

Opinion

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Editorials

No Slapstick Comedy

Actor Ted Danson's racist antics at last week's roast in New York City for his girlfriend Whoopi Goldberg was no slapstick comedy routine.

Mr. Danson's appearance in blackface and his insensitive remarks were reprehensible, denigrating and strikes a severe blow to every effort this country is attempting to make in terms of race relations. And for Ms. Goldberg to condone his actions — she even claims to have written some of the supposedly comedic material — is even more laughable. Ms. Goldberg, who is black but has taken on a Jewish name and white boyfriends, apparently to bolster her career, finds nothing disturbing about racist jokes being made, the casual usage of the pejorative "nigger," or a white man appearing in blackface at a function in her honor. Ms. Goldberg should not allow her seemingly assimilation into white culture to give her amnesia as to how blackface, a longtime staple at minstrel show was a gross caricature of Negro people.



Ted Danson

Talk show host Montel Williams and New York City Mayor David Dinkins, both of whom were present at the Friar's Club roast for Ms. Goldberg, were incensed that they could witness such open insensitivity in the 90s. Ms. Goldberg attacked them both. She didn't mind that Mr. Danson made jokes about the sexual acts she performs or how he joked about his family's remarks when he first brought her home. Whoopi Goldberg, in more of a sense of stupidity than loyalty, is standing by her man. Her handling of the situation involving the racist antics of her boyfriend could be seen as even more archaic than the antics themselves.

Black American Nobel

African American novelist and essayist Toni Morrison, last week's recipient of the Nobel Prize in literature, is a most worthy winner of the distinguished honor. The 62-year-old professor of humanities at Princeton, who becomes the first black American to win the honor, writes with a style that evokes both a sense of humanity and humor. As readers of Ms. Morrison's six novels may or may not be aware, the world in which her characters live can often be a brutal one where hatred, privation and prejudice abound. Her brilliant writing, however, serves to keep the anger under control. One of Ms. Morrison's works, "Beloved," won a 1988 Pulitzer. In "Beloved" an enslaved mother slices the throat of her 2-year-old daughter rather than return her to servitude. Another of Ms. Morrison's more notable novels is "The Bluest Eye." There, she tells of a young black girl who prays nightly that she awakens with blue eyes.



Toni Morrison

Ms. Morrison's \$825,000 that accompanies the Nobel Prize distinction, she says, is the climax and that she is trying to think of creative ways to spend it. But please, spend a few dollars on a box of yellow legal pads, place them by your bedside and through your prose, continue to give a voice to that group's which have been lost in time.

Hospice: A History of Caring For Our Community

To the Editor:

It could be one of the best kept secrets in health care today, but if volunteers from Hospice of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County, Inc. have their way, everyone in Forsyth county will hear about Hospice, a special kind of care for people with a limited life expectancy, when November is observed nationwide as National Hospice Month.

Death is not a pleasant subject to discuss and a lot of people don't know that something called hospice even exists or what it can offer. Yet hospice has been caring for the people of Forsyth County since 1979, and we are committed to reaching anyone who may need our services.

The goal of hospice is to enable the dying to enjoy the best possible quality of life until their last moments, pain-free, surrounded by friends and family, a home, in a nursing home or in a hospital.

This November, Hospice of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County, Inc., volunteers and staff hope to involve partners from the media, business and other organizations to raise awareness of hospice and its important role in the community. Using the theme "Hospice: Caring For Our Community," more than 1,800 hospice programs all across the nation will conduct special events during National Hospice Month.

In Forsyth County, special events have been planned. These include Hospice Sabbath and "Light Up A Life."

Hospice is one of the fastest growing fields in health care today. In Forsyth County, Hospice serves approximately 250 patients and their families every day.

For additional National Hospice month details, or for more information about the hospice concept of care, contact Community Relations at 768-3972.

Ann Phelps
Hospice of W-S

Clean Campaign

To the Editor:

I want to thank Robert Norlan-

der for the clean campaign he ran in defeating me in the September 21st primary for the Southeast Ward Seat. He exemplifies the type of person we need in leadership: aggressive, intelligent, honest and above all, a person who practices Christianity.

If you want good government, you must get involved. November 2 will be your chance to vote for Robert Nordlander and for a better future. I expect the election to be close, and your vote is very important. Criticizing and despising the incumbent is useless, unless you vote. By not voting, you are letting his opponent, Larry Womble, continue to abuse the police department, All-America city award, city personnel, etc. You and your family don't deserve another four years of higher crime and embarrassment.

