

FORUM

Shame on Whoopi too



Lewis Smith
Guest Columnist

Though he has issued a formal apology for his use of the n-word, Reverend Jesse Jackson's actions were irresponsible, incomprehensible, and reflect poorly upon him as a supposed role model for today's African American youth. And to compound this issue even more, Whoopi Goldberg sang praises to the n-word before a national television audience of millions of people on her show, "The View." Not only did she devalue herself—as she is an African-American, but also the sacred memories and history of her ancestry, and the black community in general. This type of behavior is totally unexpected of such influential African Americans and completely unacceptable by any African American.

Today, in this 21st century, the n-word has been reduced to being only a racial slur—in that it solely refers to one's complexion, and none of the struggle, strife, degradation, and dishonor that pieced together the very foundation of the term. Thus, in this light, some people believe that the word can be desensitized; metamorphosed into this acceptable, unsubstantially mind-controlling term; and embraced by all. These same people believe that the n-word is just a word, no different from any other negative word. However, they are wrong.

I challenge anyone to take any word in the English language, pit it against the n-word—300-plus diabolical years of heinous acts, mental and physical bondage of a people, and tell me unequivocally



Whoopi Goldberg recently debated the use of the n word on her daytime chat show, "The View."

and without a single doubt in your heart that neither of the terms is any worse than the other ... Impossible. "N**ger" is the most infamous, profane word in the English language.

White America claimed that the slaves were subhuman; three-fifths of a human; lesser than a brute animal; bestial and savage. This very definition, therefore, gave them the right to dehumanize the slaves by slaughtering, butchering, and maiming them; brutally raping slave wives and daughters; executing mental genocide on a race of people; sodomizing with hot pokers; boiling and burning alive innocent people; disemboweling and castrating young men; and unmercifully beating ascendants until slivers of skin, shown to the red meat, dangled from their bodies—only to be met with more unbearable pain as the ridiculers poured whiskey and kerosene on the open wounds. As the victimized gasped for their last breath, they heard the jeers of "n**ger, n**ger, n**ger" in their final

moment. For those who say this glimpse into the past is nothing more than a hyperbole of America's racist mentality that prevailed for more than 300 years, they do not have to look any further than the recent West Virginia, Megan Williams case of kidnapping, raping and torturing to realize that this is not an exaggeration and that racism, and its foundation logic of mental enslavement, is still alive and well.

The n-word cannot be sanitized, cleansed, inverted, or redeemed as a culturally liberating word. The argument that the n-word can be changed into this endearing and meaningless term is a fallacy of enormous proportions—regardless of who utilizes the term or the excuse for its use. It is impossible to undo all that was executed upon African-American ancestors, so why would one believe that they could miraculously transform the meaning of the term and disregard all of the indignity attached to the idiom?

All African Americans should regard the argument for transforming the n-word as an insult to their intelligence. Regardless of how the word is used today, its sinister and evil history cannot be eradicated, transformed or successfully redefined. The term will always suggest that black people are second-class citizens, ignorant and less than human; proponents' use of the term implies that they have accepted their role as such, and informs others that it is okay to live up to the definition and expectations of a "n**ger."

Whoopi and others like her have forgotten and/or are perhaps blissfully ignorant to the pain, sacrifices, life and death struggles of their ascendants and how they survived tremendous obstacles, trials and tribulations. Embracing the n-word is an effrontery to her ancestors' glorious legacy, a mockery of their memories. N-word supporters fail to understand their affect on the minds of today's youth with their deleterious dysfunction and culturally degrading acceptance of this word.

The n-word is a surviving remnant of a psychological warfare conducted to create dependency and behaviors that support achievement of a devious national objective: mental enslavement of a race of people. It is a passively slick form of psychological, social, mental, and spiritual abuse that only results in the death and destruction of a race of people at the hand of that race of people—African Americans.

H. Lewis Smith is the founder and president of UVCC, the United Voices for a Common Cause, Inc., and author of "Bury that Sucka: A Scandalous Love Affair with the N-Word." Contact him at www.theunitedvoices.com.

Legislating to protect homeowners



David Scott
Guest Columnist

The mortgage foreclosure crisis is in full swing and not looking to ease soon. Mortgage lenders continue to report their highest foreclosure and delinquency rates in five years. Rising default rates have not only affected those in the subprime market, but higher mortgage rates are putting a squeeze on borrowers with good credit, as they have in metro-Atlanta.

Mortgage reform legislation recently passed by the House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate will go a long way in ensuring there is some relief for those families caught up in the current housing crisis.

H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act, set for signature by President Bush this week, would provide relief to millions of Americans affected by this crisis by instituting the reform necessary to ensure these problems do not recur. This important legislation incorporates a number of

bipartisan bills designed to modernize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), reform the GSEs (Government Sponsored Enterprises) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and increase liquidity in the markets.

This legislation is designed to help borrowers who are at risk of default by allowing them to refinance with a loan guarantee from the government. The existing lender would voluntarily decrease mortgage debt below the home's current value, which will give the owner equity in the house. Lenders may also be able to recoup more money than if the house went in to foreclosure and the government would receive part of the gain if housing prices rise in coming years. Moreover, with fewer foreclosures and forced sells, nearby homes would be more likely to retain their value, thus saving whole communities from devastation.

