

Media not balanced

GOP not receiving fair press coverage

Midnight meetings straining to decide how to handle the embroiled Persian Gulf.

A failing economy at home.

A democratic Congress against him from the start. Clinton leading in the polls by a wide margin.

At this point, the upcoming election does not look good for George Bush, and the tension is showing.

Rumors are rampant. The president is in ill health. Members of his own party are asking him to step down in favor of a stronger candidate. The only way he can win is to get rid of his sidekick Dan Quayle and to fight and win a decisive war with Iraq before November.

Right now, it seems the only leg Bush has to stand on is his foreign policy, and a lot of people at home don't care much about that.

Until now, the democrats have been coasting on their own convention high, helped in great part by the media.

In fact, the media seems to be playing an unusually big (and a little slanted) part in the way the candidates are being viewed.

They have been writing a surprising number of soft, compassionate reviews of the Clinton-Gore baby-boomer ticket while writing scathing editorials about how Quayle can't spell potato.

Did anyone think to ask the teacher why he/she spelled it wrong on the spelling card in the first place? How come the public never reads about the more frequent good things that Quayle says?

What happen to equal coverage? Balance?

Giving each side equal time so that the public could make an educated decision based on the unbiased reporting of where the candidates stand on the important issues?

If someone had been locked in a box for the last year and a half, and read this week's newspapers and magazines, they'd probably think Clinton had just won the election by a landslide and Bush was making his farewell speeches from a hospital bed before being planted six feet under.

In two weeks, the Republican Convention will be held in Houston. This is Bush's time to kickstart his campaign and the media's chance to redeem themselves — but the question is will they?

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Summer 1992 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are: Adeana Leftin, editor; Cindy Kimbrough, features editor; Jeff Singer, copy editor; Stacie McKee, photo chief; James Mehsling, art director.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU

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Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

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

LETTER POLICY

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

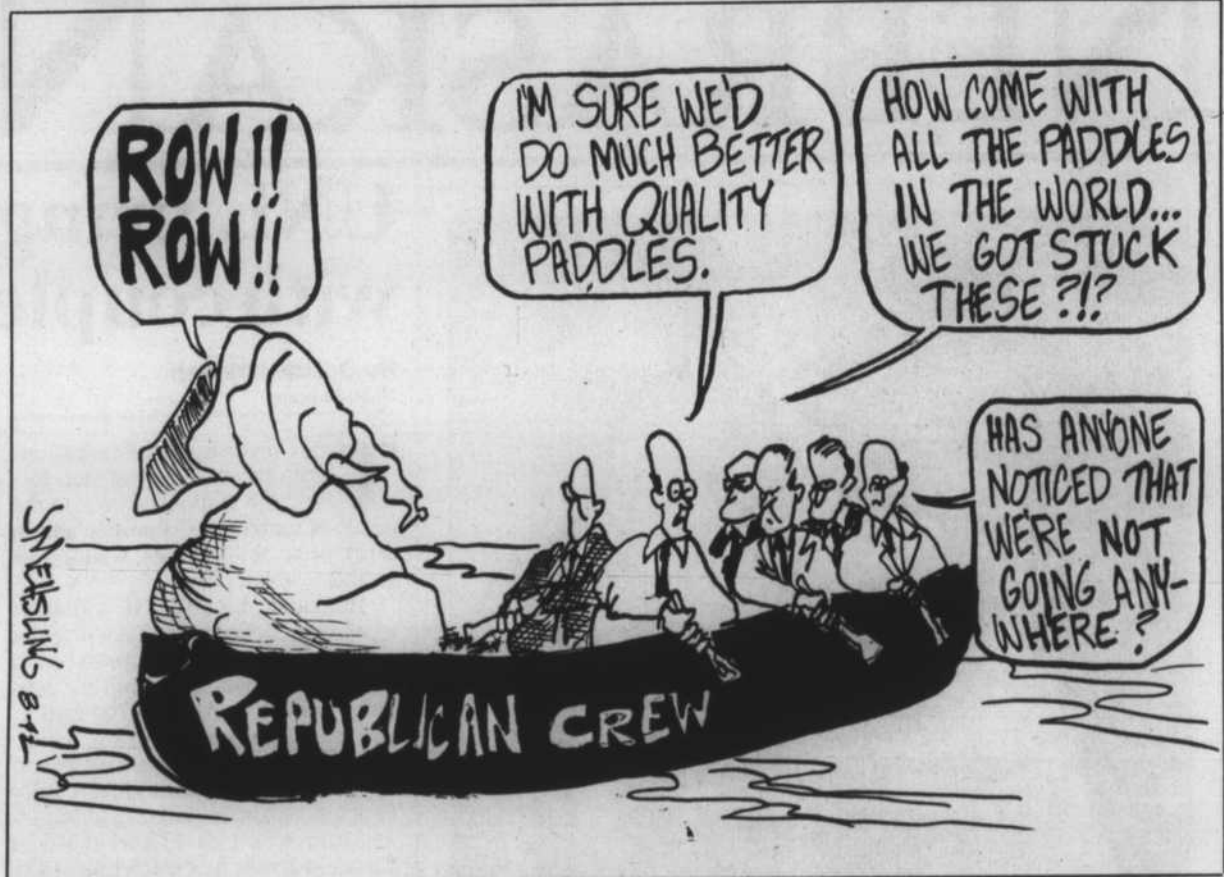
Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit or reject all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion is left to the editor's discretion.

