

Daily Nebraskan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Test files not dishonest

ASUN proposal could help students' grades

What makes up academic dishonesty?

Is it looking on a classmate's test for an answer? Yes. Is it plagiarizing? Yes. Is it reusing someone else's paper? Yes. Is it studying from an old test? No.

If a bill recently drafted by some senators of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is passed, UNL professors may have to decide for themselves how encompassing academic dishonesty is.

ASUN Sens. Stan Mommaerts and Geoff McDonald are co-sponsoring a bill that would create old test files within the UNL libraries. The bill also states that the files would be accessible to all UNL students, and professors could choose whether to include their old tests or not.

Test files are a good idea, if they are used properly.

Having old tests available for review is an excellent study tool. The tests allow students to understand the type of questions their professors will ask, and what type of responses they want.

The Daily Nebraskan does not feel it is a form of academic dishonesty, because the tests will more than likely not be the same as the current tests.

Some UNL departments and professors already keep old test files. The purpose, these professors say, is to give students an idea of what to study.

And because professors would submit only on a volunteer basis, those professors silly enough to give the same tests year after year would not have to submit their own copies.

— Curt Wagner
for the Daily Nebraskan

Ladies and gentlemen: Mr. Andrew Meyer

Guess what? Here's another letter I would like printed in the Daily Nebraskan.

I know that most of you are completely sick and tired of seeing my name in print ("The Best of Andrew Meyer," DN, Nov. 18), but I just thought you might be interested in finding out what has happened to me since all those kind folks at the DN printed all of my letters at once.

During the course of two days (Nov. 18 and 19), I received nearly 50 abusive and harassing phone calls from many of the "mature" people on campus. The callers did not have much to say, other than your normal swear words and threats. They called me pretty much every name in the book. I guess a person's intelligence can be demonstrated by his or her actions.

Listen, folks: Don't you realize that what I did is perfectly legal? That is the purpose of that entire editorial page. My intent was not to have all the letters printed at once. That's the DN's doing. If you disagree, or have something to say to me, either send a letter to the DN (I'm sure the editors will print it now) or come up to my room and say it to my face. You will find the address in the same phone directory that you found my phone number.

Due to the rush of abusive calls, I have gone to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln police department. I am keeping a full log of all these calls. If they continue next week, a tracer will be placed on my phone. You smart folks who have been calling me might be in for a \$300 fine and three months in prison for your actions. I am also going to change my phone number, and if this can't be done, I will have to move to another room.

As for you newspaper people: If either of these processes costs me any

money, I feel that you should repay me in full, since your "irresponsible editing practices" (that is a quote from an attorney in the ASUN Legal Services Center) caused this problem to begin with. As soon as I get the bill, I will forward it to you.

If this whole thing was meant to be a big joke, I did not find it a bit funny. The introductory editor's note made the whole thing seem like a deliberate attempt to ridicule and humiliate me and I don't appreciate it. The headline was especially humiliating, and that stupid little picture in the middle of the page was totally insulting. I think a formal apology, printed in a future issue of the DN, is in definite order here.

I am sure that you guessed I have contacted an attorney. The one I saw said that since the dispute involves two students who both pay student fees, and since their office does not handle cases of slander-libel, she couldn't assist me directly. She suggested going to another attorney, and I am. My uncle in Chicago is a lawyer and hopefully he will be able to give me some advice. I think I am entitled to at least what I stated above, if not more money for my time, trouble and emotional suffering (I must sound like Robin Givens).

As for all you wimps who threatened to come up to my room after the Oklahoma game and kick my ass: I'm still waiting.

Andrew Meyer
freshman
pre-med

Editor's note: Meyer submitted more than 20 letters to the DN and "dared" the paper to print them. The DN refuses to pay any compensation, and is not obligated to do so.

THE PHOTO OPPORTUNITY...



Royko turning off TV networks

Columnist lists gimmicks for network viewing

More and more of us are Network Dropouts. That's not news, of course, because there have been countless stories and studies done on the shrinking audience of the TV networks.

