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## OPINION

# Another gust in this most recent media storm

By **NICOLE JOHNSON**  
Features editor

Comedy is supposed to be funny. When you open up a newspaper and see a cartoon about politics, that is what it would be. If the paper were to poke fun at a chimp that attacked a woman, they would have done that. Instead, the New York Post crossed the line with their blatantly racist cartoon published on Wednesday, Feb. 18. This is what makes readers like me say, "you really should have known better." What shocked me the most is that the N.Y. Post had the audacity to actually run this cartoon. The image was totally unnecessary.

The cartoon itself was supposed to be a play on the chimpanzee that was shot for mauling a woman in

Stamford, Connecticut on Monday, Feb. 16. The image the N.Y. Post ran does not depict that, because of one thing - the punchline. "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill." This quote changes the entire meaning of the cartoon.

Every time a person turns on the television and hears the word "stimulus," it is always associated with President Obama.

Thus, running this cartoon connects an outdated racial stereotype with the president in a very unpleasant way. How can people not take offense at this image that the N.Y. Post irresponsibly printed?

In addition, President Obama has had the most death threats of any president, simply because of the color of his skin. People were

ready to assassinate him even before he became president.

The image is clearly racist, whether it was intended to be or not. For generations, African-Americans have battled racism and have been trying to break media stereotypes.

How could the N.Y. Post be so insensitive in so many ways? Other than the obvious racist statement and the ridiculous stereotype, this image is also desensitizing and demeaning a very serious situation.

If the N.Y. Post really wanted to make fun of the woman who was seriously injured by the chimp attack, they could have done so in much more suitable way. However, there is no way they could have. This was unnecessarily violent and left nothing for the reader to interpret.

The N.Y. Post's attempt at poking fun at this incident is both disturbing and uncalled for.

The N.Y. Post placed an "apology" on their website Thursday, Feb. 19 which stated, "It was meant to mock an ineptly written federal stimulus bill. Period." Obviously however, it was taken as crude and racist. The N.Y. Post claimed "this most certainly was not its intent..." The N.Y. Post then defended itself, saying, "Sometimes a cartoon is just a cartoon - even as the opportunists seek to make it something else."

What kind of apology is this? This apology is clearly aimed at civil rights activist Al Sharpton and those demonstrators protesting the N.Y. Post. The paper sees Sharpton and the demonstrators as "opportunists" seeking out controversy whenever

they can, finding any reason to point fingers at them.

There is no unjust finger pointing going on. The N.Y. Post is standing by their racist cartoon, refusing to see it as a hurtful depiction of stereotypes that should be long dead. As a business, the Post will not acknowledge that they published a racial slur in a post-racial era.

The N.Y. Post feels they have done nothing wrong and refuses to apologize for the damages they had caused. This is intolerable and the N.Y. Post should be sympathetic to people's outrage, not acting as if this will all blow away in tomorrow's news.

The apology from the N.Y. Post raised many eyebrows and made many skeptical. But it was their

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# Clarifications on the accreditation process

## DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to provide some clarification regarding some of the statements contained in the February 19 *Monitor* article entitled, "Faculty Senate works to keep Ohlone in good standing."

The article stated: "Ohlone has been undergoing a procedural revision of the programs that we offer because our accreditation is under a warning from the Accreditation

Team."

Clarification: Our programs are not undergoing a procedural revision, and our programs are not related to the warning issued by the Accreditation Commission. In fact, our Instructional Programs were praised by the Accreditation Team and they made no recommendations for improvements related to Instructional for Student Development Programs. What they did recommend was our process of Program and Services Review (which they

felt was very good) should be more closely linked to our general college planning processes.

The article stated: "Our school has been working on revising and reviewing programs and composing detailed reports to send back to the team in order to reaffirm our standing in the California community college system."

Clarification: Again, we are not working on revising and reviewing our programs. We are, rather, working on improving the linkage

between our Program and Services Review processes and our general college planning processes.

Finally the article stated: "But, our school is still under warning, according to Vice President of Instruction Jim Wright. He touched on the fact that if we review our programs wisely, our "\$46 million" budget will be reserved."

Clarification: What I actually said was in response to a question from a faculty member about the difficulty of linking Program and

Services Review to budget planning when our budget is so constrained. I stated that we do have a \$46 million budget and the program improvement objectives from our Program and Services Review processes can help direct the money that we do have.

Thank you for allowing me to provide these clarifications.

**Dr. Jim Wright**

*Deputy Superintendent & Vice President of Academic Affairs*

## CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

# What did you think of Obama's TV address?



**Kevin Riveria**  
HEALTH

"It was so good, I almost cried."



**Arvin Buenaobren**  
NURSING

"I didn't see it. I was busy studying for my practical."



**Tseten Dolkar**  
COMMUNICATIONS

"I only watched part of it. It was reassuring."



**Ryan Cabalbag**  
RADIOLOGY

"It was awesome! And really reassuring."



**Donna Hallican**  
LIBERAL ARTS

"He was great. It was well presented, and he was very intelligent."