

city council as representatives of the NAACP, and urged the city to adopt the Mobile system. But whites resisted the change, and nothing came of the meeting. Robinson told Garrow that "We had planned the protest long before Mrs. Parks was arrested." So much for spontaneous uprisings.

After the civil rights movement got underway, Parks herself proved to be of little use except as a mascot for white liberals. Even Martin Luther King quickly shut her out of any official role. He knew that Parks had long distrusted him. She knew that when Ralph David Abernathy urged King to help organize the boycott, King said he wouldn't do any work, reports Garrow. Yet he claimed all the credit, and refused to put Parks on the payroll of his Montgomery Improvement Association. "Parks is very, very disgruntled with MLK and really quite bitter," wrote Virginia Durr in her diary.

Parks as humble seamstress? Far from it. By the time she famously resisted the busdriver, she had long been an activist in left-liberal causes, been extensively trained in radical politics, lobbied the city for a change in the confusing bus law, and worked closely with the city's most powerful white liberal, who specialized in defending accused communists.

Parks may have thought she was leading an authentic movement against petty segregation, and doing so on behalf of blacks. But she was

merely playing a scripted part in a much larger drama that had nothing to do with her, and everything to do with the power and malice of white liberals. The end result was increased racial hatred, and less real freedom for everyone, a far different result than if the dispute had been settled honestly, locally, and constitutionally.

Limited and localized segregation is gone, but a vast system of racial compulsion has been erected in its place. In the process, social authority has been crushed, grievously injuring civil society.

In the Montgomery of 39 years ago, the worst fear was of bus de-seating. Today, in Detroit, theft and mayhem are the norm. Rosa Parks wasn't in danger of being beaten by the busdriver. But at the end of her life, and of the civil rights movement which she allegedly began, she isn't safe locked up in her own home. ■

P.C. Watch

by L.H.R., Jr.

Why Is the Ice Still White?

How do you make a p.c. movie about ice hockey, an inherently non-p.c. topic? (Non-p.c., because everybody in the sport is a white male.) I found out when "D2: The Mighty Ducks" was the only PG movie in the hotel's video listing.

I hadn't seen the first "Mighty Ducks," also a Walt Disney production and also starring Emilio Estevez, but I remembered that it was a big hit, that it involved good kids triumphing over evil, and that the Orange County, Cal., professional hockey team had been named after it.

What could be the problem, I thought? All the other movies were PG-13 or worse, and I had promised my daughter a movie when she finished her homework.

I should have known. First of all, Estevez is an actor in the Lee Majors tradition. Only one emotion, if I can call it that, crossed his face during the entire film—a mild bewilderment. But I soon learned to appreciate it as compared to the anti-white bias.

Americans used to worry about subliminal movie messages telling us to Drink Coke or Eat Popcorn. Now, for the majority, it's more than liminal: Hate Yourself, Hate Your People.

The movie starts in Minnesota, where all the Scandinavian and Wasp boys play hockey. But not only is the actor playing the coach Latino, his team—for the Junior Goodwill Games in Los Angeles—is composed of blacks, Hispanics, Asians (including a gay Chinese figure skater), an American Indian, and *girls*.

What, no HIV-positive forwards? There are a couple of white kids, including a stupid Texan, but they're pretty much along for the ride.

Estevez temporarily loses his integrity to a capitalist who wants him to do commercials, but even the businessman becomes a good guy in an unexplained plot shift. We couldn't, after all, have the focus stray for long from the real bad guys: the opposing team from Iceland—blonde, blue-eyed, male, and thuggish, coached by a white tough with a perpetual sneer on his face.

Clad ominously in black (how come that convention is still allowed?), the cruel Icelanders defeat the multicultural Ducks by gouging and cheating. Then, a group of black kids in South Central L.A. teaches our heroes, in one afternoon, all the new shots and strategy they need for ultimate victory. And it's all to the tune, if you'll excuse the expression, of the rap, "Whomp, There It Is."

What, you say that no one plays ice hockey in South Central? What about the black kid who saves the day, but who can only join his brothers on the team when one of the whites agrees to resign? There's supposed to be a lesson there, I think. Also saving the day is a girl goalie,

and the coach's dark-haired girlfriend, whom he chooses over an evil blond from Iceland.

There *is* some great skating, and the stunt kids who play the actual hockey are credited at the end. Strange, but I didn't notice one female, Asian, or Hispanic name among them.

Suburban Rites

Jeff Goldstein, who calls himself a "semi-active pagan

Jewish minister," is being taken to court by Madison, Wis., for refusing to cut his lawn, an overgrown tangle of grass, weeds, flowers, and bushes.

The greenery is "equivalent to me in the Creation," says Goldstein. "The plants are as valuable and as worthy as the people and the dogs and the cats. To me,

all the vegetables out there are sacred."

"I pray to it," Goldstein said of his lawn. Even a light trim would be a "holocaust against the green creatures." (*New York Times*, 8/27/94)

Itty Bitty

The latest rap hit, "Short Dick Man," has even D.C. grade schoolers singing:

"Eenie weenie teenie weenie shrivel little short, short man," says the *Washington Post* (8/22/94). "The sexy music, the bump-and-grind stuff, the teenage make-out songs are very popular now—but isn't that what it's always been?" asks rap producer Heidi Spiegel. "Except now it's more graphic and women are making the moves." This song has "great appeal to the female rap market," and to a "gay audience as well."

Tarnishing Go-Go

"Explicit Videos Tarnish Go-Go's Image," worries a *Washington Post* headline (8/27/94). It's Saturday night at De Zulu Cave in Washington, D.C., where the "temperature seems to be around 200 degrees. But no one in the unairconditioned warehouse seems to mind the heat: they are sweating, dancing, grooving. The music is go-go, D.C.'s own polyrhythmic funk," but once again, "D.C.'s home-grown groove" is under scrutiny.

