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The Crux

February 2002

special NOT FUNNY edition (5.5)

Well, by now you've all read issue number five, and you probably have even learned who I really am: John Smith. It feels really good to just come out and say what I have to say without hiding behind pathetic anonymity. I hope my decision to be honest is well respected by my peers.

So a poll was taken yesterday of about a thousand students. 97 percent of all students questioned said that they absolutely loved The Crux. Unfortunately, the other three percent found me to be less amusing. They hate me. Now I know that three percent isn't all that much, but caring about my readers as much as I do, I would like to attend to their anxiety and irritation at the things I have written. I'll explain myself to people in the order that I offended them.

First off, Mr. Myers, if you read the things that I said about you in the last issue, I'm sure that you are offended (understandably). I'm really really sorry. I didn't mean to say that stuff about you being a pedophile: you aren't. DSS, and everyone who you took advantage of without regard to their feelings all told me to tell you that they say they're sorry, too. We wish you the best of luck at your new job as the resident Santa at the Hampshire Mall. Moving on to Nick and Jason. I think that instead of getting upset at my clearly good-natured and friendly jokes about the letter and the cross country team, you should good-naturedly make fun of me back. Also, I don't know what the hell you guys are so upset about, you do run around town in your panties all the time.

On the other hand, you're right. I did elevate the ridicule by using your names. I can see that you both think I took things too far, especially under a mysterious cloak of anonymity. But I started signing my work, see? (Paragraph one.)

This leaves only a small handful of students (I think about four or five) who are really pissed off at me and think I am a bigot. I'm going to stop being so funny for a minute, and I'm going to be serious. I hope that the angry students will read this carefully. (Those who think I am funny, smart, and Martin Luther King, Jr. reincarnated can skip the next bit.) Begin serious section.

Many people at our school seem to think that the most recent issue of The Crux was racist. I honestly don't understand why this is so.

I was not in any way ridiculing Martin Luther King, Jr. or Latin Americans.

Pause seriousness.

Or the Taco Bell Chihuahua.

Resume seriousness.

If you carefully read each sentence I wrote, which I know I have no right to expect you to do, you will see that I was ridiculing white people for preserving a situation where the only way white society will show any due respect at all for non-whites, is for the non-whites to have a brilliant famous American leader. Even then, this strategy works out pretty badly for blacks, and they've got Martin Luther King, Jr. It works out downright awfully for other non-white races. No leaders of theirs have ever really been publicized in America, and so American whites don't know them.

No one has filled the void left by Martin Luther King, Jr. Progress is slowing down. Amherst thinks that the way to fix the gap between whites and non-whites is to teach white kids about non-white holidays. I don't learn anything about racism, or Cambodian Americans when I hear about Cambodian New Year. It's frustrating, when it's so clear that whites and non-whites aren't relating to each other, that all the school system can do is teach us what some Cambodian Americans like to do on one day of the year. It's frustrating that we learn about non-white history when we should be learning about what it's like to be a black person who happens to find him or herself in the middle of a crowd of white kids, or white adults.

I would never suggest that we take slavery out of the curriculum. I just mean that they can't construe teaching slavery as an effort to improve race relations at the high school, when they're ignoring what's going on right under our noses.

How dare they teach us about non-white holidays instead of teaching us about non-white life, which is much more real to everyone? How dare they teach us about math, science, English, history or anything before they teach us that underneath our skin, we are all the same.

I offer this apology to my readers: I am not sorry for writing what I have written, as it is inoffensive. I am sorry, however, for talking about a very delicate topic with less clarity than was necessary to make my ideas clear to every reader.

End seriousness.

Even Nick and Jason.

I heard that one kid called another kid "Uncle

Please allow me to defend myself.
When I said that the closest thing that Latin
American people have to Martin Luther King,
Jr. is the Taco Bell Chihuahua,

Ted" as a way to imply pedophilia, and I think
that's just great. I hope that catches on.

Three Important Things to Think About

1. Uncle Tom's Cabin

2. Am I really alone in wanting to tease the cross-country team?
Those shorts are pretty short, fellas.

3. Santa baby...