



2021

Message Received

Chad Erickstad

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Recommended Citation

Erickstad, Chad (2021) "Message Received," *Floodwall Magazine*: Vol. 2: Iss. 6, Article 10.
Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/floodwall-magazine/vol2/iss6/10>

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Message Received

Dear Writer,

Thank you so much for sending in your writing—reading it was truly an interesting experience. This was clearly an earnest attempt at artistic expression. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept your submission. We feel that your creation needs work. Although we rarely do this, we have included some suggestions:

Consider replacing every word in your composition with a *different* word. Try not to use synonyms. We feel that it is important to change the structure, tone, rhythm, and meaning of your work. Replacing every word will expedite this process. We think that making this minor change will result in a better piece and possible publication (although not in *this* publication).

Honestly, though, publication for a writer of your “talents” is a bit of a longshot. Have you considered other lines of work? Based on your submission, we feel that writing may not be a hallmark of your current abilities. Although, again, we rarely do this, we have assembled a list of possible, more reasonable occupations that you may find more suitable to your talents:

- Restroom attendant
- Chicken sexer
- Self-storage unit manager
- Elf assistant to a mall Santa
- Toll booth operator
- Exorcist (minor order only)
- Test subject in clinical trials
- United States Senator

We at this publication fervently believe that by submitting your work, perhaps as a “cry for help,” you are putting yourself on the right

track toward self-improvement and, hopefully, some primitive form of happiness. Ideally, you will take this advice and bury your artistic dreams deep, deep underground and become a useful member of our crumbling society. Good luck!

Sincerely,

The Editors

***Chad Erickstad** is a junior at UND; he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in English.*