

front

Editorial. . . .

Are We Really Ready?

By Roy Wood

The Christmas season is upon us once again. It is that time of year when we who call ourselves "Christians" celebrate . . . or at least are supposed to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we ponder the miracle of his virgin birth and the lowly place where He was born . . . in a stable, and the miracles he performed during his short life span . . . 33 years old when he was hung on a cross and crucified . . . I wonder if you have given any thought to what may possibly happen to Jesus if he should (as is promised in the Bible) return to earth right now?

Just suppose that this Christmas, Christ should return to earth and would come riding down main street USA on his donkey . . . dressed in nothing but a sheet (or loin cloth), his face un-shaven and wearing open sandals on his feet in the dead of winter. What do you suppose would happen to him? I'll tell you . . . First off, when he appeared on main street as I have described, he would cause such a traffic jam that the police would arrest him for obstructing a main thoroughfare. When they haul him off to jail, and note that he is so scantily clad and Jesus tries to tell them that he is the son of God, the authorities would deem him crazy and send him off to the booby hatch.

Now if Jesus is lucky enough to escape that fate . . . consider this. When released from police custody, and noting the abject poverty and suffering of poor people, Jesus would start going about doing his "Love Thy Neighbor Thing" like feeding the hungry and clothing the naked . . . he would receive a whole lot of flack from welfare agencies who would claim that Jesus is trying to put them out of business by making welfare unnecessary! You can imagine the kind of wild, weird sounds and actions that would be coming from the food and grocery cartels when Jesus starts feeding the poor and hungry people for free! They most likely would tar and feather him and run him on a rail out of town!

If our Lord and Savior should escape that happenstance, he would run head-on into another potential buzz saw when he starts "healing the sick." First doctors would accuse Christ of highway robbery because they would

not be able to "rob" the sick any longer themselves, and then the AMA would get into the act and demand that Jesus be arrested and jailed for "practicing medicine" without a license! Now if Jesus escaped that fate and started his Lazarus thing . . . "raising the dead" you would hear a commotion like you have never heard before from the local undertakers.

Any way you look at it . . . if Jesus returned to earth this Christmastime he would be in big trouble. Not so much because the people would not be ready for his good works . . . healing the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and raising the dead . . . but mainly because people are not yet quite ready to accept His admonition to "love thy neighbor as thyself". As a matter of fact, most of us find it quite hard to really "love" anybody except ourselves . . . and even that love is suspect because of the way many of us misuse and abuse our health and bodies. Racist minded "Christians" would refuse to love Jesus if he comes back, simply because he wouldn't be "WHITE."

Fortunately . . . at least for Jesus . . . Christmas gives all of us the chance to put selfishness and hatred on the back burner, thereby giving God and his son a well earned rest from their day to day ministrations to the victims of those two evils. During this holiday season, I think it would be a good time for all of us regardless of color or race, to make an effort to be more like Jesus, because if we don't do that . . . I'm of the opinion Jesus will

never come back to earth again! You wouldn't want to be crucified a second time either—would you? I know I wouldn't and neither would Jesus. Anyway . . . merry Christmas everybody. This is just one Black man's opinion. What's yours? I'm Roy Wood

Scene Feedback

National Scene Praised

Dear Mr. Reed:

Let me take this opportunity to commend you for your editorial and graphics treatment of *National Scene*. In my opinion, and others of my colleagues here at Ruder & Finn, your magazine is well written and well balanced from the standpoint of the issues you cover. I thought that you should know how favorably impressed we are since I think too many people never take the time to praise good professional work.

Sincerely,

Sonny Bierman

Senior Vice President

Ruder & Finn NYC

Dear Mr. Reed:

I have just finished the October issue of *National Scene* and I was impressed with your interview with Hugh Masekela—very intelligent and perceptive. Also, your theatre reviews are extremely thoughtful. You show a real understanding of theatre and an appreciation of the actor's, director's and playwright's work. Being an actress myself I am aware of the efforts that you bring forth. The interview with Hazel Bryant is great too. I can't wait for the November installment. Congratulations—you are doing a superb job.

Thanks so much,

Maggie Sobol

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On The Cover . . . "MAGIC STAR"

By A. C. Hollingsworth

In these times of uncertainty, one must look for a note of inspiration and happiness . . . "The Bible," and its many lessons for mankind, was my inspiration as the holiday season comes upon us.

The "Holy Star" that guided the wise men to the Christ Child served as motivation for "MAGIC STAR" the cover painting. A.C.H.

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