

Hilarious flaws



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Hilarious Flaws BY Fana-Rashid Karrie Yusefzad English 12 Instructor Wilder 6 November 2013 Whether it is via film, late night television shows, newspapers, comics, or literature, satire is found virtually everywhere. Satire reminds and teaches us as humans to laugh at ourselves every once in a while, as well as directs us to acknowledge and accept our own imperfections as we strive to become perfect people. Satire helps us as humans take a step back and see what life is truly about.

Late night television shows such as Saturday Night Live, which has been on television since 1975, are created just to satirize humanity. Actors make jokes out of political and social situations on the weekly segment Weekend Update. These jokes, wherever they are from, help us understand who we are and who we want to be. It allows us to celebrate the life that we live, no matter how bad it can get. In fact, making the situation humorous may even make it easier to handle.

Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" celebrates and satirizes humanity, especially the "everyman", in his story he included two characters in particular, one representing the best of humanity and the other illustrating the worst. Chaucer ironically idolizes the Knight, who represents everything us humans aspire to be. "He was of sovereign value in all eyes. And though so much distinguished, he was wise and in his bearing modest as a maid. He never yet a boorish thing had said in all his life to any, come what might; he was a true, perfect gentle-knight. (Chaucer 69-74) Chaucer says that though the knight had been through so many brave and amazing situations, from Alexandria to Prussia, fought against the Turks, and in Granada, he had never once been overconfident: he remained as modest as one could be. The

Knight symbolizes everything good in a human, Chaucer does not satirize him at all; however, it is the complete opposite with the Pardoner. The Pardoner symbolizes the lowest a man could get, he cheats, he steals, and he lies all for the benefit of himself.

Chaucer narrates that " he had the same small voice of goat has got. His chin no beard had harbored, nor would harbor, smoother than ever chin was left by barber. I judge he was a gelding, or a mare. " Chaucer describes the Pardoner as a mare because making fun of others is one of many ways of making ourselves feel better, yet still a way to see that all humans are flawed. Similar to Chaucer, Seth Meyers of Saturday Night Live does a great, hilarious, yet interesting way of satirizing others, making us feel better as humans, and still show us how to celebrate life.

Not only does he satirize politicians, but he also finds a way to satirize common people. In a recent episode of Saturday Night Live he states " A man in Hawaii came face to face with a shark while surfing survived by punching the shark in the face, meanwhile saw a cockroach in the bathroom and now I shower at the gym" (SNL S39 E4) Examples such as this one show that humans make funny decisions, yet it still finds a way to celebrate life because the guy lived and the people but still makes fun of himself.

Humans are flawed, and it is better and easier to satirize the flaws, rather than try so hard to become perfect. Satire is seen every day, everywhere, whether it is television, literature, movies, comics, newspapers, etc. It is a great way to show the flaws, but helps all of mankind to aspire to become better people as well as celebrate the unperfected yet beautiful life we have.