But I didn't realize how far away I had dropped until I happened to glance at the Nielsen ratings of the top 71 shows for last week.

Of those top 71 shows, I had not watched even one.

In fact, of all 71, I could count only five that I had ever seen in my life. And of those five, there isn't even one that I now watch regularly.

As hard as it may be to believe, I have never seen the "Bill Cosby Show," which has the top rating. Despite its popularity, I don't like happy family shows. They're unreal. If I watch a family show, I prefer something lifelike, such as "Death of a Salesman."

As for the second- and third-rated shows — things called "A Different World" and "Golden Girls" — I've never heard of them. If I want to see a different world, I'll drive out to the West Side of Chicago or visit the Bronx in New York.

I used to watch "Cheers," which is still in the top 10, but gave it up after Diane left and Sam began lusting after a career-crazed yuppie female. I didn't think even Sam could sink that low.

Am I the only person in America who has never watched a segment of "Dallas"? A few years ago, I recall, somebody important was killed on the last segment and almost everybody in America was caught up in the hype. I think I watched wrestling that night. The acting was of higher quality.

It's not that I'm snobbish. Just the opposite. I enjoy TV trash as much as the next slob. But the quality of truly

trashy trash has declined. I was one of the first writers in America to recognize the greatness of Robin Leach and his "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." But the last time I looked, he was down to gushing about some rich one-eyed Turk who had the world's largest collection of dead butterflies.

Or maybe they were plain dead flies. Whatever, it wasn't my idea of high living.

So, if I don't watch the top 71 shows, what do I watch?

Mike Royko



I still watch the networks. But I have learned to exploit and cheat them.

For example, I don't miss a Chicago Bears game. But I seldom watch it while it's being played. Instead, I tape it and find something else to do. Then, late in the afternoon when the game has ended, I play it on my VCR and fast-forward through all the commercials, the babble of the announcers, the halftime drivel and even the huddles. By doing this, I can see all the action in about 20 minutes instead of three hours.

I watch movies, but only on the cable pay channels, never the networks. Why? Four reasons.

One: There are no commercials. The noted shrink Dr. I.M. Kookie believes that every time a person watches a TV commercial, about 1,000 of his brain cells die. So if you watch 40 commercials a night, that's about 40,000 brain cells gone. By the time you are 41 years old, half of your

brain will be dead and you face a bleak future, unless you run for vice president.

Two: Late on Friday night they put on some real dirty movies. Not that I enjoy this smut, but I'm fascinated by the dramatic advances medical science has made in the bodily use of silicone.

Three: There is a channel called American Movie Classics. Watching these old movies, I'm amazed that scriptwriters were once capable of doing an entire movie without having a car crash scene, a helicopter chase, a decapitation, or the female star yell s—!

Four: By watching the other movie channels, which show more recent films, I learn how really bad most of today's movies have become. Most of them are about teenagers who run around yelling s—! and maniacs who cut the teenagers into little pieces. How many inspirational movies do they think I can stand?

To be fair, once in a while, they show a decent movie. The other night I saw a love story. It was about a young scientist who accidentally turned himself into a giant cockroach. He was about to eat his beautiful girlfriend, but then it had a surprisingly pleasant ending. At the last moment, she turned into a giant cockroach, too, and they lived happily ever after.

I would be dishonest if I didn't admit that I watch the network news. But I watch it my way. I tape Dan Rather, without listening. Then when he's done, I turn the sound all the way down and fast-forward through his show.

Believe me, if you liked the old Charlie Chaplin movies, you'll enjoy seeing Rather on fast-forward.

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editorial POLICY

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the fall 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Curt Wagner, editor; Mike Reilly, edito-

rial page editor; Diana Johnson, managing editor; Lee Rood, associate news editor; Andy Pollock, columnist; Bob Nelson, wire page editor; and Micki Haller, entertainment editor.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

letter POLICY

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not

be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.