

Make a statement with Marge Schott

Cincinnati Reds' owner Marge Schott used to be the laughingstock of baseball. Fans from other baseball cities would make fun of her meddling antics — how she would routinely get in arguments with fans sitting near her, how her dog "Schottzie" would come to the ballpark and leave good-luck deposits in front of the visitors' dugout.

Nobody's laughing anymore. In late November, the media exposed Schott as a racist, a woman who cared little about the feelings of ethnic minorities. She is reported to have called two former players "million dollar niggers," keeps a swastika in her home, and has said she "would rather hire a trained monkey" than a "nigger."

Baseball owners are now faced with taking action against Schott for her statements. Suggestions have ranged from fines to suspension. Whatever the owners choose, the discipline must be severe. The sports world has continually sidestepped the issue of racism because owners believe having African-Americans on the playing field absolves them from responsibility. But for once, sports can make a solid commitment to an important issue.

Actually, sports is perhaps the best place to make such a statement. Just as Magic Johnson has educated people on the AIDS front, baseball stars can educate people about racism. Sports figures, along with entertainers, are among the most visible personalities in the world.

This time it's on baseball's shoulders. Of all sports, it has always been the most traditionally white sport. As America's pastime, it didn't represent anything but white America until 1947, when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, a full 50 years after baseball first gained popularity.

In 1973, when Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's career home run record, he received literally thousands of racist hate letters, including hundreds of death threats. And today, baseball has few minority managers and even fewer executives.

It's interesting that baseball has always made more of an issue of gambling within the sport. Pete Rose, after all, received a lifetime ban for betting on baseball games. Yet the possibility that Marge Schott, who has spouted genuine venom against minorities, may stay in the game is ridiculous. Whose crime was worse?

Schott must be suspended from the game and forced to give up ownership of the team. If she refuses to sell the team, baseball must flex its muscles and kick her out. Baseball owners must then back up their actions by hiring minority personnel to executive positions.

Did Schott mean what she said? Maybe or maybe not. In an apology Wednesday, she claimed she spoke "with my mouth, but not my heart." But the fact that she let her mouth run off in the first place indicates a fundamental ignorance of humanity.

Whatever the owners choose, Schott must be taken to task for her statements. She violated the sensibilities of not only the baseball world but the rest of society.



LETTERS

Separate race

In the Dec. 7 edition of the *Emerald*, there is a front-page article about minorities on campus. Mentioned are the problems faced by Native Americans, African Americans, Chicanos, Latinos, Asian Americans and Pacific-Island students. There is no mention of Jewish-American students.

Jewish students are lumped together with "white" students. This is a serious inaccuracy. The majority of "white" America does not consider Jews as one of its own. In an *Emerald* article from March 3, the paper reported "the highest level of anti-Jewish acts in the United States in 13 years," and in Lane County and increase in 1991 by 300 percent.

These hate crimes are not committed against Jews because they are considered "white." Because most of the Jewish population in America is white skinned, other ethnic minorities do not consider us people of color.

Even though we have our own languages (Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Tati), our own culture (religion and traditions), our own history (which spans over 3,000 years — written), and our people are members of every race, we are still overlooked in Chester Allen's article.

Ezra Bookstein
Co-director, JSU

Insulted

Less than 3 percent of the U.S. population is Jewish. We are a recognized ethnic minority on campus, as we are recognized as so around the world. The attitude of the *Emerald's* Dec. 7 article that portrays Jews as white pushes a forced invisibility upon our people.

This university has an enormous amount of work to do in order to provide the level of education that it talks about, (celebrating diversity). Immediate changes must be made in terms of courses being offered and minority professors being hired.

Every student should be able to feel that some effort is being taken on the part of the administration to fairly represent his or her culture. The Jewish Student Union is in the heart of this fight, along with all of the other ethnic minorities on campus.

While this article in the *Emerald* was trying to educate the

student body about problems facing ethnic minorities, to simply overlook the Jewish people is an insult.

Andrew Waxman
Co-director, JSU

Stop labels

I would like to respond to the Dec. 8 letter by Benjamin Novinger of Men Against Rape.

Sorry, but I am not a "potential rapist," or child molester, or mass murderer or anything else like that. I do not accept the arbitrary, disgusting labels that Novinger and those who "think" like him wish to place on me just because I happen to be male, any more than I will accept any other stereotype.

I am an African American, and yet I am not a crack addict, do not live in a ghetto and, though I am well aware of all the oppression that black people have had to deal with in this country — and have experienced myself, do not assume every white person I run into is a potential racist scumbag.

Call me naive, but I don't like tarring everyone with the same brush, and I don't like people who do. Crimes against humanity such as rape, sexism, racism, etc., need to be totally stamped out. But in order to do that, we all — ALL — need to work together. Pointing fingers and calling names won't solve jack.

Paul Herring
Fine Arts

Mighty pen

Tammy Batey is upset at her exclusion from Michael Kim's list of people invited to the Asian/African-American relations forum (*ODE*, Dec. 7).

I wonder if the thought had even crossed her mind as to why Kim may not have wanted the media present? I think not. Ways in which articles are written, portraying people of color as "experts" or "representatives," speaking for a group of people when they are only speaking for themselves, may be a reason.

In addition, a person covering issues such as racism or race relations is not always sensitive enough to minorities' feelings and may not understand "where a person is coming from" and why they say the things they do. Actual thoughts and opinions made public by someone can be and are distorted in many ways.

Batey had the right to stay at

the forum unless she was considered "a threat to someone's life." She said, "... I don't carry any weapons ... only pens." Isn't the pen mightier than the sword? She does not realize how influential the *Emerald* is and that words are just as dangerous.

Not truthfully informing her readers about events and issues, she's just complaining about (the forum) she doesn't understand. When talking of race relations or racism, one must realize that topics about white oppression, white society and white supremacy can not be avoided. These factors contribute to racism.

Tina Koida
APASU

White washed

A "for sale" advertisement has more information than Tammy Batey's article (*ODE*, Dec. 3) had. But her defensive "opinion" article (*ODE*, Dec. 7) had to take a page, thus creating a pre-judged opinion for your readers who know what she let them.

Based on the opinion article, she stated many events and people that she felt either insulted or criticized her. Oh, I bet she feels real strong and proud telling "minorities" who's in charge.

Now let's speak about a matter of respect. The Chinese-American woman in her opinion article was only seeking an environment of trust and confidence. This courageous woman was one of only a few that spoke "true" knowledge at the meeting. She and others educated us on the subordinate status people of color share.

I am sure that others would have spoken if Batey weren't there. Now because of her column, fewer people will speak out in the future. Why can't she admit that because of her white-washed education, she can't even begin to understand "our" ideas? The purpose of wanting to extract her from the forum was exactly for fear of what has transpired.

Take a hint, she represents an establishment long in power. Could it be that people long oppressed might fear your ignorance and insensitivity? The worst fears have been proven true. Now what price must be paid to rebuild from her ignorance?

Enrique Rodriguez
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Emerald

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