Dale Catlett

Lucy Lancaster and Staff
W-S, Forsyth County
Schools/ Schools
Social Work Program

Community Home

To the Editor:

I am so glad to hear that more African-American organizations should apply for grants. Because I for one feel there should be a nursing home in my community and with that thought, being on Social Security could enable me to put in more time and dwell upon more events for the patients. Having to deal in a white-owned nursing home, I've found you have to go along with their program. But if a nursing home was placed in our community and black-owned, then there would and could be changes to fit our culture.

Wanda Ravinell

Carlyle as a paralegal.

In 1986 I enrolled at UNC Chapel Hill-School of Medicine and graduated in June 1990. I pursued my residency in General Internal Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital (affiliated with Brown University) in Providence, R.I., (90-93) and recently accepted a clinical faculty position at Pawtucket Memorial Hospital.

During my three years in Rhode Island I have been actively involved in various projects including Big Brothers, Omega Psi Phi Frat. Inc., the Explorers Program, as well as serving on the board of directors for the Shining Light Health Center which is a group dedicated to establishing a minority Aids hospice in the city of Providence. I was recently elected by the board to serve as the acting medical director for our proposed facility. For my efforts in this endeavor, I was recently awarded Citizens Citations

CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

Support Appreciated

To the Editor:

School-Social Workers for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools have been overwhelmed by the generosity shown by the public in response to the "School Buddies Program." The community has demonstrated extraordinary sensitivity for the needs of children in our schools.

People in our community bought items for some children in each of our schools. The children received many new articles, including book bags, jeans, sneakers, socks, shirts, pants, underwear, etc. Many children would not have received needed essentials were it not for your generous donations. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you who contributed and supported this cause so warmly.

Ann Phelps
Hospice of W-S

Deserved Honor

To the Editor:

Greetings, my name is Dr. Cedric M. Bright. I am the son of William (Bill) & Bessie Bright and grandson of the late Harry O. Bright, Esquire and Vivien K. Bright all of Winston-Salem. I am

writing to inform you of the progress and awards that I have received since you featured me in your "Some-one you Should Know" segment in the Summer/Fall of 1986. At that time I had completed my bachelor's of Arts degree from Brown University, in communications and was working for Womble

by both the Governor of Rhode Island and the Mayor of Providence. I have enclosed copies of these citations as well as a recent photograph for you to have.

My parents are very proud of all my accomplishments and thought that I should let the rest of Winston-Salem know about their son who has done good.

Cedric M. Bright, MD
Providence, R.I.



Cedric M. Bright

About Letters
The Chronicle welcomes letters from our readers. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and include a return address. Letters are subject to editing for clarity and brevity. We reserve the right to edit or omit any letter. Letters should be addressed to: Chronicle Mailbag, P.O. Box 1636, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

Big Butt Jeans For Black Women

"What would you say about a company in Japan that ran an ad that said its jeans were big enough to fit a Black woman's butt?" I asked a group of Blacks at Marcy's Images, a fashionable hair salon in mid-town New York.

"What!" followed looks of instant outrage followed by incensed comments about racism among the Japanese. However, their real amazement came when they found out that the reference to Black women's derrieres ran in a Spike Lee ad for Edwin International jeans.

Across the chest of a baggy-jean clad Lee ran the words in Japanese: "Through my movies, I want you to learn about the real life of American Black people." And what did Spike Lee tell the Japanese "real American Black people" are like?

To look like "real American Black People," the copy in the Spike Lee ad told the Japanese that they should get some of Edwin's jeans: "They're even baggy enough to fit the abundant hips of African-American women."

All of the disgusting facts are in Spin magazine's October issue (212/633-8200)-Spike, ad and all, including the details of Lee's \$5 million

Japanese retail sales and his plans to open eight more stores in Japan.

Spin also gives a chilling profile of Japanese racism. Former-prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone suggested in 1986 that America's economic and educational problems are due to its Black population. "In 1990," Spin continues, "Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama compared the deterioration of Japanese districts afflicted by open prostitution to what happens when African-Americans move into a white neighborhood in the U.S."

Beyond politics, "blatantly racist imagery" is a cottage industry in Japan: Little Black jockeys in coffee shops, pick-aniny dolls and grinning Black Sambos and a popular logo on a popular toy line of a "smiling dark countenance, bug eyes and hugely swollen lips of a friendly African savage named Bibimba," Spin reports.

