

OPINION

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Ice Cube is Right About Oprah

Shows bias against black men

BY BOYCE WATKINS

The Oprah Winfrey show is catered to an audience that doesn't have much respect for black men, especially rappers like Ice Cube.

I am not sure if it's because of her difficult childhood. But most of her shows featuring black men tend to consist of either men who were secretly gay, cheating on their wives, or have committed terrible crimes against women. I shudder to wonder what the soccer mom in the middle of Idaho thinks after watching one of her shows. The only exceptions to this rule are individuals like Denzel Washington or Chris Rock, whom she has approved of because of their relatively safe demeanor.



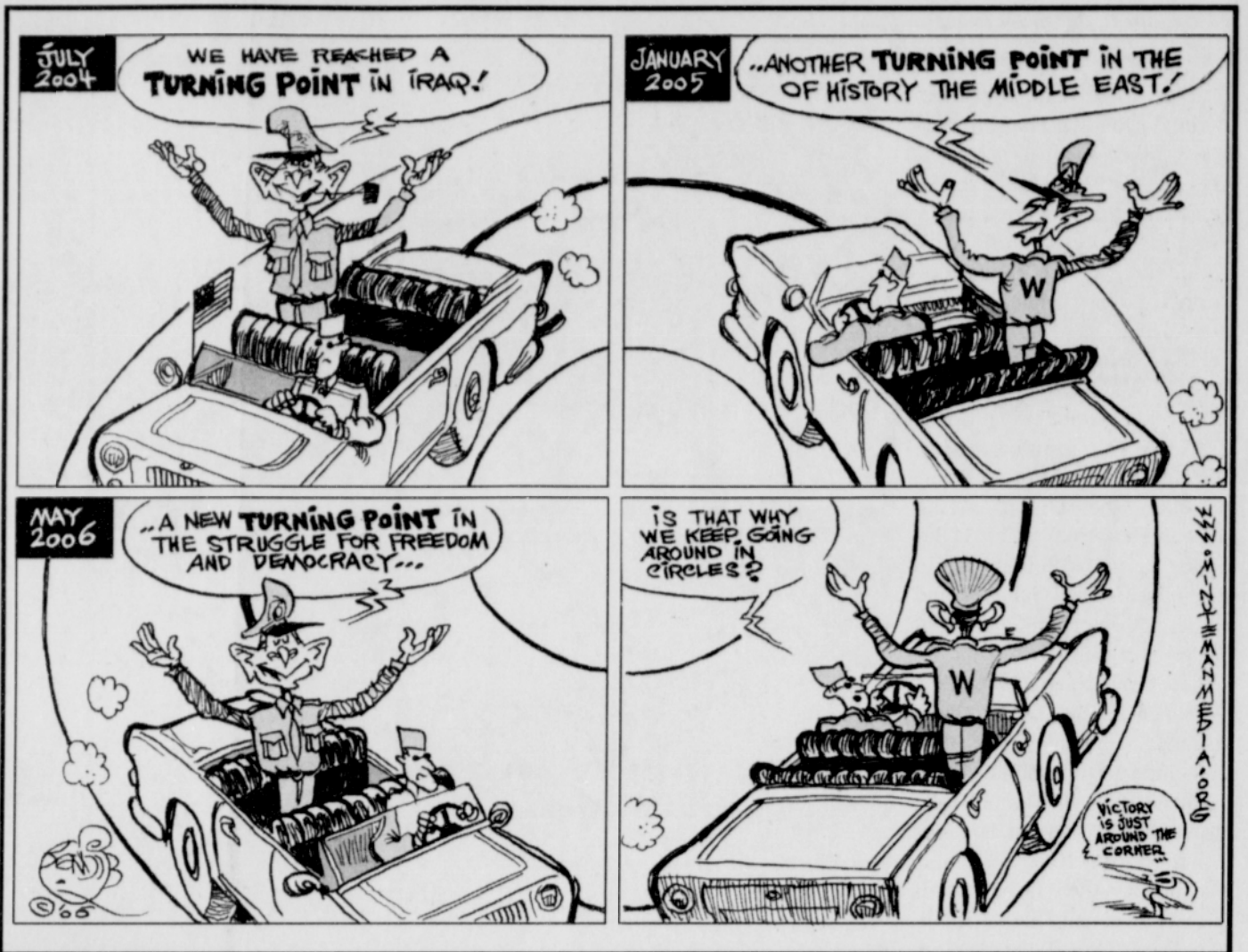
I am waiting for a show that shows how black men are just regular people.

I am waiting for a show that shows how black men are just regular people. She also doesn't seem to have much interest in supporting black men or the causes that affect us most. Having someone like Ice Cube on the show can motivate young black men to become successful entrepreneurs. Instead, she seems to be seeking out the next Dr. Phil.

Many people forget where they come from and forget to help others. Winfrey is right there with Bill Gates when it comes to using her wealth for the good of the world. I don't agree with her all the time, but the world is better off with Oprah Winfrey.

By having Ice Cube as her guest, she can show her audience the "scary black man" and make the point that he is just like they are. Ice Cube's family films are entertainment for everyone, not just black males.

Boyce Watkins is a professor at Syracuse University and author of "What if George Bush were a Black Man?"



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Mexico Needs Improved Economy

Not border fences, soldiers

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

On a recent trip to the U.S., outgoing Mexican President Vicente Fox said that by improving the Mexican economy, Mexico itself can play a critical role in regulating the migration of its citizens to the U.S.

Let's take it one step further by working with Mexico to develop a comprehensive plan for improving its economy, the U.S. can begin to lift the economic burden this long-standing immigration issue has had on our society.

Mexico's biggest industry, after petroleum, is its migrant workers. It's understandable that Mexican immigrants would want to come here to work. Experts say business monopolies have slowed the country's economic growth and increased the divide between the wealthy and the poor. Work is scarce and wages low. Currently, nearly half of Mexico's 106 million people live in poverty. A Mexican worker can make significantly more working labor jobs here in the U.S.

than they can at home.

Despite some recent growth in the Mexican economy, Fox has not been able to make good on his campaign promise to create millions of new jobs. The U.S. government can work with Mexico's next president to develop a plan for improving the economy, reducing those corporate monopolies, creating jobs and expanding access to quality education for Mexican citizens.

By taking these steps, the U.S. can reduce Mexico's de-

mists do agree, however, that a stronger Mexican economy is a critical first step in easing the flow of immigrants into the U.S.

More jobs in Mexico means fewer Mexicans will have to leave their homes to earn money to feed their families. Working hand in hand with Mexico should prove cost-effective for the U.S. as well: the tab for staffing the border with armed guards and building and maintaining hundreds of miles of fencing will

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pendency on our economy. Currently, more than 90-percent of Mexican goods are exported to the U.S. — and, ultimately, reduce the number of immigrants that cross our borders.

From President Bush's proposal to send 6,000 troops to patrol the Mexican border, to a bill that would allow the construction of fencing along that border, the debate over how the flood of Mexican immigrants into the U.S. should be controlled has heated up and is nearing its boiling point.

Very few truly believe that fencing and armed soldiers are going to stop the truly determined from finding their way into this country. Most econo-

add up over time. The money we save could be put towards any number of social programs in this country.

Though many are concerned that the U.S. plays 'big brother' to too many countries, it makes sense that we would take the lead here: if Mexico's economy doesn't improve, we'll continue to lose American jobs to cheap, migrant labor. By helping Mexico now, we'll improve the health of our own economy down the road.

Judge Greg Mathis is national vice president of Rainbow PUSH and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

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