Late last semester, the Wayne Stater published an opinion editorial that assailed the current Governor of our state for “limiting press rights.” After a blathering introduction that threw petty insults, asked “Ricketts stans to sit this one out,” and insulted the intelligence of the reader, leaving me compelled to issue a rebut not only the unfair criticism of state leadership but of the Wayne Stater’s editorial board in general.

This specific op-ed should have never seen the light of day. For one, it has become standard practice for candidates and members of the executive branch alike to enable their press team to vet and verify the news agencies that wish to give preferential treatment to. Take for example, Former President Barack Obama suspending the rights of the New York Post and the Dallas Morning News to cover his campaign in 2008, simply on the basis that their op-ed teams endorsed John McCain for President.

If that isn’t satisfactory, take President Biden, who has largely resulted to not having press conferences with any frequency or has scripted questions from specific journalists because Biden taking questions and shooting answers from the hip has been largely disastrous for the elderly President.

Save the crocodile tears about the Ricketts administration from trying to keep rabid partisans and advocacy groups, such as Seeing Red Nebraska dot com, a left-wing rage-blog, from showing up to press events and engaging in performative activism behind the guise of “freedom of the press.”

Now, I am by no means a “Ricketts-stan.” I have criticized him openly. His stance on marijuana, and more specifically medical marijuana is absurd. I disagree with him on the legalization of gambling.

When Wayne Stater editors, and more specifically, the editor-in-chief, openly ask readers who do not align with the writer’s perspective to “sit this editorial out,” it causes grave concern. This shows that you’re not even attempting to compel or persuade individuals who might disagree with you. You are blowing hot air into the void. You’re using an irrelevant administrative procedural tactic to malign any political leaders who are remotely right-of-center, whilst

But alas, what else could possibly be expected from an editorial team that has called Pete Ricketts “useless,” given a spotlight to Vice President Harris (no recent spotlight of any GOP figure, and there are plenty to choose from), and published a falsely-worded, borderline slanderous quote calling Wayne State College racist, all within the previous five editions of the paper.

Gee, as if it’s any wonder how perspective could have possibly become so lost?

I propose a remedy: diversify your editorial board by adding—and I know this word is scary—a conservative to it. Invite someone who is willing to challenge you and push some boundaries.

And lastly, become more willing to check out and criticize political events that take place on this campus. Because trust me, cool things are happening all the time on campus, even when nobody seems to pay attention. Wouldn’t it be cool to have a member of the News Writers be dedicated to doing beat reporting for the Student Senate?

I look forward to seeing this published. I’ll leave the numerically made heart out of it.