

# THE Skanner®

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# Opinion

## President Laughingstock Makes Fool of US

Our 45th President rushed back from his United Nations meeting in New York to watch the hearing of his Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, and his accuser Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. Reportedly, he was impressed by Dr. Ford, but excited by Kavanaugh's belligerently offensive session with the senators.

From my perspective, Kavanaugh was disgraceful. He attacked Democratic senators, at one point asking Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar if she had a drinking problem. His angry, entitled temperament was inconsistent with Supreme Court service. But by the time this is published he is likely to have been voted onto the court.

While the Supreme Court deliberations have dominated the news, it is essential to consider the way that 45 appeared on the world stage. First, he was inexplicably and rudely late to the UN, signaling his own contempt for the organization and its members. Indeed, according to New Yorker reporter Robin Wright, the UN had to scramble to find another speaker



Julianne Malveaux  
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to fill in 45's assigned time. Then, just minutes after 45 began talking, the assembled group started laughing at him.

Undoubtedly, they were amused about his assertions of having done more than any other Administration in US history. 45 was speaking to more than one hundred and thirty heads of state and dozens of other delegations. They laughed because 45 is truly funny.

As he ran for President, 45 constantly scolded that our country was the "laughingstock" of the world. Then he stood in front of other world leaders and proved them correct.

Our nation is not a laughingstock, but President Trump surely is. He is out of touch with the rest of the world, out of order in his dealings with others, and out of con-

trol with his myopic "America First" philosophy.

We may still be the most powerful nation in the world, but we are holding onto that perch only tentatively. We're not the largest country in the world. The population of India, at 1.35 billion, or the population of China, the world's most populous nation, at 1.41 billion people, dwarfs our

an "America First" doctrine, we isolate ourselves from others and diminish our own world power.

Our power has come from our ability to play well in the world. It has come from our embrace of globalism. Indeed, our economic growth has often been a function of our global role.

People want to come to the United States, to study in the United States and to enjoy the products and brands of the United States (McDonald's and Nike are but two examples). Our President's behavior repels people from the United States instead of attracting people to us. His jingoistic "America First" speech belied decades of international cooperation. His notion that nations are better off going it alone than working in collaboration is isolationist nonsense. His speech would have been better delivered to his sycophants who drink his Fool-Aid than to a thoughtful international audience of his peer world leaders.

“ He stood in front of other world leaders and proved them correct

population of roughly 326 million people. We are a scant 4.3 percent of the world population. India is 17.7 percent of the world population, and China is a whopping 18.5 percent of the world population.

Population size is not necessarily an indicator of power, and most concede that the United States remains an influential world leader. But we are a world leader now led by a clown, the laughingstock of the world. And in embracing

Read the rest of this commentary at  
**TheSkanner.com**

## The Significance of 'Sorry to Bother You'

I was excited about the prospect of seeing Boots Riley's *Sorry to Bother You* from the moment that I saw the advertisements. Yet I was not prepared for the totality of the film because the ads emphasized only one piece: the white voice.

Without giving away the plot, the "White voice" refers to how workers in a mythical telemarketing firm are supposed to speak—over the phone—with potential clients. In order to win the favor of white clients, they are to speak with a "White voice."

Every African American, and for that matter, every person of color in the USA, is familiar with the basic notion of a "White voice." We are hit with that on a regular basis whereby our language, accents, etc., are viewed as somehow outside of the mainstream and, in many cases,



Bill Fletcher Jr.  
The Global African

perceived as threatening.

Riley took this to another level as a way of critiquing US society. He does it in an outstanding manner.

The film, however, is much more than about the White voice. It is about class struggle, racial justice struggle, gender justice struggle; in fact, it is about the very notion of collective struggle. And the setting is a near-future USA with a telemarketing firm whose workers look just like the working class of today. These workers struggle to band together to build a labor union and fight for

their rights but also to challenge a mega-company that has dangerous plans afoot.

“ Global capitalism is grinding us all down and destroying our humanity

"Sorry to Bother You" mixes satire, near-future science fiction, an appreciation of collective struggle, and a dire warning of the manner in which contemporary global capitalism is grinding us all down and destroying our humanity. It is the destruction of our humanity that Riley handles in such a superb manner.

When the film ended I remained seated as I processed what I had just seen. But I

also wanted to overhear other viewers and get a sense of their comments.

Many were as excited and moved as me.

But there were a few people that exited the theatre who were clearly baffled by the film. I suspect that they were not expecting a film that was anything but linear. It did not just focus on race; it did not just focus on class; it did not focus only on gender.

It was truly multi-dimensional and was at the same time pushing the audience out of their comfort zones so that they were not just viewing a film; they were forced to view the USA, only through very different glasses.

If you have not seen the film, you must put the time aside to do it. My concern with films as great as this one is that they will disappear before they have fully gained traction.



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