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IN THE NAME OF SATIRE

Satire seems to be taking quite a few hits these days. Complaints range from slight annoyance to accusations of racism and bigotry. Satire can be very dangerous if viewed at face value. This of course is not the goal of the writer. Satire is a literary mask that shields its true meaning by seemingly emulating what it wishes to criticize.

How we view a satirical piece is based in part on our own point of view. We may not even know a piece of written work is satire, and might even think that the work was meant to be flattering. With such misinterpretations, satire is bound to cause controversy. The subjects receiving the ridicule will also feel the need to question and attack the source. This of course depends on your interpretation of the satirical work.

What is satire? To quote Webster:

Satire- 1. a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn. 2. trenchant wit, irony, or sarcasm used to expose and discredit vice or folly.

That being said, here are some other definitions that may be useful.

Irony- 1. the use of words to express something other than and especially the opposite of the literal meaning. 2. incongruity between a situation developed in a drama and the accompanying words or actions that is understood by the audience but not the characters in the play.

Sarcasm- 1. a sharp and often satirical or ironic utterance designed to cut or give pain. 2. a mode of satirical wit depending for its effect on bitter, caustic, and often ironic language that is usually directed against an individual.

Writers who use these types of literary weapons sometimes find themselves to be quite unpopular with those in positions of power. Satirists of ancient Rome often placed the settings of their critical stories in rival Greece to avoid too closely offending the ruling class of Rome. This was done mainly to get the point across without the writer being fed to the lions. In contemporary America we have the U.S. Constitution to prevent such happenings unless of course, you are a Trojan Serf, to which you have absolutely no rights at all.*

**This is an example of sarcasm. This asterisk is also another example of sarcasm.*

Lets pick a subject. Lets say that Fraternities/Sororities are elitist. In my own personal opinion, to which I am entitled, I

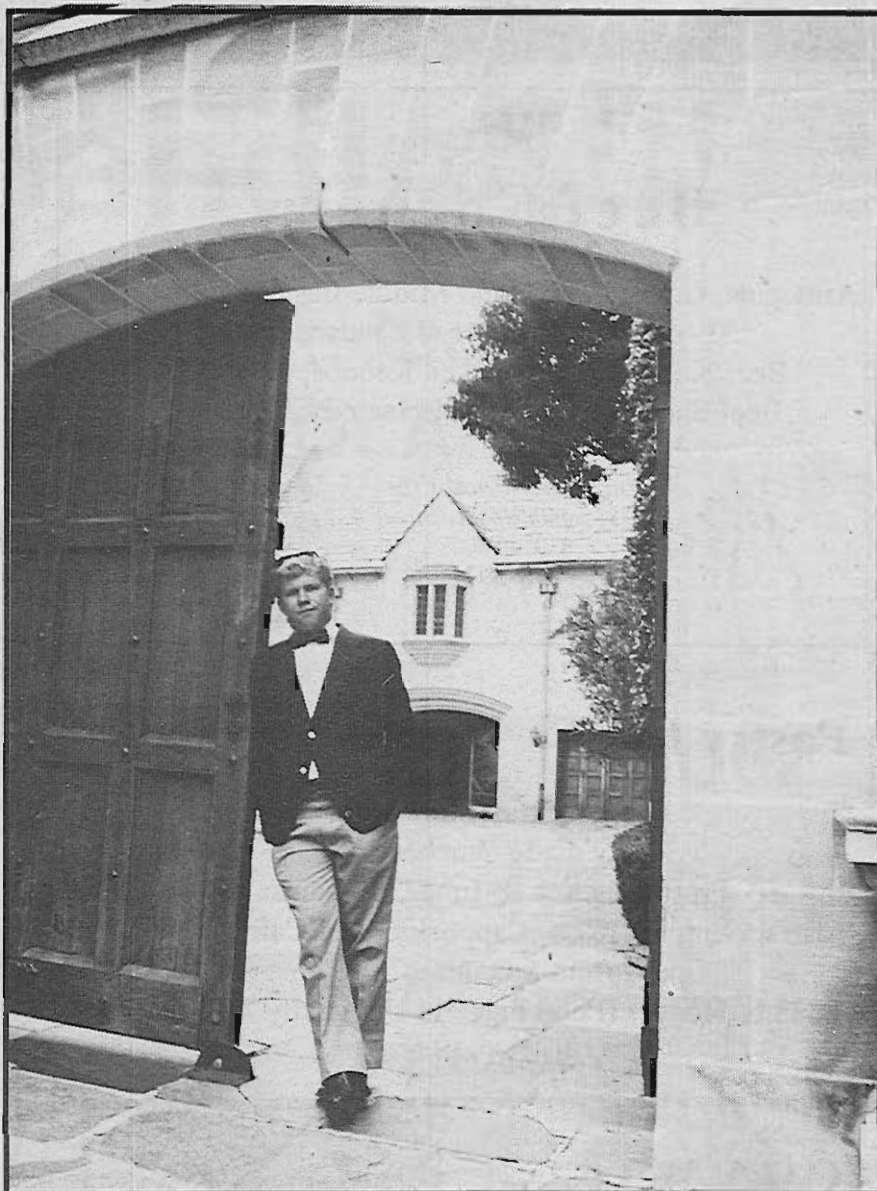
find the Greek system to be as elitist as hell. Any group that has a pledge period and a dinging process can not be considered a "come one, come all" party.