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.



Does female chauvinism exist?

How many of you fellows out there have ever been walking down the street just minding your own business, when, all of a sudden, an angry woman comes storming out of nowhere, spits on your brand new sports coat and calls you a male chauvinist pig?

Maybe this particular scenario is a bit of an exaggeration, but you get the idea. Men are accused almost daily of being sexist, chauvinistic and sometimes downright beastly. And a lot of them deserve those titles. But there's a flip side to this coin that many people are unaware of — female chauvinism.

That's right — female chauvinism is alive and well probably in most parts of the world. It's an easy trap to fall into and a difficult habit to break. I know this. I've been there.

I can't tell you exactly when I discovered that I was a female chauvinist. Actually, I had always prided myself on being completely fair to everyone, male and female alike. In fact, I was always the first one to argue when my girlfriends would elaborate on what horrible creatures men were, pointing out how many "nice guys" we had as friends and how we just couldn't make those kinds of sweeping generalizations.

But in the back of my mind, I believed that these men were the exceptions. I also believed that the men who smiled at me when I passed them on the street, exchanged notes with me in class or in any way treated me with kindness were very likely brutal, wicked and cold-hearted in other situations. I never considered this to be an unfair assessment — I simply believed it. In fact, I thought everyone believed it.

I suppose the reality of my chauvinism started to kick in sometime during my sophomore year of college. This is usually the time that most of us begin to question things that we've always taken for granted and begin to adopt a more mature, realistic perspective. It was around this time that the women whom I'd spent hours with a few years before, discussing the innate evil of the male species, no longer seemed to agree with my harsh judgment.

It was also around this time that I found myself surrounded by many people I respected and cared for as friends who happened to be of this vile, evil species. I often slipped up by going on anti-male rampages, forgetting that these people I confided in belonged to the target group.

But the main thing that alerted me to my status as a female chauvinist was my nit-picking. Men could do no right. And if they did, I drove myself crazy looking for the catch. It was after I realized that in rare cases there was no catch, that it dawned on me. I hated men. I disliked them, I distrusted them, and, in fact, I feared them.

It was very easy for me to feel this way. One of the first things women are taught is that men are not to be trusted. It's almost impossible for a female child to spend any time around adult women without hearing stories of what conniving, insensitive pigs men are.

I, personally, was subject to many such stories and, for years, believed them unquestioningly. But it was more than that. I was jealous of men. I was jealous that they seemed not to worry about things as much as women, to get angry and belligerent in situations

where a woman would feel hurt and self-blaming and (here's the big one) not to care as much what happened in relationships as women.

I spent years trying to perfect these traits in order to outdo the men in my life. I resolved that if men were strong, I would be invincible; if men were intimidating, I would be terrifying; if men weren't open, I would be locked.

I make no secret of the fact that this didn't work quite the way I'd planned. In other words, most of the men who I tried these tactics on saw through it. The egotist in me wants to believe that this was because I'd broken the code and had been speaking to them in their language. I'll never know whether or not this was the case, but there is something I've started doing since then that has helped me to put my female chauvinism into perspective.

I've started talking with none other than those evil, threatening creatures themselves. I decided that if I was ever going to get past my fear, hatred and envy, I had to go straight to the source. And I was amazed at what I learned. The more men I spoke to and questioned about the reasons that men respond differently in certain situations than women, the more I realized that they were only human beings and not entirely different from me.

Of course, I'm referring to the majority. There will always be those who fall into the category of male chauvinist pigs. However, as a recovering female chauvinist, I realize that I am capable of the same unfairness and hostility as they are. I am happy to say that I am now much more selective about the men I criticize. I now narrow it down to the men I know.

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