People are selling x-rated videos taken at go-go dances, where scenes like this are common: "In one of the tapes, naked women are on all fours" are up on stage. "The women are thrusting and grinding their pelvises. Then men's hands," apparently the band's, "enter the picture; what follows is a series of activities for which the word 'obscene' would be an understatement," says the *Post*. A local tv station calls the tapes, which are sold in local shops,

**Movies
tell the
majority:
Hate
Yourself,
Hate Your
People.**

and the dances they chronicle, a "thriving underground market of filth."

One 23-year-old female go-goer protests that "I be funnin'. I'm my own woman. I can do what I want to do. What's a little cheek? People have seen cheeks before." Adds 18-year-old Rickeeta Cheeks, "Freak, tramp, 'ho, I've been called all of those things. If they don't know anything about me, it ain't nothing they can say."

Queer Partners

Leland Traiman, a nurse in Oakland, Cal., is starting a gay sperm bank called Prospective Queer Partner, for "homosexual men and women interested in starting families," says the *Washington Times* (6/13/94). Until now, he says, "all sperm banks in the world have discriminated against gay and bisexual donors. The reason given is AIDS, but the real reason is bigotry."

Shrine and State

After refusing to erect the statue of a white California explorer, the city of San Jose, Cal., is spending \$500,000 to build a shrine to the Aztec god, Quetzalcoatl. Before the Spanish put an end to the practice, tens of thousands of Mexicans had their living hearts torn out before the "Plumed Serpent." Nevertheless, the statue will stand proudly in Cesar Chavez Square, says vice mayor Blanca Alvarado, to represent Mexican culture.

The Rev. Dick Bernal, Hispanic pastor of the city's largest evangelical church, opposes honoring this "bloodthirsty deity." But the Rev. Mateo Sheedy, a Catholic priest, has chastised Christians for fighting what he calls a "healthy symbol." (*Washington Times*, 6/6/94)

The Africa of the Western Hemisphere

Some black U.S. college students are spending a year in Brazil, billed as the "Africa of the Western Hemisphere," says the *New York Times* (6/11/94). But Kelli Moore of Spelman College in Atlanta finds "she is the only black student in her classes at the University of Sao Paulo," Brazil's largest with an enrollment of 50,000. "You can walk across campus and not find one black student," she says.

Black Americans get "a rapid introduction to the complexity of Brazil's race relations," says the *Times* "On one level, there are the daily racial slights in a country where the average income of blacks is less than half that of whites." And it is "dispiriting to discover the overwhelming white dominance of a country that once promoted itself to the world as a 'racial democracy.'"

"I have been reading" Brazil's top business magazine "for the last nine months, and I've yet to find one black face," says Addison LePlatte of Atlanta's Morehouse College.

Rashida Sykes, another

Spelman student, says the only two black faces she's seen in the leading newsweeklies were of carnival queens. So on their vacations, American blacks "escape" Sao Paulo for the black city of Salvador. "With its cuisine, people, and *Candomble* religion," it is the "capital of Black Brazil."

Moore said that white Brazilians were welcoming, "as long as I don't talk about blackness." She called these "harmonious social relations" a roadblock to "Brazil's advancement towards racial equality."

Scrabble Censorship

Responding to p.c. pressure, the Milton Bradley Company will purge between 75 and 100 offensive words from the next edition of *The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary*. The words include "kike," "darkie," "nigger," "spic", and "lezzie."

But Scrabble champion Joel Wapnick condemned the move as ridiculous. Removing some words will lead to the removal of others, he said, leaving fewer potential scores for players. "Any word that lexicographers agree has a common meaning belongs in the book." (Associated Press, 5/10/94)

SAT Scores Rise

The College Board has raised the average score on its math and verbal tests to 500 by "recentering" the scoring, says the *Washington Post* (6/14/94). For the exams, now

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called the Scholastic *Assessment* Tests because the word Aptitude was considered politically incorrect, "verbal scores will go up 70-80 points, and those scoring 300-350 in math will see the biggest increase. A few students who score in the higher levels on the math test actually might see their scores drop a bit."

"The current scoring was adopted in 1941, when mostly white, upper- and middle-class students took the SAT. Many were educated in private schools. Although 500 was the average score then, that average has been slipping since the 1960s, when a more diverse population began taking the test."

Bugged

When the first black science-fiction tv show, Fox's

"M.A.N.T.I.S.," had several black characters deleted during pre-production and a white one added, Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition charged racism. The producers were trying to "attract white viewers," said the Rainbow's Commission on Fairness in the media. Can't do that, of course.

"It's gotten to the point where one expects that, any day now," writes William F. Powers in the *Washington Post* (8/26/94), "someone in Hollywood is going to announce a new series about "a paraplegic African-American biophysicist' who develops a 'futuristic power harness' that turns him into a 'superhero' who must 'save the world from an infernal crime lord' in possession of a 'new and deadly biological weap-

on,' but only with the help of a 'free-wheeling Generation X bike courier' who frequents raves. Actually, that's the plot of "M.A.N.T.I.S."

Legal Frontiers

Lawyer Andargachew Zellke, in another case subverting free speech on private property, has been awarded \$505,000 because a fellow lawyer at a Los Angeles law firm may have said things he didn't like.

The other lawyer, who denies the charge, is alleged to have called Zellke, out of his hearing, a "black prince" (he came from an upper-class Ethiopian family). He also supposedly said that Zellke only got into Harvard Law School through affirmative action. Ohh! (*Wall Street Journal*, 8/19/94) ■

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