



Humor Americana

Connecticut Review Writing Contest, Fall 2009

In the age of the so-called “death of irony,” *Connecticut Review* celebrates one of the original American ironists, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, or Mark Twain, with a contest for student writing in the tradition of American humor and wit. The contest marking the 100th anniversary of Twain’s death in 1910 is open to all undergraduate and graduate students in the CSU system. Contest rules below.

During his long life, Twain authored the seminal American novel, *Huckleberry Finn*, along with dozens of other works of fiction, satires, essays, travelogues, lectures, speeches, Chautauqua performances, and journalism. One of his first published stories was “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.” Twain was unrivaled at mixing immense seriousness and humor. A random selection of his quotes makes the point:

- “A man is never more truthful than when he acknowledges himself as a liar.”
- “A person who won’t read has no advantage over one who can’t read.”
- “To succeed in life, you need two things: ignorance and confidence.”
- “Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand.”
- “All right, then, I’ll go to hell.”

Contest Deadline. All entries must be postmarked no later than Dec. 7, 2009.

Contest Rules.

--The broad theme for the contest is Humor Americana, humor in the American tradition that includes, in our times, Steve Martin, Homer Simpson, Joseph Heller and Seinfeld. Entries should be written in a humorous vein, but that means anything from dry humor and understatement to satire and burlesque.

--The writing contest is open to all undergraduate or graduate students in the Connecticut State University System.

--The submission may be in any genre: fiction, poetry, one act play, flash fiction, essay, prose poetry or other. A selection should not be longer than 4,000 words.

--The editors of *Connecticut Review*, the national literary magazine sponsored by the Connecticut State University system, will select from one to three entries for publication in the Fall 2010 issue of *CTReview*. It also reserves the right not to select any entries in the event that none meet our editorial standards.

--Submit TWO copies of your work with your name on the cover page only.

--Include stamped self addressed envelope (SASE) for reply.

-- Submissions should be addressed to Vivian Shipley, English Department, Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Crescent St., New Haven, CT 06515. Mark HUMOR on the envelope.

The winners or winner will read the work at the Mark Twain House in Harford at an event in April, 2010.