

Dear Beth E.

LETTERS TO WHEATBREAD

Letters to
WheatBread
will not be
edited for
any reason

Dear Beth Eshelman,

I am angry and I am a feminist but, that is not why I am writing this letter. I am writing this letter because I believe that all humans deserve respect. Having been sexually harassed, assaulted, and raped, I take personal offense to the article "Protecting Your Right to Harass". If you have been the victim of violence or just believe on principle that humans deserve respect I urge you to rethink the jokes you made in this article. One of the reasons I choose to come to Clark was because I felt that it was a safe environment made up of intelligent students who are relatively not prejudiced. Students who would not write to tolerate such articles as the ones you wrote in the last issue of *Wheatbread*. The other article you wrote, "Celebrity Quiz", is also extremely disrespectful and prejudice. Violating someone is not funny. Making jokes about it not only leads to disrespect it alone is fundamentally disrespectful. I cannot urge you enough to think about the power of your words in shaping the world around you. In the articles "Protecting You Right to Harass" and "Celebrity Quiz" you reinforce the idea that people should be judged, discriminated against, laughed at or violated because of their sex, religion, and sexual orientation.

— Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Thank you for writing. You were the only soul in the entire community brave enough to take pen to paper and express your feelings about this controversial piece of satire, "Protecting Your Right to Harass." Apparently there has been great misunderstandings surrounding the article, misunderstandings so great that the Sexual Respect Committee decided to take itself out of its coma and send a letter to the community reinforcing them.

The idea for the article in question (namely, to expose the attitudes of sexism and prejudice by adopting the voice of a person with those attitudes in order to underscore the callousness and stupidity of them) came from a female staff member, and was then written by another. Nobody on the staff of *WheatBread*, male or female, feels that anybody has the "right to harass," nor subscribes to the views in the body of the piece. We were counting on the enormous byline, "By Steve Burns, President, TEP Brotherhood," to give away the fact that we were setting up fraternities and their ilk for some serious asshole-bashing. TEP, by the way, is a now-defunct Clark fraternity whom seniors may still remember.

We took a big risk in publishing the piece, because satire is often too subtle for mainstream audiences, and we are well aware of the sensitive nature of the issues raised in the article. We talked it over many times, from many different angles, and we agreed that the Clark audience was sophisticated enough to understand the mildly-disguised social statement being made. Just in case, however, we took several extra steps to make sure people knew that there was "more than meets the eye" to it, including putting a blatantly self-contradictory headline over it (nobody who believes sexual misconduct is Ok would describe it as "harassment," since that word is intrinsically derogatory toward the behavior in question).

We are truly sorry for any emotional trauma caused by the article, but we do not apologize for publishing it. We hope in the future that the groups who are responsible for raising awareness of these issues, and Clark citizens like you, dear Anonymous, will recognize who are the friends and the foes in this struggle, and perhaps fewer of the good guys will get taken down in "friendly fire." In the meantime, let's turn our attention to the real bad guys, the people with the attitudes portrayed in the article. —RM •

How to Read WheatBread

Due to recent problems and increased reader demand, *WheatBread* now provides an easy-to-understand label for each article. The categories are as follows:

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| Ironic (True) | Ironic in tone, but based on true information |
| Artsy | Usually intended to be artistic |
| Serious | To be taken basically at face value |
| Serious (Opinion) | To be taken basically at face value, but it'll give you room enough to disagree with it |
| Serious (Wry) | Like "Wry," but with a more informative emphasis |
| Human Interest | Something cute or interesting |
| In Joke | If you aren't in the loop, but you think you "get it," odds are you don't |
| Informative | F.Y.I. Just the facts. |
| Light | Like "Light-hearted (True)," not necessarily true, could be opinion, but basically, it's just fun |
| Light-hearted (True) | Like "Light," but always true |
| Satire | Any modern form of satire, most likely to be just misinterpreted |
| Olde School Satire | Dry, dead-pan, pretty subtle, possibly Swiftian |
| Clever | Often some kind of meaningless word exercise |
| Wry | Not unserious, but with an idiosyncratic slant |
| Amusing (Academic) | An amusing paper or report written for a class |
| Advertisement | An ad for a real thing, check it out |
| Joke Advertisement | A fake ad, it's a joke |

You will probably find yourself disagreeing with many of the categories in which we have chosen to put our featured articles. Suffice to say that we did our best, and even though Clark says that categorizing isn't something you can do here, it should probably say instead categorizing isn't something you can do very well here. We wouldn't have to categorize our features, frankly, if people weren't so stupid. *WheatBread* was never trying to be elitist, so if you were alienated, give it another shot. Thanks.

When and Where to Read WheatBread

Due to recent questions and lingering misconceptions, we now offer a guide to good locations and circumstances to read *WheatBread*. This magazine is not meant to be read in one sitting, like a newspaper. It is meant to be enjoyed, one feature at a time, over the course of a month or so. Some suggested reading scenarios are as follows:

Waiting for the Dentist
Train rides
Waiting for the Doctor
Bus rides
Waiting for a bus ride
Waiting for an airplane
Long car trips where you're not driving
When you're pooping
Whenever you would normally read a magazine
Waiting for your tax refund
Waiting for Godot

Hope this helps. Please do not dispose of *WheatBread* until you have exhausted the reading possibilities contained herein. And thank you for your SAF.

Top Ten Things To Do at Clark That Sound Dirty But Aren't

- 10) Hosting a prospective
- 9) Passing by acclamation
- 8) Logging into Gramps
- 7) CUMUN
- 6) Aural excitement from ROC-U
- 5) Meeting in Bemis
- 4) Finding UPNRP in your mailbox
- 3) Studying abroad for credit
- 8) Masticating in the dining hall
- 2) Breaking down on Charlotte
- 1) Packing a Howie