



No. 135 Harvey Perlman

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“Harvey Boo Boo.” “Bo Pelini’s keeper.” “Fifty Shades of Harvey.” Those were just a few of the irreverent titles attached to Harvey Perlman when the chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was installed as a Face on the Barroom floor. Perlman’s roasters were in fine form as they joked about his low-key – some call it deadpan -- demeanor.

Emcee Gary Sadlemyer, KFAB’s program director, said: “Harvey does not suffer, as some academics do, from a split personality. If he did, he wouldn’t be using this one.” Roaster Susan Poser, dean of the Nebraska Law College, said that witnessing a conversation between Perlman and Tom Osborne, a man with an equally “granite” personality, is like watching Washington talk to Lincoln -- on Mount Rushmore.

“Harvey Boo Boo,” Sadlemyer said, is Perlman’s plan for a new reality show at

UNL. It was one of several darts directed at Perlman's decision in 2004 in to approve "Tommy Lee Goes to College," a TV reality series about the rocker's brief attendance at UNL *and* his tryout with the marching band.

And "Fifty Shades of Harvey"? That was the title of a slide show presented by University of Nebraska President J.B. Milliken. As portrayed on the screen, the Perlman life story began with a picture of a young lad holding a cigarette ("Harvey was kicked out of Cub Scouts for smoking," Milliken alleged) and concluded with Perlman's proposed solution to the Lincoln-Omaha College of Engineering debate – a Peter Kiewit Institute banner hoisted atop the Linoma lighthouse midway between the two cities.

Roaster Sen. Ben Nelson saluted his university classmate (both received their bachelor's degrees from NU in 1963 and continued on to law school) as "Bo Pelini's keeper." Nelson also recalled a scheduling mix-up at his Capitol office when Perlman and the Omaha archbishop showed up at the same time. When asked who should be sent in first, Nelson said he replied: "Send in the archbishop, because I know I'm only going to have to kiss his ring." Hal Daub, a law school classmate of Perlman's who was newly elected to the Board of Regents, sent a written salute to the honoree.

Jim Horan's caricature of the Face on the Barroom Floor features Perlman, in red blazer, flanked by the new Innovation Campus (with a Ferris wheel left behind on the former state fairgrounds) and the towering addition to Memorial Stadium. Harvey is holding a long list of plans, which include an even bigger stadium and a bigger and better Big 10 Conference. Looking on in the drawing are a departing Osborne, an agitated Pelini and Husker drummer Tommy Lee, along with some of the more than 24,000 UNL students.

Past honored Faces in the Press Club audience for the Nov. 19 festivities included - in addition to Nelson, Horan and Sadlemyer – Allen Beermann, Ken Bird, James Martin Davis, Jeff Raikes, Johnny Rodgers and Ron Roskens.