

# Letters to the Editor

## A Long Way Off From Reality

Dear Editor:

I am writing in reference to an article one of your staff members wrote. It was a comic strip meant to be a joke, but to the audience it was aimed at, it meant much more. The comic strip depicted a stereotype of young black men as having afros, Malcom X t-shirts, using incorrect grammar, talking dirty to women, and the act of masturbation or exposing one's body parts in a phone booth.

Knowing that this strip would be controversial, how could you, the editor, publish such a stereotypical cartoon? Is it to make your paper stronger, or to get more attention? Is the success of the paper dependent on written trash? There is not a black person on campus that found that cartoon funny, and if they did, they need to reevaluate themselves and their heritage. They, as well as you, need to take a good look at what society is doing to minorities, especially blacks. We have enough problems facing our people, and one of the biggest things we have to fight against is stereotypes, so we do not need any of your comics to make matters worse for us. How does this look to white people reading this cartoon, especially here in Brevard?

Your sorry comic strip is going against what we black people are trying to fight against. We do not need your humor or what you perceive a West Indian to be like. We are fighting strongly against stereotypes, and your strip did not help the battle in any way. We do not need this type of humor to make us laugh. There is nothing funny about putting down someone's heritage or race. I think that you need to check your surroundings and take a good look at what society is doing to black people. Then evaluate what you thought of as an innocent joke and ask yourself, "Was my comic strip really funny? Was it appropriate? Did it help matters in any way? Did I offend anyone?"

I don't know what world you are living in, but it's a long way off from reality.

Sincerely,  
Steven Kahn

## Offended by Prejudice Material

Dear Editor,

I was saddened to see material in *The Clarion* which I considered to be

racist and homophobic. I am referring to the editorial and two cartoons by James Woodley in the Feb. 15 issue. I realize that the editors of *The Clarion* can choose to print anything they want to. I simply would like for it to be known that at least one member of the college community found this material to be deplorable.

Sincerely,  
Don Lander

## Clarion Hits a Low

Dear Editor,

*The Clarion* hit a low with its last publication. This was largely, but not solely, due to the "contributions" of Assistant Editor James Woodley, who thinks nothing of insulting a large portion of the students, staff, and faculty of Brevard College.

When I was an undergraduate, our university paper had a talented cartoonist on its staff. Whether or not one agreed with his political leanings, it was clear to all that his work was keen, informed, and insightful.

If James Woodley aspires to such a career, at any level beyond *The Clarion*, the demands of competition will force him out. In the small arena of a small college paper, it is apparently possible to be published with as little to offer as he has offered: cheap shots, racism, bigotry, confusion and, yes, bad drawing.

To move into larger circles will

require much larger thinking. Let us hope that larger thinking will prevail for other reasons as well, and that it will be accompanied by tolerance, understanding, knowledge and wisdom: concepts that are encouraged, James, by Judeo-Christian teachings.

Sincerely,  
Jo Pumphrey

## SGA Demands Apology

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the S.G.A. of Brevard College: this letter is written in regard to the two comics and editorial in the last *Clarion*, Feb. 15, 1993. Questions have been raised surrounding the issues of prejudice and bigotry.

The constitution allows for the Freedom of Speech, but some firmly believe that this may be taking that right too far. The printing of these articles was in poor judgment and taste. Many of our peers are deeply disgruntled because of this. The school newspaper is supposed to be informative and non-bias. We are therefore requesting a letter of apology from James Woodley, and the Editorial Staff and an explanation as to why you printed the comics.

Thank You,  
Brevard College  
S.G.A.

## Explain Yourself

Dear Editor,

This is written in response to *The Clarion* of Feb. 15, 1993. There were two cartoons and a portion of an article that I found very offensive. I was not only offended, I was angered, dismayed and somewhat frightened by the obvious prejudice, bigotry, hatred and mean-spiritedness which I found there.

All of the pieces I found bothersome were created by James Woodley. The cartoon showing the two men in uniforms holding hands I found quite perplexing. I have no idea what Mr. Woodley really meant, but I saw the cartoon as a homophobic, gay-bashing piece of hatred.

In the article, "You wasted your vote on Clinton," Mr. Woodley wants us to read Romans 1:26 to prove the immorality of homosexuality. I would suggest that Mr. Woodley read further in the book of Romans, specifically, 14:10.

The third part of *The Clarion* which bothered me was the blatantly racist cartoon on the back page.

I feel that racist, sexist, homophobic materials have no place in our campus newspaper. I also think that an apology to the campus from Mr. Woodley (or at least an explanation) would not be out of place.

Sincerely,  
Sam L. Cope

