

Um, I'd just like to say ...

While I applaud the innovation of the *Northern Advocate* and Channel North's involvement in the local body elections, I have but one criticism.

Channel North is not available to a large number of viewers in the region. As a consequence, the electorate relies heavily on the written word.

I was dismayed with the reporting of the televised interviews of the last few weeks. One would have expected the candidates responses to have been reported verbatim, yet the uhms and ahs, stuttering, hesitance, fluffing and the referral to notes, which indicates a lack of confidence and commitment of some candidates, was omitted from the transcript.

Those who did promote themselves well have, in my opinion, been disadvantaged by reporting that was not accurate.

I have attended many of the public meetings during this campaign, listened to the ever-changing statements of some candidates who desperately plagiarise other candidates views in the hope of scoring points and have been left with grave doubts as to the ability of these people.

Your reporting differs widely from what was said on the television and if your readers have used these articles to influence their votes, they have been misled.

BRIAN J. CRAIG
Whangarei

Editor's note: We'll make sure there are some "ums" and "ahs" left in. I'm sure voters will agree it's not all about smooth-talkers, though. If it was, Tim Shadbolt would never have been elected Mayor of Invercargill. But point taken, Brian, thanks for your letter.