

Tim
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Yellow journalism

Recent incidents hurt industry, but reporters still strive to be unbiased

TIM KARSTENS is a graduate student, news editorial major and Daily Nebraskan columnist.

As an aspiring journalist, I feel it serves me well to keep up with the daily news. I read two – sometimes three – newspapers a day, watch CNN and Headline News and listen to news-based radio stations. Not only is it important to stay informed on current issues and events, but much can be learned by observing others.

Of the media professionals I am exposed to every day, few leave much of an impression on me. Like many other people who love what they do, there are a select group of people I admire and those who don't quite cut it. Those I do admire have the ability to blend core journalistic principles with a creative delivery. Just because it is news doesn't mean it's bland.

But as I creep closer to graduation and my second entry into the "real world" (see escaping college dreamland and working every day), I am somewhat apprehensive. Why? Because I might earn more respect as a personal-injury

lawyer. Or a used car dealer. Perhaps a pornography producer. That's because in many opinion polls, journalists usually rank towards the bottom. In one poll, journalists came in last – behind lawyers and sales people – in professionals that Americans trusted. Lawyers and sales-people? Is this correct? Unfortunately, yes. Is it deserved? ABSOLUTELY NOT!

Recently, I was accused of being unfair by a source in a story I wrote. This person claimed I had made erroneous statements and had been biased in my reporting. Given that I had worked hard and been as thorough as I possibly could, I felt somewhat hurt. When this person asked that I apologize, I became angry. What should I apologize for? I was strenuous in my effort to get both sides of the story and succeeded in doing so. Should I admit I was biased and apologize? Myself and the editors of The Daily Nebraskan were satisfied we had a story and had met all of these criteria. Is that to say my source knows more about being fair? Do they think I fabricated information knowing they would read the story? If this person simply feels hurt or slighted by what was reported, I will not apologize.

“*In one poll, journalists came in last – behind lawyers and sales people – in professionals Americans trusted. Lawyers and sales people?*”

Contrary to popular public opinion, journalists couldn't be biased if they wanted. You see, opinion has no place in the news. (That is why you are reading this in the OPINION section and you will find news in the NEWS section) Any words or statements deemed to be of the reporter's opinion are not allowed. And bias? One of the basic elements taught in Reporting 101 is that all stories need at least two sources. That is, two sources to represent both sides of the story.

Unfortunately, recent incidents have further tarnished journalism. The CNN/Time report on the gassing of American defectors in Vietnam was exposed as fraudulent. A few people lost their jobs and apologies were issued. The Cincinnati Enquirer/Chiquita Banana flap

resulted in a firing and a front page retraction and apology. A Boston Globe columnist and a New Republic contributor both admit to fabrications. To say American journalism is suffering an image crisis would be an understatement. But that is one year and I don't think journalism will become Matt Drugged. I can assure you that every credible media outlet is concerned about its image and would do anything to preserve and improve it even in the face of increased public demand and competition. The bottom line is that when it comes to information dissemination, the media has an obligation to be responsible and would not exist if it were not. After all, we are not a class different from you. It is not the journalist's media, it is yours.

Emily
MILLS

Pick it up

Finding that special someone is easy with the proper introduction

EMILY MILLS is a senior advertising major and Daily Nebraskan columnist

Well, in the grand tradition of summer speeding by, I believe that this summer may have been one of the fastest. It has gone so fast that many of the things that summer is meant for have passed. I was talking to a friend of mine, discussing how we think the summer is all about finding some good looking men and partying! However we realize that the summer is coming to an end and we have yet to find any worthy men.

Now is the time to start the mission, and I feel that many of you are in the same situation. So here is the game plan. The plan is to hit the kickin' "O" street bars. Now, I know that not everyone is smooth

at just going up and talking to new people, so I have organized some good, as well as forbidden, pick-up lines for you.

Some promising lines would be:

- 1) Hi, my name is chance, do I have one?
- 2) Do you have a quarter? My mother told me to call home when I met the guy/girl of my dreams.
- 3) The ever popular, Don't I know you? Cheesy, yes, but it works.
- 4) Excuse me, do you have your phone number? I seem to have lost mine.

Okay, so these should get you in the clear and, at the very least, start a conversation. Then it's all up to you. Now the bigger idea is to make sure that you don't make a fool out of yourself and avoid the really bad pick-up lines. As a rule, make sure that you do not, under any circumstances, no matter how many drinks you have had, use these lines.

- 1) I may not be the best looking guy/girl here, but I am the only one talking to you.
- 2) Can I buy you a drink, or do you just want the money?
- 3) I enjoy doing maintenance, and you look like someone I would like to "tinker" around with.
- 4) I wish you were a pony carousel outside Walmart so I could ride you all day long for a quarter.
- 5) Oh, I'm sorry, I thought that was a Braille name tag.
- 6) I can't find my puppy, can you help me find him? I think he went into this cheap motel room.

Avoiding these bad pick-up lines and all other cheap lines, you should be OK. However, if you are unlucky and are going to get rejected, keep this scenario in mind:

Guy: "Would you like to dance?"
 Girl: "I don't care for this song and I surely wouldn't dance with you."
 Guy: "I 'm sorry, you must have misunderstood me, I said you look fat in those pants"
 That is a great come back line. If you ever need one, use it!
 Now, if the situation is reversed and you are not looking to meet someone, rather you are being bombarded by someone who is looking to meet you. Here is what you can do:
 Say you are approached by an individual who you are not the least bit interested in, and they say, "Haven't I seen you some place before?" You reply, "Yes, that's why I don't go there anymore and now I am going to have to stop coming here."
 While you are out and looking for the special someone, make sure to watch out for the avoidable things.

- 1) Never hit on someone who seems to be on a date or is with a boyfriend/girlfriend.
- 2) Watch out for "that guy/girl", you know the one, who has had way to much to drink and no one wants to talk to.
- 3) People with beepers that keep going off. They are trouble because they are probably already attached.
- 4) Watch for wedding rings. Sad, but I know it happens.
- 5) Mike Chatterton. Ladies, as a word of wisdom, and I know many of you have encountered this smooth gentleman, but stay away. He is trouble!
 Well, good luck, have a great rest of the summer and I hope these tips will make your social life a whole lot more exciting!

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