

Opinions

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Women Not As Meat, But As Women

By Norah Scheinman '09
Herald Contributor

Response to "The New Meat vs. the Established Beauties"

In fear of writing an article that was too reactionary, I waited a whole ten minutes to put pen to paper. I am seething at the author of *The New Meat vs. the Established Beauties*, at a campus of people who perpetuate and excuse such thinking by printing it, and a society that enables such flawed values. Let us just say that with that 'contribution', you raised a lot of questions (Fourteen seemed like a good, even, starting place.) that I feel ought to be asked in hopes one day they will be answered.

First, to the author: Clearly this was an opinion piece, *your* opinions (whoever you are, why were you too scared of your opinion to put your name to it?), but those come out as an expression of your values which at some point are faulty. Who in their quick, discerning, mind would write about the threatened sexual dominance of elder women? Who has ever thought that our culture uses age as a way to judge an individual's right to pleasure? The level of flippant discrimination and unstated ignorance that was contained in this piece made me ashamed to go to school here.

Secondly, to the HWS campus: Are the women of this campus consciously going to accept and excuse the use of our bodies as "exploitation[s]"? Doesn't that make you feel pathetic and disgraceful? If not, it should. I highly recommend you go to Seneca Falls and learn about the people who fought for your legal right to go to college, a privilege you're

either unaware of or purposely flaunting. Perhaps you could go abroad to India and come to the realization that humanities reason (To think in a connected, sensible, or logical manner; to employ the faculty of reason in forming conclusions (in general, or in a particular instance. *OED*) is what sets us apart from other living beings on this planet and the struggle for knowledge is our most precious gift. I know; I've been there.

Furthermore, what kind of "established" leaders of the campus are you? Why did you come to this school if all you planned on doing was being exclusive to those you should be mentoring and in turn learning from? I don't know if this needs to be spelled out, but you *can* learn something about Life from *everyone* (regardless of sexuality, class, race, gender, age, religion, heritage, or physical appearance). Did you happen to learn through a dramatic series of personal events that you have to always look your best or else your significant cuddle-buddy might someday run off with a younger gal? Did you ever happen to stop and think that maybe as women we need to consciously challenge that misogyny (Hatred or dislike of, or prejudice against women, *OED*)? Why *can't* women be in control of their own sexuality? Why can't *we* choose what makes an attractive woman, not the media or the men in our lives?

Isn't the possibility of male predators enough without us threatening our own gender? Why *can't* we speak

up to men and encourage them to support our endeavors, not because of our gender, but because we share one brilliant thing in common - our reason. If any of you have read Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* you might say that we sound rather similar, and you'd be right. On this subject she couldn't have been more insightful: that the most passionate connection between two humans is the shared journey of knowledge. If we hold that journey to be sacred (as we should, as it would be presumed we did because we have indicated our dedication to its cause by matriculating here), then shouldn't we be striving with all our might to encourage those around us so we can achieve greatness, *together*? Is that not, in fact, what Barack Obama is teaching us, that society can change, but only *together* and only *willingly*? Another brilliant point Ms. Rand made in that work was that *consent* is our power. If we willingly accept actions that occur around us which stem from values we deem as faulty, then we are as much at fault as those we would cast stones upon.

I'd really like to see this article result in some constructive dialogue. I could very easily have attacked the author or a specific group of people on campus from an irrational place of assumptions (such as was done in the article in question) but I chose not to because I believe that it's possible that through dialogue and perseverance, reason will prevail.

For The Record...

By printing the article "New Meat" The Herald staff was relaying the opinion of one individual on this campus. We are in no way "perpetuating" or "excusing" such thinking by printing the article.

To the author of "Woman not as Meat, but as Woman", if we had not printed it, the opinion would have still existed and you would not have been able to point out how grotesque it is. To the author of "New Meat", I would like to borrow a quote from Voltaire and say, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it". This message brought to you by Shena Vagliano '10, *Opinions Editor*

Do Onto Students as You Would Have Students Do Onto You, Campus Safety

By Shena Vagliano '10
Opinions Editor

"I know you're not about to get out of your car," a campus safety officer hollered at me just as I had pulled into the loading zone behind Potter and switched on my caution lights. I had forgotten a book for my photography class and had intended to run up to my room and grab it, leaving my car in the admittedly illegal spot for a total of about thirty seconds because, as those of you who have ever tried to park in the JPR parking lot know, there are never any convenient parking spots open. As put off as I was by the officers' initial comment I attempted to explain my situation to him, but I couldn't get more than three words out before he repeated his initial statement, "I know you're not about to get out of your car."

There was then an awkward twenty-second pause as we sat there staring at each other, clearly each of us having a very different understanding about what my intentions were. He broke the silence, sensing that I was in fact about to get out of my car, by saying he would give me a \$10 ticket if I got out of my vehicle because it was not an actual parking spot. Despite being tempted to be the obnoxious, selfish college student he had presumed me to be by sprinting to my room and back before he could finish writing the ticket, I decided to contain

myself and obey his orders by parking in a real spot.

