

His behavior exploited members of the UNL community by subjecting them to explicitly prohibited physical and verbal harassment of a sexual nature.

He created an environment of intimidation both for those who were the target of his actions and those whose gender or sexual orientation were exploited by his act.

That such exploitation was perpetrated against some while they were performing in an official university function is reprehensible.

In the interest of restoring the dignity, equality and respect of those exploited by this event, I encourage others to work with me to provide appropriate follow-up, consultation and education.

Gail F. Latta
Academic Senate president

A Request for Resignation

This is a request for the resignation of two individuals who took part in the fiasco that should be renamed "Tailhook on the Turf."

The first is for HuskerVision production specialist Rick Schweiger to either step down from his position or for him to publicly apologize for his actions during this event.

Imagine sitting with your son or daughter at the next home game and having them ask, "Hey isn't that the guy who let Lil' Red lay on top of him at that thing the other night?"

"What were they doing then, and will he do it again?"

Something I don't want to have happen.

The second "person" should be the removal and immediate search for a new mascot for this university.

What type of image does his actions during this event have on the effectiveness of the message that is being sent to our children during the "School is Cool" jam?

I, in fact, didn't attend the event, but after getting out of a Chemistry

109 exam I listened for five to 10 minutes while I was waiting for my wife and kids to pick me up.

I was literally disgusted and ashamed that the university was allowing this type of show to go on in an arena where the sound can be heard outside of the action.

I shudder to think what the next "pep rally" will include.

Whoever decided sending e-mail for an apology should also reconsider what they are doing for a living.

I know the individuals involved with the original "Tailhook" are regretting their actions. Maybe Rick and Lil' Red should be doing the same.

William W. Wisell
senior
agribusiness
father of three

An Obscenity

Green was obscene. I use that word not in the sense that he used "bad words" or that his humor was explicitly sexual in its content.

At its most pernicious "obscenity" applies to acts that deny to others their fundamental human dignity and to human sexuality its glory and its shared rewards.

Green's behavior encouraged some of the worst aspects latent in the psyches of his audience.

His repeated sexual aggressions against (Rick) Schweiger and other males depended for "humor" on the most brutal aspects of stereotyping homosexuals.

He encouraged us at some level to enjoy monstrous sexism, homophobia and the exploitation of prodigious sexuality in children. From his perspective, sexuality was presented as entirely self-centered and brutally reckless of others. As I understand it, that is obscene.

J. A. McShane
director
University Foundations
Program

A Disappointment

I am not a psychology major. I am not a sociology major. In fact, I am not even a big football fan. However, I observed something fascinating

tonight. As fascinating as it may have been, it was more disappointing than anything.

Tonight was the homecoming pep rally in the newly remodeled stadium. Instead of honoring the Tom that the field is named for, or the legacy he helped to create, fans seemed to be there to honor a guy by the name of Tom Green, a comedian who obviously lacked appreciation of "Husker Spirit" or the respect I thought it demanded.

No one who was there can deny what happened: Tom Green's humor toward our mascots, and especially toward our Scarlets, should not have been accepted by the "fans" as well as it was.

If people are so proud of the Huskers, why didn't they take this opportunity to show it?

They booed when students performed their skits and seemed to not care less when athletes were introduced.

I believe that this was a poor way to pay tribute to the people who work hard year-round to give Nebraskans something to cheer about.

Heather Mannschreck
senior
biological systems engineering

A Defense of Tom

Tom Green is a genius! It still amazes me how one guy can make many students sit back and laugh their asses off while he makes a complete mockery of their school at their homecoming pep rally. And don't think I'm being sarcastic.

It's great that someone could walk in and make everyone turn against the staff and a good portion of the student body.

Everyone booing the skit performers offstage and cheering while Lil' Red humped the announcer ... hilarious!

I'll have to admit I was laughing about as hard as anyone there was.

I couldn't help but wonder if maybe Tom was laughing at us just as hard as we were laughing at him.

Tom, I salute you!

Jennie Houser
sophomore
art