The legislation passed by the House and now under consideration in the Senate increases the Veterans Affairs home loan limit. The bill would also provide \$11 billion in tax benefits including tax credits for first-time homebuyers, a real property tax deduction for non-itemizers, an additional \$10 billion in mortgage

revenue bonds for states and would improve access to low-income housing.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I have worked with my colleagues to build greater financial literacy. To that end, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 3133, the Financial Literacy for Homeowners Act, which would provide grants to states and non-profit agencies to educate consumers on mortgage lending practices.

It would also create a national toll free number where consumers can report cases of abuse by lenders. It is of utmost importance that we provide consumers with education about lending laws, counseling and referral services. H.R. 3221 contains many of the provisions of my legislation, and would provide \$180 million for housing counseling programs.

I remain concerned about the inordinate percentage of minority families suffering during this crisis and the affects this has on our communities. The facts are disturbing at best: black and Hispanic individuals have been disproportionately targeted for high cost subprime loans and are more likely to face foreclosure.

In Georgia's 13th Congressional district, neighborhoods with an excessive

number of foreclosures have become magnets for crime. Solving this problem is a matter of protecting our neighborhoods. We should also focus on the high social costs involved with this crisis, as schools can expect to receive less property tax funding as home values fall.

H.R. 3221 will allow many Americans to remain in their homes and fight predatory lenders. Consumers will be ensured of acquiring good loans, credit availability will be preserved, lender and consumer interests will be aligned, consumers will get a simple, understandable and meaningful disclosure of their loans terms and mortgage originators will no longer have incentives to steer consumers into bad loans.

I am hopeful continued negotiations on this measure will prove fruitful and the Senate acts soon to pass this necessary legislation. In my opinion, all involved should get behind this strong legislation to address this housing crisis, not only for our economy's sake, but for those millions of affected Americans.

U. S. Rep. David Scott, a Democrat, represents Georgia's 13th District in the U.S. House.

Sharon S. Dobbins, ChFC®
336-631-9905

PLANNING TO RETIRE SOON?

Congratulations!
Retirement is a big step. Choosing payout or distribution option can be difficult and scary.

GET THE FINANCIAL GUIDANCE YOU DESERVE FROM A KNOWLEDGEABLE PROFESSIONAL

Planning - Investments - Insurance

Branch Office: 500 W. 4th Street, Suite 201-C • PO Box 21204, Winston Salem, NC 27120

Securities and Advisory services offered through Great American Advisors, Inc. Member FINRA, SIPC and Registered Investment Advisor. GAA is not affiliated with Dobbins & Company Financial. Securities involve risks including possible loss of principal.

Dobbins & Company
Financial

S. Wayne Patterson
Attorney At Law and Certified ADR Mediator

- Immigration • Social Security • Civil Rights
- EEOC Claims • Non-Profit/501c(3)
- Employment Discrimination

235 Peachtree St. Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30303
8 West Third Street Suite 220 Winston-Salem, NC 27101

1-877-SWP-4LAW
or local number (336) 714-8858
www.swaynepatterson4law.com

BANKRUPTCY
Legal Help For Your Debt Problems

DONALD R. BUIE, Attorney At Law

Donald R. Buie www.donaldrbuie.com

★ Free Initial Consultation
★ Stop Repossession & Foreclosure

773-1398
8 W. 3rd St., Ste. 100

The Law Office of Donald R. Buie is a Federally designated Debt Relief Agency under Title 11 United States Code Section 528(a). We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.

Rep. Larry Womble
NC House of Representatives

71st District
Tel (336) 784-9373
Fax (336) 784-1626
E-Mail: LWism@aol.com

Home Address
1294 Salem Lake Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

Jessie Draft & Associates LLC

Jessie Draft/Broker
CRS, GRI, REALTOR

RNJDRAFT@MSN.COM
3750 Beeson Dairy Rd
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

(336) 403-1254 Business
(336) 748-0871 Fax

MULTIMILLION DOLLAR PRODUCER

LOUISE E. HARRIS
Attorney at Law

- Debt Relief under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code
- Consumer Problems
- Traffic Tickets & DWI
- Divorce
- Wills & Probate

17 Years Of Experience

Winston Tower Suite 2223, 301 N. Main Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Call 24 Hours
(336) 761-0222

Talk much with your doctor?

Communication between doctors and patients can be powerful medicine. But too often, both parties come up short. Better communication lets doctors and patients assess treatment options more clearly, and make shared decisions as partners. A public service message from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, where Patient-Centered Care means getting better together. For more information on Patient-Centered Care, visit orthoinfo.org.

AAOS
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

The Chronicle, the Choice for African-American News, is located at 617 N. Liberty Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101 336-722-8624 Fax - 336-723-9173 news@wschronicle.com www.wschronicle.com

The Chronicle was established by Ernest Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974, and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co., Inc.

The Chronicle is a proud member of:

- National Newspapers Publishers Association
- North Carolina Press Association
- North Carolina Black Publishers Association
- Inland Press Association

THE CHRONICLE

HOME DELIVERY SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

YES, Please send me The Chronicle

2 years: \$40.95
 1 year: \$30.72
 6 months: \$20.48

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

VISA Mastercard American Express Check enclosed Please bill me

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

SEND TO: The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636, Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Business Office 723-8428, ext. 100 PAULETTE MOORE
Business Office 723-8428, ext. 101 ANDREA MOSES