While I fully admit that my parking job was illegal and that the campus safety officer had every right to ask me to park in a legitimate spot, it was an outrageous manner in which to speak to me. I was truly shocked because while people complain about unpleasant run-ins with campus safety all the time, I had never encountered them myself in such a setting.

Additionally, I know that there has been a desire to improve the current image of campus safety as evil security guards that are out to get you. It seems to me that one way to achieve that goal is to recognize that dealing with a student who is walking around JPR smoking a cigarette and drinking a beer in the same manner that you treat a student who is trying to park for one minute to grab a book, conveys an assumption that all college students are being arrogant and/or insolent when violating a regulation. To make such a generalization is insulting to those of us who do act like adults and rob us of the respect that we rightly deserve. If you want to change our perception of your role on this campus, discarding that college kid stereotype is an excellent place to start.

Words From An Alum: At Least Try Not to Break Anything

By Alex Marsh
Herald Contributor



Since graduating from Hobart I have used my biology degree to its fullest potential by running a ski shop in central Colorado. In the ski industry, this is a very important time of year for one specific

reason: spring break. The time has arrived for the ritualized escapism, usually scheduled in the month of March, held for college students to blow off steam, boost liquor companies' share holder prices and exchange STD's with lovers they wouldn't be caught dead with back at school. I remember many of my spring breaks; after all I was an HWS student for roughly seven years. However, more notably, I have very little

summer of 2003, I am still banned for life from ever staying at a Hampton Inn or any Hilton owned hotel. (I guess that means it's never going to happen between Paris and me). Furthermore, as far as I know, I am still banned for life from any hotel owned by the Mexican company Oasis Resorts (trust me you don't want to know.) This is not a pot calling the kettle black sort of lecture though.

The first spring break I experienced in the mountains was far from a burden. I met a group of Tri-Delt's from the University of Alabama on the mountain who had been staying at a dorm in Breckenridge and they kept getting robbed while they were out skiing. I offered my extra rooms to the girls and they cordially



accepted. The only disappointment of their stay was that I couldn't talk them into a pillow fight. It seems, according to the movies, that pillow fights in night gowns are up there on the sorority girls' list of fun things to do. I didn't find that to be the case. However during subsequent spring breaks at the ski area I have witnessed my parked car get hit by a drunk driving college student, a nice pair of my skis get stolen and I've been punched in the face by a wasted spring breaker because he thought I was hitting on his girlfriend (I actually was but that's not the point).

I am trying hard here not to complain about kids flooding our small town, overdrinking, causing problems and then fleeing. In many ways the residents of small resort towns, whether they be mountain or tropical, are permanently guilty of the same escapism being sought by drunken, horny college students. In several instances, especially among the male half of the population of my area, these residents have never really emotionally grown much beyond the drunken, horny stage of early adulthood anyway. Although the term "male half of the population" is a little misleading because the male to female ratio of Summit County Colorado is seven to one.

Not only must I refrain from complaining too much about the hedonism that accompanies spring breakers, because it's that hedonism that brought us all here in the first place, but spring break is pretty much the only time of the year that any of us male locals ever get any. That's right, I said it, life after college for me has become a perpetual drought, so think about that the next time you're trying hard to contemplate which one of your three options you really want to take home after the bars close.

I only learned this lesson of traveling respectfully, like so many other important lessons in life, after I changed sides in the debate. Ultimately, a community will be more open to revealing those treasures travelers are there to experience if they are reassured that those travelers aren't going to ruin those treasures. I am not saying that you should always behave in a manner your mother would condone (I guess that depends on your mother). I hope you all get crazy, kiss some brain cells, sun burn something private, hook up with anonymous persons, and contribute to the local economy, just try not to ruin anyone else's day while your at it. Get your disco on but don't break the disco ball in the process. Remember, local cops are hard on tourists, always wear a condom, tip generously and never should you ever talk on your cell phone from the chair lift. Other than that have fun, enjoy that you aren't me this month, because if you were you'd be trying to find a safe place to park your car.



recollection of a few other spring breaks. I now have more to do with spring breaks than I ever wanted to. My experience working in the ski industry, from the receiving end of spring break has forced one very important question. Is it necessary to behave poorly to have a successful spring break?

At risk of sounding old, I understand that the pressure of college studies can be crippling and letting it consume you may ultimately mean death to one's academic career. In this setting it may be necessary to take crazy to a new level in order to return to one's studies in a state of psychological homeostasis. I condone that sort of behavior. But for every hotel room that gets trashed, some poor house keeper has to clean it up. As it stands today, due to an unruly road trip undertaken in the

"Working with my pre-schooler was the most rewarding and influential work experience of my four years at HWS."

-Kate Ustach '07

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