



## Letters

### DN editorials biased

The Daily Nebraskan has ignored its obvious responsibility to provide a forum for opposing views in this year's ASUN election. While providing good coverage of the Real Party platform, it has neglected to supply the students with positive coverage of other party platforms. This responsibility is inherent due to the Daily Nebraskan's unique position as the only publication informing students of ASUN election issues.

Two recent editorials have demonstrated the Daily Nebraskan's tendency to present the students with biased information; The Feb. 22 editorial regarding the supposed faults of the Working Coalition's proposed changes in the ASUN Senate and the Feb. 24 editorial in support of the Real Party candidates Dan Wedekind and Greg Krieser, were inequitable in their treatment of campaign issues. This shows a lack of concern by the Daily Nebraskan for its privileged position as a source of student information.

Through the general news coverage of the campaign the Daily Nebraskan's bias has become more pronounced. As the election date approaches, the voters are presented with less impartial information and more opinionated views. With voters forming their views on important issues what is needed at this time is specific, complete and unbiased reporting.

Paul Walsh  
Freshman  
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Freshman  
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### Paper doing its job

The opinion of Melba I. Petrie (Daily Nebraskan, Feb. 26) concerning the Daily Nebraskan endorsement of Dan Wedekind for ASUN president needs a response. I am not defending or supporting Wedekind, I am defending the Daily Nebraskan and in turn, the practice of printing editorials.

First and foremost, the Daily Nebraskan endorsement of Wedekind did not "epitomize shoddy journalistic practices," as Petrie puts it. Rather, the endorsement follows a tradition of journalism in this country dating back to pre-revolutionary times: A newspaper has the right to, indeed it *should* take a stand on important issues, for that is its responsibility to the public it serves and is one of the reasons behind the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The Daily Nebraskan was doing its job,

as does every other paper in this country. The paper, as far as I know, has almost always endorsed one candidate shortly before the elections. Like all newspapers, it has the duty of not only providing the community with a string of information, but of tying that information together and providing the community with responsible opinions regarding issues which concern the entire community.

Petrie mentions that this is the only large publication serving UNL, and this is true. But she assumes this means it has tremendous influence over the way UNL students think. She is quite wrong. Studies show that newspapers' opinions have little sway over the public's opinions. Before a paper prints an editorial endorsement or denouncement, most peoples' opinions have already been decided, based on their own thoughts and the thoughts of those around them. Anyone who has been on this campus a reasonable length of time will tell you that students frequently disagree with the paper, and the paper does have its faults. Nobody is perfect. The paper's willingness to admit this and print opinions differing from its own is proven by the mere fact that Petrie's letter was printed. The paper doesn't mold the minds of its readers by any means. Give us students credit for *some* intelligence!!

Of course a paper tries to present the facts with as little bias as possible (there is

no such thing as unbiased journalism, as those in the field will tell you) and the Daily Nebraskan has done its best in the preceding weeks. It has "provided responsible presentation of information" (how many newspapers can you name that would give serious coverage to a legal party that even calls *itself* STUPID?). Informa-

tion and editorials are two entirely different concepts which Petrie apparently confuses in her letter. No one who reads an editorial, clearly labeled as such, takes it as gospel.

Jeannie Jonaitis  
Senior  
Broadcast Journalism/German

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