However, you will find that almost all functions in society are based on elitist thought. Universities select what they feel are the "best" students. Athletic teams pick the "best" players and so on and so on. What qualifies you is determined by what the established group desires. If you have it, you're in; if you don't, you're out. Of course the word elite is never used in America, due to a major dislike of kings during the Revolutionary War of 1776. Words like qualify and credentials are substituted.

Anyway, lets say that in my personal opinion, fraternities/sororities are elitist. By me saying this, of course, gives my critics something to complain about, but who cares... I'm an elitist, right? So here comes Mongo! Chances are she will not get in a sorority, and guess what? This fictional character does not get in.

Yes, the overtly ridiculous cartoon personality (take it from me, she's very rude) does not join a sisterhood. The lesson behind this? Perhaps "unshaven man in hideous dress not likely to be accepted by real females" could be a theme. Lets check the reader. If he/she is conservative, then he/she will say "Hurray, that's the way it should be," or if the reader is a liberal then he/she will interpret "Oh my, this is terrible. I'm so glad this was brought to my attention." And the readership continues to grow.

What if Mongo started her own sorority, and then more Mongos joined and more and more until they were the largest sorority in the whole wide world? And what if Mongo called this sorority Mongo Mongo Mu? And what if Mongo started her own college called Mongo U. And what if beautiful models complained about their rejection to Mongo U. and felt that Mongo was unfair and elitist? What if you have thought the writer of this article went insane at about the time he finished the first column? What if I married Mongo, and we both rented private planes and proceeded to crash them into Mt. Fuji? What if I took life so seriously that I suspected evil in every feature section and are right now at this very moment search-



A day in the life of Rob DuPont Jr.

ing for evidence that Weldon Wall is a leftwing Nazi tailgunner with poor eyesight? What if you had thought that this article might have been an intelligent and thoughtful look at the life of the Southern Californian and then realized that this was not the case?

In my lifetime, perhaps someday I will sit down and worry about how others may view me, but until then I intend to live life to the fullest, enjoying every possible moment that I am alive because life is too short to stay young, and if you stay young then you can't get old, and if you can't

get old, then you can't retire...hey! Get away from me!*

Weldon Wall has been declared illegally insane by the California Correctional Institute of San HozaMaria. He now plays with small colored blocks*

***This has been a satirical article. Now go away.*

FUN FACTS:
Duke Ellenton did not write "Take the A Tram."

BYE!



Swimsuit Nightmare