And now, thanks to Spike and friends, we can add to that litany of stereotypes and preju-

dice big-butt jeans for Black American women. In light of all of this, it's really not surprising that many Japanese believe that "Black people are really funny, comic, something to laugh at," a Japanese business manager observed.

However, while Black "leaders" are justifiably taking AT&T to task for its "monkey" ads, don't expect to hear any criticism from Black "leaders" of Spike Lee's Japanese "big butt" ad.

Black stereotypes created by rappers (Black women as "hos") or Aunt Jemina bug-eyed Black women in Black-produced sit-coms or "big butts"



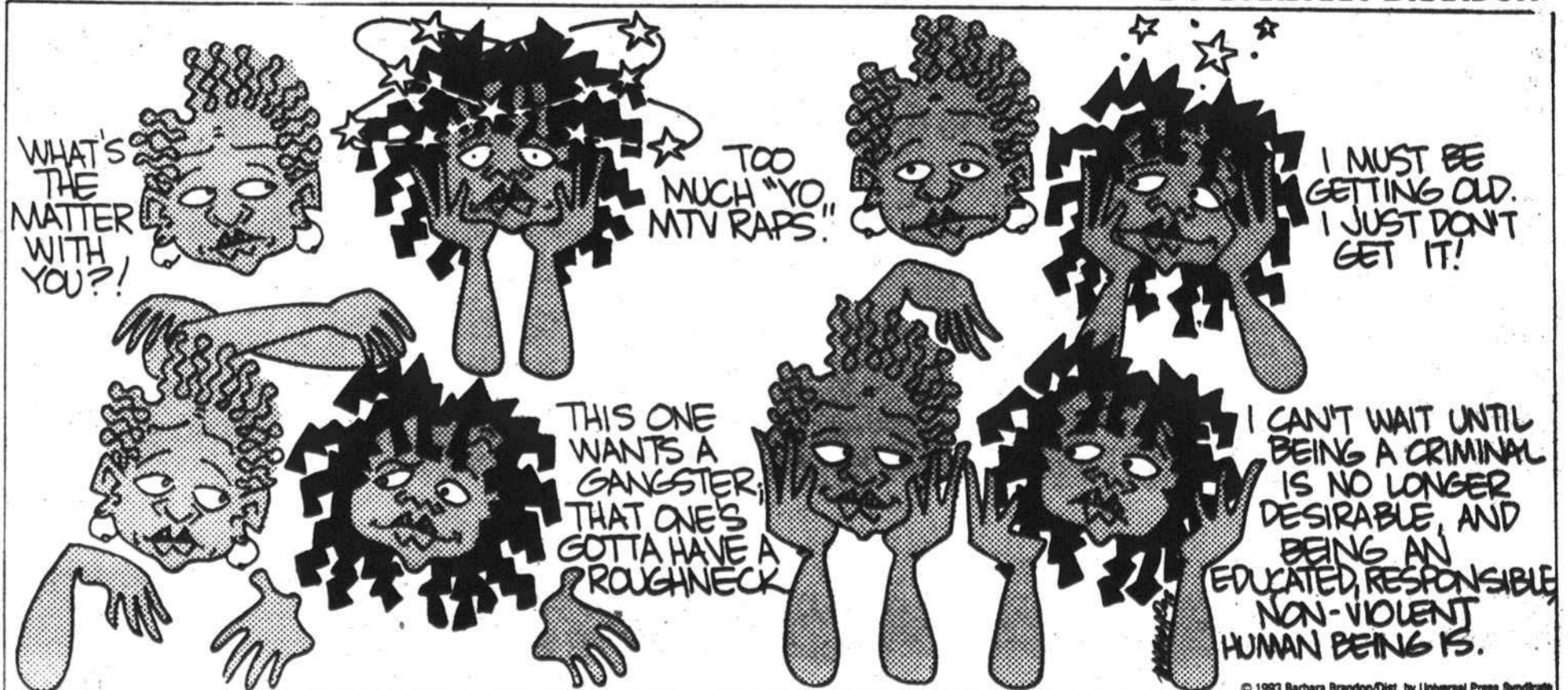
TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

are fine as long as Blacks create and make money from the lies. Many Blacks don't complain when murder is Black-on-Black either.

WHERE I'M COMING FROM

BY BARBARA BRANDON



How To Reach Us

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